



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

El Salvador - San Salvador

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** San Salvador
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish, Cacaopera, Kekchí, Pipil.
- ✓ **Population:** ± 2 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 600
- ✓ **Currency:** American Dollars \$
- ✓ **Country code:** +502
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 911 (2511-8300 tourist)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1524: Spanish → indigenous resistance → '40: Spanish colony. 1821: Independence. '23: Part of United Provinces of Central America. '40: Dissolution = fully independent. '59-63: Pres Barrios: coffee growing. 1932: 30,000 killed during suppression of peasant uprising (Marti). '61: Right National Conciliation Party (PCN) power after military coup. '69: Brief war with Honduras → eviction of thousands of Salvadoran illegal immigrants. '77: Guerrilla activities by left Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) intensify. Pres Romero. '79-81: 30,000 people killed by army-backed right-wing death squads: Backed by US. '79: Coup by reformist officers: Military-civilian junta. '80: Pres Duarte. '82: Extreme right National Republican Alliance (Arena) wins violent elections → '84: Pres Duarte. '89: Pres Cristiani. '91: FMLN recognized as political party → signs UN-sponsored peace accord with government. '94: Pres Sol. 2001: Earthquakes kill 1200. '02: US court holds 2 retired Salvadoran army generals responsible. '03: Troops to Iraq + free-trade agreement US. '04: Pres Saca. '05: OAS human rights court re-opens investigation into 1981 massacre: '11 government apologizes. '05: Volcano Santa Ana erupts + tropical Storm Stan. '06: New border Honduras. '09: FMLN → Pres Funes: Restores diplomatic relations with Cuba. '10: Gang violence San Salvador rises.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet												
High season												
Budget												

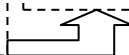
Altitude: 723m. Climate: Tropical.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Sightseeing: Palacio Nacional, Plaza Barrios & La Libertad & Morazan, Waterclock, Monumento Al Divino Salvador del Mundo, Monumento a La Memoria y La Verdad + museum, (Parque Cuscatlán). Churches: Cathedral & Iglesia Rosario, Calvario, Sagrado Corazón.
- ☺ Drive down to Puerto del Diablo for priceless views. Another option: Los Planes de Renderos.
- ☺ On Sunday all museums are free: [Museo de Arte \(MARTE\)](#), [Museo Nacional de Antropologia](#), [Tin-Marín children museum](#), [Museo De Historia Natural](#) & Museo De Historia Militar, [Centro Monsenor Romero](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Nature: Volcán San Salvador in Parque Nacional El Boquerón & Jardin Botanico La Laguna.
- 👉 [Joya de Cerén](#) (the Salvadorian 'Pompeii') and the nearby archeological site San Andres.
- ☺ Check out Lago de Ilopango.
- ☺ Take a bus to the tourist-friendly Santa Tecla.
- ☺ Hike & bike in Parque Bicentenario.



Festivals

- ☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.
- ☼ August festival: Popular, Aug.
- ☼ Independence Day: 15-Sept.

Budget Bites

⌘ Market: The city center hosts the biggest market where you can find anything for nothing. Watch pickpockets here!

⌘ Cheap supermarket: Super Selectos / La Expensa de Don Juan.

⌘ El Salvador's streetfood & cheap *comedores*: Pupusas (tortillas filled with cheese and anything else) are the national pride. Other options: Yuca with little dried fish or chicharón, empanadas (flour pastries filled with meat, or plantain filled with beans), tamales (boiled corn dough with veggies and meat), sopa de pata (cow feet soup), pacalla (fried palm flowers in cornmeal), platanos fritos (deep-fried plantain), curtido (sour salad), tortillas with beans & guacamole.

Mama Said

☠ San Salvador is known for its high homicide rates & dangerous gangs. However, their violence is usually not directed to tourists (it's mostly extortion). Dangerous areas: Soyapango, Mejicanos & Apopa.

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables. Watch for pickpockets in the market and crowded places. Wear a moneybelt in the bus and don't take out your electronics.

☠ Avoid walking around alone at night, it's NOT safe.

☠ Obvious: Don't buy drugs.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Joan's Hostel](#), +50378607175, Calle de Mediterraneo 12.
- ❖ [Hostal Lonigo](#), +50322644197, Calle El Mirador 4837 (Colonia Escalon).
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ El Establo, Bulevar Universitario.
- ◆ Zona Rosa (area).
- ◆ Las Terrazas, Multiplaza mall.

...Seated Down

- ◆ Teatro Presidente, Calle Circunvalacion, Zona Rosa.
- ◆ Teatro Nacional, Calle Delgado 2ª Avenida Norte.
- ◆ Teatro Luis Poma, Metrocentro 10ª etapa.

Free-Riding?

- Within San Salvador walking is not really recommendable. It's safer (and less hot) to take a bus.
- Taxi's are not the cheapest option, but can be convenient to get from place to place efficiently. Traffic jams are incredible here, so negotiate a price up front and don't let them run the meter. Only use licenses cabs (ask for an ID if you hesitate).
- There's not really a clear system with city buses. They're privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window and so is the price (cheap!). It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. To get out of San Salvador: Terminal De Occidente serves the west, Del Sur south, De Oriente the north and east. Bus 138 takes you from the airport to downtown San Salvador.
- Hitch-hiking is not recommended by locals.

Tip: Download the Triposo El Salvador app for offline maps and landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Next?

- ➔ In El Salvador: El Zonte, El Tunco, Suchitoto, Santa Ana.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Honduras, Guatemala.