

Q & A for Lake Atitlan

1. Is tap water safe to drink?

No. Only drink water supplied at the villa or in the restaurant. If you are unsure about the water in other places, only drink bottled water.

2. What is the most economical and most convenient way to go to town?

Tuk Tuks are the best choice.

3. Is it necessary to get Malaria shots before coming to Lake Atitlan?

No, it is only necessary if you plan to travel to the areas of Guatemala close to the ocean.

4. Is it necessary for you to speak fluent Spanish?

It is not essential but it is recommended that at least one person in your party be able to communicate in Spanish since very little English is spoken in the village.

5. Where can I exchange dollars for Quetzales? Are ATMs available in the village?

You can exchange dollars for quetzales at the Airport Cambio, but the rate is not good. Exchange what you need for the first day and wait until you get to an ATM in Santiago Atitlan. Yes, there are three ATM locations.

6. How do I know exactly what to teach when I get there? Teachers and administrators will help lay out a program suitable for your skill set.

7. Daily, when does school start and end? 7 am to Noon?

8. Are there other things to do there? Yes. Boat trips to villages around the lake, shops and restaurants to visit in town, bird walks, tours to see textiles being made, canoeing, and kayaking in the lake.

9. Are there any laundry facilities? These are not readily available.

10. How do I get from the airport in Guatemala City to Lake Atitlan? There is private transportation available by van. This can be arranged by Sarah. The price is about \$150.

11. Can I get transportation to another place in Guatemala, like Antigua? Yes, Sarah can help you arrange transportation and accommodations.

12. What would be most useful for me to bring down to the school? Art supplies like markers, scissors, watercolors, stickers, colored pencils, and children's books in Spanish are always appreciated. You can check with Sarah before you come down to see if there are any other items that they need.

13. What clothing should I bring and wear? Wear shoes and clothing that are comfortable. The locals tend to be conservative in their dress so respect this. Bring layers as it is cooler at night than the day.

14. Are the schools close to our housing? Yes One school is a short walk the other can be walked to or you can take a TukTuk.

15. Is the housing area we will be staying in safe? Yes, it is totally secure.

16. What is the food like there? In the restaurants, there is “American-type” food or similar food to be found in most of Latin America—beans and rice, tacos, burritos, quesadillas, etc.

17. Do I need an International Electric Converter?

No.

18. How can I text or make phone calls?

Use the free Whatsapp to text or make phone calls.

19. Is there a convenience or grocery store nearby?

Yes. In town there are several. We recommend buying something for breakfasts if you're volunteering at the school as the Posada Dining Room is not open before 8:30am.