EL AYUDANTE NICARAGUA

Mission Team Welcome & Prep Guide

Essential Information, Cultural Preparation, and Packing Guidelines for Serving in León

Welcome to the El Ayudante Family

Thank you for answering the call to serve alongside the people of Nicaragua. Short-term mission teams are an extension of our long-term, Christ-centered community presence in León. We partner with local leaders, pastors, and families—working together rather than 'doing for.'

Arrival & Airport Logistics

- **Managua Airport (MGA):** Upon arrival, you will clear immigration and customs. Keep a crisp, unmarked **$10 bill (USD)** ready in your carry-on for the tourist entry card.
- **Luggage Tags:** Keep your baggage claim claim-checks easily accessible; security officers inspect them before you exit the baggage claim hall.
- **EA Transportation:** An official El Ayudante staff member will greet your group directly outside the arrival terminal and escort you to our transport vans for the scenic drive to León (approx. 2 to 2.5 hours).

Campus Life & Hospitality

Our campus provides a secure, comfortable sanctuary after long days in the field:

- **Meals:** Nutritious, delicious Nicaraguan and American-style meals are prepared fresh daily by our kitchen team. Dietary accommodations (vegetarian, gluten-free, dairy-free) are happily arranged.
- **Living Quarters:** Air-conditioned dorm rooms equipped with clean linens, pillows, and bathrooms. Please respect energy conservation by turning off fans and AC when leaving rooms.
- **Filtered Water:** Purified drinking water is available across campus at all times. Always carry your refillable bottle.

Dress Code & Cultural Expectations

In Nicaraguan culture, modest, clean attire conveys respect for local communities and leadership:

- **Work & Community Outreach:** Lightweight t-shirts, knee-length modest shorts or lightweight pants. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes (sneakers or work boots) are mandatory at all construction and outreach sites.
- **Church & Worship Gatherings:** Slacks/chinos with collared shirts for men; modest dresses, skirts (knee-length or longer), or nice slacks for women.
- **Campus Free Time:** Casual shirts, shorts, and sandals are welcome. Modest one-piece swimsuits when swimming with children.

Recommended Packing Checklist

Pack lightweight, breathable fabrics. Essential items include:

- Valid passport (must have 6+ months validity remaining) and photocopy stored separately.
- Refillable water bottle, electrolyte drink mix packets, and high-protein snacks.
- Broad-spectrum sunscreen, insect repellent (DEET or Picaridin), and a wide-brim hat.
- Personal medications, allergy tablets, pain relievers, and anti-diarrheal medicine.
- Bible, notebook/journal, pens, and personal headphones.