

PILGRIMAGE TO EL SALVADOR

Please find details of our proposed pilgrimage to El Salvador to celebrate the recent canonisation of Saint Oscar Romero and which also coincides with the 30th anniversary of the killings of the six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter on 16 November 1989. This pilgrimage gives an opportunity to visit the places connected with these modern martyrs of the church and to meet with people who lived through these troubled times and are now working to rebuild their society and country.

The visit will also provide the opportunity to learn about the country of El Salvador, its history (from the cross roads of pre-hispanic civilizations through to the twelve year civil war which ended in 1992), its geography (only three of El Salvador's twenty-one known volcanos are classified as active) and culture. The provisional programme is as follows:

Wed 06 Evening arrival at San Salvador International Airport (Aeropuerto Internacional Comalapa) transfer (30 miles) to the Jesuit **Centro Loyola**.

Thu 07 Morning visit to the chapel at the San Salvador Divine Providence Cancer Hospital (**Hospital de la Divina Providencia** or **El Hospitalito** - where Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass on 24 March 1980) for Mass and visit his modest quarters, now a museum, and the cancer hospital. Lunch with the Carmelite Sisters. Afternoon visit to the **Museo Nacional de Antropología David J Guzmán** (for the development of the people and land of El Salvador, the arts, religion and economy of the country). Dinner and evening reflections.

Fri 08 Morning city centre tour with visits to the **Monument to Memory and Truth** (which displays the names of over 25,000 people who were killed or disappeared in the repression of the 1970's and the civil war from 1980 to 1983 including Archbishop Romero's close friend Rutilio Grande SJ) and the **Metropolitan Cathedral** (completed in 1999 after forty years of renovation with its facade and upper galleries once decorated in colourful campesino motifs (now removed) designed by Fernando Llort and where Archbishop Romero delivered his homilies) to visit the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero in the crypt and the Dominican church of **Iglesia del Rosario** (one of the most visually interesting churches in El Salvador, with lines of coloured light streaming in from abstract stained glass running up the height of its two curved walls and abstract metal forms the altar and stations of the cross). Lunch. Afternoon visit the **Centro Monseñor Romero** at the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (**UCA**) that honours both the assassinated Archbishop Romero and Fr Rutilio Grande, but also the six Jesuit priests, along with their maid Elba and her daughter Celina who were killed within the University precinct on 16 November 1989 and are now buried in the chapel. Late afternoon Mass. Dinner and evening reflection.

Sat 09 Full-day excursion north of San Salvador to first visit **Aguilares** (where Fr Rutilio Grande SJ was murdered in 1977) and **El Paisnal** (where he lies buried in the simple church with the people that had summoned his loyalty and affection). Lunch. Afternoon visit to the **El Despertar** parish centre where Fr Octavio Ortiz was shot and where later Fr Michael Campbell-Johnston SJ served as parish priest. Dinner and evening reflection.

- Sun 10** Morning public Mass at the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero in the Cathedral crypt. Continue onto the colonial town of **Suchitoto** (once the centre of the indigo trade, overlooking Lago de Suchitlán and famous for its bird life) for lunch. Dinner and evening reflection.
- Mon 11** Full-day excursion to the chapel in **San Pedro Nonualco** (that was built over the place where Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Cleveland Lay Mission Team Member Jean Donovan, were raped and murdered on 02 December 1980) for prayers followed by a visit to **San Juan Nonualco** (where there is a small house museum remembering the Italian Franciscan Fr Cosme Spessotto who was shot nearby). Lunch. Afternoon return via **La Chacra** one of the poorest areas of San Salvador to visit a school project - *Fe y Alegría* - organised by the Poor Clare Sisters. Dinner and evening reflection.
- Tue 12** Two-day excursion to the north-west of the country to **Ciudad Barrios**, the birthplace of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Lunch organised by the local Romero committee. In the afternoon continue to **Hotel Perkin Lenca** just outside **Perquin**. Dinner and overnight (twin-share accommodation).
- Wed 13** Morning visits to **El Mozote** (scene of the December 1981 massacre of 767 people by the army. Lunch. Afternoon meeting with the parish priest who served as a pastor within the guerrilla controlled area and to visit the Museum of the Revolution in **Perquin**, set up by the former guerrillas to commemorate the Salvadoran Civil War (1980-1992). Dinner and overnight (twin-share accommodation).
- Thu 14** Morning return to San Salvador. Lunch. Late afternoon meeting with those who collaborated extensively in the peace treaty. Evening Mass. Dinner.
- Fri 15** Free-day for personal sightseeing or shopping or to visit further community projects. San Salvador has several museums including the Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Popular Art, as well as the Military History Museum (which gives the other side of the Civil War story and includes the originals of the 1992 peace accords and the Popemobile used when John-Paul II visited El Salvador in March 1993) and the nearby botanic garden Jardín Botánico La Laguna. Optional morning excursion to **Joya de Ceren** (a Mayan farming village preserved remarkably intact under layers of volcanic ash in AD595) and the local Mayan administrative capital of **San Andrés**. Lunch. Evening Mass. Dinner.
- Sat 16** Morning visits to the **Llort Gallery/Arbol de Dios** handicraft shop and to the **Mercado Nacional de Artesanías** (handicraft centre). Lunch. Afternoon visit to **UCA** to see the *Infiorata* where the main street of the university is covered with pictures made of flower petals and coloured sand in honour of the martyrs. Early evening candlelit procession, Mass and concert at **UCA** to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the killing of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. Very late supper.
- Sun 17** Morning Mass. Lunch. Afternoon visit to the **Cathedral** to pray at the tomb of Saint Oscar Romero and to the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital (**Hospital de la Divina Providencia** or **El Hospitalito**) for quiet time. Dinner and evening reflection.
- Mon 18** Morning transfer to San Salvador Airport. (Arrive back in UK on **Tue 19 Nov.**)

ACCOMMODATION

In San Salvador we are booked into the Centro Loyola run by the Central American Jesuit Province. The centre is situated in the hills in the southern sector of San Salvador and close to the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA).

The Centro Loyola is built on a hillside and the different parts of the complex (chapel, dining room, lecture hall, guest accommodation etc) are connected by many steps. Guest accommodation is provided in simply furnished en-suite single and twin-bedded rooms with air conditioning in blocks throughout grounds.

Overnight accommodation at the Hotel Perkin Lenca outside Perquin on the two-day excursion will be in shared (twin-bedded) accommodation.

FLIGHTS

There are currently no direct flights from the UK to El Salvador. Some options for 2019 include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flight</u>	<u>From/to</u>	<u>Flight time</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>
Wed 06 Nov	UA879	Heathrow (T2) 09.05 - Houston 14.45	10.50	Lunch / Snack	Boeing 777
	United Airlines	(Time at Houston)	03.15		
	UA1461	Houston 18.30 - San Salvador 21.30	03.00	Buy-on-board	Boeing 737
			<u>17.05</u> hrs		
Fri 24 Nov	UA1468	San Salvador 13.45 - Houston 14.40	03.05	Buy-on-board	Boeing 737
	United Airlines	(Time at Houston)	03.35		
	UA005	Houston 20.15 - Heathrow (T2) 11.55	09.00	Dinner / Snack	Boeing 777
			<u>16.40</u> hrs		

Via Amsterdam and/or Paris via Panama City with KLM or Air France. A typical schedule is:

Wed 06 Nov	UK (circa) 06.00 - Amsterdam (circa) 08.15		approx <u>22.20</u> hrs.	various aircraft
	Amsterdam 11.25 - Panama City 16.30			Boeing 777
	Panama City 21.10 - San Salvador 22.15			Boeing 737
Mon 18 Nov	San Salvador 14.05 - Panama City 17.00		approx 16.50 hrs	Boeing 737
	Panama City 18.45 - Amsterdam 10.55 (next day)			Boeing 777
	Amsterdam 13.25 - UK (circa) 13.50			various aircraft

* These airports include Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Durham (Teeside), Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Heathrow, Humberside, Inverness, Leeds, London City, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich and Southampton.

COST £ **1895** inclusive of: [Please be advised the 2019 pilgrimage is a day longer than in 2017)

- UK/San Salvador flights
- current airport/airline taxes
- current fuel surcharges
- one piece of hold baggage
- group airport transfers on 06 and 18 November
- accommodation as described above
- local style breakfast
- main meals with bottled water as per the programme
- full programme of excursions and evening sessions
- entry charges, offerings and tips.

The following are **not** included:

- UK airport transfers
- travel insurance
- possible flight supplements for bookings after 31 January 2019
- airline seating charges / additional leg room fees
- upgrades to higher classes
- additional hold baggage
- alcoholic and canned/bottled soft drinks
- optional excursions during free time
- expenses in free time/personal expenditure.

PARTICIPATION

Participation on this pilgrimage is limited to 30 people. Please be advised that as the pilgrimage will involve walking when sightseeing in towns, and sometimes be over uneven terrain when in the country, a degree of fitness and mobility is essential. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to keep up with the group and its activities. The Centro Loyola is on a steep hill with many steps.

PROGRAMME NOTE

Please be advised that the programme is subject to change. In particular with regard to the availability of speakers, confirmation of our site visits, any new provision for pilgrims visiting El Salvador since the canonisation of Saint Oscar Romero, and the arrangements for the commemorating the 30th anniversary of the killing of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. There will be the opportunity for daily Mass or morning prayer at the Centro Loyola. The evening sessions (as dinner is served at 6.30 pm) will include inputs from Romero Trust trustees, feedback sessions and visiting speakers.

BOOKING

Please complete (all sections) of the booking form and send this with your non-refundable deposit (of £300 per person) to **Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX**.

An invoice will be issued after confirmation for full payment of any individual flight bookings.

The balance of the cost of this pilgrimage will then be due eight weeks prior to departure. Please make all cheques made payable to: *Anthony R Coles Travel and Conferences*.

This flight-inclusive holiday/pilgrimage is financially protected by the ATOL (Air Travel Organisers' Licensing) scheme. When you book, you or your parish/group organiser will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate as evidence of this protection.



HOLIDAY/PILGRIMAGE	PILGRIMAGE TO EL SALVADOR : 06 to 18 NOVEMBER 2019
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TITLE (Mr/Mrs etc) _____

SURNAME*

* = as in passport

FORENAME*

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____

PASSPORT No. _____

NATIONALITY _____

DATE OF BIRTH Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

PLACE OF BIRTH _____

DATE OF ISSUE Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

WHERE ISSUED _____

DATE OF EXPIRY Day _____ Month _____ Year _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

REQUESTS (single ☐ twin ☐ room / share partner / dietary exclusions / vegetarian meals etc)

FLIGHTS Please advise on / book my flight from: _____

FLIGHT SEAT SELECTION

WINDOW ☐MIDDLE ☐AISLE ☐ADDITIONAL LEG ROOM ☐**INSURANCE**

All participants must have adequate travel insurance cover. If you already have cover, please provide the following information:

Insurance Co. _____

Policy No. _____

Emergency tel no. 0044 _____

If you require further information on insurance, please tick here ☐**DEPOSIT**

£300 per person x ____ persons = £_____

Cheques payable to *Anthony R Coles Travel & Conferences*I enclose a cheque ☐ or please debit my Debit card ☐

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Expiry Date □□/□□ CCV □□□

I/We accept the booking conditions : SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please return completed form to: **Anthony Coles, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX**

OFFICE USE □□□□

ROMERO TRUST