



GUATEMALA

History and culture wrapped in nature & packed with green.

Day 1 – ARRIVAL TO GUATEMALA CITY AIRPORT

Welcome to the land of the eternal spring! Meet and greet by our guide at La Aurora International Airport, then short transfer to our hotel in Guatemala City.

Dinner and overnight at Barcelo Guatemala City Hotel or similar.

Day 2– GUATEMALA CITY – FLIGHT TO FLORES – TIKAL NATIONAL PARK ADVENTURE

After an early breakfast, around 7:00am, depart to the airport to board the flight to the jungle of Peten, birthplace of the Mayan Civilization; the plane leaves at 9:10hrs and arrives at 10:10hr.

Upon arrival, transfer to **Tikal National Park**, nestled in the lush tropical rainforest of northern Guatemala. Explore the magnificent ruins of Tikal, one of the largest urban centers of the ancient Maya civilization. Discover its towering pyramids, significant historical heritage, and vibrant connections to contemporary Mayan descendants.

Enjoy a **guided walking tour** through key plazas, complexes, and temples while immersing yourself in the tropical surroundings, home to exotic birds and diverse wildlife.

Your first local **lunch** will be at a charming rancho in the heart of the jungle.

At the afternoon **check in at a unique jungle lodge** within the park. Experience the sounds of nature as you unwind in this eco-friendly accommodation, powered by solar energy. Note that electricity is available from 6 PM to 10 PM, providing just enough power to charge devices and light the bathroom. Disconnect and embrace the tranquility of the jungle. If you require electrical medical supplies, please let us know in advance.

Dinner and overnight at Jungle Lodge Tikal Hotel or similar.





Day 3– TIKAL SUNRISE – LIVINGSTON

Start your day with an **amazing night walk**. Meet in the lobby at 3:30am for coffee before heading out under a starlit sky to Temple IV, the tallest structure built in the Americas in the 16th century. Experience the awakening of the jungle and, if lucky, witness the sunrise, KINICH AHAU, on the horizon.

Return to the hotel for a hearty **breakfast**.

Begin our journey to the Caribbean side of Guatemala. Enjoy stunning scenery along the way, including views of lush nature, wildlife, and the beautiful **Izabal Lake**.

Arrive in Modesto Mendez town and embark on a **boat ride** along the river. Take in the vibrant vegetation and rural communities as you glide toward the Caribbean Sea.

First stop at **Playa Blanca**, a pristine beach perfect for relaxation and a **delicious lunch**.

Continue by boat to **Livingston**, a unique town inhabited by the Garifuna people, descendants of Carib Indians and African slaves. Learn about their rich history and cultural heritage.

At the evening enjoy **dinner** at the hotel restaurant, **featuring a lively Garifuna dance performance**.

Overnight at Villa Caribe hotel or similar.

Day 4 – LIVINGSTON – RIO DULCE – COBAN – BEGIN OF SELF DRIVE

After breakfast set out for **Rio Dulce National Park**. Enjoy a scenic **boat ride along Guatemala's most beautiful river**, passing towering cliffs, 150-meter-high mountains, and small Mayan settlements.

Next visit the **Ak-Tenamit project**, a school serving hundreds of underprivileged Maya children from across the country.

Continue through the **mangrove jungle for birdwatching opportunities**, including a visit to the Island of Birds.





End the boat tour at **Saint Felipe Fort**, where you'll meet your jeep team for a self-drive experience through the stunning landscapes of Guatemala.

Begin of our Self-Drive Experience: After a brief orientation, drive for approximately 40 minutes to Finca Paraiso. Here, enjoy a refreshing walk to a unique waterfall where hot and cold waters mix, perfect for a natural pool experience.

Enjoy a picnic **lunch** in the natural park.

Continue driving through quaint, non-touristic **Maya villages** as you make your way to **San Cristobal Verapaz**.

Arrive at your hotel, Paniste Boutique Hotel or similar.

Enjoy a free evening to explore local dining options at your leisure.

Day 5 – SEMUC CHAMPEY

After breakfast, Drive to **Lanquin** town, with a brief stop to stretch your legs before continuing to Natural Park Semuc Champey. Discover one of the region's most stunning natural wonders. Marvel at the limestone mountains rising 200 meters high, shaped over millions of years by the Cahabón River.

Hike to the lookout point for breathtaking views of the turquoise pools and surrounding mountains.

Enjoy a walk to the **Sumidero**, where the river has carved an underground cave—a remarkable natural phenomenon. **Swim and Relax** in blue-green pools, fed by mineral water from the mountains.

Lunch at a local restaurant, tasting regional flavors.

Optional: For those interested, our guide will suggest a stop at a local market for food, fruits, or school supplies (you may also bring items from home). Visit a local family to learn about their rural lifestyle.

Return to your hotel in the afternoon. **Dinner at your leisure.**





Day 6 – COBAN – CHICHICASTENANGO, EXPLORING THE HIGHLANDS & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

After breakfast, leave for the **western highlands of Quiché**. This will be a scenic drive through charming Maya villages, offering glimpses of rural life as you pass two mountain ranges.

Arrive during the afternoon at the Magical town of **Chichicastenango**. If time permits, we may pause to witness the sunset at the region's most colorful cemetery.

After **checking in at our hotel**, take a short walk to meet Tomasa Calel, a member of a respected family of shamans. Experience a **traditional Maya blessing ceremony** at Pascual Abaj, a sacred hill, led by Tomasa, a fourth-generation shaman.

Dinner: Enjoy a special dinner at Tomasa's home, where you can savor authentic local cuisine.

Overnight: Stay at Santo Tomas Hotel, where you can relax after a day filled with culture and stunning landscapes.

Day 7 – CHICHICASTENANGO – QUETZALTENANGO

Enjoy breakfast before heading on a walking tour to the vibrant **outdoor textile market**, the largest in the country. This market truly comes alive on Thursdays and Sundays when local K'iche Mayans arrive from nearby villages. **Chichicastenango**, known as Chichi, is not just a marketplace; it's a vital center of Maya traditions, famously referred to as the town where "the mountains listen." Here, you can visit the Santo Tomás Church, a beautiful blend of Catholicism and Maya rituals.

Enjoy a traditional meal at a local restaurant along the way.

After lunch, we'll drive to **Quetzaltenango**, the second-largest city in Guatemala.

Overnight at Pension Bonifaz Hotel or similar.

Dinner at your own leisure.





Day 8 – QUETZALTENANGO – SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND CHICABAL VOLCANO.

After breakfast, we'll go on a scenic drive filled with vibrant markets and local life, showcasing an array of fresh fruits and vegetables. Our first stops will be the towns of **Zunil** and **Almolonga**, known for their colorful, authentic markets and stunning landscapes, featuring diverse plantations.

Next, we'll head to **Chicabal Volcano and its lagoon**. The drive offers breathtaking views but can be challenging. Upon arrival, we'll hike to the volcano's crater to admire the mystical lagoon. With some luck, we might witness local shamans performing their ceremonies.

Enjoy the cool mountain air as we explore the area.

Return to your hotel for the afternoon at leisure and overnight.

Dinner at your own leisure.

Day 9 – QUETZALTENANGO – LAKE ATITLAN.

After breakfast, we'll drive through stunning landscapes towards **Sololá province**. Once we reach the Pan-American Highway, enjoy breathtaking views of the **Sierra Madre volcanic chain**. Our first stop will be the vibrant **Sololá market**, where you'll find a colorful mix of textiles, vegetables, and more. We'll also visit the main church and central plaza. Continuing a few kilometers further, we'll arrive at **Lake Atitlán**, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.

Enjoy **lunch** at a local restaurant in town.

Afternoon checking into our lovely hotel.

Enjoy a short walk to **Panajachel**, the largest and most important town along the lake's shore.

An optional visit to the **Atitlán Natural Reserve**, where you can enjoy activities like zip-lining, walking on hanging bridges, and exploring a butterfly geodome.

Dinner at your own leisure.

Overnight at Atitlan Hotel and Gardens, or similar.





Day 10 – BOAT VISIT OF SANTIAGO ATITLAN & SAN JUAN LA LAGUNA

After breakfast, board our **private boat for a scenic trip on Lake Atitlán**. Enjoy stunning views and explore local Mayan villages to experience traditional life in the area. Our first stop is **San Juan La Laguna**, where you'll have the chance to interact with locals and learn about their daily customs and traditions. Visit associations that work with natural dyes and traditional textile manufacturing, along with several artisan workshops.

Next, we'll continue by boat to **Santiago Atitlán**, known for its worship of Maximón, a revered Mayan deity.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Return to your hotel for the overnight.

Day 11 – LAKE ATITLAN – ACATENANGO VOLCANO

Begin your day with an American breakfast at the hotel. Afterward, enjoy a scenic off-road drive to Antigua Guatemala. Upon arrival, we'll head directly to **Ciudad Vieja**, where we'll conclude our self-drive adventure at an artisanal beer factory and restaurant. Here, you can relax with included pizza and beer for **lunch**.

After lunch, prepare for an unforgettable journey. We'll drive through nearby towns for a glimpse of local life before transitioning from paved roads to dirt as we approach **a farm at the base of Volcán Acatenango**.

We'll spend about an hour on dirt roads before parking and setting on a moderate **hike along Acatenango's ridge**. This scenic trail will take us through coniferous and tropical dry forests, offering stunning views of Volcán Agua and glimpses of the active Volcán Fuego.

Upon reaching our campsite, you'll have time to rest and enjoy the magical views while our local team prepares a meal and hot chocolate. Be sure to bring warm clothing, including a suitable jacket, gloves, hat, and comfortable shoes (preferably not brand new). We also have warm gear available for those who need it. Around 8:00 PM, we'll return to the parking area and drive back to Antigua Guatemala.

Dinner & Overnight at Casa Santo Domingo Hotel and Museum or similar.





Day 12 – ANTIGUA GUATEMALA.

After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a **walking tour of Antigua Guatemala**, known as the most beautiful city in Central America and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once the capital of Central America for over 240 years, Antigua boasts a rich history despite being nearly destroyed by devastating earthquakes.

During the tour, visit key landmarks including Calle del Arco, La Merced Church, San Francisco Church, the Cathedral, and Tanque la Unión.

Enjoy free time for [lunch at your leisure](#).

Continue exploring the charming streets and notable sites of Antigua.

In the evening Gather for a **farewell dinner** at a special local Restaurant.

[Return to your hotel for overnight](#).

Day 13 – BACK HOME

Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel. Four hours before your flight, we'll drive to the International Airport.

Optional Activity:

- If time permits, we'll head to Guatemala City for a brief tour. Experience the cultural and socio-economic diversity of the capital with a glimpse into its vibrant atmosphere. Our first stop will be the Relief Map (Mapa en Relieve), a stunning 3D replica of Guatemala's diverse terrain. This impressive map, created over 100 years ago, showcases the country's cities, towns, volcanoes, rivers, lakes, plateaus, and valleys at a scale of 1:10,000 kilometers, all crafted without modern technology.





Tour includes:

- ✓ All Transfer and transportation as per itinerary.
- ✓ The trip is accompanied by a certified English-speaking tour guide.
- ✓ 8 Days of 4WD SELF-DRIVE – 4 Travelers per car.
(Toyota Fortuner rent and fuel included).
- ✓ Accommodation as per itinerary
- ✓ Daily breakfast is included at all hotels along the journey.
- ✓ 08 Lunch mentioned in the program.
- ✓ 06 Diners mentioned in the program. (Beverages are not included).
- ✓ Entrance fees as mentioned in the program.
- ✓ Air ticket Guatemala – Flores (one way).
- ✓ Private boat ride Rio Sarstoon – Playa Blanca – Livingston – Rio Dulce.
- ✓ Private boat ride on Lake Atitlan.
- ✓ 4x4 Acatenango Volcano night tour.
- ✓ Purified bottles of water and snacks are available in the car.

Not included

- ✓ Personal expenses or Laundry.
- ✓ Meals or drinks not mentioned in this program.
- ✓ Tips for local guides drivers or any other assistance received along the journey.

