

Itinerary

DAY 1 - MONDAY

Flights into Guatemala City. We leave today for the tour of a lifetime! Flights from your city will connect through Houston, where we all fly down to Guatemala City together (You may use your own airline arrangements, such as frequent flyer. (Inquire for details). Arriving in the evening, we will easily pass through customs, claim our luggage, and transfer to the luxurious, New York style hotel, the Grand Tikal.

Accommodations: -5 Star Grand Tikal Hotel

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

Obsidian Mines, Copan Mayan Ruins, Honduras. Today we travel to Guatemala's neighbor, the beautiful country of Honduras. We will spend the afternoon viewing the gorgeous ruins of Copan. Harvard University has worked here for over a century. Like walking on the nicely mowed lawns of a football field, you will easily explore numerous restored buildings, ball courts, palaces, temples, and pyramids. The evening will be spent at the town of Copan, located right at the ruins at a lovely colonial hotel. Enjoy a wonderful, safe traditional Honduras town.

Accommodations: -3 Star (best in town) Marina Copan Colonial Hotel

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

Quirigua Mayan Ruins, Guatemala City, Kaminaljuyu Mayan Ruins, Antigua Guatemala. Headed back to Guatemala today, we stop at the wonderful ruins of Quirigua. Like Copan, seeing these ruins is like a walk in a well-groomed park. You will see the tallest stone monuments in the Americas here. In the afternoon, we head back to Guatemala City. Here we will see Kaminaljuyu (ka-me-nal-who-you, called K.J. for short), the ancient highland capital and most powerful ancient city of the Highlands. View ancient temple mounds, the earliest of which date between 600-500 B.C. Finally, we head to Antigua, the old colonial capital of Central America. Delightful Antigua is filled with colonial history and tradition. It has also become a town of schools and arts. Antigua is located about 45 minutes up through the mountains from the capital city.

Accommodations: -5 Star Casa Santo Domingo. This hotel is indescribably beautiful. Built over the ruins of a 16th century monastery, Casa Santo Domingo is the hotel of choice for the millionaires of Guatemala. Everywhere you go you hear running water in stone-carved fountains. Hundreds of candles light the halls. Massive fresh flower arrangements adorn every corner. Here, the cuisine is to die for!

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

This morning take a tour of the city of Antigua, or relax at the hotel, then off to Lake Atitlán. Atmosphere and ambience describe the next leg of our tour and next 3 days. The pine-forested highlands offer an experience you will never forget. The scenic highlight of the trip, the highlands are called "the Land of Eternal Spring" because of the wonderful temperate climate all year round. In the afternoon, enjoy the paradise that is Lake Atitlán and the gorgeous Hotel Atitlán.

Accommodations: 4.5-5 Star Hotel Atitlán. For many, the experience at Hotel Atitlán rivals Casa Santo Domingo. For some, it is the ultimate hotel experience because of its setting. The Hotel sits upon acres of flower gardens, immaculately groomed by a team of gardeners. An incredible variety of tropical and higher altitude flowers are grown here. Artists and writers will spend weeks on end here. Millionaires bring their children here for immaculate wedding receptions. The setting and scenery is absolutely stunning, and the cuisine is delicious. On the shores of Lake Atitlán, Hotel Atitlán is a secret paradise.

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

Free Day with several options. Quetzaltenago option. Panajachel. Today is designed as a rest day for those who need it. Otherwise, we have some wonderful options. Today is our "anthropology" day. Experience the wonderful Highland Maya peoples. Take an excursion to the famous Chichicastenago market, or a boat ride to any number of small Maya villages around the lake. Walk into town from the Hotel. Panajachel has a wonderful artisan market and a museum with pottery brought up from under the lake. Even diving opportunities in the Lake are available. Take the opportunity again to explore the wonderful setting of Hotel Atitlán.

Accommodations: 2nd night at the luxurious Hotel Atitlán

DAY 6 - SATURDAY

Boat ride on Lake Atitlán, Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala City. Today we take a ride on breathtaking Lake Atitlán. Our first stop is a bay where sunken ruins have been discovered. Next, explore the market town of Santiago Atitlán, with its colorful people and crafts. Leaving the Lake, we take a short ride to the town of Solola. Notice the red blouses of the Mayan ladies, each uniquely and exquisitely embroidered, and the red pants and brown aprons of the men. Each tribe has its own color schemes. Heading back to Guatemala City in the afternoon, we will visit Iximche ruins if time permits. Upon our arrival in Guatemala City, we will check in to our final hotel, the 5 star Quinta Real. This hotel is perhaps the most elegant of the trip. You will feel like you are in the “lifestyles of the rich and famous” at Quinta Real.

Accommodations: -The Luxurious 5 Star Quinta Real Hotel of Guatemala City

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

Day trip and flight to the ruins of Tikal. Your ancient America tour culminates today at the ruins of Tikal (Tee-call). In the morning, we fly very early to northern Guatemala to the town of Flores. From here we have a short drive to Tikal. Hands down, these ruins are considered by most travelers as the most impressive anywhere in the Americas. At the ruins you will enjoy the day viewing towering pyramids with breathtaking temples set in the heart of the jungle. Those who feel up to it will climb temple IV, and view Tikal’s tallest pyramids poking out of the top of the jungle’s canopy forest. In the afternoon we will fly back to Guatemala City. Tonight, we will enjoy dinner together for our last time.

Accommodations: -2nd night in a row at the Luxurious Quinta Real Hotel of Guatemala City

DAY 8 – MONDAY

Guatemala National Museum, flights home. In the morning, we will visit the National Museum of Anthropology. Here we will see many of the greatest Mayan works of art, the treasures of Guatemala. We will then head to the airport and board our flights home on Continental Airlines.