



El Salvador:

*Magnificent Nature
Impressive History
Amazing People*

Selection of Tour Packages 2011

El Salvador:

THE HEART OF CENTRAL AMERICA



USEFUL FACTS

Official name: Republic of El Salvador

Capital city: San Salvador

Area: 20,742 km²

Population: Approx. 6 million

Currency: US Dollar

Country code: 503

Time: GMT-6

Electricity: 110 V 60 Hz

Religion: Mostly Catholic

Language: Spanish, but English is widely spoken in tourist destinations

Airport: El Salvador International Airport (Comalapa International)

Main exports: fabrics, coffee, sugar and shrimp

Climate: Warm all year round, rainy season between May and October

Geographical position: SE Central America, along the Pacific shore



El Salvador may be the smallest country in Central America, but it is well worth exploring. This tiny tropical land is bursting with natural attractions, including the Cerro Verde National Park, the volcanic lakes of Ilopango and Coatepeque, and impressive beaches for surfers and sun seekers alike. With origins that can be traced to before the Spanish Conquest, the country also offers interesting archeological sites from the Mayan civilization.

The capital, San Salvador, is one of the fastest growing cities in Central America. It lies upon a valley of tropics, surrounded with volcanoes. Four hours north of San Salvador, the Montecristo National Park is a mysterious and beautiful cloud forest, located in the exact spot where the borders of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador come together. The El Imposible National Park is another exquisite destination - follow the 9km trek to the high point, Cerro Leon, for some unforgettable vistas of still-smoking volcanoes and endangered rainforests.

The famous Ruta de Las Flores will take you to some of the prettiest villages and market towns along a 40km stretch, where the cultural offerings are plentiful and the natural beauty along the road is abundant.

El Salvador is famous for its colorful textiles and coffee. Newcomers are frequently impressed by this stunning country and the warmth of the people.

This brochure has a selection of tours especially prepared for the North American travellers.

Aside from these prepackaged itineraries Sunspots Holidays offers a selection of "special interest" itineraries & tours and can tailor the travel arrangements especially for you!

Ask about our group rates and other offers!

1200 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 891, Toronto, ON, M3C 1H9 * Ph: 416-484-8144 * Toll Free: 1-800-657-8721 * Fax: 416-484-6963 * info@sunspotsholidays.com

www.sunspotsholidays.com

Escape to El Salvador

4 days/3 nights or 5 days/4 nights CITY or BEACH PACKAGE

A flexible vacation and a great introduction to El Salvador. The travellers can choose their own activities and enjoy the endless possibilities this country has to offer. Travel can start any day of the week.

DAY 1: Arrival. Private car transfer to your selected city or beach hotel. If you choose to stay in San Salvador, we can offer you centrally located 4* and 3* hotel options. If you prefer to stay at the beach, there is a beautiful All Inclusive beach resort waiting for you!

DAY 2: Breakfast at the hotel. Choice of optional tours and activities, or free day.

DAY 3: Breakfast at the hotel. Choice of optional tours and activities, or free day.

DAY 4: Breakfast at the hotel. Choice of optional tours and activities, or free day.

DAY 5: Breakfast at the hotel. Private car transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

4 days/3 nights - prices p.p. in \$CAD	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax
FIRST CLASS CITY PACKAGE: Breakfast plan Hilton Princess San Salvador**** or Crowne Plaza San Salvador****	1244	1232	1225
QUALITY CLASS CITY PACKAGE: Breakfast plan Holiday Inn San Salvador***	1208	1195	1190
BEACH PACKAGE: All Inclusive Royal Decameron Salinitas***	1250	1238	1232

5 days/4 nights - prices p.p. in \$CAD	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax
FIRST CLASS CITY PACKAGE: Breakfast plan Hilton Princess San Salvador**** or Crowne Plaza San Salvador****	1330	1324	1312
QUALITY CLASS CITY PACKAGE: Breakfast plan Holiday Inn San Salvador***	1275	1264	1258
BEACH PACKAGE: All Inclusive Royal Decameron Salinitas***	1395	1384	1378

Valid for travel: Between 05JAN - 12DEC, 2011. Minimum of 2 passengers required for this tour. Prices are per person and include: International airfare from Toronto with AA or DL, accommodation at selected hotels based on TWIN room incl. breakfast, land program as per itinerary, arrival and departure transfers by private car. Airport taxes are extra, est. \$CAD124. Prices are subject to availability and reconfirmation at the time of booking. Other Canadian and US departure cities are possible on request. Black out dates and/or surcharges for holiday/peak seasons may apply.



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Escape to El Salvador continued...

Optional Tours and Activities

VOLCANO HIKING: Full day. Tour takes you to Izalco or Santa Ana Volcano. Both volcanoes are located in Volcanoes National Park, a UNESCO Natural Biosphere Reserve.

Tour includes: transportation, park entrance, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 92.00CAD p/person

VOLCANOES TOUR AND RURAL SCHOOL VISIT: Full day. Visit Volcanoes National Park. A local guide will take us through the trails of the park where we will enjoy the beautiful flora and the amazing views of the volcanoes, the Pacific Ocean and Coatepeque Lake. *Tour includes: transportation, Park entrance, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 88.00CAD p/person*

HORSEBACK RIDING, MOUNTAIN BIKE, ATV, OR CANOPY ADVENTURE: Full day. An adventure tour in which we will visit a coffee plantation on the Flower Route where you will be able to choose from a horseback tour, mountain biking tour, ATV tour, or canopy tour through the forest. *Tour includes: transportation, traditional lunch, guide. Price: 112.00CAD p/person*

COFFEE AND SUGAR TOUR: Full day. Learn about the coffee and sugar process: from the plantation to the “beneficio” and “ingenio”. The tour is complemented with visits to charming towns and their crafts. *Tour includes: transportation, coffee and sugar tour, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 88.00CAD p/person*

BEACH AND MANGROVES TOUR: Full day. Visit Jiquilisco Bay, a UNESCO Natural Biosphere Reserve and take a boat tour through the mangroves viewing the beautiful fauna and flora of the region as well as the desolated beaches. Also, visit a monkey community with whom you will be able to interact.

Tour includes: transportation, boat tour, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 99.00CAD p/person

INDIGO WORKSHOP: Full day. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from the xiquilite plant, used by the Mayas to decorate their clothing and crafts. During the workshop, you will design and decorate your own t-shirt. The setting is a 1700’s Hacienda.

Tour includes: transportation, workshop, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 80.00CAD p/person

HISTORIC MAYA TOUR AND INDIGO: Full day. Visit to the most important archaeological sites of El Salvador: Joya de Cerén (a pre Hispanic town that was covered by the ashes of Caldera Volcano eruption) allows us to see how the common people lived; San Andrés archaeological site and Tazumal/Casa Blanca. In Casa Blanca learn about the indigo process.

Tour includes: transportation, entrance to archaeological sites, traditional lunch and guide. Price: 88.00CAD p/person

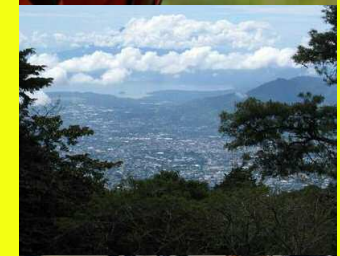
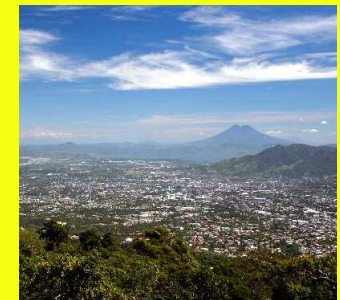
SAN SALVADOR TOUR: Half day. This tour can be taken during the day or night. During the day, the tour includes visits to the most important sites of the city as well as to the crafts market. If requested, the tour can be arranged to visit shopping centers. The night tour includes visits where the night life is in San Salvador (restaurants, bars, etc.) Night tour ends at 12AM.

Tour includes: transportation, traditional lunch or dinner and guide. Price: 80.00CAD p/person

TOWNS AND CRAFTS TOUR: Full day. Visit the towns of Suchitoto and La Palma. In Suchitoto enjoy its cobbled streets and its beautiful Santa Lucía Church. In La Palma, participate in a crafts workshop and shop the various craft stores.

Tour includes: transportation, traditional lunch or dinner and guide. Price: 88.00CAD p/person

Transportation for all optional activities is by private vehicle. A minimum of 2 pax required.



Enjoy, Learn and Volunteer

9 days/8 nights **SMALL GROUP TOUR, PRIVATE CAR & DRIVER**

This amazing tour will take you close to volcanos, rural schools, coffee plantations and spider monkeys... Horseback riding, surfing, boating in the mangroves, dinner on a deserted beach and visiting an indigo workshop are just some of the highlights of this great adventure!

DAY 1: Arrival to San Salvador airport. Welcome dinner in a modern mall with a wide variety of restaurants and clubs.

Overnight: *San Salvador Hotel*

DAY 2: Departure to Jiquilisco Bay (a UNESCO Biosphere reserve). Visit a local family that lives within the forest. They call "Pancho", a monkey, and suddenly a whole community of spider monkeys arrive. Continue to the Eastern part of the country, specifically to El Icacal beach. It is a deserted beach, one of the most beautiful in the country. Stay at a private house/lodge located right by the beach. In the afternoon enjoy a boat tour through mangroves, provided by a local family who has been trained by our own non-profit organization. Then you will be able to play soccer at the beach with local kids. At night, we will have dinner on the sand at the beach. **Overnight:** *El Icacal lodge*

DAY 3: After enjoying the beautiful sunrise at the beach, visit a rural school. You can play sports, provide computer/English classes, help with the internal transportation system between two schools, develop different activities and share lunch with the local school kids. After lunch, depart to La Libertad. Lodging will be at an oceanfront hotel where the waves hit the rocks and fill up an amazing salt water swimming pool.

Overnight: *Las Olas Lodge*

DAY 4: Spend this day in La Libertad region. In the morning, receive surf lessons in a surfing break, among the top 10 surf spots of the world. In the afternoon, learn about the indigo process. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from "Xiquilite" plant. The Mayas created this process and used the blue color for their clothes and crafts. At a specific time, it became as valuable as gold. Learn some techniques and design your own shirt. In late afternoon, spend time at the salt water swimming pool.

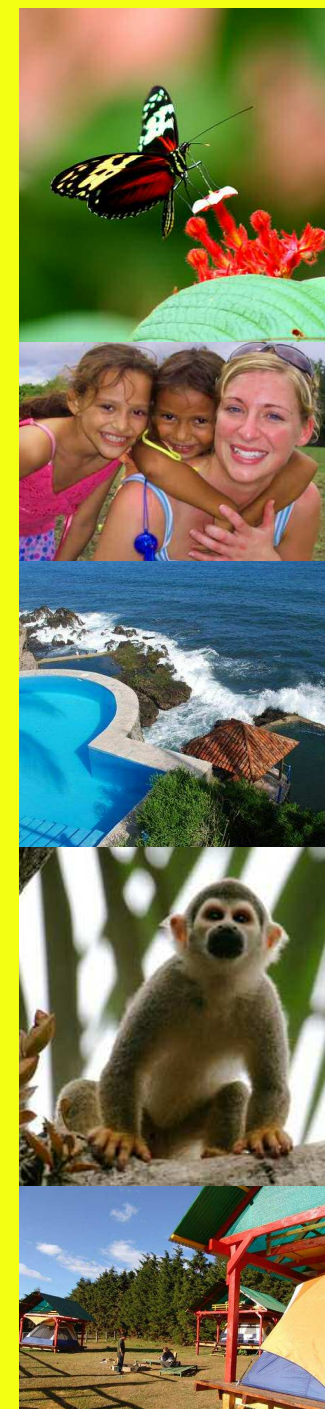
Overnight: *Las Olas Lodge*

DAY 5: Visit the Volcanoes National Park a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Hike Ilamatepec Volcano, from which you will experience amazing views of Izalco Volcano, Cerro Verde Volcano, Coatepeque Lake, and the Pacific Ocean. Also, visit a rural school located in the middle of the three volcanoes. You will notice the differences of this school from the one at the beach. Spend the night in a lodge that has a spectacular view of the crater of Izalco volcano. Come prepared for a cool night due to the elevation.

Overnight: *Volcano Lodge*

DAY 6: After a beautiful sunrise between volcanoes, take the Flower Route (5 charming towns located in mountains full of coffee plantations), visiting a coffee plantation and learning the whole process from the coffee plant to the distribution of coffee beans. A tasting session of the coffee is a must. Enjoy the thrill of a canopy tour through the forest. By late afternoon, visit Ataco town where you can walk through the central park, shop for crafts and enjoy a nice dinner. Arrive at the lodge for the next two overnights, located in the middle of mountains and coffee plantations.

Overnight: *Mountain Lodge*



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Enjoy, Learn and Volunteer continued...

DAY 7: Full adventure. Choose 2 of the following 3 activities: Mountain biking, ATV tour or Horseback riding.

The **mountain bike tour** starts at 1,900 meters above sea level at either Laguna Verde Crater Lake or Cerro Cuyanunsul and takes you on a 23 km downhill ride all the way into Juayua, the colonial town at 900 meters above sea level. The peak is reached on horseback where the bikes and gear await you. At this point, our guide will provide helmets and explain the route. He will carry all emergency tools needed to fix any problems or flats on the way.

The **ATV tour** is an adrenaline-packed ride with experienced guides, exploring the whole Sierra Ilamatepeque on new 2008 250 Bayou Kawasaki ATVs. The routes are safely designed for all levels. Helmets are provided. Jeans, spare clothes and boots are strongly recommended.

Horseback tours (2-3 hours) that take you to the peak of Cerro Cuyanunsul through the cloud forest are conducted on Peruvian horses, experienced with the trail and tourists. Shorter rides through the coffee plantation, to the geysers, or to Laguna Verde Crater Lake are also available. The horse caretaker will always ride with the group as he knows all of the horses extremely well. All tours have spectacular views so don't forget your cameras!

Overnight: Mountain Lodge

DAY 8: Return to San Salvador to explore the city and its night life.

Optional this day is an exciting adventure of deep sea fishing in the Pacific Ocean. For groups of 6 or more, the extra cost is more than worth it. Go 30 kilometers inside the Pacific Ocean where you will fish from Mahi Mahis, tuna and sailfish. Dolphins and sea turtles will join you on the trip.

Overnight: San Salvador Hotel

DAY 9: Private car transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Enjoy, Learn and Volunteer 9 days/8 nights - prices p.p. \$CAD	4 pax	6 pax	8 pax
ESCORTED TOUR 3*: Full Board	1862	1802	1766

Valid for travel: Between 05JAN - 12DEC, 2011. **Minimum of 4 passengers required** for this tour. **Prices are per person and include:** International airfare from Toronto with AA or DL, 8 nights accommodation at 3* hotels and hostels based on TWIN room; 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners; land program as per itinerary, private vehicle and driver for entire trip, soft drinks and snacks for entire trip, local taxes, activities/tours as per itinerary: monkeys tour, boat tour through mangroves, surf lesson and board rental, indigo workshop, volcano hiking, canopy tour, horseback riding tour, mountain bike tour, ATV tour, coffee plantation tour. **Airport taxes are extra**, est. \$CAD124. Prices are subject to availability and reconfirmation at the time of booking. Other Canadian and US departure cities are possible on request. Blackout dates and/or surcharges for holiday/peak seasons may apply.



The Mayan World

10 days/9 nights SMALL GROUP TOUR, CHOICE OF DIFFERENT HOTEL CATEGORIES

An colourful trip through three Central American countries - El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala - exploring the region's Mayan History. Experience archaeological sites, amazing volcanoes, coffee plantations, colonial towns and friendly people!

DAY 1: Arrival to El Salvador International Airport. Travelers will be met at airport and transferred to their hotel in San Salvador. Depending on arrival time, we can arrange an activity within the city.

Overnight in San Salvador: *Hilton Princess San Salvador (First Class) / Holiday Inn San Salvador (Quality Class)/ Comfort Inn San Salvador (Comfort Class).*

DAY 2: At 8am depart to the Indigo Workshop. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from the Xiquilite plant. It was a very important element for the Mayans since they used it for magical/religious rituals, as a medical plant, for pottery, and for painting. El Salvador indigo has always been recognized as top quality worldwide. Travelers will visit the plantation and learn the process of indigo as well as art techniques used on clothing as they experiment in designing their own t-shirt. After an early lunch, visit Joya de Ceren, a World Heritage Site, and known as the "Pompey of the Americas" that was buried by the ashes of Volcano Caldera back in 600 AD. Thanks to the excellent preservation, this site allows us to witness the everyday lives of the people from that period. Next, visit San Salvador Volcano for impressive views of the crater and of San Salvador City.

Overnight in San Salvador: *Hilton Princess San Salvador (First Class) / Holiday Inn San Salvador (Quality Class)/ Comfort Inn San Salvador (Comfort Class).* B, L

DAY 3: At 8am check out and depart to Volcanoes National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, composed of three main volcanoes and a volcanic lake. If in season, visit a sugar cane plantation. Also, visit the summit of Cerro Verde and walk around its extinct crater. This walk allows for amazing views of the other 2 volcanoes and the lake. Later travelers will visit an orchid plantation. As an option, travelers may choose instead to hike one of the volcanoes along with experienced local guides. As a highlight of the trip, make a short stop in a rural school in the middle of the three volcanoes and meet the students. In late afternoon, depart to The Flower Route, where we will check in at a Mountain Lodge within coffee plantations.

Overnight: *Mountain Lodge.* B, L

DAY 4: At 8am start exploring The Flower Route, the coffee plantation area in the Western side of El Salvador. Composed of 4 picturesque towns, it offers amazing views of mountains and volcanoes. Visit a coffee plantation. If tour is done within coffee season, travelers will be able to collect coffee themselves along with the locals. After this experience, a guided tour will explain each step of the coffee producing process. Travelers will be able to buy coffee products and crafts as souvenirs. Optional: travelers will be able to enjoy adventure options such as horseback riding, mountain bike, ATV tour, or canopy tour.

Overnight: *At same mountain lodge of the previous night.* B, L

DAY 5: In the morning, check out of the hotel and depart to Copán, Honduras. Copán is a charming small town, and is the gateway to the Maya Ruins of Copán, a World Heritage Site. In the afternoon we will enjoy some free time in this charming town.

Overnight in Copán: *Hotel Marina Copán.* B, L

DAY 6: At 8am visit Copán Ruins: The Paris of the Mayans and one of the most distinguished cultural monuments in the world. A local guide will travel with us and explain the history behind all the temples, sculptures, hieroglyphics and tunnels. In the afternoon, depart to Guatemala City by scheduled bus service, with 2 time options to choose from.



The Mayan World continued...

Overnight in Guatemala City: Real Intercontinental Guatemala (First Class), Barcelo Guatemala City (Quality Class), Hotel Princess (Comfort Class). B, L

DAY 7: In the morning, head to Guatemala City airport for a flight to Flores, the gateway to Tikal. Tikal is currently the largest known and studied Mayan City. UNESCO established it as a World Heritage site in 1979. During this one day tour, we will explore its main temples (such as the Big Jaguar Temple, 700 A.D., 45 m high) and plazas along with a local and knowledgeable guide. Late afternoon flight back to Guatemala City.

Overnight in Guatemala City: Real Intercontinental Guatemala (First Class), Barcelo Guatemala City (Quality Class), Hotel Princess (Comfort Class). B, L

DAY 8: In the morning check out of the hotel and depart to Antigua Guatemala for a guided walking tour. Antigua Guatemala was the third capital city established by the Spaniards, founded in 1543. In 1773 it was completely destroyed by an earthquake. Even though a new capital was established at a different location, people slowly started to give life back to the old city. Afternoon will be free to enjoy the beauty of Antigua Guatemala.

Overnight in Antigua Guatemala: Casa Santo Domingo (First Class), Posada de Don Rodrigo (Quality Class), Las Farolas Hotel (Comfort Class). B, L

DAY 9: Early departure to Chichicastenango, a small and stucco-white town, lying on the crests of mountaintops. Visit the Central Plaza and the famous indigenous handicrafts market held there every Thursday and Sunday. Also, visit Santo Tomas Church, constructed in 1540, representing a great example of colonial architecture. Later, visit Panajachel in beautiful Atitlán Lake. Late afternoon depart back to Antigua Guatemala.

Overnight in Antigua Guatemala: Casa Santo Domingo (First Class), Posada de Don Rodrigo (Quality Class), Las Farolas Hotel (Comfort Class). B, L

DAY 10: Check out and transfer to Guatemala Airport depending on departure flight time. B

The Mayan World 10 days/9 nights \$CAD	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax	8 pax
FIRST CLASS 4*	3180	2918	2810	2788
QUALITY CLASS 3*- 4*	2975	2714	2608	2584
COMFORT CLASS 3*	2868	2608	2500	2476

Valid for travel: Between 05JAN - 12DEC, 2011. **Minimum of 4 passengers required** for this tour. **Prices are per person and include:** International airfare from Toronto with AA or DL and domestic flight GUA/FRS/GUA; 9 nights accommodation at chosen level of hotels based on TWIN room; 9 breakfasts and 8 lunches; land program as per itinerary; private vehicle and driver in El Salvador and Copán, Honduras; scheduled bus service (AC and toilet) from Copán to Guatemala City, SIB tours in Guatemala including transfers to and from Airport, activities: indigo workshop, coffee tour, Joya de Ceren tour, San Salvador Volcano, Volcanoes Park, volcano hiking, entrances to copan and Tikal, Antigua and Chichicastenango tours, private guides in El Salvador and Copan, shared guides in Guatemala (SIB); local taxes. Border crossing fees are not included. **Airport taxes are extra**, est. \$CAD154. Itinerary with private transportation is available for extra fee. Prices are subject to availability and reconfirmation at the time of booking. Other Canadian and US departure cities are possible and on request. Blackout dates and/or surcharges for holiday/peak seasons may apply.

