

CENTRAL AMERICA MULTI COUNTRY - EL MIRADOR TREK



TRIP CODE

GUTSAMT8

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Guatemala



INTRODUCTION

Hike to the forgotten and abandoned Mayan city of El Mirador, deep in the jungles of Guatemala and location of one of the highest pyramids in the Mayan world. This remote wilderness hike takes you to the incredible ruins of this ancient city that can only be reached on foot, by horse or by helicopter. The ruins lie in the Mirador Basin that forms part of the vast Maya Biosphere Reserve, one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the world. Here jaguar, puma, anteaters and scarlet macaws roam amongst the dense tract of pristine jungle. Rarely visited due to its remote location off the beaten track and main tourist trail, El Mirador really is a secret wonder of Guatemala and the Mayan world.




ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrival into Guatemala City

On arrival into Guatemala City Airport, you will be met and taken by private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Home to a third of the country's population, Guatemala City, the capital, is an intense, sprawling mix of contrasts. Chaotic markets are flanked by modern government buildings, frantically busy bus stations sit beneath tall skyscrapers and cosmopolitan malls compete with presidential palaces. Guate (as it is commonly referred to) may not have a stellar reputation, but the city does have its good side. There are fascinating museums and cultural landmarks, good restaurants and upmarket hotels.



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DAY 2: Fly to Flores, El Mirador Trek

After an early breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred to Guatemala City Airport for your flight to Flores. Although it covers nearly one-third of the country, El Petén is Guatemala's most sparsely populated department. Here, parrots and monkeys far outnumber people, and the crumbling ruins of the ancient Mayas are the main draw card. A large tract of El Petén belongs to the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a wildlife haven that stretches from Belize through Guatemala to Mexico. The Tikal archaeological site is the department's main tourist attraction, but there are many other archaeological ruins including Yaxhá, Ceibal, Aguateca, and Uaxactún. El Petén's main towns include Flores and El Remate, both providing easy access to Tikal and the Mundo Maya International Airport. On arrival into Flores you will transfer by 4x4 vehicle to the remote village of Carmelita (3 hours) for the start of your El Mirador jungle trek. From Carmelita you will continue by foot or horse to El Tintal camp (7 hours) - half way between Carmelita and El Mirador. El Tintal is an important archaeological site that dates back to 1000-400 B.C.




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DAY 3: El Tintal Camp to EL Mirador

Your El Mirador trek continues today with a 7 hour trek through the jungle to the Mayan ruins of El Mirador. You will have dinner and camp overnight at El Mirador. The forgotten Mayan city of El Mirador is a vast pre-Columbian settlement that rose to prominence centuries before Tikal. El Mirador overshadows Tikal in terms of size and at its height it was home to over 100,000 people. It is the site of La Danta, the tallest structure in the Mayan world and one of the largest pyramids in the world, reaching a height of 72 metres. It is believed to have been used for rituals and religious ceremonies.



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DAY 4: El Mirador

Today is spent exploring the Mayan pre-classic city of El Mirador. Many archaeologists speculate that El Mirador was the first major organised settlement of the Maya. The ruins are of such staggering size and proportion that they dominate more popular sites such as Tikal. They are however totally overgrown and unexcavated providing visitors with a view of how they must have looked when the first explorers arrived there. Among the buildings is El Tigre Pyramid that rises to 55 metres and overlooks the lush jungle canopy of the Mirador Basin.



DAY 5: Return to El Tintal Camp

Today you will trek 7 hours back to El Tintal Camp where you will camp overnight.



DAY 6: El Tintal Camp to Flores

Another 7 hour trek takes you from El Tintal Camp to the community of Carmelita where the 4x4 vehicle will be waiting to transport you back to Flores and to your hotel for the night.



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DAY 7: Flores to Guatemala City


After breakfast at your hotel you will be transferred to Flores Airport for your flight to Guatemala City. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



DAY 8: Depart Guatemala City

After breakfast at the hotel you will have a private transfer to Guatemala City Airport for your onwards flight.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels and Tents
Inclusions	<div> All breakfasts Other meals where indicated Accommodation as mentioned, double occupancy Tours and activities as mentioned Transport as mentioned, in minibus Domestic flights as mentioned Local taxes </div> <div> Not Included: Alcoholic beverages or additional beverages with meals International flights Airport taxes Border fees Tips and gratuities for drivers and guides Personal expenses Meals not indicated </div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Upgrades are available such as superior room types (at some hotels), different hotels, additional activities during free time, transfers in SUV or 4x4 vehicles, charter flights and helicopter tours and transfers; for a supplemental cost. Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.