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Lago Atitlan
Antigua | Tikal



2023/2024



7 to 10 Days



6 to 10
Adventurers



Adventure Tour of Guatemala



Overview

Guatemala is one of our favorite destinations! It offers something for everybody and it is still relatively undiscovered. During our first trip to this country in 1999, we were blown away by the sheer beauty of the natural landscapes and volcanoes. Over the years, we also discovered so much wonderful culture and adventure experiences.

On this trip, we will learn about Mayan history and archeology; experience the colorful markets and textile traditions; explore the extensive rain forests and tropical wildlife; and meet the friendly people. Most importantly, this will be an opportunity to connect with like minded people who are passionate about exploring and experiencing new things together.

On this small and personalized tour (6 to 8 guests max) we will be visiting the western highlands of **Antigua**, **Lago Atitlan** and also fly north to explore the **Mayan ruins of Tikal**.



HIGHLIGHTS

Personalized trip design with the right balance of adventure y culture
Dedicated locale guide, Juan Diego, for an authentic experience



Antigua (3 Nights)

- Explore the rich history of this charming colonial city
- Climb Pacaya Volcano and see the lava flow
- Bird Watching in the Canopy Cloud Forest
- Biking tour of Antigua Valley and surrounding villages
- Experience the eclectic food and bar scene (many started by expats)

Lake Atitlan (4 Nights)

- Lakeside villa with stunning views of the surrounding volcanoes
- Climb a volcano (San Pedro, Atitlan or Nariz del Indio)
- Visit Chichicastenango (the largest open-air market in Central America)
- Tour local villages and visit local artisans (textile, coffee, bee apiary, art)
- Kayaking from Santa Catarina to Panajachel
- Relax in the private pool and/or hot tub as the sun sets over the lake
- Private local chef creating authentic meals with local ingredients

Tikal (2 nights)

OPTIONAL ADD ON

- Explore the ruins of the ancient Mayan city of Tikal
- Keep your eyes peeled for howler monkeys, tropical birds and jaguars



ANTIGUA



Nestled in the forested hills of southern Guatemala, the enchanting city of Antigua was once the most prominent seat of Spanish colonial government between Mexico and Peru. Founded in the early 16th century, it served as Guatemala's capital for almost 300 years. Now, the city's cobbled streets with views of the imposing Volcán de Agua to the south, and the twin peaks of Volcán de Fuego and Acatenango to the west — are lined with farm-to-table restaurants, contemporary art galleries and design studios

ANTIGUA

Day 1

JOURNEY TO THE ENCHANTING CITY OF ANTIGUA

Pick up at the airport or your hotel, followed by a scenic drive through the Central Guatemalan Highlands. Lunch at an organic farm midway through the drive. Arrive at Villa, unpack and relax, maybe a swim or a hot tub soak while catching the erupting volcanoes surrounding Antigua.

**Lunches and dinners are not included during the Antigua stay. There are too many amazing local restaurants to try. We will recommend a few gems, including Meson Panza Verde and Casa Santo Domingo, and we will make group reservations.*

Day 2

EXPLORING ANTIGUA BY BIKE AND ON FOOT

Breakfast at Villa. Start the day with exploring the scenic Antigua valley on bike. Riding on back roads and trails, you'll pass through local villages, farms and fields getting a glimpse into life in Guatemala. We will stop at a local macadamia farm and beer hall. Back to Villa to shower and relax a bit. Then off to Antigua to get some lunch. Afternoon walking tour of historic Antigua with a large emphasis on Santa Domingo, a huge hotel/museum built in and around the ruins of an old monastery dating back to 1538. We could easily spend two days here! Dinner in town (not included).

Day 3

CLIMB THE ACTIVE PACAYA VOLCANO

Breakfast at Villa. Hour long drive to the foothills of the active Pacaya volcano. Here you will hike through fragrant pine forest to the tough volcanic ash section and then to the sulfur smoking cone. During the hike you may even see little eruptions and lava flow and when at the summit take in the amazing views of the northern volcanoes, pacific lowlands and El Salvador. Rest of the day is spent at your leisure to check out any of the amazing shops, art studios and historical ruins. Dinner in town (not included).

LAKE ATITLAN



Lake Atitlan is one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and both an incredibly tranquil and cultural place. It is an ancient crater lake formed from a collapsed volcano (over 80,000 years ago) leaving a picturesque body of water surrounded by stunning volcanoes. The area is composed of many small Mayan villages and towns, ranging from tiny (Jaibalito) to quite large (Santiago Atitlan – 50,000 pop.), each with their own unique personality.

LAKE ATITLAN

Day 4

JOURNEY TO LAKE ATITLAN

Breakfast at Villa. Scenic drive through the Central Guatemalan Highlands en route to the Lake Atitlan. Lunch at an organic farm midway through the drive. Arrival at Villa in the afternoon, unpack and relax poolside, enjoying stunning views of Lake Atitlan. Optional evening walk in Santa Catarina or San Antonio Polopo. Dinner prepared by our private chef.

Day 5

EXPLORING THE LOCAL VILLAGES

Breakfast at Villa. Kayak from our dock to Panajachel. Board our private lancha (boat) and cross the lake to discover the village of San Juan, a great place to see the Indigenous Arts of the Lake. We will visit a co-op where you will watch as local artisans describe the processes involved in the textile weavings so native to this area. From dying the wool with plant materials to spinning and weaving, you will see it all. We will also visit a bee apiary farm and lovely garden of native medicinal plants and herbs that are still in use today by the Mayan people as well as a local coffee producer. From there we will boat across the Lake for a delightful lunch at the Lakeside Restaurant Casa Del Mundo. If there is time left, we will visit the little town of San Marcos. Boat back to our Villa and relax until dinner.

Day 6

DAY OF MARKETS IN CHICHICASTENANGO

Breakfast at Villa. Pack up for a day trip to Chichicastenango. Participate in the truly amazing open-air market which is the largest one in Central America. You will never forget your time in this kaleidoscope of color! Lunch at the Hotel Santo Tomas. We will gather on the outskirts of town and observe/participate in a Mayan ceremony with a Shaman. Drive back, and dinner at our Villa.

Day 7

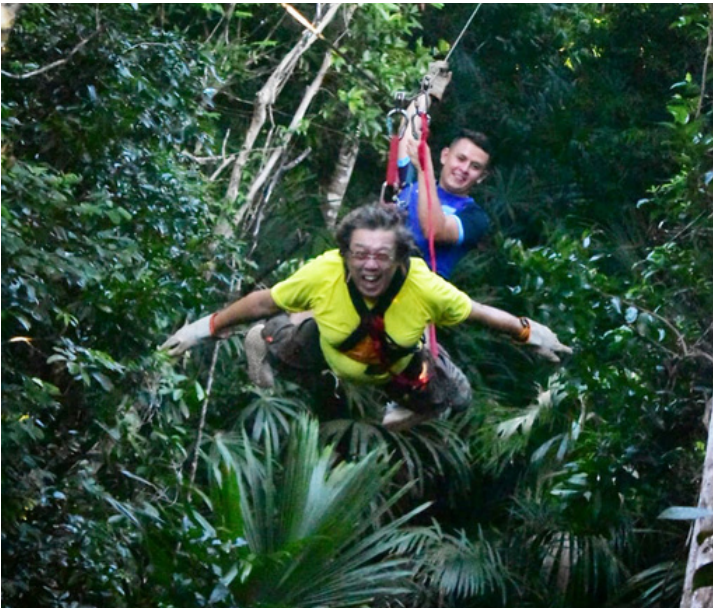
ADVENTURE DAY HIKING A VOLCANO

Breakfast at Villa. Get ready for an adventure packed day of hiking as we climb one of the Lake's many volcanoes. We will see some of the best panoramic views of the lake, and take in all the flora and fauna. After a half day of hiking we head back to the Villa for some much needed relaxation in the hot tub. Dinner at Villa.

TIKAL

(OPTIONAL ADD ON: 2 ADDITIONAL NIGHTS)

Tikal National Park is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the most famous ruins of the Classic Period of the Maya. It is located in north central Petén area, about 50 miles west of the border with Belize. Tikal is the largest and possibly the oldest of the Maya cities. Set in a high canopy jungle, the archaeological site encompasses at least 3,000 temples and structures.



TIKAL

(OPTIONAL ADD ON: 2 ADDITIONAL NIGHTS)

Day 8 FLY TO FLORES

We pack up and leave Lake Atitlan, with one last Breakfast at Villa. Drive to Guatemala City. For those continuing to Tikal we head to the Airport for our flight to Flores. Van to Hotel in Tikal. Option to go zip lining in the jungle canopy. Dinner at the hotel and rest for tomorrow's adventure.

Day 9 MAYAN RUINS OF TIKAL

Experience sunrise atop Temple 4 (early wake up will be worth it). Breakfast back at the hotel. Enjoy a private guided tour of the Tikal site with its fabulous temples that rise up through the jungle canopy. History will come to life as you discover the ruins, which are dominated by five enormous pyramids, rising to more than 60 meters. Keep your eyes peeled for tropical birds and monkeys. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 10 GUATEMALA CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer by van to Flores Airport, and catch flight back to Guatemala City. Van to Hotel (if staying extra night*) or La Aurora Airport for return flight to the U.S.

***optional night in Guatemala City is extra**



TRIP COST & DETAILS

What's Included?

- 7 or 9 nights in a private villa or boutique hotel
- All meals listed below:
 - 7 breakfasts and 4 dinners
 - Wine/beer with meals at the villa
 - Drinks and snacks at the villa
 - TO GO Snacks on hiking excursions and on shuttle
- All in-country transportation including flights, boats, and shuttle
- Personal local guide for the entire trip
- All agreed upon excursions and activity costs (ie: Tikal, kayaking, bike rental, hiking fee & security, birdwatching, museums)



Total Trip Cost: \$2699 USD per traveler for **7 NIGHT TOUR**

\$699 USD per traveler for **TIKAL 2 NIGHT ADD ON**

**price above assumes double occupancy in each room*

*** for single occupancy: we can make arrangements for an extra charge*

What's Not Included?

- Your international flight to and from Aurora International Airport (Guatemala City)
- Dinners in Antigua/Tikal (we will reserve a great restaurant for the entire group)
- Lunches not included (we will provide snacks and drinks)
- Travel and medical insurance (suggest <https://www.squaremouth.com/> to shop and compare plans)
- Wine & liquor beyond what is offered
- Spa and other optional services are at your own cost
- Tips

I'm interested, so what do I do next?

If you are interested in joining this trip or have any other questions please email us at **nobuyatravelers@gmail.com** so we can schedule a phone call with you. This allows you to ask any questions or voice any concerns you may have. Our goal is to provide intimate and small group trips; a quick yet personal conversation allows you to get to know how our trips work and make sure it's right for you.

If it's a Go! After your call, we will bill you for 50% of the trip's cost and your place is reserved. This is non-refundable; you're committed to the trip. The balance is due approximately 2 months before the trip. **We require travel and medical insurance coverage for all guests.** We suggest <https://www.squaremouth.com/> to shop and compare travel insurances.