

## A guide for people returning to El Salvador



- To stay safe, make a friend on the bus or plane, stick together to support each other.
- Be alert and calm, blend in, and comply with the authorities.
- Avoid casual street encounters, including eye contact.
- Be prepared for bribes, have \$40-100 in cash in \$10s & \$20s in different pockets.
- Beware of criminal elements, don't use an offered cell phone to call your family.
- *Have contact information for your family in El Salvador and all documents that prove your identity and deportation status on you, not in your bag.*
- To keep your family informed, use the emergency notification app Notifica ([notifica.us](https://notifica.us)) or WhatsApp ([whatsapp.com](https://whatsapp.com)). You need wifi to use WhatsApp.

### Arrival in El Salvador

Returnees are transported from the Oscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport to the Directorate of Assistance to Migrants (DAMI) in San Salvador.

Their services: verification, provision of basic needs, and assistance to Salvadorans returned by land or air. Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If a returnee does not have economic resources or family in San Salvador, they can help with accommodations for a night.

DAMI office where your family can come get you:

Final Bulevar Cnel. Arturo Castellanos  
Colonia Quiñonez, (La Chacra), San Salvador  
(Detrás de los talleres de la Policía Nacional Civil - PNC)  
TEL: (503) 2133-7900



### Specific security precautions for El Salvador

- The Directorate of Assistance to the Migrant (DAMI) is next to an area known as "La Chacra" gang domain.
- If you do not know the area, ask in the DAMI for help with transport, directions, etc. Beware of possible coyotes or scammers who may be outside of the DAMI. They may offer untrustworthy trips or fake accommodations for those waiting until the next day to return to their homes in El Salvador.
- Avoid using certain words that currently people relate to gangs: "mara," "homeboy," "jaina," "brother," "madre," "carnal," "doggie."
- Avoid clothing and shoes with the following numbers: 13, 18, and 503 ES. Do not mention these numbers in conversation.
- If you bring your own shoes, avoid wearing Nike Cortez, and Adidas (white with three stripes).



### The process of repatriation

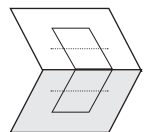
The repatriation process with DAMI includes interviews with General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (why they migrated and if they experienced abuse during the process of deportation) and the National Police (to review police records and see if there had been complaints of a crime as to why they left El Salvador).

They give a medical consultation (for a health check and to see if they need a referral to a clinic near their home), provision of basic necessities (clothes, diapers, etc.). People can ask the MRREE to get information on how to contact their relatives abroad and the possibilities of reunification in El Salvador. If a child is returned alone or with an adult, they are interviewed to ensure their best interests are served. They also give assistance about obtaining employment and about accommodations.

For more in-depth information, visit:

[afsc.org/XS/el-salvador](https://afsc.org/XS/el-salvador)

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