

# EL SALVADOR

## *Travel Guide*



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# INTRODUCTION



El Salvador is the smallest, most densely populated country in Central America. A mountainous country, El Salvador is bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Guatemala, and Honduras. Known as the “Land of Volcanoes”, El Salvador has the distinction of being the only country in Central America that does not have a coastline on the Caribbean Sea. Popular for its mild tropical climate, scenic landscapes, and Pacific beaches, El Salvador primarily attracts tourists who are interested in its black-sand beaches and surfing, and its vibrant nightlife. In recent years, the El Salvador government has placed more of an emphasis on tourism and is enjoying a dramatic increase in visitors and tourist revenue.

Due to its geographical size and urbanization, eco-tours or archaeological monuments aren't quite in abundance. Surfing, however, is a popular tourist attraction that is quickly gaining global interest. The many beaches on the coast of La Libertad and the east side of the country have been a major draw for surfers seeking uncrowded surf spots.

The Pacific coast is one of the major tourism assets of the country, located just 30 minutes from the capital of San Salvador. 188 miles of black sand coastline extends from Garita Palmera near the Guatemalan border, stretching south with the major hotel and golf developments of La Costa del Sol, to the beautiful beaches of El Espino and El Cuco and the popular surfing beach of El Zunzal.

**Country population:** 6,348,646

**Form of Government:** Presidential Representative Democratic Republic

**Capital:** San Salvador

**Official Languages:** Spanish

**Currency:** U.S. Dollar (USD), Bitcoin (BTC)

**GDP:** \$27.02 billion (nominal)  
\$54.62 billion (PPP) (2020)

**Per capita:** \$5 344,21 (2023)

**Area:** 20,720.0 km<sup>2</sup> | (8,124 mi<sup>2</sup>)

**Time Zone:** UTC -6:00 CST

# GEOGRAPHY

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America, amassing an area of just over 8108 sq miles (21,000 sq km), which is about the same as Wales.

The entire territory of El Salvador is located on the Central American volcanic axis, which determines the major geographic regions of the country, hence how the country earned its nickname as the, “Land of Volcanoes.” There are more than twenty volcanoes in the region, two of which are active. Volcano Santa Ana being the highest volcano in El Salvador, standing at 7812 feet (2,381 meters) above sea level.

El Salvador is dominated by the central highlands, consisting largely of a west-east line of these volcanoes crossing the center of the country. This volcanic range includes 20 cones, from the westernmost Izalco Volcano (6,447 feet [1,965 meters]), through those of San Salvador (6,430 feet [1,960 meters]) and San Miguel (6,988 feet [2,130 meters]), to that of Conchagua (4,078 feet [1,243 meters]) in the extreme east. These volcanoes are separated by a series of basins (commonly referred to as El Salvador’s central plain), lying at elevations of between 3,500 and 5,000 feet (1,000 and 1,500 meters), whose fertile soils, derived from volcanic ash, lava, and alluvium, have for centuries supported the cultivation of crops.

To the south, where the central highlands give way to the Pacific coast, is a narrow coastal plain with average elevations of between 100 and 500 feet (30 and 150 meters).

North of the central highlands, and parallel to them, a broad interior plain drained by the Lempa River is situated at elevations between 1,300 and 2,000 feet (400 and 610 meters). Intermittently broken by ancient dormant volcanic structures and adversely affected by poor drainage and high soil acidities, this interior plain has provided a less attractive environment for human habitation.

Extending along the entire northern border region are a range of highlands, with average elevations of 5,000 to 6,000 feet (1,500 to 1,800 meters), formed by ancient and heavily eroded volcanic structures. The steepness of slope, excessive forest clearance, and overuse of soils have led to serious deterioration of the environment of this northern region. In the extreme northwestern part of the country, there are limited outcrops of limestone rock associated with the older non-volcanic structures of Honduras.

Due to this acreage of ash and altitude, less than one-fifth of El Salvador’s soils are suitable for agriculture. The central plain and interior valleys have mostly volcanic soils that are relatively fertile but that are also vulnerable to erosion. The southern coast has level, fertile alluvial soils, deposited by the numerous small rivers draining from the central highlands. Combined with high year-round temperatures and abundant rainfall, they provide favorable conditions for plant growth and agriculture.



# WEATHER & CLIMATE



Similar to its neighboring countries, the climate of El Salvador is tropical. Sharing more than a tropical climate, temperature is also gaged depending on the region you are in, as with other parts of Central and South America, and El Salvador is no exception to this. There is considerable climatic variation in the different regions, dependant on altitude, precipitation rates, and whether you are coastal or inland based.

For instance, in San Salvador, the capital, which is 2,238 feet (682 meters) above sea level, the maximum monthly mean temperature is in the mid-90s °F (about 34 °C), in March, and the lowest monthly mean is in the low 60s °F (about 17 °C), in January. In the mountains, above 4,800 feet (1,460 meters), mean monthly temperatures vary between the low 60s and low 70s °F (about 17 and 22 °C).

While heavy rains, known as the temporales, fall in the winter season, from May to October, the dry summer season lasts from November to April. The Pacific lowlands and low areas in the middle Lempa River valley have mean monthly temperatures between the high 70s and mid-80s °F (about 25 and 29 °C).

Annual precipitation on the Pacific lowlands average about 65 to 70 inches (about 1,700 mm); on the southern and northern mountain ranges, at elevations between 2,000 and 3,500 feet (600 and 1,060 meters), the average is between 70 and 100 inches (1,800 and 2,500 mm); the higher mountains receive a little more. Annual precipitation recorded in the deeper valleys and surrounding plateau-like areas is between about 45 and 60 inches (1,100 and 1,500 mm). As odd as it sounds, even though the country has tropical weather, snow has been seen on Cerro El Pital's peak.



# CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS

## Clothing

As with any tropical climate, lightweight clothing and water-resistant gear is essential. Depending on the region of your choosing, being prepared for chillier days with jackets and outfits of thicker materials for a trip to the mountains whereas goloshes and umbrellas would be better suited for a walk about in the Pacific lowlands.

## Society

With a population of just over 6 million people, El Salvador holds the distinction of being the most densely populated country in the Americas. The nation is home to 6,348,646 individuals, with nearly 90% of the population identifying as mestizo—a term referring to people of mixed indigenous and European ancestry. This majority group is the result of centuries of intermarriage between Spanish settlers and the indigenous peoples of the region, particularly the Pipil. The Pipil were a Nahuatl-speaking tribe with cultural and historical ties to the Aztecs. This blending of cultures has given rise to an ethnically homogeneous society characterized by a shared heritage that combines indigenous traditions with European elements.

The remaining population is composed of smaller groups, including indigenous peoples such as the Izalco, renowned for their cultural resilience, and the Pancho, who reside in Panchimalco, one of El Salvador's oldest villages. Additionally, there are Salvadorans of European ancestry, primarily descendants of Spanish colonists, alongside small communities of other ethnic groups, contributing to the country's cultural diversity.

## Language

The official language of El Salvador is Spanish, but to locals the vernacular most commonly used is the informal “caliche.” Like its neighboring countries Salvadorians use voseo, meaning they use the vos pronoun instead of the more common tu for the familiar “you.” Several indigenous dialects are still spoken within El Salvador's borders, such as Nahuatl, but scarcely and infrequently.

## Religion

El Salvador is predominantly Roman Catholic, with over half of Salvadorans identifying with this faith, reflecting its deep roots in the country's history and culture since the colonial era. The Catholic Church has long played a central role in Salvadoran society, influencing traditions, holidays, and community life. However, in recent decades, there has been a significant rise in Evangelical Protestantism, particularly during the 1990s.

The remaining population practices a variety of other faiths, including smaller Christian sects, indigenous spiritual traditions, and non-Christian religions, reflecting a modest but growing diversity in the country's religious landscape.

## Currency

The currency used in El Salvador might come as a surprise to many, considering it is the United States dollar. Most recently; however, the cryptocurrency Bitcoin has been adopted as a legal tender in El Salvador. In fact, they are the first nation in the world to do so.



# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



El Salvador, officially known as the Republic of El Salvador, operates as a democratic republic, governed by a structure similar to that of the United States, with three distinct branches of government: the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary, to ensure a balance of power and uphold the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

The Executive Branch is headed by the President of the Republic, currently Nayib Bukele, who serves as both the head of state and the head of government. The president is elected through a popular vote for a five-year term, with no provision for consecutive re-election. However, former presidents are allowed to run for a second, non-consecutive term. The Legislative Branch, known as El Salvador's Legislative Assembly, is unicameral, consisting of 84 elected members referred to as "deputies." These deputies are responsible for passing laws, approving budgets, and overseeing the executive branch. Elections for the Legislative Assembly are held every three years, with deputies serving three-year terms.

The Judiciary Branch is composed of the Supreme Court, which consists of 15 judges. These judges are appointed by the Legislative Assembly for a nine-year term, and one of them is elected as the President of the Judiciary. The Judiciary holds the

responsibility of interpreting laws and ensuring their constitutionality, with the Supreme Court acting as the highest court of appeals in the country. Its role is vital in safeguarding the legal rights of Salvadorans and maintaining the balance of powers within the government.

## National Emblems

Among the natural and material treasures belonging to El Salvador, a few have made a big enough impression on the country that they are now regarded as national emblems. One being the Torogoz, or turquoise-browed motmot, which is the national bird of El Salvador. The beautiful punk tufted tree known as, the Maquilishuat, has been the national tree of El Salvador since 1939. As lovely as it is edible, the national flower izote is used as decoration in many Salvadorans' homes as well as an ingredient for many of their culinary dishes. Distinguished by the vibrant white and blue stripes of their nation's flag, the white-colored stripe on the country's flag symbolizes peace, and the blue stripes represent the sea. The coat of arms composed of volcanoes and ringed with the national motto "Dios, Unión, Libertad" ("God, Union, Liberty") within the center is what sets it apart.



# CULTURE



El Salvador draws principally from their indigenous and Spanish backgrounds, as well as influences from the Catholic Church, to compose their cultural aspects. With tourism now ranking as the fastest growing sector of the Salvadoran economy, it is useful to know some relevant status quos of the country's culture.

One that might come as a surprise to many North Americans is the rules on "tipping." With roughly 64% of the population living in urban areas, public amenities such as transportation and restaurants are an everyday factor but tipping your driver or server is not. This expectation being because a tip percentage is typically factored in already.

Modeled as a conservative society, Salvadorans uphold traditional values and institutions that to back for generations. This by no means implies that their culture is rigid or stern, Salvadorans are well known for enjoying socializing and are a warm and hospitable people.

As in many countries, handshakes are typical when meeting and greeting in El Salvador, but accompanied by the appropriate salutation and title

is an etiquette must. For example, the time of day determines your greeting such as, "buenos dias" (good morning), "buenas tardes" (good afternoon), or "buenas noches" (good evening) paired with either the title "Señor or Señora." The reason for these formalities being because Salvadorans only use first names with family and friends, and why only close friends hug and kiss on the right cheek as well. So until invited to address one another on a first name basis, this would be the standard way of greeting in El Salvador.

Perhaps not as surprising is the rule that guests are served first. But did the same go for: arriving on time being considered rude, you must wait for the host to make a toast before drinking, and it is considered polite to leave a small amount of food on your plate when you've finished eating. The etiquette surrounding dining, specifically, provides an experience rather than a transaction.

Knowing these certain mannerisms ahead of time can enhance your dining experience for both you and the host.

# PRINT MEDIA

El Salvador has a diverse media landscape with a range of printed newspapers, most of which are privately owned. Among the leading publications are El Diario de Hoy ("Today's Daily"), La Prensa Gráfica ("The Graphic Press"), and El Mundo ("The World"). El Diario de Hoy is one of the country's most widely read newspapers, covering a broad range of national and international news.

La Prensa Gráfica is known for its investigative journalism, while El Mundo focuses on business and economic reporting. Additionally, Diario Oficial ("Official Daily"), a government-owned newspaper, publishes official government decrees and laws. These outlets provide a mix of independent and official perspectives, contributing to public discourse in the country.

# HOLIDAYS

For all countries, holidays serve as a way to foster community spirit and national pride, and in El Salvador, they are celebrated with similar significance. Many of these holidays are shared with other nations either for religious or international reasons, such as Christmas and New Year's Day, which are observed by Salvadorans along with many countries around the world. Additionally, the country celebrates religious holidays like Easter (Semana Santa) with large-scale processions and ceremonies that reflect its Catholic heritage.

However, El Salvador also has unique holidays that reflect its history and cultural identity. For example, Día de la Independencia (Independence Day) on September 15 commemorates El Salvador's independence from Spain, which it shares with other Central American nations. Another notable holiday is Día de los Farolitos (Day of the Lanterns), a tradition celebrated on December 7th in which families light lanterns to honor the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception.

These special holidays, alongside national and religious observances, help to unify Salvadorans and celebrate their rich cultural heritage.

- **January 1st** – New Year's Day
- **March/April** – "Semana Santa" - Holy Week/  
• Easter
- **May 1st** – Labor Day
- **May 3rd** – The Day of the Cross
- **May 10th** – Mother's Day
- **June 17th** – Father's Day
- **August 1 – 7** – August Festivals
- **September 15th** – Independence Day
- **November 2nd** – All Souls' Day
- **December 24th** – Christmas Eve
- **December 25th** – Christmas Day
- **December 31st** – New Year's Eve





# FAMOUS SALVADORANS



The list of famous Salvadorans is extensive, with many individuals making significant contributions to the nation's culture, history, and international recognition. The most celebrated of them all is José Matías Delgado, a national hero regarded as the father of El Salvador's independence movement. He played a pivotal role in the early struggles for independence and served as one of the most respected figures in the national constitutional assembly.

Other notable figures include music composer Juan Aberle and lyricist General Juan José Cañas, who co-created the Himno Nacional de El Salvador (the national anthem), a symbol of national pride and unity. In the realm of sports, Salvadoran soccer player Jorge "Mágico" González is widely regarded as one of the best players in history. His skill and flair on the field earned him legendary status, particularly among Salvadorans and football fans worldwide.

In addition, there are several other influential Salvadorans, including writer and poet Claudia Lars, whose literary works have made an indelible mark on Salvadoran culture, and Óscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador, known for his advocacy for human rights and social justice during the 1970s and 1980s. Romero's legacy as a martyr for peace and justice continues to inspire generations.

These figures, along with others, have shaped El Salvador's cultural, political, and artistic landscape.



# CUISINE



In El Salvador, it all starts with three simple ingredients: tortillas, rice, and beans. And from these humble staples, an entire universe of dishes emerges. Whether you're grabbing a quick meal at a local comedor or sitting down for something more elaborate, the combinations are endless. Take, for example, a typical meal: chicken, rice, and beans, all for just a few dollars. It's a reminder of how something so basic can be turned into a feast that's not only filling but deeply tied to the heart of Salvadoran culture. It's not gourmet. It's real. And that simplicity? It's what makes it unforgettable.

## Pupusa

The most famous dish in El Salvador? It's the pupusa. It's not just food—it's the national dish, the one that ties everything together. Imagine this: a thick, warm corn tortilla, stuffed with a savory filling, served with pickled cabbage and tomato sauce. Simple, right? But it's the kind of thing you can eat every day and never get tired of. Some people even prefer pupusas made with rice flour, claiming they're even more delicious. And if you're looking for something a little different, there are plenty of veggie options, too. Pupusas filled with ayote (that's squash) or garlic. It's the kind of dish that feels like home, no matter where you're from.

## Yuca frita

And then there's yuca frita—crispy, deep-fried cassava root. It's a favorite, something you'll find on tables all over El Salvador. Typically, it's served with curtido, a tangy pickled cabbage that cuts through the richness of the fried yuca. But the real magic happens when it's paired with chicharrón y pesca—pork rinds alongside fried baby sardines. It's a combination that's as bold and unapologetic as it sounds. It's salty, crunchy, and utterly satisfying. Every bite tells you exactly what Salvadoran comfort food is all about.

## Panes relenos

Panes relenos is another Salvadoran treat that you have to try. Think of it like a submarine sandwich, but with a twist. The meat—usually turkey or chicken—is seasoned with Pipil spices, which bring this deep, earthy flavor that's just unforgettable. Then, it's piled into a fresh, soft roll and topped with slices of tomato or watercress for a bit of crunch and freshness. It's the kind of sandwich that feels comforting and adventurous all at once, a perfect snapshot of Salvadoran flavor in every bite.

# CUISINE



## Sopa de Gallina India

This isn't your average chicken soup. Sopa de Gallina India is made with free-range chicken, which gives it a richer, deeper flavor. Add in fresh vegetables—carrots, corn, and green beans—and you've got a broth that feels like a hug in a bowl. It's the kind of thing your abuela would make to cure anything from a cold to a bad day.

## Tamales

Wrapped in banana leaves instead of corn husks, they're soft, moist, and packed with fillings that range from savory chicken or pork to sweet corn. Bite into one, and it's like uncovering a gift—every layer has a story, from the seasoned masa to the flavorful filling that takes center stage. It's what you bring to family gatherings when you really want to show you care.

## Empanadas de Leche y Frijol

Dessert or snack? Why not both? These empanadas are made from mashed plantains, fried until golden, and stuffed with creamy milk custard or sweet refried beans. They're soft, sweet, and the perfect mix of textures—crispy outside, silky inside. You'll find yourself reaching for just one more, and then another.

## Riguas

Riguas are the definition of simplicity done right. These corn patties are grilled in banana leaves, giving them a slightly smoky flavor. They're best eaten hot off the grill, slathered with sour cream or paired with a slice of fresh cheese. It's a snack that tastes like the Salvadoran countryside.

## Atol de Elote

When you're in the mood for something comforting and warm, there's atol de elote. Made from fresh corn blended with milk and sugar, it's a thick, creamy drink that's a little bit sweet and a whole lot of satisfying. It's the kind of thing you sip on while watching the sun set, savoring every warm, velvety mouthful.

## Cojutepeque Chorizos

These aren't your everyday sausages. Cojutepeque chorizos are small, smoky, and bursting with spice. They're grilled over an open flame and served as a quick snack or alongside a full plate of yuca or tortillas. Each bite brings a little bit of heat and a lot of flavor—a Salvadoran classic with serious attitude.



# CUISINE



## Pastelitos Salvadoreños

Think of these as Salvadoran turnovers, but with a savory twist. Made from crispy corn dough, pastelitos salvadoreños are filled with seasoned ground beef and diced vegetables like carrots and potatoes. Deep-fried to golden perfection, they're crunchy on the outside and packed with flavor on the inside. Dip them in salsa or enjoy them on their own—they're street food at its finest.

## Mariscada

This is seafood soup, Salvadoran style. Mariscada is a creamy, coconut-milk-based broth loaded with shrimp, clams, mussels, crab, and even lobster. It's rich, indulgent, and feels like a celebration of El Salvador's coastal bounty in every spoonful. Pair it with fresh bread to soak up every last drop.

## Quesadilla Salvadoreña

Not to be confused with the Mexican quesadilla, this Salvadoran treat is actually a sweet, cheesy bread. Made with queso fresco, rice flour, and a touch of sugar, it's baked until golden and often enjoyed with a cup of coffee. The texture is soft, the flavor is subtly sweet, and it's the perfect balance of cake and bread in one bite.

## Horchata de Morro

Unlike the Mexican version of horchata, El Salvador's take uses ground morro seeds, along with spices like cinnamon and vanilla. The result is a creamy, nutty drink that's refreshingly cold and slightly sweet. It's often sold at markets or roadside stalls, served over ice in a plastic bag with a straw—a Salvadoran classic for quenching your thirst.





# PLACES TO VISIT



## The El Salvador National Zoo

Widely regarded as the most modern zoo in Central America, the National Zoo of El Salvador offers a unique experience for visitors and animals alike. Located in the heart of San Salvador, this expansive facility is home to over 600 animal species from around the world. What sets this zoo apart is its dedication to creating habitats that closely mimic each species' natural environment, prioritizing the well-being and comfort of the animals. From abundant greenery to carefully designed enclosures, every detail is crafted to provide an educational and immersive experience for visitors while promoting conservation and respect for wildlife.

## La Laguna Botanical Garden

Spanning seven acres, this remarkable garden is nestled within a volcanic crater on the outskirts of San Salvador, offering visitors a unique blend of natural beauty and cultural significance. The garden showcases a diverse range of economically vital native plants, including coffee and cacao, highlighting their importance to Salvadoran heritage and agriculture. Specialty sections are devoted to vibrant bromeliads, delicate orchids, hardy cacti

and medicinal plants, providing insight into the region's biodiversity and traditional practices. It also features familiar plants often found in Salvadoran home gardens, creating a connection between the country's flora and daily life.

## The Montecristo Cloud Forest (El Trifinio)

Located in the northern highlands of El Salvador, and marks the point where the borders of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala meet. It is one of Central America's largest and most magnificent cloud forests containing a variety of micro-climates and possibly the greatest diversity of wildlife in Central America. It is cooperatively protected by the three countries.



# PLACES TO VISIT



## Coatepeque Lake

El Salvador has impressive natural landmarks all over the country, including Coatepeque Lake, an astounding volcanic caldera. One of the most famous natural landmarks in El Salvador, this volcanic caldera (large depression) was formed due to volcanic eruptions between 72,000 and 57,000 years ago.

Considered one of the most beautiful lakes in Central America, Coatepeque Lake is located about 11 miles south of the city of Santa Ana, in the municipality of El Congo, near the Cerro Verde National Park. The Park also has two amazing stratovolcanoes: Izalco and Santa Ana. Coatepeque Lake is an ecotourism haven, perfect for mountain biking, fishing, diving, camping, and much more.

## Tazumal

Located in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, just an hour away from San Salvador, Tazumal is a pre-Columbian Maya archeological site believed to date from 1200 B.C. Its largest structure measures 24 meters in height, has twelve steps or platforms. Tombs with more than 116 vessels, jade jewelry, “mirrors” of iron pyrite, ball game devices and ceramics in the shape of lizards were found in the site.

The Stone of the Victories, consisting of a monolith of Olmec influence with four different petro-engravings on its four sides, dated around 700 B.C., was found at Tazumal.

Among the most important findings of Tazumal is the Virgin of Tazumal, which was found in 1892 by the historian Santiago Barberena, who moved it to the National Museum; and, the so-called Chac-Mool, which was found in the now called Laguna Seca de Chalchuapa.





# PLACES TO VISIT



## Joya de Cerén

Joya de Cerén is an archaeological site located at the Canton Joya de Cerén, in the Department of la Libertad in El Salvador. Expanding just over 7,907 acres, Joya de Cerén was a pre-Hispanic farming community that, like Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy, was buried under an eruption of the Laguna Caldera volcano circa 600 AD. Because of the exceptional condition of the remains, they provide an insight into the daily lives of the Central American populations who worked the land at that time.

The site was discovered during the construction of grain-storage silos in 1976, when a clay-built structure was exposed by a bulldozer. Excavations were resumed in 1989 and have been continuous. Beneath the layers of volcanic ash lays the best-preserved example of a pre-Hispanic village in Mesoamerica. Architectural remains, grouped into compounds, include civic, religious and household buildings. To date, a total of 18 structures have been identified and 10 have been completely or partially excavated.

## Divine Savior of the World Monument

Located on Plaza El Salvador del Mundo in San Salvador City, the Monumento al Divino Salvador del Mundo features a statue of Jesus Christ standing on top of a global sphere of planet Earth, placed on top of a tall four-sided concrete base pedestal. The pedestal was originally used to decorate the tomb of Manuel Enrique Araujo, the President of El Salvador between 1911 and 1913. It is a landmark symbol that identifies and represents both El Salvador and Salvadorans throughout the world.





# PLACES TO VISIT



## Suchitoto

In the heart of El Salvador lies Suchitoto, a town that feels like stepping into another time—its cobblestone streets and whitewashed facades tell stories of a past both rich and layered. It's not the kind of place you rush through. Suchitoto unfolds slowly, like the scent of fresh pupusas wafting from a family kitchen. The town hums with life in its unassuming way: an art gallery tucked into a colonial home, the vibrant bustle of the weekend market, the glint of Lake Suchitlán on the horizon, mirroring the clouds. You might come for the postcard-perfect views, but what stays with you is the rhythm of the place—a rhythm that makes you reconsider what you thought you knew about El Salvador.

## Gulf of Fonseca

Picture volcanic islands rising like sentinels from the calm, warm sea, each one holding its secrets—beaches untouched by time, quiet villages where life unfolds slowly, and trails that lead to places you didn't expect to find. On one island, you're walking black sand beaches; on another, you're hiking toward the remnants of a volcano. And the locals? They've woven the gulf into their lives, thriving on its bounty, telling stories of its past in every boat ride.

## Juayúa and La Ruta de Las Flores

Juayúa and La Ruta de Las Flores feel like something out of a dream—a winding trail through El Salvador's highlands where every turn offers a new scene: coffee plantations rolling out in waves of green, colonial villages adorned with murals that burst with color, and waterfalls hidden just off the beaten path, waiting to be discovered.

Juayúa, the crown jewel of the route, welcomes you with its weekend food festival, where every dish feels like a celebration. But it's not just about the food—it's the way the town slows you down, inviting you to stroll, to wander, to breathe. The whole route has that effect, really, as if the flowers lining the road whisper, "Stay a little longer." And before you know it, you're not just visiting—you're immersed in a story that's both vibrant and quiet, unfolding in its own time.

# SHOPPING



Shopping in El Salvador isn't just a necessity—it's a journey through the country's culture, modernity, and traditions. At the heart of it all lies Metrocentro, the largest shopping center in Central America. Located in the bustling capital of San Salvador, this sprawling complex has been a cornerstone of the city since its opening in 1970. Inside, you'll find everything from global brands and local boutiques to supermarkets and electronics stores, making it a one-stop shop for practically anything. But it's more than a mall—it's a gathering place, a spot where families meet for lunch, friends catch a movie, and tourists get a taste of Salvadoran city life.

For a different shopping experience, head to Galerías Escalón. Tucked into the upscale Escalón district, this shopping center blends sophistication with a touch of history, as it's built around a historic mansion. It's a favorite for those looking for boutique stores, gourmet dining, or a relaxing coffee break. Art enthusiasts will also enjoy the galleries that lend the place its name, adding a touch of creativity to your visit.

If you're after a modern, high-end vibe, Multiplaza is the place to go. This sleek and stylish mall is home to international fashion brands, luxury cosmetics, and trendy restaurants. It's where you can shop the latest trends or simply indulge in a decadent dessert at one of its many cafes.

And then there are the markets. If you want to experience the soul of Salvadoran commerce, the vibrant Mercado Central and Mercado Ex-Cuartel are must-visits. These traditional markets are alive with the chatter of bargaining, the aroma of fresh produce, and the kaleidoscope of handmade crafts and colorful textiles. They're perfect for picking up unique souvenirs or simply soaking in the energy of local life.



# TRANSPORTATION



Getting around El Salvador is an adventure in itself, offering a mix of modern convenience and local charm. Colorful buses buzz through city streets, and scenic drives along coastal highways reveal breathtaking landscapes. The country's transport network connects urban hubs to rural treasures, making exploration both exciting and memorable.

## Bus

You can get just about anywhere in one of El Salvador's brightly painted school buses, and this is the primary mode of transportation throughout the country. Cities and towns will often have designated bus depots that cost about \$0.30-0.35 USD. You can easily move between towns for around \$2 USD (it costs that much to travel between San Salvador and both La Libertad and El Tunco). San Salvador to Suchitoto is \$1 USD. Fares sometimes increase on the weekends due to more traffic.

## Minivans

Sometimes called "Busitos," these minivans or minibuses are a popular and convenient way to travel around El Salvador, especially in tourist-heavy areas. They offer flexible routes that can take you just about anywhere within the country—and even to neighboring countries like Guatemala or Honduras. While they're more expensive than regular buses, averaging around \$10 USD per trip depending on the destination, they provide a faster and more direct service.

Travelers often appreciate the comfort and ease of these vehicles compared to the public buses. If you're traveling in a group, you can often negotiate a group rate for added savings. Bartering for a better price is common practice and could lower your fare, especially if you book directly with the driver. For convenience, many hotels and hostels can arrange these rides for you, ensuring a hassle-free travel experience.

# TRANSPORTATION



## Taxis

Taxis are widely available in El Salvador, particularly in urban areas and around major transportation hubs. However, most taxis are unmetered, so it's essential to agree on a fare before starting your journey. For trips from the airport, a taxi to popular destinations like San Salvador or El Tunco typically costs \$25–30 USD, depending on the time of day and the level of demand.

In smaller towns, taxi services are often replaced by tuk-tuks. These are the most budget-friendly option, usually costing less than \$1 USD for a quick trip. Tuk-tuks offer a quick and charming way to get around locally.

When using taxis or tuk-tuks, always confirm the price upfront to avoid misunderstandings, as rates can sometimes vary for tourists. If you're in tourist-heavy spots, consider asking locals for typical fare ranges to ensure fair pricing.

## Uber

Yes, you can get an Uber ride in El Salvador! Since 2017, this form of ride-sharing has been available in 3 major cities: San Salvador, Santa Ana and San Miguel.

## Car Rental

If you're 21 or older, you can easily rent a car in El Salvador, with prices starting around \$20 USD per day. While renting a car here is quite straightforward, be aware that drivers aged 21 to 24 might incur an additional daily fee. The roads in El Salvador are generally well-maintained, making driving relatively safe compared to other Central American countries. However, it's important to note that car rental agreements in El Salvador usually require Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) protection for some vehicles, and additional coverage options may come with extra costs.



# HOTELS BY REGION



All three regions of El Salvador offer a variety of hotels that cater to their own unique experiences and services for you to choose from.

REGION	HOTEL	ADDRESS
THE PACIFIC COASTAL BELT	Hotel Tropico Inn San Miguel	CP 3301, Av. Roosevelt Sur
	Hotel Villa San Miguel	Pasaje N 4
	Hotel King Palace	6a Calle Oriente
THE CENTRAL PLATEAU	Sheraton Presidente San Salvador Hotel	Avenida De La Revolucion, San Salvador
	Barcelo San Salvador	Bulevar Del Hipodromo, San Salvador
	Crowne Plaza San Salvador	89 Avenida Norte, San Salvador
THE NORTHERN LOWLANDS	Remfort Hotel	Avenida Independencia Sur y 11 Calle Pte. Santa Ana
	Caredeu Residence	Cantón Los Planes de la Laguna, CP, SAN24E
	Hotel Casa Verde Santa Ana	7 Calle Poniente Entre 8 y 10 Av. Sur 25, Santa Ana

# RESTAURANTS BY REGION



With countless cities and nightlife hub spots, dining in El Salvador is practically limitless with cuisine delicacies unique to your region of choice.

REGION	HOTEL	ADDRESS
THE PACIFIC COASTAL BELT	Carreta Bruja	Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO), 4a Calle Pte., San Miguel
	El Predio's Grill	San Miguel, El Salvador
	Torolomo	8a Calle Poniente 405, San Miguel 3301
THE CENTRAL PLATEAU	La Gastroteca Restaurante	Hotel Suites Las Palmas, Nivel Lobby, Blvd. Sergio, San Salvador
	Al Pomodoro	Ave. La Revolución y, Calle Circunvalacion 184, San Salvador
	Il Bongustaio	Bulevar Del Hipodromo 605, San Salvador
THE NORTHERN LOWLANDS	Simmer Down Santa Ana	Santa Ana, centro, contiguo a Catedral, El Salvador
	Comedor IZALCO	21 Calle Pte., Santa Ana, El Salvador
	Café Tejas	Avenida Independencia between Calle 13 poniente and Calle Jose Mariano, Mendez, Santa Ana, El Salvador



# BASIC TRAVEL INFORMATION



In 2014, El Salvador's Comalapa International Airport, also known as Cuscatlán International Airport, was recognized as the third-best airport in the Central America and Caribbean Region at the World Airport Awards. This accolade is a testament to its efficient service and its growing importance as a transportation hub in the region. Notably, it is the third busiest airport in Central America, following those in Costa Rica and Panama, and it plays a pivotal role in connecting El Salvador to global markets and tourism.

Direct flights from the U.S. to Comalapa International Airport typically take between four to six hours, with numerous flights from major U.S. cities like Miami, Los Angeles, and New York. The airport is serviced by major carriers such as American Airlines, Continental Airlines, and Delta, along with various international and regional airlines, making it a convenient and well-connected gateway to El Salvador and Central America.

The busiest travel period at Comalapa International coincides with the dry season in El Salvador, which lasts from November to May. This is the ideal time for tourists, as the weather is more predictable, with clear skies and minimal rainfall.

The airport is well-equipped to handle the influx of travelers during these months, with modern amenities and services designed to cater to both international and domestic visitors.

## U.S. Embassy

### **The U.S. Embassy is located at:**

Final Boulevard Santa Elena  
Antiguo Cuscatlán, La Libertad

### **U.S. Embassy phone number during business hours:**

(503) 2278-5522

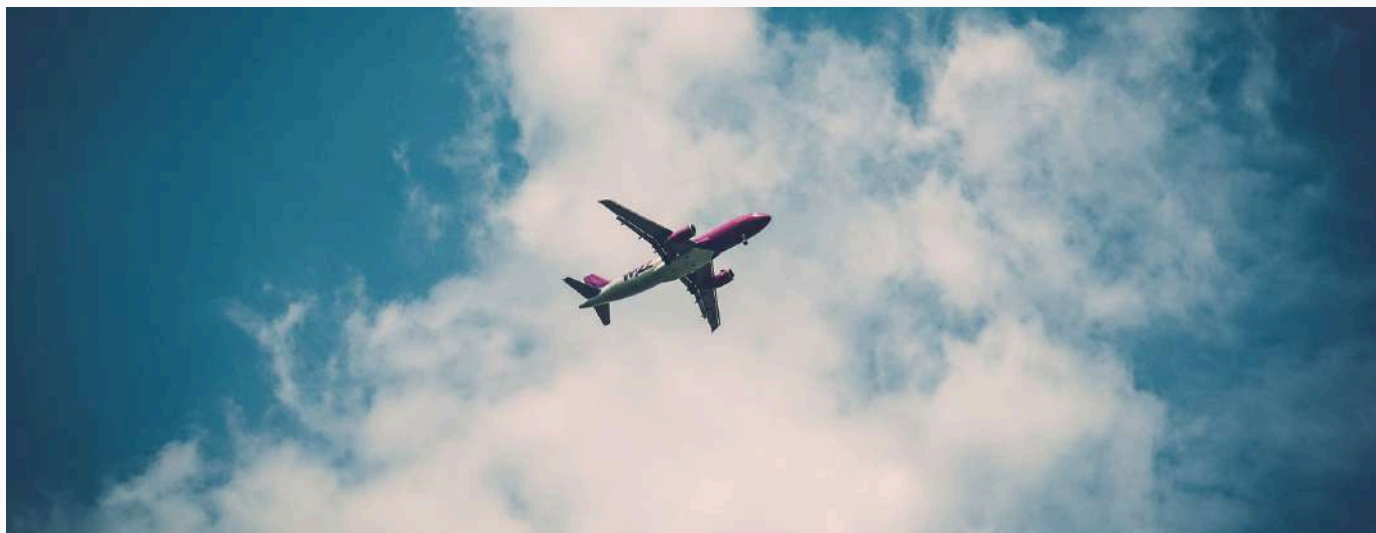
### **After-hours phone number**

(503) 2501-2999

### **Consular E-mail:**

ACSSanSal@state.gov

# GAINING LEGAL RESIDENCY



## Dual Nationality

El Salvador has allowed dual nationality for Central Americans since 1950. Article 91 of the 1983 Constitution allows multiple nationalities, as long as the other country also permits it. These rights can be very beneficial and may include the right to live, work, study, and travel without restriction, not only in the second citizenship country but also in all other nations with which that country has travel treaties. Citizenship by Investment programs offer the possibility for foreigners to obtain a dual citizenship.

- Driver's License Included
- Full Medical Included
- Pension Programs Included
- Free Education and University Reimbursement Plans are provided
- Privacy and Anonymity
- Live and Work anywhere in Schengen Area without Visa

## El Salvador Second Citizenship Benefits Include:

- Receiving Passport and National Identification Card within 45 Working Days
- Free 2hr Consultation by Phone
- One of the Top 40 Passports in the World
- Visa Free Travel to more than 110 countries
- Access to all 26 Schengen Zone Countries
- Passport has a 5-year validity and renewable for life
- No Minimum Residency Required



# RESIDENCY FOR U.S. CITIZENS

Foreign investors with an investment of over four thousand minimum wages prevailing at the date of their investment, shall be entitled to the issuance of an Investors Residence, to stay and work in the country. This permit shall be granted at their request, within thirty days from the date of registration of their foreign investment, with no requirements other than presentation of:

- Certificate of registration of their investment,
- Their passport issued by the authorities of their country of origin,
- The required health exams; and
- The corresponding form, with information required by the immigration authorities.

The temporary investors residence shall be granted for an extendable one-year period. Upon compliance with the corresponding legal requirements, Permanent Residence may be granted to those investors. The residence permit may be canceled due to lack of compliance with legal immigration requirements on the part of the foreign investor, or due to their investment registration being revoked.

The Investor Residence stipulated in this article shall be granted to the individual foreign investor and his accompanying family group. It shall also be granted to the foreign individual and his accompanying family group, when he is the Legal Representative for the local partnership or foreign branch office established in the country.

## General Requirements

- The procedure must start four (4) weeks before entry to Salvadoran territory.
- Commitment letter authenticated by a Salvadoran notary and signed by the Legal Representative of the supporting national or foreign Society.
- Photocopy of ID of the certified guarantor.
- Address, telephone, and email where the backer can be contacted or notified.
- If the guarantor is a company, they must present the letter of endorsement on letterhead and a copy of all the legal documentation of said company, duly certified.
- Program of activities to be carried out abroad in El Salvador.
- Travel itinerary in which the airline, flight number, date of entry and exit from the territory must be detailed.
- Photocopy of applicant's valid Passport.
- Applicant's CV.
- Address, email, and telephone where the visitor can be contacted in El Salvador.

*\* Investors Residence (Decree No. 732 the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador - Official Gazette No. 210 - Investment Law - Chapter III Article 11)*

# EDUCATION



Education in El Salvador has made significant strides in recent decades. The country offers free public education at the primary and secondary levels, and literacy rates have improved to nearly 90%. Schools are accessible in urban areas, while rural areas continue to benefit from efforts to expand facilities and resources.

Higher education is available through universities and technical institutes, with some private and international schools providing alternative options. Government initiatives, such as free school meals and scholarship programs, aim to support student attendance and success, especially in underserved communities.

## University of El Salvador

One of the oldest and well-known universities in El Salvador, UES is a private college based in El Salvador with branches in Santa Ana, San Miguel and San Vicente. With programs ranging from social sciences to engineering, the campus suits to almost any career path.

### Contact Info:

**Address:** Ciudad Universitaria “Dr. Fabio Castillo Figueroa”,

End of Martires and Heroes Avenue on July 30, San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America.

**Email:** [administrator.correo@ues.edu.sv](mailto:administrator.correo@ues.edu.sv)

**Phone:** (503) 2511-2506

## Jose Matias Delgado University

Named in honor of El Salvador’s national hero, this private university located in Antiguo Custcatlan, La Libertad is one of the first private colleges established in El Salvador.

### Contact Info:

**Address:** Calle El Pedregal & Calle El Espino, Cd Merliot, El Salvador

**Email:** [contacto@ujmd.edu.sv](mailto:contacto@ujmd.edu.sv)

**Phone:** (503) 6198-3097



# FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW



## Article 4. Ease of Procedures

In order to ease the establishment and development of local and foreign investments, the State grants brief and simple legal registration procedures to their owners; and also, in the case of foreign investments, for its repatriation by the owners. The procedures and requirements for establishment and registration of investment shall be the subject of the Regulations to this law.

## Article 5. Equality for All Investors

Foreign investors and the commercial companies in which they participate, shall enjoy the same rights and be bound by the same responsibilities as local investors and partnerships, with no exceptions other than those established by law, and no unjustified or discriminatory measures which may hinder the establishment, administration, use, usufruct, extension, sale and liquidation of their investments, shall be applied to them.

## Article 6. Freedom of Investment

Any individual or legal entity, local or foreign, may make any type of investments in El Salvador, except those limited by law, and may not be subjected to discrimination or differences due to their nationality, residence, race, sex or religion.

## Article 7. Activities Limited to Investment

According to the stipulations contained in the Constitution of the Republic and auxiliary laws, investments shall be limited in the following activities and conditions:

**A.** Small scale trade, industry, and provision of services, most particularly coastal fishing as established by law, are the exclusive right of Salvadorans by birth and Central American nationals.

**B.** The subsoil belongs to the State, which may grant concessions for its exploitation;

**C.** Foreign nationals whose country of origin does not grant the same rights to Salvadorans shall not be allowed to acquire rural property, except in those cases when the land shall be used for industrial plants;

**D.** No individual or legal entity shall own rural property in excess of two hundred forty five hectares. This limitation shall not be applicable to cooperative associations or peasants community associations, which are subject to a special regime;

*(contd).*

# FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW



## Article 7. Activities Limited to Investment

**E.** The State is entitled to regulate and overview public services provided by private companies, as well as to approve their rates, except those established in accordance with international treaties or agreements;

**F.** State concession shall be required for the exploitation of piers, railways, channels, and other public infrastructure, under the terms and conditions stipulated by law;

**G.** Investments in stock of Banks, Financial Institutions and Foreign Exchange Institutions, shall be bound by the limitations stated in the laws governing those institutions.

- When justified by the amount of the indemnity, payment may be made in installments, in which case the corresponding banking interest shall be paid. Such payment will preferably be made in cash.

## Article 8. Expropriation

According to the Constitution of the Republic, expropriation shall proceed, due to legally established cause of public need or social interest, prior advance payment of fair indemnity,

- When expropriation is caused or arises by reason of war, public disaster, or when required for the provision of water or electric energy, or the construction of housing or highways, streets or any type of public roads, the indemnity may not be paid in advance;



# INVESTMENT FACILITATION



## ***How to invest in property in El Salvador? A FAQ guide to buying your second home in Central America.***

In recent years, El Salvador has been considered as one of the countries within the Central American isthmus whose great natural attractions like paradisiacal beaches, a benign tropical climate, exuberant landscapes, archaeological and ecological heritage with colonial and pre-Columbian vestiges are increasingly exploited for tourism and investment by foreigners (mainly in urban residential projects. Because of a series of programs implemented for development in social security, tourism, local and foreign investment, and environmental protection (flora and fauna), El Salvador has become an ideal place for foreigners who wish to vacation, invest in or even acquire real estate to enjoy their retirement.

## **Within Salvadoran territory, foreigners can enter and pursue activities such as:**

- Tourism, up to a period of 90 days – a term that can be renewed only once. Certain nationalities must have special permits or authorizations (visa consulted) before they enter into Salvadoran territory.
- Invest in different areas or niches.
- Acquire real estate for personal use or to develop business (restaurants, hostels, hotels, etc.)
- Normalize their immigration status to reside legally within the Salvadoran territory - being able to obtain temporary residences by pension, investment in Salvadoran companies, health, etc.

# INVESTMENT FACILITATION



Before a foreigner acquires property in El Salvador, either as an investment or as a second home (vacation purposes or permanent residence), the main questions or doubts that such an investor may have should be clarified.

## **Can a foreigner be the owner of a real estate property?**

In El Salvador, as a rule, foreign persons may acquire property, directly or indirectly, within the Salvadoran territory, the same as any Salvadoran or permanent resident. However, there are certain limitations: A foreigner may acquire real estate if his country of origin grants equal rights to Salvadorans (principle of reciprocity). He or she may not own more than 245 hectares.

## **Are real estate titles registered before an official registry?**

Salvadoran legislation establishes that property is transferred between contracting parties by the sole agreement of transfer; to be enforceable or to prejudice third parties, such transfer must be registered before the Registry of Real Estate and Mortgages (government institution in charge of providing legal certainty and protection against third parties of the rights that a Salvadoran or foreigner

may have over a property). Likewise, it will be necessary to update the information of the owner of the property before the municipal mayor's office of the geographic area to which the property belongs.

## **How to acquire real estate?**

Once the foreigner has identified the real estate to be purchased, he or she may acquire it through one of the following 2 ways:

1. Directly, in a personal name for which the foreigner must submit his/her Tax Identification Number (NIT),
2. Indirectly, through a Salvadoran entity (corporation) legally constituted by the interested foreign person.



# INVESTMENT FACILITATION



## **What to do before acquiring the property?**

Perform due diligence to determine that the real estate does not have any problem, defect, or possible contingency and that it is possible to use it for the desired purpose. (Depending on the location of the real estate, the scope of due diligence may vary.)

Determine whether to acquire the property directly or indirectly.

Although it is not indispensable, a contract by which the property is excluded from the market should be signed.

Sign the closing documents; ideally, the legal form to acquire a property or house is by signing a public deed of sale of real estate before a Notary Public usually chosen by the buyer.

All registered real estate purchases and sales are recorded in the National Registry of Real Estate and Mortgages where the information is publicly available; it will also be necessary to update the new owner before the municipal mayor's office.

Before carrying out the registration of the public deed of purchase of the property before the Registry of Property and Mortgages, the following is necessary:

The purchaser of the real estate must pay a registration fee that is calculated according to the formula established by the registry (\$0.63 for each hundred or fraction of the amount of sale of the real estate).

With the original public deed of sale of the property it will be necessary to present municipal solvency of the property, which must be requested before the corresponding municipal mayor's office of the geographical area to which the property belongs, and proof of payment of the transfer tax, if applicable.

# INVESTMENT FACILITATION



**What legal obligations does the foreign person incur by being the owner, directly or indirectly, of real estate?**

Payment of the real estate transfer tax provided that the sale value of the property is greater than \$28,571.43, in which case the tax is calculated at 3% on the excess of \$28,571.43. The payment is made before the tax administration only once, prior to the registration process of the deed of sale before the Real Estate and Mortgage Registry.

Municipal obligations such as garbage collection services, street cleaning, public lighting, etc. Payments are made annually, semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly, as established by the local government (Municipality).

If the property is part of a condominium (private and special property regime), the owner must comply with the Internal Administration Regulations and pay the maintenance and security fees.

**If a foreign individual purchases an undeveloped parcel with plans to construct a house tailored to their preferences, they must follow this procedure:**

The corresponding categorization of the project by the Ministry of the Environment, study of the land (if applicable, to determine the viability of construction), and the corresponding construction

permits must be processed before the municipality and the offices related to urban development and territorial planning. Therefore, the requirements and documentation to be submitted will depend directly on each planning and land management office assigned to the geographic location of the property and the applicable legal regulations.

**What are the benefits to a foreign person on acquiring a property in El Salvador?**

If the foreigner directly acquires a real estate property, he/she may regularize his/her immigrant status through the migratory category called “Temporary Residence with Pension.”

If the foreigner indirectly acquires a real estate property, through a Salvadoran corporation, he may regularize his immigration status through the immigration category called “Temporary residence as a shareholder or legal representative” of a Salvadoran corporation.



# INVESTMENT FACILITATION



**What are the benefits of a foreign person with an immigration status of “Temporary Resident Pensioner or Shareholder/Legal Representative of a Salvadoran Corporation”?**

Other benefits include the ease in the opening of bank accounts, simple homologation of the driving license, not having restrictions of entrance or exit to the Salvadoran territory, the possibility to acquire voluntary insurance and even to contribute to a future social security pension, free social security for dependent people (spouse and children), the possibility of acquiring permanent residence after one year (if you are a Central American) and three years (if you are not a Central American) of temporary residence, and being able to obtain Salvadoran nationality upon completing the established period of residence of 1 or 2 years for Central Americans and 5 years for non-Central Americans.

Likewise, the foreigner who regularizes his immigration status has the power to request the same status for his family under the migratory category, “Temporary Residence for accompanying relatives.” To qualify as dependents, children must be under 18 years of age.

Another benefit is the fiscal advantage because El Salvador has a system based on the principle of territoriality, so any income from foreign sources is exempt from taxes to avoid double taxation. Therefore, only Salvadoran-source income is subject to assessment by the tax authorities.

**Is there currently a bill in Congress that generates any additional benefit to invest in real estate in El Salvador?**

The country is currently working on improving immigration policies that give and facilitate the opportunity to apply for residency in the country, as well as to attract tourist investment.

**For more information, contact us at:**

info @ ECI Development.com

Autor: Julio Meléndez - Associate

# FINANCE & TRADE



El Salvador's economic framework is shaped by a blend of robust financial systems and dynamic trade initiatives, including its free zones and export zones. These elements drive the country's economic growth and connect it to global markets.

## Financial Institutions

### **Bandesal – Development Bank of El Salvador**

Address: Calle del mirador, San Salvador, El Salvador

Phone: 503 2592 1000

### **Banco Central de Reserva de El Salvador**

Address: 17 Avenida Nte., San Salvador, El Salvador

Phone: 503 2281 8000

### **Finance in Motion El Salvador**

Address: Edificio Avante, C. Llama del Bosque, San Salvador, El Salvador

Phone: 503 2567 4900

## Free Zones or Export Zones

In El Salvador, free zones, also called export zones or free trade zones (FTZs), are specially designated areas that foster economic growth by allowing goods to be imported, processed, manufactured, and re-exported without the imposition of customs duties or other trade-related restrictions. These zones are designed to attract foreign investment, stimulate export-oriented industries, and create employment opportunities.

### **Zona Franca Internacional:**

Address: Km. 28.5

Autopista a Comalapa,

Olocuiltla, El Salvador

Phone: 503 2349 0400

### **Zona Franca San Marcos:**

Address: Zona Franca De San Marcos,

Edificio No. 4 Km. 4½,

San Marcos, El Salvador

Phone: 503 2207 6300



# HEALTH CARE



Healthcare in El Salvador has improved significantly over recent years, offering both public and private options to meet the needs of residents and visitors. The public healthcare system, overseen by the Ministry of Health (MINSAL), provides low-cost or free services to Salvadorans, especially in rural and underserved areas. However, public facilities can sometimes face challenges such as limited resources or long wait times. In contrast, private hospitals and clinics, concentrated in urban centers like San Salvador, offer higher-quality services and shorter wait times, catering to those who can afford the costs or have private insurance. El Salvador also attracts medical tourists, particularly for affordable procedures in dentistry and cosmetic surgery, which are significantly less expensive than in North America or Europe.

## Local Hospitals

### **Hospital de Diagnostico y Emergencias (ESCALON)**

Address: Paseo general Escalón y 99 Ave Norte  
Plaza Villavicencio  
Phone: 2264-4422  
Emergencies: 2264-4422

### **Hospital de Diagnostico y Emergencias**

Address: 21 Calle poniente y 2a diagonal #429  
Urb. La Esperanza  
Phone: 2226-5111 & 2225-3073  
Emergencies: 2226-5111.

### **Hospital de la Mujer**

Address: Between 81 & 83 Ave. Sur Calle Juan J  
Cañas Colonia Escalón Phone: 2265-1212, 2265-  
1210, 2263-5111  
X-ray: 2263-5132  
Emergencies: 2265-1212

### **Hospital Centro Ginecológico**

Address: 2a Diagonal Urb. La Esperanza  
Phone: 2226-1899/1788/1911/1122  
Admin/Fax: 2247-1400  
Lab: 2247-1141/ 1143  
Emergencies: 2242-1122

### **Hospital Bloom (Pediatric Hospital)**

Address: 25 Avenida Norte (downtown)  
Phone: 2225-4114  
Emergencies: 2286-3451

### **Hospital Militar Central**

Address: Avenida Bernal y Calle Constitución  
Phone: 2250-0080  
Emergencies: 2274-6067.

# HEALTH CARE



## Physicians

**Post Medical Advisor; Dr. Jose Miguel Moreno**

Col. Escalón Villavicencio Plaza Loc 2-30  
Gastro Clínica Escalón  
Edificio Villavicencio, 2a Planta,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte

Monday-Friday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Monday 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30- 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 2:00- 4:00 p.m.

No appointments Friday afternoons

Telephone: 2263-5572/5454 2263-4548  
Fax: 2263-5454/5574  
Email: jmoreno.gastro@gmail.com  
English: Good

## Allergy

**Dra. Carmen Bermúdez**

Paseo Gral. Escalón Col. Escalón C C Villas  
Españolas Loc B-17 Pasillo Puerta de Alcalá  
Clínica de Alergia e Inmunología Pediátrica

Monday- Friday 10:00 -11:00 a.m.  
2:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-7918/2264-1112  
E-mail: carmenhzhzen@yahoo.com.mx  
English: Good

**Dr. Mauricio Ernesto Flores**

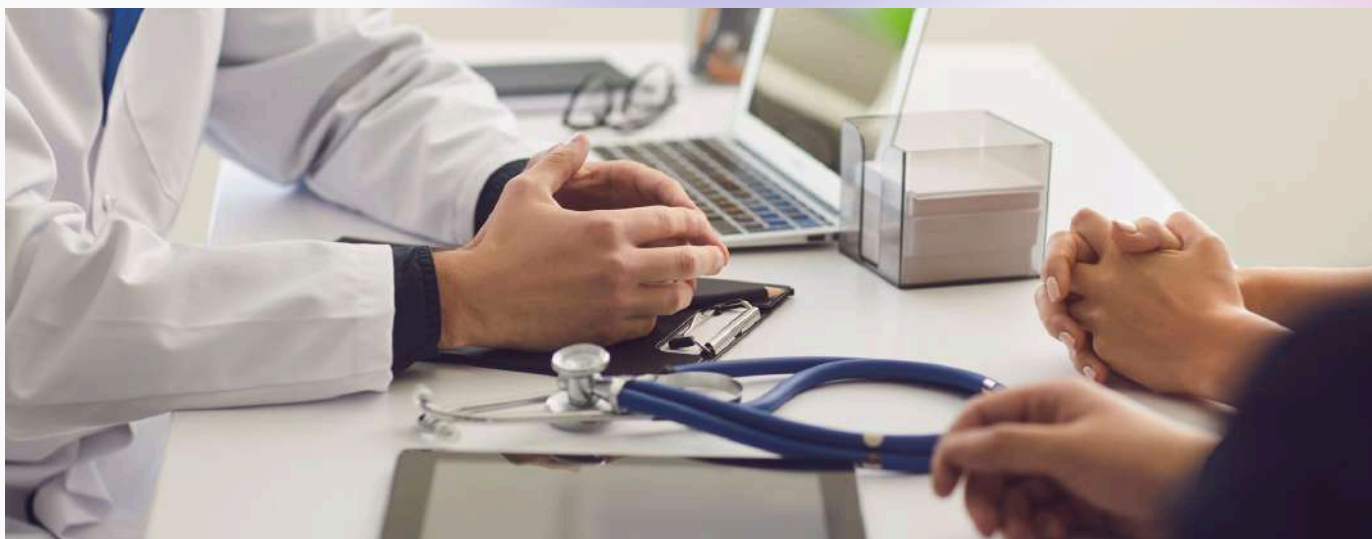
Calle Cortez Blanco  
Plaza San Andrés Local 2-3  
Clínica de Asmas y Alergias

Monday – Friday 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Email: mflores74@gmail.com  
Telephone: 2557-3370  
English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## **Dr. Edgar Gerardo Sol Monterrey**

83 Av. Sur y Calle Cuscatlán Edificio EPSSA,  
Col. Escalón

Clínica de Especialidades Pediátricas

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2564-5946

E-mail: edgarsolmon@gmail.com

Website: dredgargerardosol.com

English: Good

## **Dr. Juan Guillen**

Edificio Avante Santa Elena, Nivel 9, local 3-A

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tel.: 2263-9884/2263-9885/2519-1070

Email: clinicapediatricadealergia@yahoo.com

English: Good

## **Anesthesiology/Pain Medicine**

### **Dr. Luis Felipe Lemus Lorenzana**

Paseo Gral. Escalón 3 Cl Pte. y 99 Av. Nte.

Villavicencio Plaza 1er Nivel

Telephone: 2506-2026/2027 & 21021578

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 3:00 -5:30 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

E-mail: luislemusmd@yahoo.com

Facebook: www.vivirsindolorelsalvador.com

English: Good

## **Cardiology**

### **Dr. Jaime Francisco Lopez Winter**

Col Escalón Cl Juan José Cañas y 81 Av. Sur No 103

Centro Cardiovascular Escalón

Monday-Friday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-5222/2263-5223

Fax Number: 2263-5118

Facebook: Centro Cardiovascular

English: Excellent

### **Dr. José Arturo Gomez Hecht**

Col. Escalón 73 Av. Sur No 232

CLINICA INSACOR,

Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Telephone: 22985702/2555-3700

Fax Number: 2224-0407

E-mail: recepcioninstitutodelcorazon@hotmail.com

Facebook: Instituto salvadoreño del corazón

English: Good

# HEALTH CARE



## Cardiology

### Dr. Joaquín Esquivel

Hospital Diagnóstico Escalón,  
Plaza Villavicencio, tercera planta, local 3-3  
Monday-Tuesday 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-5111/2225-0467  
E-mail: clinicajiem@gmail.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Jose Mauricio Velado

Pediatric Cardiologist  
Hospital de Niños Centro Pediátrico  
Final Diagonal Dr. Luis Edmundo Vasquez N°222  
Colonia Médica, San Salvador.  
Mon/Wed/Fri: 3:00- 6:00 p.m.  
Tues/Thursday 9:00- 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday since 9:00 a.m.  
Telephone: 2269-5236/2530-2000 Ext. 2026  
E-mail: mauriciovelado@yahoo.com  
Facebook: Cardiólogo de El Salvador  
English: Good

## Dermatology

### Dr. Orlando Carpio Sandoval

Colonia Escalón 87 Av. Nte No 349 Grupo Carpio  
Monday – Friday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-6000  
E-mail: dermatologos@grupocarpio.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Mauricio Vázquez

81 Ave Sur, Calle Padres Aguilar #303, Colonia Escalón.  
Clínicas Matasol  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-3543/2263-1952  
E-mail: mauricio1248@gmail.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Guillermo Menendez

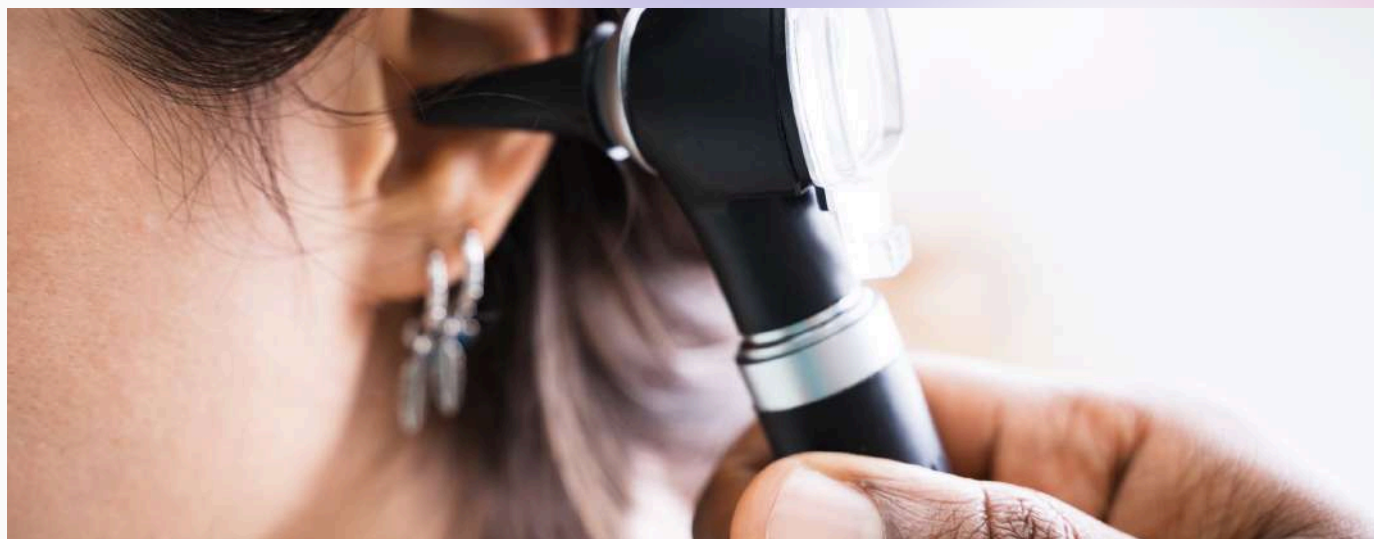
Col. San Benito Pasaje 6 #115  
Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
3:30- 6:30p.m.  
Telephone: 2223-6193/2298-2021/12  
Fax Number: 2223-6654  
E-mail: cmenendez@hotmail.com  
Facebook: Clínica dermatológica Dr. Guillermo Menéndez  
English: Good

### Dr. Guillermo Parker Balibrera

Calle La Mascota, Casa #152  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Telephone: 2224-5688/2224-5900/2224-5899  
Website: drguillermoparkerbalibrera.com  
E-mail: clindermatol@gmail.com  
English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## Dermatology

### **Dr. Rolando Julian Gonzalez (Pediatric)**

Paseo Gral. Escalon

Villas Españolas Local B-24

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. -12 p.m.

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-6706

English: Good

## Ear, nose and throat

### **Dr. Jose Mauricio Alfaro Monge**

Col Escalón 7ª Cl Pte No 4845

Telephone: 2264-0501

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

(by appointment)

25 Av. Nte. N 640 2 piso, local 15

Telephone: 2226-3720

Monday – Friday 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

(by order of arrival )

E-mail: jmaurialfaro@yahoo.com

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

English: Good

### **Dr. Claudia Cruz**

Col Escalón Calle Cuscatlán N.4415 entre 85 y 87  
Ave. Sur

Telephone: 2475-4828/2532-7493

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

E-mail: crossmedical.sv@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Edgar Orlando Segovia**

Hospitalde La Mujer 2 Nivel Loc 5 entre 81 & 83  
Ave. Sur

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

3:00 -5:15 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 -11:45 a.m.

Telephone: 2264-3346/2555-1314/

2264-3465/2265-1212 ext. 314.

E-mail: segoviamonge@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Gerardo Rene Barillas**

63 Av. Sur, #120, Colonia Ávila

Monday-Friday 9:30 -11:00 a.m.

3:00 -5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2224-1720

E-mail: crdorl@hotmail.com

English: Excellent

# HEALTH CARE



## Ear, nose and throat

### **Dra. Carolina Vasquez de Aparicio**

Calle Padres Aguilar #230 entre 79 y 81 ave . sur , Col. Escalon

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 4:00 -5:40 p.m.

Telephone : 2264-8191

Email: carolinavasquez.aparicio@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Juan Carlos Carias Rutz**

7ª Calle Poniente #4021

77 y 79 Avenida Norte

Colonia Escalon

Telephone: 2263-3111 /2263-3955

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

E-mail: drjccr@bernesmedical.com

English: Good

## Endocrinology

### **Dr. Rene Alfredo Benitez Campos**

3ª calle pte #4813 Col. Escalon

Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Every two Sat)

Telephone: 2263-6392/2226-4197/2264-7721

E-mail: renebenitez@gmail.com

### **Dr. Carlos Alvayero**

Clinica Insacor ,73 Ave. Sur #232 Col. Escalon

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00pm

Telephone: 2555-3700

Fax Number: 2224-0407

E-mail: carlos@alvayero.com

Website: www.endocrinologiaelsalvador.com

Facebook: instituto Salvadoreño del Corazon

English: Good

### **Dr. Rafael Gonzalez Paz**

Pediatric Endocrinologist Clínicas de Diagnostico Escalón

3a Calle Poniente # 4813, Colonia Escalón

Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Mon/Tue/Thurs/Fri 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-1163/2263-6392

E-mail: gonzalezpazrafaelantonio@gmail.com

Facebook: Clínica De Endocrinología Pediátrica

English: Fair

### **Dra. Karen De Korn, Endocrinologist**

Korpoplastik, Avenida las Acacias y Final

Avenida, La Capilla N°137, Colonia San Benito

Monday-Friday 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2243-6982

E-mail: keitkorn@gmail.com

English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## Endocrinology

### Dr. Billy Fuentes

Condominio Las Alguerias #110  
3ª Poniente y 79 Avenida Norte  
Colonia Escalon  
Mon-Fri 2:00 -5:00 PM  
Saturday 8:00.-11:00 a.m.  
Telephone: 2264-6990/6186-4208  
Email: bimifu@hotmail.com  
clinicamedicadecrecimiento@hotmail.com  
Website: Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Excellent

### Dr. Francisco Arevalo Molina

Gastroclinica  
3ª Poniente Edificio 5149, Paseo General Escalón  
y 99 Ave Norte  
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2521-0000  
Fax Number: 2521-0013  
Home Phone: 2263-0588  
E-mail: gastro.escalon@gmail.com  
Facebook: Gastroclínica  
English: Fair

## Gastroenterology

### Dr. Miguel Moreno

Gastroclinica Escalon  
Edificio. Villavicencio, 2a Planta, Local #2-30,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte  
Monday – Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
3:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-5572/2263-5454  
Fax Number: 2263-5574  
E-mail: gastrovilla2@gmail.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Mauricio Cromeyer

Villavicencio Plaza, Local 26, Hospital de  
Diagnóstico Escalón, Paseo Gral Escalón  
Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
2:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-6111  
E-mail: mcromeyermd@yahoo.com  
Website: Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Good

# HEALTH CARE



## Gastroenterology

**Dr. Roberto Arturo Zablah C.**

Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition  
Clinica Multipediátrica

81 Ave Norte 5ª Calle Poniente, Edificio  
Multipediátrica # 4208, Colonia Escalón  
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2264-3426/2263-5719

Fax: 2263-5719

E-mail: [consultas@robertozablah.com](mailto:consultas@robertozablah.com)

Website: Clínica multipediátrica Escalón.

Facebook: Clínica Gastroenterología Pediátrica

Dr. Roberto Zablah

## Hematology/Oncology

**Dr. Alvaro Menendez Leal**

Edificio Villavicencio Plaza, Local 26, 2a Planta  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte. Beside  
Farmacia La Paz

Monday – Friday 2:30- 4:00 pm (Except Thursday)

Telephone: 2264-4688

**Centro de diagnóstico**, diagonal Dr. Luis Edmundo

Vasquez, #425, Colonia Medica

Monday – Friday 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

(Except Thursday)

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2235-0968

E-mail: [amenendez54@gmail.com](mailto:amenendez54@gmail.com)

English: Good

## Infectious Disease

**Dr. Rolando Cedillos**

Edificio Villavicencio, 1er Nivel, Centro de  
Clínicas, Paseo General Escalón

Monday-Friday 2:00 -2:30 p.m.

Telephone: 2506-2026/27

E-mail: [racedillos@gmail.com](mailto:racedillos@gmail.com)

English: Good

**Dr. Joaquin Viana**

Col Médica Pje Dr Roberto Orellana Valdez

No 117 (Next to Starbucks) Monday-Friday 4:00  
– 5:00 p.m.

(Except Wednesday)

Saturday 9:30 -11:00 a.m.

Telephone: 2225-0906 / 2235-3491

English: Fair

**Dr. Jorge Panameño**

Calle Juan José Cañas y 81 Av. Sur, Edificio  
Estacionamiento 2 Nivel, Local 6

Monday-Friday 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Telephone: 2264-3451/6691

E-mail: [atencionalcliente.sepes@gmail.com](mailto:atencionalcliente.sepes@gmail.com)

English: Fair



# HEALTH CARE



## Nephrology

### Dr. José Benjamín Ruiz Rodas

Edificio Villavicencio, 1a Planta, Local 1,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte  
Monday- Friday 12:00 -3:00 p.m.

(Except Wednesday)

Telephone: 2263-2439/2393

E-mail: josebenjaminruizrodas@gmail.com

English: Good

## Neurology

### Dra. Elena Majano

7ª Calle Poniente # 4021, 77 y 79 Av Norte,  
Colonia Escalon

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

3:00 -5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

E-mail: elena.carias@bernesmedical.com

Telephone: 2263-3111

### Dr. Mauricio Ernesto Palacios

Instituto de Neurociencias

Edificio Villavicencio Plaza, 2º Nivel, Local 2-7,  
Paseo General Escalon

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 2:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Telephone: 2263-6398/2264-5183

E-mail: mauriciopm73@hotmail.com

### Dr. Ricardo Alvarenga Quezada

Medicentro La Esperanza, Edificio I, Local 216, 2ª  
planta 25 Avenida Norte, Colonia Médica, In front of  
ex US Embassy

Monday/ Thursday/ Friday 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday 1:00 -1:30 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Saturday (by order of arrival) from 9:00 a.m.

Telephone: 2225-3256

Edificio de clínicas, Hospital de la Mujer, 3a  
planta, Local 1

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 4:00 -6:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2213-1960/2264-8643

Website: Neurocare.sv.com

English: Good

### Dr. Luis Gonzalez Sanchez

Neurologist & Neurophysiologist

(Does Sleep Studies)

Instituto Neurociencias

Paseo General Escalón, 99 Av. Nte Plaza  
Villavicencio, 2º Nivel, Local 2-7,

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 -11:00 a.m.

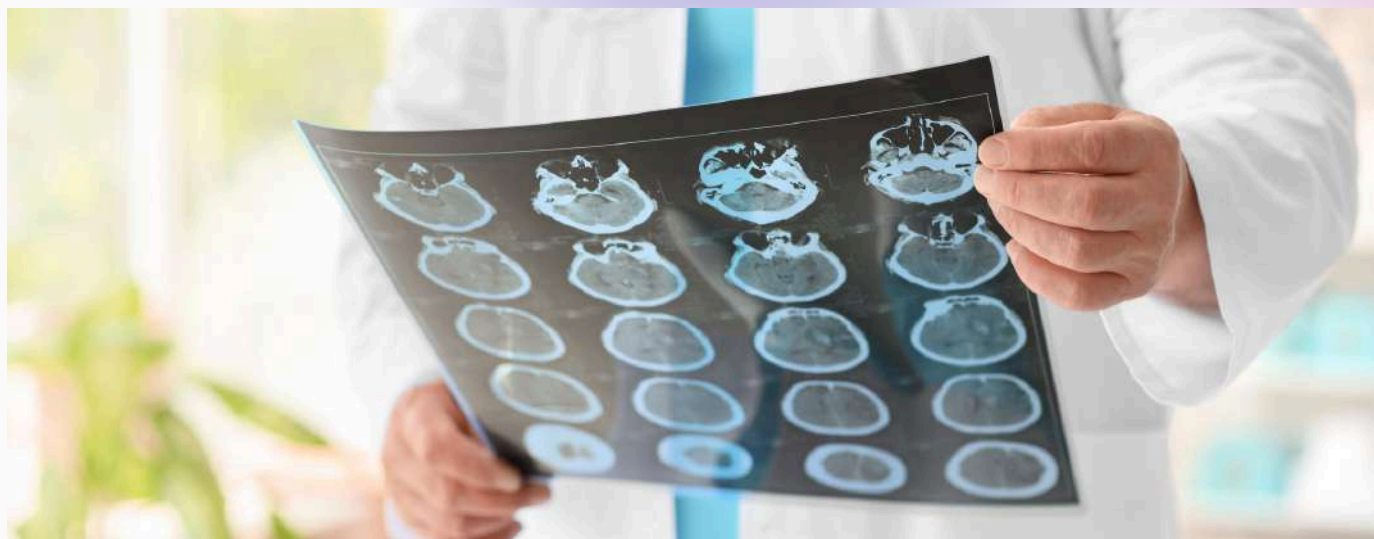
Sleep Studies at night

Telephone: 2263-1342/2132-1500

E-mail: gonzalezsanchez.le@gmail.com

English: Good

# HEALTH CARE



## Neurology

### **Dr. Hector Jose Castaneda, Neurologist**

Instituto Neurociencias  
Edificio Villavicencio, 2a Planta, Local 2-7,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00 -11:30 a.m.  
Telephone: 2263-6398/2264-5183  
E-mail: hcshandi@yahoo.com  
English: Good

### **Dr. Claudia Valencia de Mena**

Pediatric Neurologist  
Instituto Neurociencias  
Edificio Villavicencio, 2a Planta, Local 2-7,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte.  
Monday-Friday 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-6398  
English: Good

## Neurosurgery

### **Dr. Mario Humberto Minervini Marin**

Centro Integral de Salud 3a Calle Poniente #5011  
Col. Escalon  
Phone: 2263-6127  
Monday – Friday 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Phone: 2263-6127  
English: Good

### **Dr. Fracisco Antonio Sansivirini**

Diagonal Dr. Luis Edmundo Vásquez, # 425,  
beside Hospital Diagnostico, Edificio Brito Mejía  
Peña, 2ª Planta, Colonia Médica, San Salvador  
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2235-0969/2226-5111  
English: Good

### **Dr. Ernesto Herrera Magana**

Clínica de Neurocirugía Villavicencio Plaza,  
Local 1-12, 1er nivel  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Avenida Norte  
(next to emergencies of Hospital Diagnostico)  
Monday-Friday 3:00 -6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. Telephone: 2263-  
1766/2264-1954  
E-mail: neuroherrera@hotmail.com  
Website: Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Good

## Obstetrics & Gynecology

### **Dra. Daysi Ramirez**

Calle Alegria, Casa #8, Santa Elena (Next to Los  
Cebollines Santa Elena, behind the parking lot)  
Monday-Friday 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2246-1100  
E-mail: clinsa@gmail.com

# HEALTH CARE



## Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Dr. Raúl Mauricio Ramírez Lima**

Hospital de la Mujer, between 81 & 83  
Avenida Sur Calle Juan J Cañas, Col. Escalón  
Monday-Saturday 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
(except on Wednesday)  
Telephone: 2263-5116  
E-mail: rramirezlima20@gmail.com  
Facebook: Mauricio Ramirez  
English: Good

**Dr. Ricardo A Burgos- Muñoz**

**Dr. Ricardo Burgos Ventura**

**Dr. Jaime Burgos**

**Dra. Teresa Burgos**

**Grupo Medico Burgos**

**1ª calle poniente & 87 Ave Norte, #13 Col Escalon.**

**Dra. Teresa**

Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m

**Dr. Ricardo Ventura**

Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Dr. Jaime**

Monday-Friday 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Dr. Muñoz**

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Telephone: 2263-2103/2979**

**E-mail: info\_grupoburgos@yahoo.com**

**English: Good**

**Dr. Alberto Carias Iribarren**

**Dr. Alberto Enrique Carias Bonilla**

Infertility

Hospital de la Mujer, between 81 & 83

Avenida Sur Calle Juan J Canas, Col Escalon

Hours:

Carias Bonilla

Monday – Friday 8:00 -9:15 a.m.

3:00 -3:30 p.m.

(except for Wednesday) 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00-9:15 a.m.

Carias Iribarren

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

(Wednesday no afternoon)

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-5178/2555-1252

E-mail: clinica.dr.carias@gmail.com

English: Good

**Dra. Mirna Artiga**

Mastologist

Calle Padres Aguilar No. 315, Colonia Escalón

(Monday- Saturday) 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(except Wednesday)

Tuesday/Thursday 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 2:00 -5:00 p.m.

Phone: 2566-0330/2562-0492

E-mail: ginecologia315@hotmail.com

English: Excellent



# HEALTH CARE



## Ophtalmology

**Dra. Ximena Arevalo** (Pediatric Ophthalmologist)

91 Av. Norte, #525, Colonia Escalón, Local 5,  
Plaza 525, Clínica Arévalo Guzmán

Monday-Friday 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(Depends of quirurgical procedures)

Telephone: 2556-1839/2555-4927

E-mail: arguzsadevcv@gmail.com

Facebook: Clínica de Ojos Arévalos Guzman

**Dr. Jaime Ricardo Avila Guerra**

Centro Panamericano de Ojos, 2a planta, Col.  
Escalón

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(except for Wednesday just in the morning)

Saturday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Telephone: 2264-9423

E-mail: edwin181905@gmail.com

Website: DoctorAvila

English: Excellent

**Dra. Lourdes Amato de López Beltrán**

**Dr. Carlos Andres Lopez Beltran**

**Dr. José Francisco Lopez Beltran**

Centro Panamericano de Ojos, 91 Ave. Norte  
#541, Colonia Escalón

Dra. Lourdes y Dr. Carlos: Monday-Friday 9:00 –  
11:00 a.m. | 2:30-5:00 p.m. (except Wednesday)

**Dr. Francisco**

Monday-Friday 10:00-11:30 a.m.

4:30 p.m.

(Except Wednesday and Friday just morning)

Telephone: 2514-4117/4121

E-mail: clinicalopezbel@hotmail.com

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

Facebook: Centro Panamericano de Ojos

English: Good

**Dr. J. Roberto Fiallos Zapata**

(Glaucoma Expert)

29 Avenida Norte y 21 Calle Pte., Colonia Medica,

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2225-0225/9344

E-mail: drfiallos@yahoo.com

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

English: Excellent

## Orthopedic Surgeons

**Dr. Juan Carlos Hernandez Guinea**

Clinica Paravida “Escalon”

7a calle poniente #4021

entre 77 y 79 Ave Norte.

Tuesdays & Thursdays

8:00 a.m. – Noon.

Fridays 3:30 – 5:30 pm

Phone: (503) 2263-3955

# HEALTH CARE



## Orthopedic Surgeons

### Dr. Jaime Flores

Colonia Escalón, 83 Av Nte, No 365  
Monday–Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
3:30 -7:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-2111/3111  
E-mail: jaimefloresdr@yahoo.com  
Website: www.drjaimeaflores.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Rafael Antonio Olivares

Hospital de la Mujer, Edificio Estacionamiento,  
Nivel 2, Clínica 4  
Monday-Friday 9:00 -11:30 a.m.  
3:00-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 -11:30 a.m.  
Telephone: 2264-8619/8620  
E-mail: olivaresacosta@gmail.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Hugo Serrano – Pediatrics

Centro de Clínicas, Edificio Villavicencio, 1a Planta,  
Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte  
Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 9:00 -11:00 a.m.  
Telephone: 2506-2026/27  
Centro Pediatrico  
Monday-Friday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
(Except Wednesday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)  
Telephone: 2530-2091/2264-4422  
Home Phone: 2243-6209  
English: Good

### Dr. Luis Morales Choto

77 ave norte y 7a calle poniente #4017,  
Colonia Escalón  
Monday–Friday 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
3:30-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-1920/6325/2565-5200  
Email: luismorales@ortopediaelsalvador.com,  
ortopediaelsalvador@gmail.com  
Website: www.ortopediaelsalvador.com  
Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Good

## Pediatrics

### Dr. Tania Gabriela Lopez /

### Dr. Ximena Guerrero

Centro Comercial Santa Elena, Local 2-17,  
Boulevard Santa Elena, Antiguo Cuscatlán (Half  
block down from the Embassy)  
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2508-3812  
E-mail: dra.tania\_lopez@gmail.com  
Facebook: cirukid

# HEALTH CARE



## Pediatrics

### Dr. Karla Tobar

Edificio Avante, Nivel 9, Local 13,  
Urbanización Madre Selva, Santa Elena.  
Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2246-0722/23/24,  
2246-0722/2100-1088/2100-1445  
Email: dra.karla.tobar@clinicapalaso.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Jaime Escolán

Calle La Mascota #780, 2ª planta, Local 2-4, Col.  
Maquilishuat,) In front of Soccer field of Escuela  
Americana)  
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-3073  
E-mail: escolanpediatra@hotmail.com  
English: Good

### Dr. Horacio Iglesias

Centro Panamericano de Ojos, 91 Ave. Norte  
#541 Colonia Escalón, 1era planta final  
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2265-0228/2514-4128  
Website: Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Good

## Neonatology

### Dr. Esau Coreas

Calle Juan José Canas #4, Colonia Escalón  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-5066/2263-4986  
Fax Number: 2263-5070  
E-mail: pacientesdrcoreas@hotmail.com  
English: Good

## Plastic surgery

### Dr. Gustavo Magaña Palma

Blvd.del Hipodromo #548, Colonia San Benito  
Monday-Friday 8:00 -11:00 a.m.  
2:00 -5:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
(Generally depends of his surgeries)  
Telephone: 2263-9102/8215  
E-mail: maganaplasticaes@gmail.com  
Website: cetroeuropeodecirugia.com  
Facebook: Centro Europeo de Cirugia plastica  
English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## Plastic surgery

### **Dr. Román Zaldivar**

Calle Circunvalación, #51, Colonia San Benito

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

2:00 -6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2124-7613/14/15/16

E-mail: [administracion@clinicazaldivar.com](mailto:administracion@clinicazaldivar.com)

Facebook: Clinica Zaldivar y Médical Staff

Website: [Clinicazaldivar.com](http://Clinicazaldivar.com)

English: Good

### **Dr. Eduardo Revelo Giron**

113 Av. Sur, Calle Maximo Geres 194, Colonia Escalón

Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

4:30- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-8188

Facebook: Instituto de Cirugia plastica Dr.

Eduardo Mauricio Revelo

English: Good

## Proctologist & colorectal surgeon

### **Dr. Mauricio Alfredo Trabanino Pacas**

(Colorectal Surgeon)

Plaza Villavicencio, Local 1-12, 1er Nivel, Paseo

General Escalón y 99 Ave. Norte, Colonia Escalón

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tel: 2264-4692

E-mail: [mtps@hotmail.com](mailto:mtps@hotmail.com),

[consultas@drtrabanino.com](mailto:consultas@drtrabanino.com)

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

English: Good

## Psychiatry

### **Dr. Jose Maria Sifontes**

(Children and adults)

81 Ave. Norte #410-A Col. Escalón

Monday-Friday 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2264-4106

E-mail: [sifontesjose@yahoo.com](mailto:sifontesjose@yahoo.com),

[silviaevrivas69@gmail.com](mailto:silviaevrivas69@gmail.com)

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

English: Good

# HEALTH CARE



## Psychiatry

### **Dr. Milagro Castaneda**

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Escalón  
Monday-Friday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Monday, Tuesday 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Friday (not in the afternoons)  
Telephone: 2263-5758

### **Dr. Jose Miguel Fortin Magaña Jr.**

Condominio San Benito Flats, Apto. 1-4,  
Edificio “B”, 1er Nivel, Calle Loma Linda, San  
Salvador  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2519-3396  
E-mail: [clinicafortinmagana@gmail.com](mailto:clinicafortinmagana@gmail.com)  
Website: Publicom  
English: Fair

## Psychology & Counseling

### **Dra. Carla Urrutia de Castillo, Psychologist**

Educational Testing  
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Escalón y 99 Ave Norte Centro de Clinicas  
Escalon, Local 2-31  
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### **Dr. Daniel Guttfreund, Psychologist**

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Website: Daniel Guttfreund ph.d.  
English: Excellent

### **Dr. Manuel Vides**

Pediatrics neurologist, Neurodevelopment and  
behaviour  
Clínica Vides  
Instituto de Ojos, Colonia Escalon, Local #7,  
83 ave. Sur y calle Juan Jose Cañas  
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(Except Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:00  
p.m.)  
Telephone: 2264-4677  
E-mail: [info@docvides.org](mailto:info@docvides.org)  
English: Good

## Pulmonology

### **Dr. Jorge Ramirez Chavez**

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General Escalón y 99 Avenida Norte, Local 2-10  
Mon -Fri 3:00 – 6:30 pm (except Wednesday)  
For Appointments only to call in the mornings:  
2225-4739/ 2226-6202  
To call in the afternoons: 2283-1888  
English: Fair

# HEALTH CARE



## Pulmonology

**Dr. Alfredo B. Noyola Cea**, Grupo Neumologico  
Edificio Villavicencio, 3ª calle Poniente  
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Ave. Norte.

Monday-Wednesday 3:15 – 5:45 p.m.

Telephone: 2556-1632/1733

Website: Médicos de El Salvador

Clinica Insacor

73 Avenida sur #232, Colonia Escalón,  
(Half block down from Wendys Escalón,  
beside Tabernaculo Biblico parking lot)

Tuesday/ Thursday 3:15 -5:45 p.m.

Telephone: 2555-3700

Fax: 2224-0407

### **Dr. Miguel A. Arguello**

Clinicas de Neumología Pediátrica, 87 av. Norte  
Condominio Fountain Blue, Apartamento 2-B,  
Colonia Escalón

Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(Except Wednesday just in morning)

Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-4814

Fax: 2263-5402

E-mail: docarguello@drpediatraelsalvador.com

Facebook: Doc. Arguello, Clinicas de Neumologia  
Pediátrica

Website: Pediatra-ElSalvador.com

English: Good

## Rheumatology

### **Dr. Geraldina Castillejos Caceres**

Clínica de Articulaciones

83 Ave. Nte. (Ave. José Matías Delgado) No. 365,  
Colonia Escalón

Monday/Friday 10:30 -11:30 a.m. | 2:00 -6:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2264-2111/3111/0971

E-mail: clinica.dearticulaciones@yahoo.com

Website: Clínica de articulaciones

English: Good

### **Dr. Guillermo Alberto Palencia**

3ª Calle Poniente y 101 ave. Norte #304

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Telephone : 2264-9613

Monday-Friday 9:00 -11:00 a.m. | 3:00- 5:00 p.m.

(except Thursday)

Saturday 8:00 -11:00 a.m.

## Surgery

### **Dr. Juan Jose Calix Lopez (Gen. Surgeon)**

83 Av. Norte #361 Colonia Escalón,  
( 3 blocks to the north of centro español)

Monday-Friday 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday (only emergencies)

Telephone: 2264-3351/2263-2974

E-mail: drcalix@yahoo.com

English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## Surgery

### Dr. Mario Vega (Gen. Surgeon)

Clínica de Cirugía  
Hospital de Mujer, Between 81& 83 Ave. Sur  
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Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2263-5135/2555-1268 (Ext. 268)  
E-mail: clinica.d.cirugia@me.com  
Website: Hospital de la Mujer  
English: Good

### Dr. Jose Roberto Rottman

(Pediatric Surgeon)  
Hospital Centro Ginecologico, local 124-125,  
(next to emergencies)  
Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2247-1174/2225-9291  
E-mail: jrrottman@yahoo.com  
English: Fair

## Coloproctologist

### Dr. Mauricio Alfredo Trabanino Pacas

Edificio Villavicencio, 1a Planta, Paseo General  
Escalón y 99 Ave Norte Loc 1-12  
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Sat 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2264-4692  
Fax Number: 2264-4692  
E-mail: consulta@drtrabanino.com  
Website: Médicos de El Salvador  
English: Good

## Urology

### Dr. Alex Fuentes Valencia

Calle Cuscatlán # 4415, entre 85 y 87 Av. Sur  
Colonia Escalón  
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Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 2475-4828 /2532-7493  
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English: Good

### Dr. Erik Leonardo Melgar Salazar

Urologia Clinica  
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Colonia Escalón  
Monday to Friday 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Saturday 10:00 -11:30 a.m.  
Telephone: 2506-2026/27  
E-mail: drmelgar@urologiaelsalvador.com  
Website: urologiaelsalvador.com  
English: Fair

# HEALTH CARE



## Urology

### **Dr. Alberto Vega & Dr. Rene Tiraboschi**

Unidad de Urología

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E-mail: tiraboschi@gmail.com

alberto169@gmail.com

Telephone: 2225-3383/2766

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English: Dr. Vega: Fair ; Dr. Tiraboschi: Good

## Dentists

### **Dr. Carlos Roberto Mendez Valencia** (Adult Dentist)

Villas Españolas, Local B-11, Paseo General Escalón

Monday-Friday 7:30 -11:30 a.m.

1:00-5:30 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-8202/6559

E-mail: clinicadentalmendez@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Elias Roberto Hasbun** (Dentist & Implantologist)

### **Dr. Jose Salomon Hasbun** (Dentist & Endodontist)

Avenida Victor Manuel Mejia Lara #22 Col. Campestre

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-6683/8193

E-mail: info@clinicahasbun.com

Website: Clinica Hasbun | Facebook: Clinica Hasbun

English: Good

### **Dr. Carlos Enrique Salume**

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English: Good

### **Dr. Jose Luis Larin Vasquez**

Arte Dental

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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English: Good

### **Dr. Rony Emerson Rivera**

(Specialist in Odontology and Reconstruction)

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English: Good

# HEALTH CARE



## Urology

### **Dr. Alberto Vega & Dr. Rene Tiraboschi**

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alberto169@gmail.com

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Fax: 2225-2766

English: Dr. Vega: Fair ; Dr. Tiraboschi: Good

## Dentists

### **Dr. Carlos Roberto Mendez Valencia** (Adult Dentist)

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1:00-5:30 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-8202/6559

E-mail: clinicadentalmendez@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Elias Roberto Hasbun** (Dentist & Implantologist)

### **Dr. Jose Salomon Hasbun** (Dentist & Endodontist)

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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English: Good

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2264-4209

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Facebook: Arte Dental

English: Good

### **Dr. Rony Emerson Rivera**

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2:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

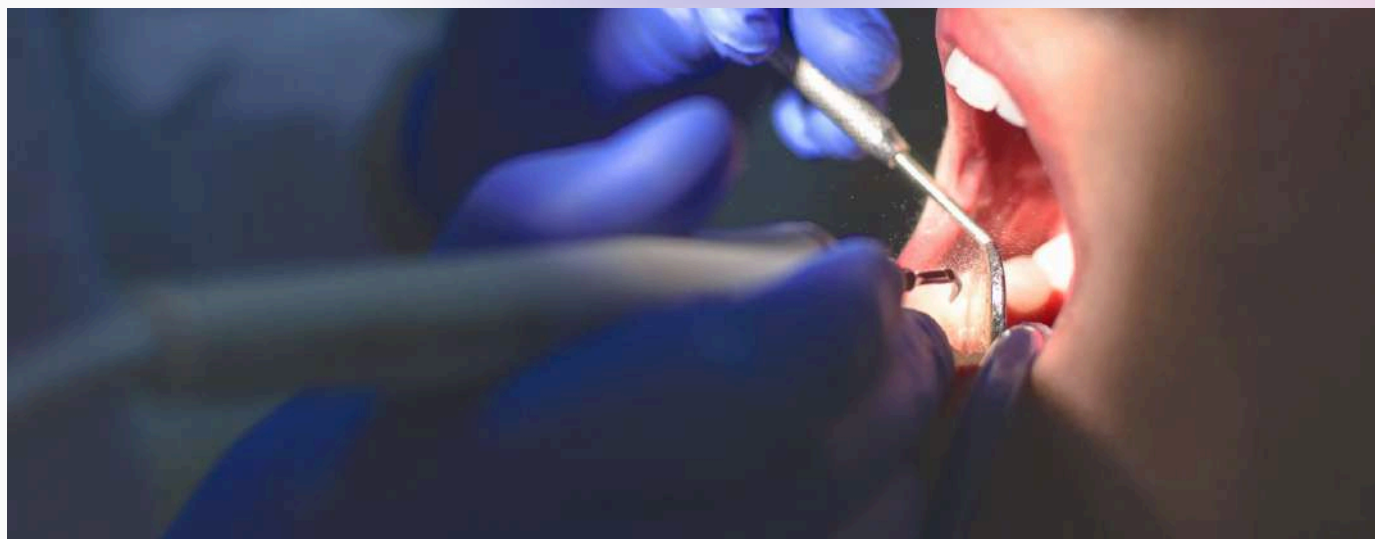
Telephone: 2264-8300

E-mail: estetica.srdental@gmail.com

English: Good



# HEALTH CARE



## Dentists

### **Dr. Francisco Arturo Arguello Miranda**

(Pediatric Dentist)

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2263-2379

E-mail: arguelloazucena@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Manuel Arguello Telles** (Pediatric Dentist)

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2:30-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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E-mail: doctor-arguello@hotmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Carolina Ciudad Real** (Pediatric Dentist)

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Norte #16

Monday-Friday 9:00.-11:30 a.m. | 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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Website: Donde la Tia Li

Facebook: La tia Li

English: Good

### **Dr. Miguel Rene Ruiz** (Orthodontist)

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Norte, Col. Escalón

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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E-mail: ortodonciamiguelruiz@gmail.com

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English: Good

### **Dr. David E. Mendoza** (Orthodontist)

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Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 2224-2760/ 2223-9382/2245-3143

E-mail: davidemendoza@hotmail.com

Facebook: Sonrie Ortodoncia

English: Fair

### **Dr. Raúl Alfonso Echeverria** (Orthodontist)

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Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | 2:00-6:00 p.m.

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Telephone: 2243-5849/2243-2336

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Facebook: Centro de Ortodoncia Raul

Echeverria, Ortodoncia Raul Echeverria

# HEALTH CARE



## Dentists

### **Dr. Henry Walter Herrera Mena**

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Saturday 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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English: Good

### **Dr. Rafael E. Palomo Nieto (Endodontist)**

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Saturday 8:30-11:00 a.m.

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Fax: 2264-4922

E-mail: webdrpalomo@gmail.com

Website: ErnestoPalomoNieto.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Lucas Oswaldo Miralda Martinez**

(Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon)

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Telephone: 2263-6559/ 2264-9897/2264-7505

E-mail: clinicadecmfmiralda@gmail.com

English: Good

### **Dr. Rafael E. Lorenzana (Prosthodontist)**

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E-mail: rafael@lorenzanadds.com

Facebook: Lorenzana and dental associates

English: Good

## Dentists, Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons

### **Dr. Carlos Roberto Mendez Valencia (Dentist)**

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Telephone: 2263-6559

Email: carlomende@yahoo.com

### **Dr. Claudia Giron Amaya (Pediatric Dentist)**

Address: "Edificio Villavicencio", 2a Planta, Paseo General Escalón y 99 Ave Norte Office

Hours: Monday to Thursdays 8:30 am to 11:00am

Monday to Fridays 2:00 to 5:30 pm Saturdays

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Appointments only

Telephone: 2264-4592 2264-4601

Cellular: 7883-7826

English: Good.

# HEALTH CARE



## Dentists, Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons

### **Dr. Manuel Arguello Telles** (Pediatric Dentist)

Address: "Condominio Plaza Suiza", Local LB-12,  
Alameda ME Araujo  
Office Hours: M-F 2-6 PM; Sat 8-12 AM  
Telephone: 2224-2772/0032  
English: Good

### **Dr. Miguel Rene Ruiz** (orthodontist)

Address: 1ª Calle Poniente # 15-16 Entre 87 y 89  
Ave Norte Col. Escalón  
Office Hours: M-F 2-6 PM; Sat 8-12 AM  
Telephone: 2275-6165 & 2263-6308  
English: Good

### **Dr. David E. Mendoza** (orthodontist)

Address: Calle Loma Linda #307, Col. San Benito  
Office Hours: M-F  
Telephone: 2224-2760; 2298-4065/ 2245-3143  
English: Good

### **Dr. Raúl Alfonso Echeverria** (Orthodontist)

Address: 7ª Calle Poniente y 79 Avenida Norte  
Col. Escalón  
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pm and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Appointments  
Telephone: 2264-2568  
English: Good.

### **Dr. Henry Walter Herrera Mena** (endodontist)

Address: "Villas Españolas", Local B-16 paseo  
General Escalón. Telephone: 2264-1414; 2264-  
1734 English: Fair

### **Dr. Rafael E. Palomo Nieto** (Endodoncist)

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6:00 Sat 8:00 to 12:00  
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Email: drpalomo@statel.com

### **Dr. Lucas Oswaldo Miralda Martinez** (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon)

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general Escalón  
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Cellular: 7861-7832  
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# BUYING REAL ESTATE OVERSEAS



## Here are 15 questions you need to ask!

An educated buyer becomes a happy owner. The answers to the questions below should be an important part of the property selection process. There are no right or wrong answers, but simply good information to aid in the decision making process. Some standards that people take for granted or assume will be the same as in their home country, may not be as expected in El Salvador.

1. Is there year-round access? Not all roads in El Salvador are accessible year round, and even if they are, it's important to know in what condition they are maintained.

2. What kind of infrastructure currently exists? Rarely (or never) will the government or utility company run utilities or infrastructure to a project site still under construction. If "it's coming," don't hold your breath. Buy what is tangible and be sure the pricing is reflective of existing reality.

3. Is the house plumbed with hot water? Not a silly question! Look under the sinks to see if there is hot and cold service

4. Is there enough fresh water and water pressure? Water pressure must be planned for and paid for. Either the developer has planned and paid for this or the property owner will do so with storage tanks and pressurizing systems. If considering an existing home or condominium, turn on all faucets (inside and out), every shower, and flush each of the toilets.

5. What access is available to safety, security, and health care agencies? How is security provided on-site and how far is it to major medical care? How many minutes by car? How long in dry season, how long in rainy season?

6. What kind of construction and design standards are in place, and how are they to be enforced? Zoning is often non-existent and buyers may not appreciate what might eventually be built next door. Be sure to know the deed restrictions.

7. Are there amenities for use by owners and visitors while the property is under construction? Buying what is seen is important and is the bottom line, but so is knowing the final vision of the developer and development.

# BUYING REAL ESTATE OVERSEAS



8. Are there state-of-the-art telecommunications or fiber optics for fast and reliable worldwide communications? In a time where internet and phone service is often taken for granted, it's important to understand the reality of the telecommunications infrastructure. See question #6 for promises of service!

9. What about Homeowner's Association? Are the fees high enough to cover maintenance of infrastructure? That's right, high enough. Low fees should sometimes be cause for concern. Fees that are set too low equate to expected surprise assessments in the future and/or a drastic rise in HOA fees when the true costs of maintenance are discovered by property owners.

10. What about green belts and common areas? If public spaces are important to the buyer, they must be sure these exist in the master plan. Remember too that there needs to be a plan for the care and maintenance of these areas.

11. Who will oversee the construction of my home, and who will manage the day-to-day operation and rental potential? How will a home be built if the owner is 2000 miles away? Who will validate the specifications of design during construction?

12. Is there a track record of success and is the development company financially secure? Buying a property in a foreign country is like getting married. It's important to know whom one is marrying. Hopefully the developer will be around for many years and, if so, it's important to be comfortable with the long-term association.

13. Is there a central sewer system? If not, property owners may be responsible for paying for and installing septic systems.

14. What kind of title guarantee can be provided?

15. Is there financing available? Financing is rare in this region. Ask early about its availability if necessary.

# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



For investors, there are several factors that are critical to consider. It is important to think about what kind of development is feasible. Challenges of climate and logistics must be considered. More importantly, one must consider what product is highly desirable. The combination of these two is ultimately what will prove to be most profitable.

This is where ECI is already setting the standard for the region. The region generally suffers from cut and run development, where developers buy a large tract of land and divide it into smaller parcels. These lots are sold to speculators with no requirements for home construction and little regard for infrastructure. The focus is entirely on the short term and immediate profit. Considerations for quality of life issues are largely ignored.

However, considering the demographic shift in favor of properties that are livable, building product that fits this need is increasingly important. The consumer now takes conveniences like high bandwidth and excellent water pressure for granted. People expect to have these standards in their resort and retirement homes. But unless the developer has planned and paid for them, they don't and won't exist.

For this reason, we must consider what will work in the long term, what people want now, and also what they will want in 15-20 years. ECI focuses on a philosophy of bringing together critical elements that raise value and improve quality of life. This philosophy integrates design, technology, and importance of community, and is manifested in ECI's concept of development: New Urbanism.

## Product & Market

New Urbanism is community building. It is a design methodology that creates the highly intangible feeling of "community" through the sophisticated implementation of physical infrastructure. Measuring this may seem difficult, but the market does a great job of valuing intangibles like community. Results can be measured by desirability, because desirability can be measured by price: the higher the demand, the higher the price. The data is factual and studies show a 3 to 5 times greater resale price for property inside a New Urbanist community than a piece of property located just outside the gates. This intangible community is in high demand and people are willing to pay more for it.



# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



In brief, New Urbanism is a reaction to the suburban sprawl that replaced traditional neighborhoods in the U.S. in the latter part of the 20th century. The New Urbanist philosophy is creating community in the way it existed before the sprawl took over. Also called “neo-traditional design,” it is a blending of modern amenities, technology, and infrastructure with the feeling of a community in which people have relationships, communicate, and interact with one another on a regular basis. New Urbanism combines the desire for a traditional neighborhood with the need for modern amenities and facilities.

## Elements of nostalgia

The blending of old and new is the basis for the term “neo-traditional,” a word that is used in this sense to reflect a throwback to the nostalgia of the past, while also including modern elements that enhance our living experience. The very fact that New Urbanists must meet the demands of the marketplace keeps them grounded in reality. Successful New Urbanism performs a difficult balancing act by maintaining the integrity of a walkable, human-scale neighborhood, while offering modern residential and commercial “product” to compete with conventional neighborhood development.

## Traditional Architecture

The New Urbanism borrows much from traditional planning and traditional architecture. For example, ECI Development has combined in Gran Pacifica the Nicaraguan Spanish Colonial architecture of the colonial cities of Leon and Granada, with modern amenities (golf courses, fiber optics, and underground electricity) and New Urbanism concepts such as narrow, pedestrian-friendly streets with sidewalks. Buildings use traditional materials and are designed to emulate and blend with the regional vernacular.

In New Urbanism, the built environment is scaled for people rather than for vehicles driving through at highway speeds. Neighborhoods take cues from the best 1930s neighborhoods, where houses and apartment buildings faced the street and wide, shaded sidewalks provided a pleasant pedestrian environment. The messy necessities (parking, garbage, and utilities) are hidden behind the homes in alleys. Property within a New Urbanist development ensures a higher value for the property, as well as the potential to retain and increase substantially over the initial value. Case studies abound all over the United States and the world. Values within New Urban communities start higher and continue to increase as the areas develop and grow into real neighborhoods and communities.

# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



## Demographics

The baby boomers represent around 71,600,000 individuals in the United States. Over the last 60 years, almost everything that was popular with the baby boomers became a smashing success, and they have had a disproportionate impact on the economy at each stage of their lives. The boomers are also a consumer-centric group, and they are accustomed to having things their way; people and companies that placed themselves ahead of this “age wave” did very well. Industries that served them grew large and profitable. This wave of consumers is real, and it continues right now as they enter the age of retirement.

A recent survey of 100,000 Americans, done by Zogby, details the attitude toward and the desires for “emigration” from the United States. While 82% of the folks polled expressed no desire to live or own property outside the United States, 18% were planning on or considering the possibility. This represents over 26,000,000 people, and of them, 11.8% (a number slightly over 3,000,000) chose Latin America as their first choice. While only a percentage of these people will actually move or decide to own property in the region, it is also likely that many who today have no desire to move may choose to explore this option based on quality of life and cost of living issues.

### Some Boomer Statistics:

#### **72 million Americans, born between 1946 and 1964:**

- Account for 3/4 of spending
- Control 71.9% of wealth
- Own 80% of all money in banks
- Own 66% of all money equity markets

Because of the size and wealth of these huge demographics, companies with foresight are beginning to create environments where people can live when they retire and have fun, but also where they can grow older comfortably as well.

Since this generation has witnessed the amazing power of technology that can do just about anything, they know what is out there and expect a high degree of it to accompany them wherever their lives take them.



# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



Older individuals are traveling to less expensive parts of the world to live part or full time. This is becoming easier because it is increasingly possible to rely on social security payments, even when you are living abroad. In fact, there are already over 4 million Americans living abroad, and of those 4 million, over 400,000 are already receiving social security checks in their host countries.

Latin American countries will become an increasingly popular destination for Americans as an attractive place to retire. Located in the same time zones and only a short flight from the major North American hubs, easy access is a major reason this will occur. An additional reason is lifestyle – beaches, warm weather. But a big part of this is economics. Many of the baby boomers approaching retirement age don't have enough money saved for a comfortable retirement in the United States, but may be able to move south of the border and live very well.

According to the latest Commerce Department reports, the baby boomers are now saving almost nothing. Almost half (48%) expect to count on social security during retirement, and 15% expect to rely on it for most or all of their retirement needs. A Roper Reports survey suggests that although social security is the baby boomers'

second most expected source of retirement income, expectations of social security as a source of retirement income have been declining over the past two decades.

Just as mass outsourcing of call centers and manufacturing has occurred in recent years, the outsourcing of medical treatment is in its infancy. This trend is gaining traction already, especially in the fee-based specialties of dentistry and plastic surgery. But as the systems of care in the U.S. are overwhelmed by demand, service levels could drop while costs remain high or increase. People may choose to pay the small fee for services outside North America and, in fact, receive better care. Assisted living in Latin America, with full-time, in-home nursing care can be had for less than \$300 per month. These quality of life issues will pull more people to the region than is currently expected.

Latin America offers a lower cost of living and, at the same time, a generally higher quality of living on the limited resources that many boomers will have in retirement. Many of the countries in the region are now promoting retirement programs that offer tax and other incentives to attract retirees. As more and more people look to the region, and as the region itself promotes programs to attract retirees, the number of people who will consider Latin America will grow, further expanding the pool of clients for residential units.



# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



## Digital nomads

ECI Development has observed a growing trend among digital nomads, particularly in the U.S., seeking sunnier, more affordable locations. This shift is fueled by the rise of remote work opportunities and an increasing number of employers embracing flexible, location-independent roles. Over half of all digital nomads globally are from the U.S., and their lifestyles are diverse, encompassing freelancers, traditional employees, and entrepreneurs. Remote working Americans, especially after the pandemic, have significantly outnumbered independent digital nomads, with more than 11 million engaging in remote work in 2022.

Digital nomads often look for areas that offer high-quality internet, cost-effective living, and proximity to the U.S., all of which ECI's developments cater to. Many nomads prefer homes or rentals meeting North American standards and enjoy the benefits of "geo-arbitrage," where they earn in strong currencies while living in more affordable countries. Furthermore, some digital nomads earn substantial incomes, with 42% of American nomads making over \$75,000 annually.

Catering to this demographic involves creating adaptable spaces such as co-living arrangements, fully furnished rentals, and properties in digital-nomad-friendly hubs.

With the increase in telecommunication options, digital nomads can earn a living while traveling or living long-term in a location of their choice. Most digital nomads also still require North American standards in the home or long-term rentals they plan to occupy. ECI Development offers a wide array of communities that fit the bill, in countries that already meet the basic digital nomad requirements: proximity to North America, improved internet service and an affordable lifestyle. In addition to all the new changes in the market landscape, ECI Development continues to pioneer real estate development by being one of the only development companies in the region that accepts cryptocurrency as payment.

# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT



## Limited Supply for a Growing Demand

The Zogby survey indicates that just over 3,000,000 folks are considering translocation, or at least property ownership in Latin America. This is a staggering figure. When one considers the overall supply of high quality home sites in the region, one can easily imagine the impending shortage if even just a small number of these people decide to act on their intention to own or relocate. If one considers the amount of residential product with world-class infrastructure and amenities, the shortage is magnified immensely. Understanding why there is a shortage is critical to understanding why this investment opportunity makes so much sense.

In contrast to ECI's consumer friendly development philosophy, the alternative used by most developers in the region is a "cut-and-run" type of product. This literally means that a developer buys a large tract of land, adds the minimum infrastructure like dirt roads and electric poles, and then sells the lots to speculation buyers. Large expenses like water and sewage treatments are often off-loaded onto the consumer who, if they decide to build, must drill wells and build septic

systems. In many cases soils are heavy clay which won't perk, and water tables are located deep underground, costing buyers much more than their share of a centralized system.

There is also little regard to amenities, how the property will be maintained, or if there will ever be any real community. Property owner fees are set below the cost to maintain physical infrastructure, because high HOA fees are a deterrent to sales. In many cases the homeowners inherit a set of systems that will cost much more than anticipated to repair and maintain, further adding to the cost of ownership.

There are strong reasons why this type of product is developed. It is the cheapest way to be a developer and the least risky. Very little capital is invested into the land prior to sale. There is also a market of speculative buyers who want a cheap price for a piece of property and expect to resell at some point in the future for a profit which may or may not happen. What it rarely produces, however, is community and lasting consumer value for residents.

# WHY ECI DEVELOPMENT

Boomers who are retiring want and need something different. This is where ECI's design philosophy, New Urbanism, comes into play. Within a community like ours, everything is included: infrastructure, communication technology, community center, water systems, etc. Home construction is required within a set period of time. By investing in the infrastructure and amenities, and then requiring construction of homes and condos, we ensure that community happens.

While the word "community" is an intangible, we certainly know when it exists and when it doesn't. One way to measure it is by looking at resale values for properties similar in physical characteristics, inside and outside of a community environment. Hard empirical data shows that people are willing to pay 3-5 times as much for the intangible "community."

## The Market

The market for New Urban communities is very real and very large. As is evidenced by the success of such developments as St. Joe's WaterColor in Florida, or Disney's Celebrations, people want fully furnished communities. With the impending retirement of the U.S.'s largest demographic, the baby boomers, it is important to focus on their wants and needs. A large and growing number of baby boomers are considering retiring abroad, and Central America is a likely choice based on many factors. These livable communities also appeal to young professionals or early investors that look for high quality second homes.

The baby boomers are about to enter their next stage of life, with more time and more money than any other demographic of people in history. As a result of longer life expectancies, these folks know that they will have a lot more years of life after retiring than the majority of their predecessors did or do. With this time, they want to travel, continue working, and even start new careers. They want community and are willing to pay a significant premium to get it. Latin America offers exceptional and diverse climates with a high quality of life at an affordable price. ECI is marrying these factors to create a unique product already selling in the market place. As the wave of boomers grows, ECI is in a prime position to serve this demographic well and produce a return to its investors.

Serving the market is what ECI Development is all about. By creating a set of standards for things that most North Americans take for granted, like excellent water pressure and high speed internet, we can focus on listening to the client and ascertaining what climate or geography they prefer. They can be confident that no matter if they choose a semi-arid Pacific coast golf community, a Caribbean marina community, an English-speaking island home, or a tropical highland "perpetual spring" climate, they will receive the creature comforts and same sense of community that will be the basis of the ECI product suite.



# THANK YOU!



Thanks for reading! We look forward to seeing you in El Salvador.

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