







# **GUATEMALA MAYAN**

WONDERLAND TOUR

Nov 2022 | 8 DAY TOUR

www.overpasstravel.com



## GUATEMALA CITY

4DVE

Arrive at La Aurora International Airport; you will be met for a shared transfer to your hotel in Guatemala City. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and the opportunity to meet fellow travelers and learn more about the adventures that await you in a short welcome briefing. Tonight, will be a great opportunity to join a group dinner to get to know those who will be discovering Guatemala alongside you.

Overnight in Guatemala City at Barceló or similar.



# GUATEMALA CITY & RAINFOREST

After breakfast at your hotel set out to explore Guatemala City – the fourth and current capital of the country, which was founded in 1776 after the previous capital, was abandoned due to severe earthquakes. Start your day in the city by appreciating a 3D scale model of the country dating back to the early 1900's and see how the country's topography has changed. Next you will have a sightseeing drive through the Historic Centre to take in the impressive Central Plaza, National Palace and Metropolitan Cathedral, after which it will be time for lunch. In the afternoon you will have the chance to see how the fabrics, colors and designs of Guatemala's textiles have evolved through the centuries, ending with a visit to a private collection of ancient Maya artifacts including ceramics, human remains, jade pieces and much more. Travel back to the airport in plenty of time for your local flight. After landing you will be met and transferred to the Tikal National Park, located within the Maya Biosphere. Due to its huge extension of tropical vegetation the Maya Biosphere was created in 1990 in an effort to conserve the largest and most important area of tropical forest remaining north of the Amazon, which is home to a wide variety of exotic creatures such as jaguars and other wild cats, tapirs, monkeys, crocodiles, and over 500 species of birds. Overnight in Tikal National Park atJungle Lodge or similar.



## TIKAL NATIONAL PARK & FLORES ISLAND

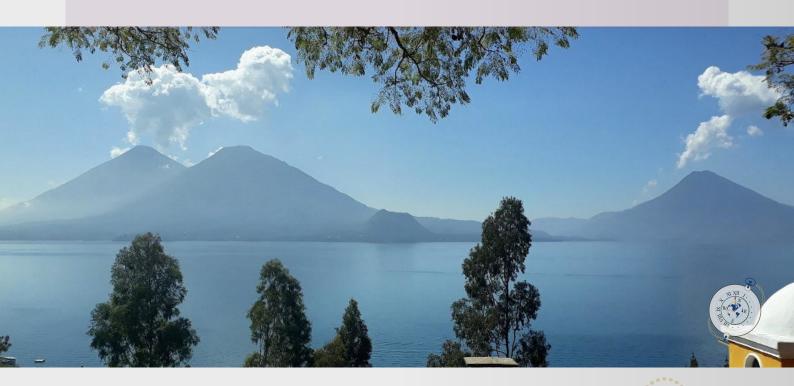
Don't be surprised if you wake this morning to the sound of a howler monkeys call! Enjoy an early breakfast before setting out to explore the ancient sprawling city of Tikal – a double UNESCO World Heritage Site (culture & nature) where impressive structures tower over 60m (200ft) high and well above the treetops. Keep an eye (and an ear!) out for tropical birds, spider monkeys swinging overhead and howler monkeys calling to each other as you explore this ancient Maya archaeology site and get a better understanding of this ancient civilization. After lunch we will travel back toward Flores where you will have time to wander the streets of this quaint island and enjoy the views out over the tranquil waters of Lake Peten Itzá. Overnight in Flores at Maya International or similar.



## IXIMCHÉ & LAKE ATITLAN

4DVE

Today you will depart early from the hotel to travel to the local airport for another short flight back to Guatemala City. On landing, head toward the Guatemalan highlands, traveling past endless fields of carefully tended crops, small villages and local people going about their everyday lives. On route, stop to explore Iximché, Guatemala's first capital of the Maya Kakchiquel people which is now an ancient archaeology site! During your visit, venture to the lesser-known ceremonial site to experience a Maya blessing to wish you well in your onward travels. After lunch, continue down toward Lake Atitlan – with three dormant volcanoes towering in the background and twelve indigenous Maya villages dotted along its shores, you'll soon understand what has inspired authors over the years to describe Lake Atitlan as "the most beautiful lake in the world"! This evening the choice is yours – relax and enjoy the amenities at your hotel, or head into town for a spot of local nightlife. Overnight at Lake Atitlan at Hotel Atitlan or similar.



## SAN JUAN LA LAGUNA & SANTIAGO ATITLAN

After breakfast, enjoy a scenic ride across the lake, to the small lakeside village of San Juan La Laguna. San Juan is a beautiful village where you will visit local art galleries and meet the artists; here the primitive style of naïf painting is predominant and a lot of the colorful paintings and town murals depict traditional ways of Guatemalan life, market scenes, etc. Also, in San Juan you will visit local women's cooperatives and learn all about the process of cotton, from harvesting the cotton, through the process of cleaning it, spinning it into thread and dying the threads into a rainbow pallet of colors using all natural sources of dye such as plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, ending with the age old process of back strap loom weaving. After another scenic boat ride, perhaps passing small fishing boats along the way, you will reach the village of Santiago Atitlan where we will stop for lunch. You will then visit the Maya deity "Maximon" who drinks and even smokes! This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Maya faith, before heading back across the lake to return to the hotel. Overnight at Lake Atitlan at Hotel Atitlan or similar.



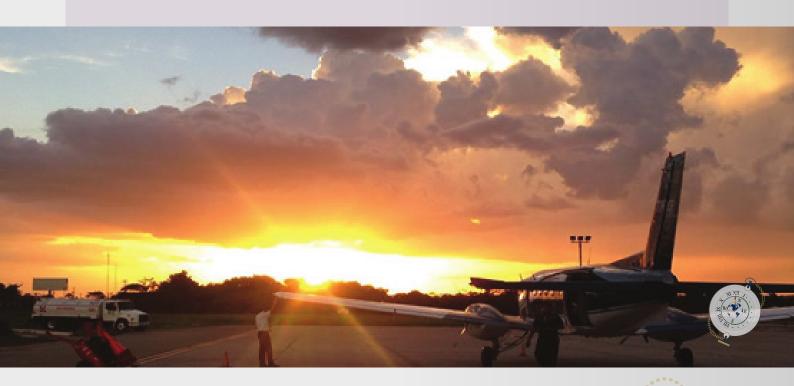
## CHICHICASTENANGO & ANTIGUA

After breakfast you will depart Lake Atitlan in the direction of the romantic colonial city of La Antigua Guatemala. Your first stop will be to explore the colorful market in Chichicastenango where you will find stalls bursting with anything and everything imaginable! From beautifully woven textiles to handicrafts and bright fresh fruit and vegetables, it is a delight for the senses! After lunch, don't miss out on the opportunity to practice your bartering skills. Before leaving Chichicastenango you will be able to observe the religious syncretism often present in local churches and villages where, to this day, Maya ceremonies take place inside the Catholic Church. On arrival in La Antigua Guatemala, you will enjoy a culinary experience, during which you will learn how to make a variety of traditional dishes for dinner. Overnight in La Antigua Guatemala at Porta Hotel Antigua or similar.



# LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA & FAREWELL DINNER

After breakfast set out to explore the charming cobblestone city and learn more about the rich history and stunning architecture of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today you will take in the highlights of the beautiful colonial city which was once the third capital of Guatemala known as the City of Saint James and which, for over two centuries, served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala, which extended from present day Chiapas through Costa Rica. Explore the Central Plaza, Palace of the Captain General and Municipal buildings as well as some of the many famous churches and a ruined monastery. You will also have the chance to visit a working jade factory and museum to appreciate the handiwork of those skilled enough to continue the tradition of working this precious gems t o n e . After lunch enjoy some time to relax and soak up the atmosphere before a farewell dinner this evening. Overnight in La Antigua Guatemala at Porta Hotel Antigua or similar.



## DEPARTURE

Shared transfer back to La Aurora International Airport in plenty of time for your international departure flight.

# Guatemala

8 days Tour



#### **INCLUDED**

- Professional local bilingual guide (English / Spanish) as outlined in the itinerary.
- Transportation for the group as outlined in the itinerary, in a Hyundai County vehicle or similar.
- Admission fees as outlined in the itinerary.
- Breakfast daily (N.B. packed breakfast on Day 4).
- Lunch as indicated (on Day 3).
- Dinner as indicated (on Day 6 & Day 7).
- Accommodation as outlined in the itinerary, in double / twin occupancy.
- Round trip scheduled domestic flights GUA FRS – GUA.

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Lunch (Day 1 2 & Day 4 8).
- Dinner (Day 1 5 & Day 8).
- Additional beverages with meals.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Personal expenses.
- International flights.
- Border fees or airport departure taxes (both for local and international flights).
- Any required Covid-19 testing or regulations by country.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

- All rates are per person, NET and in US dollars.
   Rates are valid for 2022 during Standard Season (excludes Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year)
- Itinerary must begin on a Tuesday due to scheduling.
- We reserve the right to refuse services to anyone who is unwilling or unable to comply with health & safety regulations as mandated by law.

## SIGN UP TODAY!

To register and secure your spot for this adventurous tour!

\$1,250 Deposit is required upon registration.

## CONTACT US

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Visit Us at www.overpasstravel.com