

Consejo de Iglesias Evangélicas Pro Alianza Denominacional CEPAD

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Frequently Asked Questions Leading a Group to Nicaragua with CEPAD

What is CEPAD?

CEPAD stands for the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua. There are 28 denominations and pastoral committees across the country that make up CEPAD. We grew out of the rubble of the devastating earthquake in 1972 and have been working in emergency relief, rural development, and peace building for 50+ years. Our main focus has been community development since the early 1990's. CEPAD relies on support from individuals, church groups, and granting organizations.

CEPAD hosts groups primarily from North America and Europe, providing and educational and relationship-building experience. We do this because we believe that the long-term development of Nicaragua depends on building relationships that change lives.

What does the CEPAD delegations office provide for a group?

- All meals and lodging, both at our Central Office in Managua and in rural areas through homestays or hotels.
- All ground transportation, including from and to the airport.
- Translation throughout your stay (any bilingual team participants are encouraged to help).
- Planning the itinerary, which will include presentations, activities, a visit to a current CEPAD community, and a tour day.

What might a group do in Nicaragua?

A typical program includes:

- Presentations on the history and current context of Nicaragua.
- Learn about and observe CEPAD's community development work in a rural location.
- Visit the countryside where you will share meals and life with local families.
- Enjoy a “tour day” to visit one of Nicaragua's sites of natural beauty.

If your church or delegation would like to focus on a specific aspect (children, women, health, environment, etc.), please let us know so we can tailor your itinerary to meet your interests.

Is it safe to visit Nicaragua?

Nicaragua is generally a very safe country, with the lowest crime rates in Central America. CEPAD has been hosting foreign delegations since the 1980's and has never



had anyone seriously injured by any hostile act or serious accident (even during war years).

Where will we stay?

In Managua, CEPAD has several guest rooms at their central office which are safe and private for visiting groups. We have a kitchen for a cook to prepare food on site.

When visiting a rural community, groups frequently stay in homes with families using foam mattresses. There will probably be outdoor latrines and “dip-and-pour” showers. Another options is to stay as a group in the communities, usually sleeping in a school, church, or community building.

Due to COVID-19 and various comfort levels, we are also providing the option to stay in a local hotel. It will be something very simple, but you will then have the option to commute out to a community each day.

How much does it cost?

A group’s total cost depends on the number of people that come and the activities you choose to do. While your group’s individual budget may vary, we generally provide the following per-diem to give you an idea.

1-2 people = \$190/person/day

3-4 people = \$120/person/day

5+ people = \$100/person/day

This cost covers all program planning, advance trips to the communities, food, lodging, ground transportation, translation, etc. with the exception of tips. Other personal expenses include your airfare, a \$10 Nicaraguan Entrance Visa, and anything you want for your own snacks and souvenirs.

Note: As of 2017, we are no longer accepting medical/dental groups. The Ministry of Health in Nicaragua has made the process of approval for these teams increasingly difficult. At the moment, we encourage groups to share their gifts and talents in ways not related to the direct provision of medical and dental services.

How do we send money to Nicaragua?

Because of possible complications, CEPAD has established an account in the United States. A check can be mailed or funds can easily be wired securely to this account, which makes paying for your delegation or making a charitable contribution very easy.

Will we be doing any work projects while there?

If it is your first time coming to Nicaragua, we encourage you to come and see the work that is already happening in rural Nicaragua, focusing your time and energy on building relationships. If this is not your first time and/or you would like to do a work

project, please contact your delegation coordinator to get an idea of current community needs, possible projects, and any additional costs this may incur.

How far in advance do I need to begin planning?

We would like as much time to plan as possible, since some months of the year tend to fill up quickly. Ideally, we would be able to have six months to plan a visit, though we can receive a group on much less notice. To start scheduling a delegation or for any questions, please email BOTH partners.cepad@gmail.com and cepad.delegations@gmail.com.