

BELIZE & GUATEMALA - HIGHLIGHTS OF GUATEMALA



TRIP CODE

GUTSHOG

DEPARTURE

Every Tuesday & Friday

DURATION

7 Days

LOCATIONS

Guatemala



INTRODUCTION

This seven day trip offers a comprehensive tour of Guatemala's highlights including ancient ruins, pristine Lake Atitlan and the colonial city of Antigua. Start in Antigua which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy the many cultural and historical highlights and features of this colourful, colonial city and have the opportunity to visit local markets and practice Spanish with the locals! Explore the magnificent Lake Atitlan before rounding off the journey in the Tikal National Park. Here, marvel at the 3,000 ancient structures that rise from the forest floor and follow in the footsteps of the ancient Mayans.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Guatemala City Airport - Antigua
Guatemala

Arrival to the airport, transfer-in toward Antigua Guatemala for accommodation.

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DAY 2: Antigua Guatemala


Breakfast. Departure from your hotel to visit Antigua Guatemala America’s Colonial Monument, Antigua Guatemala, named so by the beauty and greatness of the colonial buildings. The town is protected by the surrounding eternal guards, the Volcanoes of Agua, Fuego, and Acatenango. Antigua was founded in 1543, as the third capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala and partially destroyed in 1773 by the Santa Marta Earthquakes. Go over cobblestoned streets to visit the Plaza de Armas, Palace of the Captains, the Cathedral, churches, and monasteries. Continue visiting the Jade factory and the handicraft market. You will also visit nearby towns of San Antonio Aguascalientes and Ciudad Vieja. At the end of the tour, return to your hotel for accommodations.

DAY 3: Antigua - Chichicastenango - Lake Atitlan

Breakfast. Transfer from your hotel to the Guatemalan Highlands along the Panamerican Highway to Chichicastenango, a quiche Indian town surrounded by hills and mountains that jealously keep the inhabitants’ traditions, as they melt their prehispanic and catholic rituals at the 400 years old church of Santo Tomas, built on the remains of a Mayan Temple. Here, market days, Thursdays and Sundays, acquire great meaning and smoky incense impregnates the atmosphere with mysticism and religiosity. People barter their product and the market explodes with color, tradition, and folklore. At proper time, transfer to Panajachel, a village located on the shores of Lake Atitlan. Considered as one of the most beautiful lakes around the world, also three volcanoes Atitlan, Tolimán, and San Pedro are protecting the lake. At the end of the tour, you will be transferred to the Hotel for accommodations.

DAY 4: Boat Ride Santiago Atitlan-Lake Atitlan-Guatemala

Breakfast. At indicated time, you will enjoy a morning boat trip to Santiago Atitlán. This village is located on the south part of Lake Atitlan, on the skirts of the Atitlan Volcano. On a very short walking, you will visit the church of Santiago Apostol and then visit the confraternity of Maximón. At indicated time, transfer from Panajachel to Guatemala City.

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DAY 5: Guatemala City - Flores - Tikal - Flores


Box breakfast will be delivered by the hotel. At 05:00 am, you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight to Mundo Maya International Airport in Peten. At arrival, visit to the Archaeological Site of Tikal “Place of Voices”, surrounded by the tropical forest that has kept Tikal in its millennial dream. Visit the main Plaza and the Temple of the Great Jaguar, central acropolis, Mundo Perdido and temple IV from where you can observe the majesty of the city and the emerald green jungle. After lunch (included - no drinks), transfer to the selected hotel for accommodations.

DAY 6: Flores - Yaxha - Topoxte - Flores - Guatemala

Breakfast. At indicated time, transfer to the Archaeological Site of Yaxha and Topoxté. Upon arrival, visit the site of Yaxha, then boat trip on the Yaxha Lagoon to visit the Site Topoxté, from where you can observe nature mixed with the archaeological importance of the place, returning to the visitor center for lunch at Camp El Sombrero (excluding drinks). In time transfer to the Mundo Maya International Airport to board flight back to Guatemala City. Upon arrival, transfer to the selected hotel for accommodations.

DAY 7: Hotel - Airport - Guatemala


Breakfast. Transfer to Airport for boarding the flight that will take you home or an optional tour.

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	Includes: Accommodations, daily breakfast, hotel taxes, shared transfers and tours, guide during the tours, entrance fees, lunch in Tikal, lunch in Yaxha, boat trip in Lake Atitlan and Yaxha.

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Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available Upon request
Notes	Upgrades are available such as private tours, superior room types (at some hotels), different hotels, additional activities during free time, transfers in SUV or 4x4 vehicles, charter flights, helicopter transfers and additional tours for a supplemental cost.
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.