



CERRO VERDE VOLCANO

# EL SALVADOR

## Service Learning and Ancient Traditions

7 DAYS | Choose your dates

### About this trip

An overlooked treasure, El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America but large with life and learning opportunities that will inspire young explorers during this enriching educational adventure. This program includes service learning alongside a local nonprofit health organization to assist in need-based health service projects, immersion in Salvadorian culture, and investigation into ancient traditions and rich history. Walk the cobblestone streets of colonial Suchitoto, explore the terrain dominated by a towering volcanic range, and journey to Jiquilisco Bay to learn about the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle. Also visit an indigo workshop, an archaeological site, and a spider monkey colony.

### Your students will...

- Learn about El Salvador's health system, visit hospitals, and participate in a service learning opportunity at a clinic.
- Design a scarf during a hands-on indigo workshop, learning about the traditional artistic process involved.
- Accompany a local archaeologist to Joya de Cerén, the "Pompeii of the Americas," and examine Mesoamerican agricultural communities of the past.
- Hike among the grand Izalco, Santa Ana, and Cerro Verde volcanoes and witness features like sulfur lagoons, craters, and fumaroles.
- Interact with local biologists and learn about their hawksbill sea turtle conservation efforts.

### Educational Connections



Service  
Learning



Marine  
Science



Environmental  
Science



Social  
Studies

### What's included?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

# Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## DAY 1 - SAN SALVADOR

Upon arrival into El Salvador International Airport, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. After checking in, enjoy a late dinner and receive an orientation and introduction to the health system of El Salvador. \*Depending on arrival time, visit several hospitals in San Salvador accompanied by a local nonprofit health organization. *Overnight at Hotel Villa Terra. (D)*

## DAY 2 - LA UNIÓN

Transfer to the clinic or community health organization where you will spend the day. \*Location to be determined based on need. *Overnight at Comfort Inn Real. (BLD)*

## DAY 3 - LA UNIÓN

Spend the day working in the health facility. *Overnight at Comfort Inn Real. (BLD)*

## DAY 4 - BAHÍA DE JIQUILISCO

Today, journey toward Jiquilisco Bay, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The bay is El Salvador's largest and most important wetland and the largest mangrove estuarine system in Northern Mesoamerica. It contains mangrove forests, estuaries, sand bars and beaches, 27 islands of varying size, freshwater lagoons, and seasonally flooded forests. Its approximate 395 square miles represent a transit point for at least 87 species of migratory birds. Visit a cacao plantation to learn about this important crop and take a walk through the forest for a chance to view a community of spider monkeys. Afterward, enjoy a boat tour in Jiquilisco Bay to learn about the hawksbill sea turtle. Hawksbill sea turtles have helped keep oceans healthy for millions of years. Today, the hawksbill is near extinction. They are captured and killed in fishing activities, entangled in coastal gillnets (especially lobster gillnets) and shrimp trawls, and are victims of illegal blast-fishing practices that also destroy the local ecosystem. Hawksbill eggs are collected for consumption and sale by poachers who live in regions of extreme poverty, where the eggs are an important source of protein and income. Hawksbills are also killed for their shells (called tortoiseshell, bekko, or carey) to make combs, jewelry, sunglasses, and other trinkets. Other threats add to the problem, including pollution, large-scale oceanic nutrient shifts, and climate change. Join local biologists who will be conducting several tests on adult turtles and will give an explanation of their work before releasing the turtles back into the ocean. These tests help the biologists understand the nature of the turtles, therefore helping with their conservation efforts. *Overnight at Puerto Barillas. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - SUCHITOTO

This morning, check out and head northwest to visit the archaeological site of Joya de Cerén, where you will be accompanied by a local archaeologist. Joya de Cerén was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Because this community was buried by the ashes of the Loma Caldera volcano in 600 AD, it is also known as the "Pompeii of the Americas." However, no bodies were found, a sign that its inhabitants received prompt warning of the eruption. The site is unique in the Maya world, as its excellent preservation offers insight into Mesoamerican agricultural communities and their way of life; witness their homes, beds, crop fields, and even saunas. After lunch, take part in an indigo workshop. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from the xiquilite plant. In the 17th century, an ounce of indigo was as valuable as gold, and Salvadorian indigo has always been recognized worldwide for its high quality. Learn the workshop process and art techniques used on clothing as you experiment in designing your own scarf. This activity will take place at Hacienda Los Nacimientos, one of two farms in the world with the highest quality certification of organic indigo. Then continue to Suchitoto, one of El Salvador's oldest colonial towns. Its name means "Place of the Flower Bird." Walk along the charming cobblestone

streets surrounded by lovely colonial homes and see the landmark Santa Lucía Church, built in 1853 and majestically situated in the town's central square. *Overnight at Hotel El Tejado. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Today, visit Volcanoes National Park, where three amazing volcanoes (Izalco Volcano, Santa Ana Volcano, and Cerro Verde) embrace beautiful Coatepeque Lake, which fills a crater of another volcano. Izalco Volcano was formed in the 1700s, making it one of the youngest volcanoes in the Americas, whereas Santa Ana Volcano is thousands of years old. Izalco Volcano was known as the "Lighthouse of the Pacific" since its lava guided ships along the coast. No lava is currently flowing, but both volcanoes are still active since constant fumaroles are present. Hike to the edge of the crater of Santa Ana Volcano—at 7,545 feet above sea level—where you can see the sulfur lagoon inside the crater along with its fumaroles. The view is also spectacular with Coatepeque Lake, Izalco Volcano, and the Pacific Ocean in the background. For lunch, enjoy a traditional and well-known Salvadorian dish: pupusas. Settle in at your camp site this evening. *Overnight at Tres Volcanes by Glamping El Salvador. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - DEPART

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

## Program pricing

**\$1,495** (20 participants + 2 leaders)

**\$1,595** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

## Travel protection

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## The fine print

*Rates are based on triple and quadruple occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations may be single or double occupancy based on availability. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable.*



*This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](https://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*