

Sienna Project: Building Schools in Guatemala



Chichicastenango, Guatemala

A UU Service-Learning Program

Travel to beautiful Guatemala to explore human rights and build a school with the Sienna Project! This all-encompassing adventure will enable you to see Guatemala while gaining an in-depth understanding of issues affecting the country and the local indigenous culture. You will meet with local human-rights experts and work with both your hearts and your hands to build a school for children who otherwise may not have any educational opportunities.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
COLLEGE
of SOCIAL
JUSTICE

February 15–23, 2013

Cost: \$930

Visit UUCSJ.ORG to apply.

Deadline to apply: October 31, 2012

Sienna Project: Building Schools in Guatemala Itinerary

Day 1 Friday, February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival in Guatemala City • Visit to cultural spots in city (as time allows) • Introductions, trip orientation, and team building • Spiritual reflection 	Day 5 Tuesday, February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at school construction site • Spiritual reflection and free time
Day 2 Saturday, February 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-rights orientation • Visit to a human-rights organization • Introduction to the Sienna Project • Travel to Chichicastenango 	Day 6 Wednesday, February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at school construction site • Spiritual reflection and free time
Day 3 Sunday, February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of Chichi market and opportunity to shop • Time to explore local cemetery, hike to site of traditional Mayan rituals, or visit local church • Spiritual reflection and free time 	Day 7 Thursday, February 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at school construction site • Spiritual reflection and free time Note: Construction of walls for three classrooms is usually complete by late Thursday.
Day 4 Monday, February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome ceremony and meeting with local community • Work at school construction site • Spiritual reflection and free time Note: each workday, there will be opportunities to play with village children, visit classrooms and work with students, have lunch with workers, and tour the village.	Day 8 Friday, February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure for Antigua • Visit another school built by Sienna Project • Tour of Antigua, including local ruins, churches, market, volcano, etc. • Final reflections and free time
		Day 9 Saturday, February 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel from Antigua to Guatemala City • Airport departures

Note: Schedule subject to change.

Cost

\$930 per person, including all ground costs — food, lodging, transportation — as well as pre- and post-trip resources, translators, and the guidance of experienced program leaders.

Partner

The Sienna Project builds schools in small indigenous mountain villages in the highlands of Guatemala, where a scarcity of classrooms impedes education. Offering a way to live UU values, the Sienna Project provides a platform to address poverty firsthand by helping build classrooms for Mayan children to transform their lives. Since 2007, the Sienna Project has successfully built eight schools.

Trip Leaders

Martin Lavanhar is the founder and president of the Sienna Project. Retired from his own medical and electronics company, he is an elder at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, N.J. He is an end-of-life doula and has been a hospice companion for 24 years.

Derek Lavanhar is one of the founders of the Sienna Project. An expatriate who has lived in Guatemala for over 15 years, he uses his construction skills, proficiency as a translator, and understanding of Mayan culture to make Sienna Project trips run smoothly.

For more information and to apply, visit UUCSJ.ORG.