



Hackett Hemwall Patterson
Foundation
Madison, WI

Improving health. Transforming lives.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL FORMATION FOR HONDURAS MEDICAL BRIGADAS
2025 Trip

Prolotherapy: Friday, Mar 7-15 **ENT:** Saturday, Mar 15-22; **Veins:** Friday, Mar 14-22

Visit [2025 Honduras Trip Documents](#) or additional clinic and trip information.

A. FLIGHTS - AIRLINE TICKETS

Prolotherapy team is picked up in San Pedro Sula.

Veins team is also picked up in San Pedro.

ENT group flies to Roatan and then flies into the La Ceiba airport. This is coordinated by the ENT directors. Mike will send you more information.

INBOUND

Prol and Veins teams: Fly into San Pedro Sula (SAP), Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport.

Your flight should land by 2:30 pm. We have buses that will drive the entire group to La Ceiba which is about a three hour drive from SAP. We aim to get the drive finished in daylight hours.

OUTBOUND:

Return flights from SAP can be no earlier than 11 am to allow time for bus travel from La Ceiba to the airport early in the morning. We will get you to the airport by 9 am which gives you the necessary 2 hours before flight departure. **NO EARLIER DEPARTURES!**

Flight alternatives: Some folks do not enjoy the long bus ride, often not air-conditioned, from SAP airport to La Ceiba. There are some alternatives, such as booking a flight on SOSA airlines in San Pedro and flying to La Ceiba, or booking your reservations through the island of Roatan, Honduras and flying from there to La Ceiba or taking the ferry service. These are more costly, of course. Please book carefully if you are going to consider these options! There may be restrictions on luggage and equipment on smaller planes.

B. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

1. PASSPORT - cannot expire within 6 months of your departure date from Honduras

2. HONDURAN CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTATION - please visit the website** below one week before departure to see updated requirements for travel to Honduras

<https://prechequeo.inm.gob.hn/pre-checkin/NewPreCheckIn>

***If you are still required to complete this, the first step is to enter your email and request an access code to begin the form. Here is additional info you may need for filling in the form.*

Immigration Office: Ramón Villeda Morales International Airport;

Destination: Hotel Gran Paris, La Ceiba;

Destination address: Calle 8, La Ceiba;

Destination State: Atlantida

Travel reason: Convention or sightseeing

3. Covid vaccination cards - You also no longer need proof or testing to enter Honduras. We recommend but are NOT requiring COVID vaccinations, nor proof of vaccination, but we strongly encourage you to have your verification or cards available in case of airline policy changes.

4. Supplies/Equipment Authorization - If you are carrying any medical supplies or equipment (ultrasounds), please email Misty Pilger to get an authorization letter so that those supplies are not confiscated or taxed. Mistypilger@hhpfoundation.org.

New since May, 2023, there may also be a \$5 charge if you are carrying any supplies or equipment for our clinics. Simply pay and get through and HHPF will reimburse you. Also, present the HHPF authorization letter if this applies to you.

C. TRAVEL DAY

1. Luggage - To help keep track of your luggage, please mark your suitcase handles, carry-ons, and backpacks with **Orange** and **Green!** This could be surveyor's tape or fabric or ribbon, whatever you can find. This helps keep track of our luggage and also helps you to identify other HHPF participants as you are at the gates in various airports around the world!

2. Arriving in San Pedro Sula: Once you clear passport control, go to the baggage claim carousels and claim your luggage. To exit that area, you must show your baggage claim ticket that you

received when you checked in. Your luggage then needs to be passed through a scanner and may be inspected.

3. Meeting place in San Pedro Sula Airport: Once in the main lobby area of the airport, turn to the right and head 100 yards to the "Food Court" area where there are a couple of fast food restaurants. We will check in and gather in that seating area - that is where you will find the group with the orange and green surveyor's tape on all the luggage. Once our last flight is in, we will load buses to travel to LaCeiba.

D. MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL

1. Travel cancellation and trip Insurance - This is STRONGLY recommended! Unfortunately there are often delays due to weather, and this may cause you to have an extra night's hotel stay or travel cost once arriving in Honduras. Honduras weather can change travel plans also. While most travel insurance policies will have the lost luggage and delayed flight coverage, it is also important to have **Medical Evacuation Insurance** - Recommended minimum is at least \$1,000,000 in coverage. It sounds like a lot, but if you have a medical emergency (illness, accident, injury) and need to get back to the US (or other home country), it costs a lot. There are many companies offering evacuation insurance including RoamRight and TravelGuard, as well as many others.

2. Vaccinations & Malaria prophylaxis - There are no requirements for vaccinations to enter Honduras, but we recommend that you are up-to-date on all routine vaccinations before you travel. We also recommend visiting the CDC and reviewing their recommendations, and then the decision to take malaria preventative medicine or other preventatives is yours: [CDC Honduras Travel Info](#). Please note that if you are going to take Chloroquine as a malaria prophylaxis, you need to start taking it 2 weeks before being in an area that has malaria. Our clinics are in cities (La Ceiba, Tela and Olanchito, not rural areas), which may affect your decision.

E. WHAT TO PACK

1. Clothing and accessories - Everyone will wear scrubs in the clinics, including assistants. While not in the clinics, casual clothes are fine. There is nothing we do or anyplace we go that casual clothes are not OK. Have a long sleeve shirt and long pants to wear in case there are mosquitoes or chilly. Typically in March, it is in the 80s-90s during the day and down to upper 60s in the evenings.

******Both the Veins and Prolo groups have a hiking outing to Pico Bonito.**

Tennis shoes will work for the outing.

2. Shoes - You must wear **closed-toed** shoes during the clinics - no sandals - for protection. You will be standing and working long days on cement floors, so having two pairs to choose from is ideal. After hours, any comfy shoes will do.

3. Laundry - There is laundry service available at all of our hotels. It is inexpensive. Typically if you drop your dirty laundry off at the front desk in the morning, it is ready for you in the evening. (You will pay in Honduran lempiras!) Usually people take 3 sets of scrubs.

4. Jewelry - It is recommended to not wear expensive or excessive jewelry or watches either in the clinic or elsewhere. The less you can do to draw attention to yourself, the better.

HHPF is not responsible for loss or damage to any personal equipment, including medical equipment.
Specialized electronics/equipment - if you are bringing equipment or supplies, like an ultrasound, print and carry the authorization letter from HHPF.

5. Other things to bring to Honduras

- passport
- camera/phone
- computer (optional)
- ultrasound (optional)
- Headlamp (optional)
- medication you will need (carry it in your carry-on luggage)
- extra pair of glasses/ contacts
- sun screen
- hat
- swimsuit - Gran Hotel Paris; Pico Bonito hiking; Tela has the ocean
- mosquito repellent
- sandals to wear when not working
- water bottle
- day pack (to carry your stuff back and forth to the clinic)
- shampoo
- soap
- hairdryer (there may be soap/ shampoo in the hotel but it is very generic)
- reading materials
- chargers for items you bring
- surge protector
- charcoal tablets as needed for gastrointestinal upset
- money belt or money bag to lock up in room (some rooms have a safe)

6. Computers and Wifi - People take their laptops to Honduras. There is WiFi in the hotel, but not in

the clinics. If you decide to take yours, make sure it is backed up... and realize that whatever you take to Honduras is your responsibility. Consider a surge protector as electricity goes on and off frequently. We have never had theft issues at any of the hotels, but please don't leave valuables out and about. HHPF is NOT responsible for your belongings!!

7. Electricity - It is the same as in the US and Canada - 110 V and uses the same plug. Just FYI, there are times when the power just goes off. It is good to have a surge protector for your computer and phone chargers. Also, please have a flashlight or headlamp with you, especially for the clinics! When the electricity goes out during the day, we work by headlamp to continue treating patients!

8. Phones - If you have a cell phone plan through which you can purchase an international plan, it's worthwhile. They vary in cost depending on your carrier, but then calls are made as you do normally. If there is Wifi, you can use WhatsApp for free. (Only the hotels have Wifi, not the clinics). Another option is to purchase a SIM card in Honduras to put into your phone for data. There is one place in the airport offering inexpensive 7 and 14 day plans, as well as many Tigo stores in the area that offer the same.

F. CLINIC / HOSPITAL LOCATIONS

Trip beginning - All participants start the mission at the Gran Hotel Paris in La Ceiba, Honduras (contact below).

1. ENT participants stay in La Ceiba and work at D'Antoni Hospital.

2. Prolo participants will have a clinic either in La Ceiba at the Cruz Roja (Red Cross) or in Tela at a local church set up as a clinic. *HHPF determines which clinic you are placed in by carefully balancing factors such as participant experience, skills, and the needs of the mission. This approach ensures that each clinic operates efficiently while providing meaningful opportunities for all participants to contribute and learn.*

3. Veins participants will have clinics in La Ceiba at the Cruz Roja (Red Cross), in Tela at a local church, or in Olanchito at a large open facility.. *HHPF determines which clinic you are placed in by carefully balancing factors such as participant experience, skills, and the needs of the mission. Your location request will be strongly considered.*

G. HOTEL ROOMS

Trip beginning - All participants start their stay at the Gran Hotel Paris in La Ceiba, Honduras. Unless you paid for a single room, you will be paired with another person (You may have indicated someone on your registration.)

1. ENT participants stay in La Ceiba and work at D'Antoni Hospital. They spend the week at Gran Hotel Paris.

2. Prolo participants will either stay at the Gran Hotel Paris or at the Hotel Sherwood in Tela

(contacts below).

3. Veins participants will stay in La Ceiba, Tela or Olanchito (contacts below).

4. Room Safety - While we have not had theft issues in the past, it is important to consider keeping your valuables locked while you are out of the room. Of the three hotels that we will be staying in, only one of them has room safes (but fewer than half of their rooms have the safes). The hotels may allow you to put an envelope (money, passport) in their front office safe, but not tablets or computers. Many of you will opt to take your computers with you to the clinic daily where they will be stored in a safe location. You may want to consider a locking bag (ie. PacSafe) that has wire mesh in it to put extra money in, computer, passport... anything that you would usually put in a hotel room safe. It has a cable to lock it to the plumbing or the bed frame. REI store and Amazon carry these and other similar safety items.

H. MONEY

1. Honduras uses Lempiras. Currently the exchange is 24/US\$; 18/Can\$

2. You can use US dollars at the airport restaurants while waiting and get change back in Lempiras (There is an ATM at the airport. It may or may not work:)).

3. You can exchange up to \$50 at the Hotel Paris lobby. There are also banks and other ATMs.

4. Most credit and debit cards are accepted.

I. FOOD

Most of the meals are served buffet style. There will always be choices for meat and vegetarian options. In your application we asked about food allergies and while we will try our best to accommodate your food preferences, please know that food restrictions like gluten-free and vegan are not as common in Honduras as they may be in other countries. We have requested that all foods and meals are prepared nut-free. Again, we will do our best to ensure your food preferences.

J. WATER

Do not drink the water from the taps. We will always have access to bottled water to drink safely or to refill your own water bottles, or to use for brushing your teeth.

K. CONTACTS

<p>Kay Weeden HHPF Pres and Service-Learning Coord. kayweeden@hhpfoundation.org 608-658-8523 (same for What's App)</p>	<p>Annette Zaharoff, MD IART/HHPF Prolotherapy Director amzsportsmd@msn.com 210-219-5920</p>
<p>Julie Olson, RNMS HHPF Lead Nurse/ HHPF treasurer julieolson@hhpfoundation.org 608-345-3875</p>	<p>Meg Spartz, MD HHPF Vein Director megspartz@gmail.com 612-845-8053</p>
<p>Chet Hermanson HHPF Honduras Logistics/transportation chethermanson@hhpfoundation.org 608-335-3758; in honduras +504 3258-2040</p>	<p>Mike McDonald, MD HHPF ENT Director michaelmcdonald@gmail.com 608-225-9356</p>
<p>Lindy McHutchison, MD Olanchito Veins Team lindymch@gmail.com 919-451-6305</p>	<p>Tatiana Zimmerman, RVT La Ceiba Veins Team/HHPF Secretary tatianazimmerman@hhpfoundation.org 919-745-7000</p>
<p>Paola Ortiz, MD La Ceiba Veins Team/HHPF Board paolaortiz@hhpfoundation.org +598 99 370 493</p>	<p>Brian Ralston, MD Prolotherapy Medical Director/HHPF Board bmralston@icloud.com 773-320-2023</p>
<p>Hotel Gran Paris La Ceiba 8 Calle Frente al Parque Central, Calle 8, La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras +504 2440-1414</p>	<p>Shannon Griffin, RN Olanchito Veins Team/ HHPF Service Comm so0304@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Hotel Sherwood Tela Avenida Guatemala, Peatonal Playera, Tela, Atlantida, Honduras +504 9472-3387</p>	<p>Hotel Beverly Olanchito Carr. Saba Olanchito, Yoro, Honduras +504 2446-2699</p>
<p>https://travel.state.gov Enroll in STEP program to receive alerts or if you have an emergency while in-country</p>	<p>US Embassy in Tegucigalpa https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/ Telephone: +504 2236-9320</p>

Thank you again for signing up to go on this all-volunteer trip! HHPF looks forward to working with you as we **Improve Health and Transform Lives.**

Visit [2025 Honduras Trip Documents](#) or additional clinic and trip information.