

Veterinary Medicine program participants are encouraged to bring a minimum of \$150 in donations.

VIDA Veterinary Team Preparation Guidelines

Many animals in Central America receive no regular veterinary care. By partnering with communities in need and globally-minded volunteers, we are able to provide basic veterinary care, education, and free spay/neuter surgeries to the pets and livestock of the working poor through our veterinary mission trips. We aim to support other international nonprofits in their commitment to the communities they work in as well as provide support to remote and isolated communities. Join us for a hands-on experience of a lifetime as we join hands with communities across Central America.

***Participants are required to have International Travel/Health Insurance in this program due to the extreme “hands on” nature of the program. Participants must also have an up to date Tetanus and Rabies vaccinations.**

***Pre-Vet students will be required to study suture procedures, small animal anatomy, and observe 25 hours of spay/neuters prior to trip for those wishing to participate in surgery at the spay/neuter clinics.**

It is required to bring the following items:

Sunscreen
Bug repellent
Rubber boots
Battery operated alarm clock
Rain poncho
4 Scrub tops
4 Scrub pants or jeans
Sheet (travel pillow recommended)
Towel
Day Backpack
Flashlight and batteries
Stethoscope

Luggage locks

Personal products (shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors)

It is highly recommended to pack the following items:

Minimum of \$400 for meals and souvenirs

Aloe Vera

Hat

Sunglasses

Flip-flops for shower/beach

Minimum of 2 sets of clothes for an evening out and shoes

4 pairs of shorts/ lightweight pants/skirts

4 shirts

1 lightweight jacket/sweater

Swimming suit

Tennis shoes/tivas

Work gloves

Hair dryers, hair straightener, curling iron (Optional)

Camera with extra batteries or battery charger

Red light (If turtle monitoring is included in your itinerary)

Prescription glasses (difficult to wear only contact lenses)

Antibacterial hand gel

Journal and pens

Spanish phrase book or dictionary

AT&T phone card

1 roll of toilet paper

Mosquito netting (there are many types of flying bugs, insects, spiders, etc in Central America)

If you are a vegan/vegetarian plan to bring snack bars/energy bars or other sources of protein/nutrition with you.

A generous supply of over the counter or prescription medicine you are currently taking. Motion sickness medications as needed as items may not be readily available here in Central America.

Packing: Please pack your clothing in large Ziploc bags as it may become wet during travel.

Luggage: One suitcase with wheels, duffel bag, or large backpack is allowed for personal use. Another bag is allowed if it is used for donations.

You must be able to carry your own luggage.

Please do not bring:

Cell phones

MP3 players

Laptops

Expensive jewelry

Anything of sentimental value

****Items are often misplaced, lost, and occasionally stolen.**

Suggestions for a successful adventure:

*Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your return date.
Review the expiration date!*

*The State Department has been experiencing high volume recently;
therefore the passport processing process has been 3-4 months.*

*United States and Canadian citizens do not need a visa to enter any
country in Central America. Citizens of other countries should check for
visa requirements with the respective country's consulate in your country.*

Bring a money belt or something similar.

Bring U.S. dollars in small bills (\$1 - \$20 bills); bills of \$50 and \$100 are more difficult to cash.

Do not exchange money before leaving the U.S.A./Canada/ European Union or at the airport upon arrival. There will be an opportunity to exchange money after arrival.

You will need to pay \$32 for a departure tax at the airport.

Bring a well recognized credit card such as VISA for an emergency health situation, etc.

Make a copy of your credit card and keep it safe.

Bring traveler's checks as a back up plan; typically they are difficult to cash.

Make a copy of your passport (photo page) and keep it safe.

Drinking alcohol and smoking will only be permitted at designated times/areas per discretion of staff.

Leave a copy of your passport (photo page), copy of your credit card, VIDA trip itinerary, and VIDA contact information with an emergency contact.

Central America is a generally hot, humid, and rainy although our trips may include mountainous regions with colder weather, therefore we recommend that you follow the packing guidelines we have compiled.

Drinking alcohol and smoking are only permitted at designated times/areas per discretion of staff. These guidelines will be reviewed at orientation.

1. No drinking at orphanages, animal sanctuaries, retreat centers or on the bus at any time.
2. Smoking is permitted outside field clinics in designated areas. No smoking on the bus at any time.
3. No illegal substances will be permitted at any time during the trip.

Your safety is of the utmost importance to us; that is why evening outings will be supervised by VIDA staff.

VIDA humanitarian trips are eye-opening and mind-enriching experiences, therefore your accommodations will be basic and most trips will include homestays with a local family. (There will be no hair dryers, shampoo, internet, etc at most of the hotels.)

The group will be working and touring in many different areas throughout the trip therefore we will be changing hotels frequently. Participants need to be responsible for their own belongings.

We will work hard and play hard as well. Your clothing may become permanently stained or ruined.

The sun is very strong near the equator and precautions should be taken to avoid sunburn especially those participants in the veterinary/construction programs.

Immunizations are important and should be current prior to travel.

(Costa Rica, Panamá, and Nicaragua)

Hepatitis B vaccine

Flu vaccine (optional)

Standard up-to-date USA/EU vaccinations

Rabies vaccination

Tetanus vaccination

VIDA offers volunteers hands-on, eye-opening, mind-enriching volunteer experiences in a constructive and intercultural environment. We provide humanitarian services that help local people in need and learning experiences that benefit the volunteers.