

OVERVIEW

Escape to the heart of Central America to enjoy world-class breaks, spectacular scenery, stylish accommodation and high quality instruction on our El Salvador surf holidays. El Salvador has everything that nearby Costa Rica is famous for (magnificent beaches, lush jungle, quality surf, and vibrant culture) but without the crowds and throngs of tourists.

On our surf holidays you'll explore the very best of El Salvador's coastline, the secluded beaches of the East Coast where we'll use our boat to access uncrowded breaks, the long white-sand beginner beaches at the Costa del Sol, and the world class breaks and striking black sand beaches of the West Coast. As an option, you will get the chance to visit El Imposible National Park (one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world), where you'll experience El Salvador's nature at its best if surf conditions are not suitable. Active volcanoes, vibrant fishing villages and towns, memorable accommodation including seaside bungalows and ocean front villas are just a few of this tour's special treats!

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IS IT FOR ME?

Our El Salvador Surf Holidays are ideal for surfers of all abilities, including first timers. They are perfect for those wishing to experience a variety of El Salvador's breaks, scenery and culture rather than staying at just one beach, as many camps do. Our El Salvador surf holidays are also ideal for those wanting warm weather & water, and stylish, high-end accommodations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Costa Rica quality breaks without the crowds
- *Boat access to secluded beaches (May to September)
- *Improve your skills by wakesurfing in a sheltered lagoon (October to April)
- *Stylish, beachfront accommodation with breathtaking ocean views
- *Mangrove boat tour past jungle & volcanoes (October to April)

INSTRUCTOR TO GUEST RATIO

1:5

MAX GROUP SIZE

15

ITINERARY

We offer two slightly different versions of our itinerary - one for beginners and early intermediates that we run from October to May and the other for intermediate and advanced surfers that we run from June to September. The differences between the two tours are indicated below.

DAY 1: Arrive & Relax

All Abilities: Welcome to the secluded beaches, dense jungles and smoking volcanoes of magnificent El Salvador! Our surf tour begins with a scenic journey from Comalapa International Airport to our beach front accommodation. First-time surfers will be staying at an attractive hotel set right on the edge of a long white sand beginner beach. Intermediate and advanced surfers will stay in beach front bungalows in El Cuco on El Salvador's pristine East Coast. There'll be time for an afternoon surf session, or you can opt to relax on the beach. After an afternoon in the water, we'll enjoy a typical Salvadorian dinner at a restaurant on the beach.

DAY 2: El Salvador Surf Camp Begins

Beginners: An excellent beginner break is just meters from our hotel door and the chances are we'll have the beach all to ourselves on week days. After a hearty Salvadorian breakfast we'll head to the beach where our expert instructors will introduce you to the basics of surf technique, safety and etiquette. It'll then be time to hit the water to catch your first broken waves. After lunch you'll have time to explore the area or relax by the pool. In the afternoon you'll have a second surf session before boarding our boat for a spectacular sunset tour through the dense mangroves. Tonight you'll enjoy a well-earned dinner of pupusas (El Salvador's most typical food) or fresh fish at a local restaurant.

Intermediates & Advanced: For those who are keen to start early, our day begins with an early morning surf session

and coaching at Las Flores, a quality point break just minutes from our accommodation. After our session we'll all meet for a typical Salvadorian breakfast on the beach and there will then be time to relax before lunch. After lunch we'll head back to Las Flores for an afternoon of surfing and coaching. In the evening we'll top off a great day with a hearty dinner at the hotel.

DAY 3: Surfing Local Breaks

Beginners: Today we'll head back to the beach to continue your surf instruction. We'll have two surf sessions with lunch in between. For those who are interested, there may be time to do optional wakesurfing on the estuary.

Intermediates & Advanced: Today we'll board our boat for a short ride to a secluded point break, Punta Mango. Here we'll enjoy a day of perfect waves, expert coaching and beautiful scenery on a remote beach. Tonight we'll head to a local restaurant for pupusas (El Salvador's national dish) and fresh fish.

DAY 4: More Surfing & Drive to West Coast

Beginners: After our morning surf session we'll pack up our bags for a short drive to our next destination: El Salvador's west coast. Here we'll check into our stylish oceanfront villas which are set on a cliff overlooking one of the country's best point breaks, El Sunzal. There will be time for a sunset surf session at a local beach break and then you can kick back on the veranda or in the swimming pool and enjoy the magnificent ocean views. Dinner will be at a cliff-top cafe overlooking the beach.

Intermediates & Advanced: After an early morning surf session we'll pack up our bags and continue our surf tour with a scenic drive to El Salvador's West Coast. Here we'll check into our stylish oceanfront villas which are set on a cliff overlooking one of the country's best point breaks, El Sunzal. There'll be time for you to test out El Sunzal's long, peeling break and then you can kick back on the veranda or in the swimming pool and enjoy the magnificent ocean views. Dinner will be at a cliff-top cafe overlooking the beach.

DAY 5: Optional Activity Day & Surfing

All Abilities: For those wanting to experience the scenery of inland El Salvador, you can use the morning to mountain bike the spectacular hills of the Cordillera del Balsamo, or to hike through the lush rainforest in El Imposible National Park. Beginners will return to the local beginner beach, or, for those who are ready to try surfing unbroken waves, we can test out the excellent point break right in front of the hotel. Intermediate and advanced surfers can head to K-59 a world class right hand point break. Tonight we'll enjoy a typical dinner at one of the city's many restaurants.

DAY 6: Last El Salvador Surfing Day & Dinner

Beginners: Today we'll revisit whichever break(s) you most enjoyed for a final day of surfing, coaching, and relaxing. After a full day of surfing, we will meet for a farewell cliff top dinner at delicious Cafe Sunzal.

Intermediates: Today we'll enjoy a morning surfing session at Punta El Cocal. It's a fast, hollow, grinding right hander working better at mid to low tide. Low crowds are almost a guarantee as the spot is a bit inconsistent on small swells, but with the right conditions and bigger swells (from May to October), it gets so perfect that you will probably want to surf the place more than once during your trip! In the afternoon we'll head to El Zonte, a point break with a beautiful headland setting and colorful restaurants set right on the beach.

DAY 7: Depart

All Abilities: Our surf tour is over! Depending on when your flight leaves there may be time for a final surf session. Either way, we'll drive you to the airport for your journey home.

Please note: This itinerary is designed to give you an idea of what to expect during our trip but it is not set in stone. What we actually do on a given day is flexible and can be tailored to swell conditions and the interests of the group.

INSTRUCTION

We are dedicated to offering the highest quality surf instruction on the market. We know there are a multitude of other surf schools and camps that you could choose from, but we believe that our program is unique thanks to the individual attention we give our clients and to the quality and nature of our coaches. Our program is also unique because rather than being confined to just one beach, as most surf schools are, our surf lessons take place at a variety of beaches and breaks along the spectacular El Salvadorian coastline.

OUR EL SALVADOR INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Beginners: Our beginner program is tailored to guests who have never or rarely surfed before. To read more about this program, please check out our [beginners section](#)

Intermediates: Our intermediate program is designed to ensure that intermediate surfers optimize their technique, develop their style, and challenge their performance. At the beginning of the trip we'll assess your particular development needs and then work with you to achieve them. The goal of our surf school for intermediates is to refine your technique, maximize your confidence, and get you working on new skills and maneuvers. Intermediate surfers who would like to perform more radical maneuvers will be encouraged to surf more confidently and aggressively by taking full advantage of the waveface. You will be taught to better control your board by performing drop-offs, precise bottom turns, and by working your boards through slow sections into fast pockets. Your surf knowledge will be enhanced through informal workshops on such topics as wave patterns, currents, tides, potentially dangerous situations, priority rules and surf report reading.

Advanced: Our El Salvador instruction program is not designed for advanced surfers. Nevertheless, our El Salvador trip is ideal for advanced surfers who wish to experience El Salvador's best spots alongside knowledgeable locals. Our surf team can guide you to the best breaks in El Salvador (including several boat-access beaches), can make sure you access the best waves on any given day, and can provide you with the knowledge you need to surf safely in unfamiliar breaks.

We base our surf instruction on the following points:

***Individual attention:** most surf schools process so many clients each week, they cannot afford to give students the individual attention they deserve. Although our lessons are group lessons, we treat each client as an individual, identifying their particular development needs and learning goals and working with them to ensure these needs are met.

***Low coach-to-client ratio:** in order to ensure clients receive the attention they deserve, we use a much lower client-to-coach ratio than do most surf schools and camps. Our client-to-coach ratio is a maximum of 5-to-1 (often it is lower), whereas many surf schools use a ratio of 8-to-1.

***Proprietary coaching program:** our team of expert instructors has worked hard to develop an instruction program that maximizes client learning and is tailored to the specific needs of our clients.

***Maximum flexibility & All-day coaching:** Although we base our surfing instruction on a comprehensive plan, we nevertheless keep it as flexible, relaxed, and tailored to the individual as possible. The atmosphere we create is more one of surfing with friends than partaking in a lesson. Our instructors will surf alongside you giving you tips and encouragement; they won't line you up in a large group and teach from a generic lesson plan as you find in a typical surf school experience. Also unlike typical surf schools, we don't limit you to just a few hours of instruction per day; our instructors are available to encourage you and give you tips all day long. You can use our instructors as little or as much as you like, and you can push yourself as much as you choose.

***Highest quality coaches:** We work hard to select the best possible instructors. Our coaches are expert surfers (many are professional or competitive surfers) who have extensive coaching experience. Perhaps even more importantly, our instructors are fun, open and easy-going people who love to teach.

"Long-term improvement: Surfing is a challenging sport and you may not master all the skills and techniques you desire during your short time with us. One of the goals of surf school, therefore, is to give you all the knowledge and advice that you need in order to continue to learn from us months and even years after you've left us.

***Unforgettable experience:** although we want you to maximize your surf performance, our most important goal is that you have a fantastic time while traveling with us. For this reason we work hard to create a supportive, relaxed and fun atmosphere and to create an itinerary that is unique and full of variety.

BEGINNERS

Our surf lessons & trips are open to surfers of all abilities, including beginners who want to surf for the first time. If you've never surfed before, our beginner surf lessons are the ideal format for you to get started. Surfing is not an easy sport, so it's important that you get the right advice and technique from the beginning. This will help you to avoid the frustration that many untutored surfers experience during their first days in the water and it will enable you to progress smoothly and safely. It will also help you to understand surfing etiquette, which is essential if you plan to surf in other more

crowded breaks around the world. Starting with the right foundation is critical to becoming good at any sport and this is particularly the case when you learn to surf.

Our 'learn to surf' Instruction Program

Our beginner surf lessons are divided into two parts. In the first days of the trip you'll learn such fundamental skills as: sea-condition appraisal, sitting and paddling on the board, turtle diving with a long board, controlled wipe-outs, fluent stand-up movement in broken waves, surfing broken waves and turning front and backside with full control and confidence. In the second part of our beginner surf lessons you'll apply all these skills to real, unbroken waves, developing your skills and confidence under the careful instruction of your coach. There'll also be informal workshops on such topics as wave pattern, currents, tides, potentially dangerous situations, priority rules, surf report reading and surfboard care and waxing. Our surf lessons will start each day with surf specific warm-up exercises.

To learn more about the fundamentals of our coaching, please see our [instruction section](#).

BREAKS

Our tour takes you to the best surf spots in El Salvador; from the remote East Coast beaches only accessible by boat, to the world-renown west coast point breaks, to the gentle beginner's beaches of Costa del Sol. The quality of the surf spots in El Salvador is summed up in one simple quote by Surfer Magazine's Matt Warshaw:

"Nearly every big-ticket surf trip I've taken for the past 30-something years has to one degree or another been a disappointment in terms of wave quality. Just two places actually turned out better than expected: the Mentawais and, as I would come to find out, El Salvador."

El Salvador's coastline is literally swarming with awesome right pointbreaks. Considering the small size of the country, El Salvador could easily claim the highest density of quality pointbreaks in Central America. Many of the waves you'll experience during our surf tour break for almost 200m./650ft. without closing out. In the words of our trip leader, Roy: "It is my opinion and the opinion of many other Central American surfers who have surfed in Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, that El Salvador offers much better breaks; not only in terms of wave quality but also in terms of consistency. It's the perfect location for beginners to learn to surf and intermediates and experts to advance". And the beauty is that aside from a couple of the most popular surf spots in El Salvador, you can expect to share the waves with no more than a handful of others (although some breaks do get more crowded in the weekends). El Salvador's breaks offer something for everyone, from gentle, consistent beach breaks for beginners, to outstanding point breaks for intermediate and advanced surfers. Some of the breaks you'll experience during our El Salvador tour include: Las Flores, considered by many to be the most rippable wave in the Americas, El Sunzal, a long, slow right break, and K59, an excellent right point located at a private beach which we have special permission to access.

ACCOMMODATION

Those who book our beginner & early intermediate sessions will start our El Salvador Surf Hoildays with three nights at a beach front hotel in the Costa del Sol. The hotel is made up of small villas that are nestled in lush gardens and are mere meters from the water. Hotel amenities include a large swimming pool, a lively bar and a restaurant, while the villas offer en suite bathrooms (with refreshing, cool-water showers), air conditioning and refrigerators.

Those who book our intermediate & advanced sessions will stay in spacious 2-bedroom bungalows right on the beach in El Cuco. Step out the front door onto a sandy beach with an easy beach break, relax in the sun or cool off in the pool between our trips to the waves. Bungalow amenities include air conditioning, private bathrooms, refrigerators, and stylish living areas.

The accommodation for the second part of our trip is the same for all ability levels. We'll head to a breathtaking stretch of coastline near La Libertad where we'll stay in stylish oceanfront villas. Nestled atop an impressive cliff, our villas afford spectacular views of the sea, and offer all the comforts of four-star accommodation: spacious, newly decorated rooms, large private bathrooms, A/C, internet access, an impressive swimming pool and gourmet food. Just minutes from the town and walking distance to several famous point breaks, this luxury accommodation is just what you need to top of the unforgettable surfing you'll experience during our El Salvador surf trip.

Check out our slide show above for photos of our El Salvador surf accommodation

FOOD

The national specialty of El Salvador is seafood, and during our El Salvador surf holidays we'll take full advantage of this! Our trip leader knows all the best local restaurants where you can try lobster, squid, shrimp or oysters prepared in delicious local sauces. A delicacy in El Salvador is ceviche - fish prepared in lemon juice, green peppers and onions. Or sample pupusas, tortillas filled with any combination of beans, cheese, or pork. If you're not a fan of seafood, or you'd prefer to stick to more familiar food during our El Salvador surfing tour, there are also plenty of restaurants that serve international cuisine. Generous breakfasts are served only at the cliff top villas, where we stay the last three nights and the price is included in the cost of our tour. Other meals are not included and you can expect to pay between \$2 - \$15 US depending on whether you prefer to eat at a local's 'shack' restaurant or the hotel cafe.

The evenings during our El Salvador surfing tour are very relaxed. You can kick back on your veranda with a beer and watch the sunset, or check out the cliff-top bar. For those who wish to enjoy a bit more action, we'll visit the nearby city of San Salvador (small additional fee for transport).

DATES & PRICES

For detailed dates and pricing information, please see our website at <http://www.accesstrips.com>

TRAVEL INFO**1) ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION**

Arrival and Departure Airport: You should arrive at and depart from Comalapa International Airport (SAL) in San Salvador.

Pickup information: We will be waiting for you after you pass immigration with a sign saying `Access Trips`. Please ensure that your flight arrives between 8am and 6pm on the first day of your session.

Drop-off information: Our tour ends in La Libertad but we will drive you to Comalapa International Airport (SAL) in San Salvador on the final day of the tour. If you wish to be dropped off somewhere other than the airport, please email us to discuss.

Airlines and Checking Equipment: If you intend to bring your own equipment, please check with your airline regarding policies for checking and transporting sports gear and equipment before you book your flight. This includes inquiring as to weight, charges and liability.

Flights: We do not book flights or insurance for our clients. For recommendations, [click here](#)

2) TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance, including emergency evacuation coverage, is compulsory for all our trips. Please do not attend any of our trips without purchasing appropriate insurance coverage. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance that includes cancellation protection so that you will be covered in the event that you are unable to attend our trip (due to injury, illness or other unforeseen circumstances) or in the unlikely event that our trip must be cancelled. We do not provide travel insurance for our clients. Please contact your local travel agent to purchase travel insurance.

Passports & Visas: All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum of 6 months validity). Citizens of some countries will also require a visa. To learn more about visa and entry requirements for El Salvador, please check out the El Salvador Embassy website at: <http://www.elsalvador.org/> or consult your local travel agent. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documentation.

Age: We do not have any age restrictions on our trips. The majority of our clients are between the ages of 25 and 45, but we also have many clients who are older and younger than this.

3) HEALTH AND SAFETY

Emergency Contact: If you need to contact Access Travel in an emergency, you can reach us during office hours at the following numbers:

Dialing within North America: 1 (650) 492-4778
Dialing outside of North America: +1 (650) 492-4778

If you feel that you need to contact us outside of office hours, one of our staff members will be available on the following mobile lines:

Mobile-phone: +1 650 521 2662 or +1 650 387 4249

If you do not receive an immediate answer when calling the above numbers, please leave us a detailed message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Health requirements: Please carefully review the health information section of the following webpage for up-to-date health information, including information on the quality of medical care, the availability of medications and the necessity for vaccinations in the destination country: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1109.html. You are responsible for ensuring that you receive any necessary vaccinations before embarking on your trip with us.

Fitness requirements: The majority of our trips are open to people who are beginners in our target sports. Nevertheless, you should have a reasonable level of fitness before attending any of our trips and you should enjoy physical activity and the outdoors. During the majority of our trips you will be able to take a rest if you find that you are over-exerting yourself, but in order to maximize your enjoyment of our tours you should ensure that you are in reasonable shape.

Safety & Security: To maximize your safety during our tours you should exercise common sense and caution at all times. We recommend that you always stick to set travel arrangements, and avoid unknown areas. We also recommend that you wear minimal jewelry and that you keep valuable items safely stored. Always keep a copy of your passport, airline tickets, travelers checks and credit card numbers separate from where you keep the originals. For information on safety and security in El Salvador, please review the safety and security section of the following webpage: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1109.html

4) WHAT TO TAKE

Equipment: It is always better to use your own equipment, so if you have your own board we highly recommend that you bring it. If you cannot bring your own board, however, or if you are a beginner, we provide boards for you.

What to bring: Many of our trips require us to move our base several times, so we recommend that you pack as lightly as possible. There will not always be someone available to help you carry your bags so you should only bring as much as you can carry on your own.

We suggest that you bring the following items:

Clothing & Equipment

- * surf board & leash (if you own one)
- * a rash guard (you can buy this from any surf shop)
- * casual summer clothes
- * comfortable hiking or walking shoes
- * toiletries
- * money belt
- * sunscreen
- * beach towel
- * first-aid kit (should contain lip balm, aspirin, band aids, a cream for sore muscles (e.g. deep heat), Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

Documents & Money

- * passport (with photocopies)
- * travel insurance (with photocopies)
- * airline tickets (with photocopies)
- * Credit and/or debit card and/or travelers cheques and/or cash
- * Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

Spending Money

- * Meals - budget around US\$4-8 for lunches and US\$7-\$15 for high quality dinners.
- * Other expenses - aside from meals, there are no required additional expenses for this trip, but you might like to take spending money for such things as souvenir shopping, nightlife and internet cafes.

5) USEFUL LINKS

Country Information: For additional information about traveling in El Salvador check out http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1109.html

Currency Exchange: The currency in El Salvador is now the US dollar. For the latest currency exchange information please go to: <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency>

6) ABOUT ACCESS TRIPS

Who we are: Access Trips is dedicated to offering a wide range of instructional adventure tours. If you're looking for a vacation that provides a huge sense of personal achievement while still being fun, exciting and rewarding, our tours are right for you. We coined the term 'instructional adventure tour' to describe our unique style of travel because as far as we know, we are the only company in the world to specialize in offering a variety of such trips! Instructional adventure tours offer the best of both worlds - expert instruction to help you develop and improve in your favorite pastime (or, if you're a beginner, to help you learn a new pastime correctly from the start), and varied and exciting itineraries to give you a unique and memorable travel experience. Our tours are the perfect mix of a high quality instructional course and an exciting adventure vacation and you'll find there's nothing more satisfying than challenging yourself and reaching new heights in your favorite pastime, while also enjoying a unique and authentic travel experience. Our instructional tours encourage you to develop your potential in a relaxed and non-intimidating setting, regardless of your ability level, and reward you with carefully selected accommodation, delicious food, incredible scenery and unique cultural experiences.

We offer trips in all continents except Antarctica and we currently specialize in snowboarding, skiing, surfing, mountain biking and multisport tours. Our team is made up of instructors who are among the best in the world; we select them not only for their talent and experience (many are professional and competitive athletes) but also for their great personalities and their passion for coaching. Our tours attract men and women of all abilities and ages and, thanks to the fact that all clients have a common interest, our trips tend to be fantastic social experiences in addition to great instructional trips.

Our commitment to our clients: Like many travel companies, we are dedicated to offering the highest quality, safest and best value trips that we can. But our client mission is much more than this: on top of offering an excellent product, we are committed to making a positive change in the lives of our clients. We at Access Trips have all benefited in meaningful ways from the remarkable power of having a passion in life - of having a pastime that brings you pleasure, friendships, a sense of achievement and a total escape from the pressures of everyday life. Some of us have found self-confidence, others friendships, and others motivation and drive as a result of our involvement in sports. We want our clients to also experience the pleasure of finding and pursuing a passion. It is our goal that clients return from our trips having found a new passion or solidified an existing one, having made lasting friendships, having experienced a deep sense of achievement as a result of reaching new heights in their favorite sport, and having acquired a new perspective on life as a result of the unique experiences that our trips provide. We have had more than a few clients who have returned from our trips and decided to make major life changes such as changing careers to pursue more meaningful work, moving countries to be closer to the outdoors, and changing universities to be around more like-minded people. We do not expect our trips to have such a dramatic impact on all our clients, but we do hope that all our clients can be inspired in some small way from the experience of sharing their passion with us.

Our commitment to others: Although we are ultimately a for-profit business, Access Trips is about so much more than just turning profits. We operate Access Trips because we are passionate about travel, sports and the outdoors and

because we love to share this passion with our clients, our employees and the local people we encounter during our travels. It is deeply important to us that our business contributes to the world in a favorable way and that we use our resources to affect as much positive change in the world as we can. We believe that we have three major responsibilities: to our clients, to our employees and to the world at large (which includes the environment and local communities) and we are doing everything we can to serve these three groups to the best of our ability. Please see the company section of our website (<http://www.accesstrips.com/company/mission/>) to read more about the actions we are taking to fulfill our mission and to effect positive change in the world.

7) FINAL NOTE

The information contained in this document is provided in good faith. Due to the nature of travel, details in this document may change. You should thus use the above information as an indication only and not as a contractual obligation on the part of Access Travel, Ltd.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please have a look at our Terms & Conditions at <http://www.accesstrips.com/company/termsandconditions/> before you make your booking. Thanks!