

8335-A Howard Dr. (713) 947.9001

6200 Bellaire (Fiesta) (713) 272.8686

## Guatemala | Tours | Complete Guatemala



#### **Itinerary**

#### Day 1: Welcome to Guatemala

Upon arrival to Guatemala City you will be met by our staff for the transfer to Antigua.

## Day 2: Antigua Guatemala

Visit Antigua Guatemala, a colonial city declared by UNESCO "Cultural Heritage of Humankind". We begin in Antigua's Historic Centre, starting from the Main Plaza and visiting the main monuments of the city.

## Day 3: Antigua AM at leisure /Lake Atitlán

Transfer to Lake Atitlán. Lake Atitlán was formed by a caldera (collapsed volcanic cone) and is surrounded by three impressive volcanoes (San Pedro, Atitlán and Tolimán) and 12 picturesque Maya-Cakchiquel and Maya.Tzutuhil villages.

In Panajachel, enjoy leisure time to relax by the lake's shores and enjoy the breathtaking vistas of the volcanoes, or to explore the main street crowded with colorful handicrafts.

## Día 4: Santiago Atitlán

Today you will visit Santiago Atitlán, one of the twelve villages that surround the lake.

Departure in the morning by boat to the Maya-Tzutuhil village of Santiago Atitlán, famous for Maximón, a character that is widely worshiped by the inhabitants of Santiago.



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#### Day 5: Chichicastenango

Departure to Chichicastenango, where you will see the most colorful and picturesque outdoor market in Guatemala, where every Thursday and Sunday locals from the region, gather to buy and sell fruits, vegetables, flowers, grains, animals, textiles and handicrafts. Relevant is the visit to the Santo Tomás Church, where the Maya-Quiché pray to their gods according to the old Maya traditions.

In the afternoon continue to Guatemala City.

#### Day 6: Copán (Honduras)

Departure to Honduras (5hrs). After short border formalities, you will arrive to one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the Maya World: Copán, declared by UNESCO a "World Heritage Site". Copán presents a sophisticated architectural style and a unique art for stone carving. Visit the main plazas, complexes and monuments.

#### NOTE: FROM COPÁN YOU CONTINUE FOR EXTENSIONS TO ROATÁN ISLAND OR TELA

#### Day 7: Quirigúa/Pto. Barrios/Livingston

On the way to Puerto Barrios we will visit Quiriguá, a unique archaeological site surrounded by the largest banana plantation in Central America. Declared by UNESCO "Cultural Heritage of Humankind", Quiriguá is famous for having the tallest stone-carved stelae in the Maya World. After the visit, continue to Puerto Barrios, where you will take a boat ride to the Garífuna town of Livingston, located where Río Dulce meets the Caribbean Sea.

# Day 8: Playa Blanca

Playa Blanca, a white sand beach, accessible only by a 30-minute boat ride from Livingston, to relax and enjoy the sun and sea. Afternoon at leisure.



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#### Day 9: Río Dulce (San Felipe Fortress)

Boat ride through Río Dulce. Admire the lush tropical forest, hundreds of birds and the impressive Río Dulce Canyon. Visit to Castillo de San Felipe. In the early XVI century, the commercial activity between Guatemala and Spain flourished throughout the former Golfo Dulce. This fortress was built to protect the merchandise from the pirates of the Gulf of Mexico. After the visit, continue to Flores.

## Day 10: Yaxhá

The Northern part of Guatemala was the birthplace of the great Mayan Civilization. The region witnessed the rise and fall of this ancient culture that was a very advanced stratified society which lived harmoniously with nature. The Maya were excellent astronomers and mathematicians and developed a complex hieroglyphic scripture. They were also very skilled in arts, stone carving and architecture, and established a vast commercial net-work from the North of Mexico to Costa Rica. The fall and collapse of this great civilization is still a true enigma.

In the morning transfer to the archaeological site of Yaxhá ("Turquoise Water"), considered an important civic and ceremonial site during the Mayan Classic Period; it is settled on a hill overlooking the beautiful Laguna de Yaxhá and Laguna Sacnab. Yaxhá is the only site in Petén, besides Tikal, that has a "Twin Pyramid Complex".

#### Day 11: Tikal

Visit to Tikal National Park. Declared "Cultural Heritage of Humankind" by UNESCO. This majestic Mayan city is considered the largest and most monumental of all of the sites discovered in the Mayan World. Guided walking visit to the most important plazas, complexes and temples, enjoying as well the tropical forest, nesting place of hundreds of exotic birds and the habitat of a wide variety of wildlife.

NOTE: FROM FLORES YOU CONTINUE FOR EXTENSIONS TO CHIAPAS, CANCÚN OR BELIZE.

## Day 12: AM at leisure / PM FRS/GUA

AM at leisure to relax or enjoy optional tours (Ceibal; Ixpanpajul; etc). In the afternoon, transfer to the airport to board a plane to Guatemala.



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## Day 13: Guatemala City Tour

Guatemala City tour featuring visits to the National Palace of Culture (former "National Palace", government offices), Cathedral, Main Square, Civic Center, Residencial Zones, Relief Map, etc.

## Day 14: See you soon

At the specified time, transfer from the hotel to the airport for your flight back home.

## The Package Includes:

#### **Prices include:**

Itinerary and described hotels (subject to availability)

Ground transportation with tour guide (private services).

Daily American Breakfast (13); lunches in Tikal and Yaxhá.

Boat ride in Lake Atitlán (SIB for 2-3 pax); Puerto Barrios/Livingston; Playa Blanca;

Livingston/Río Dulce.

Entrance fees

Local guide fee at Copán

#### Not included:

Personal expenses

Flight FRS/GUA (see supplement. Subject to change)

Airport security tax (\$3.00)

Border fee in Honduras (\$5.00)

Tips for bellboy, maid, tour guide and driver

Beverages and meals not mentioned

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# **Notes:**

"Transfer In" with guide only for 7 + pax

No tour guide services for days 12 and 14

Day 7 – Boat from Río Dulce/Livingston for 2 to 3 pax