



# USEFUL FACTS

**WEATHER IN COTZAL REGION:** January-May (day temps 68-75, night temps 43-52, mild rainfall), June-October (day temps 70-72, night temps 50-54, heavier rainfall), November-December (day temps 68, night temp 45-48, mild rainfall). Cotzal is at 5,577 elevation, so it is often muggy.

**INTERNET** – We will have spotty internet coverage at every location. Some see it as a blessing to be disconnected. Most service providers offer a \$10 a day unlimited wifi when it is available (sign up in country). Remember to bring chargers.

**MONEY** – Bring approx. \$\_\_\_ US cash for use at airports. Once in country, we will visit an ATM so you can withdraw Guatemalan currency. Team leaders will assist you. Guatemalan currency is called Quetzal or Q. The Quetzal is divided into 100 centavos. The exchange rate to the US dollar is approximately 8 to 1, which means 2 Q's equal a US quarter.

**BATHROOM USAGE** – In Guatemala the sewer systems are fragile. It is important to have your own source of toilet paper in your backpack and hand wash or sanitizer for traveling and in Cotzal. Toilet paper is never flushed, but placed in a provided receptacle. Fred Meyers & Bartells sells travel TP in a plastic container.

**WATER & FOOD SAFETY** – Water in Guatemala is not safe to drink, whether from a tap or a restaurant. You must be very cautious to not even let water into your mouth when in the shower. Things that will help – ask for “\_\_\_ bottled water” when at a restaurant. At the hotels, cover your faucets with a hand towel so that you don't drink the water or dip your toothbrush into the water while brushing your teeth. Bottled drinking water will be provided daily for your team. Our hotels often have purified water available in jugs outside your rooms to refill plastic water bottles. When out in the town it is not safe to buy ice cream that is served from a scoop that's been dipped in water. When in private homes, families will offer you a drink, and it is up to you if you will accept it or not, but please be kind with their generosity.

**LOCATIONS WITHIN GUATEMALA** – These are the most visited locations on WIND trips:

- Guatemala City – We will fly into Guatemala City, in southern Guatemala.
- Antigua – Once arriving at the GC airport, we will drive approx 45 min to Antigua. Founded in 1542, this small city, surrounded by volcanoes, was once Guatemala's colonial capital. It known for its Spanish colonial buildings, holy week parades and its markets. Most teams stay one night on arrival and one night before departing, with one day of sightseeing included.
- Chichicastenango (ChiChi) – Half way on our journey to Cotzal, most teams spend an hour or two in ChiChi, known for its market, churches and history.
- Ixil Triangle – in northern Guatemala, the Ixil Triangle hosts the towns of Santa Maria Nebaj, San Juan Cotzal and San Gaspar Chajul. Native residents speak the Mayan Ixil language.
- Nebaj – Most teams have lodging in Nebaj for their week in Cotzal.
- Cotzal – A 30 minute drive from Nebaj, Cotzal is WIND's main area of ministry. Walking in Cotzal can be an adventure, as the streets are very steep, making good shoes a must.

**COTZAL INFO** –

- Colegio Horeb is the name of the school we work with in Cotzal. Horeb has several locations where the students have classes and this changes each year. Team leaders or school staff will lead our team members throughout Cotzal, so you will not have to navigate the town by yourself.
- Jorai is the name of the Bible school we work with and where we hold many of our workshops/meetings.
- Who's who at Colegio Horeb – Tabita (principal), Myrna (lead), Carolina & Felipe (WIND missionaries in Cotzal),