

ITINERARY

Day 1 • Guatemala City, Guatemala

D

We welcome you to a breathtaking land of magnificent lakes, towering volcanoes, and ancient ruins. With its near perfect climate and spectacular hotels, Guatemala, “the land of eternal spring,” is an ideal vacation destination. This is a more active itinerary. We provide transfers from Guatemala City airport to your centrally located hotel, the Barcelo, for a two-night stay. Rooms are available for check-in after 4:00 p.m. Dinner is served until 9:30 p.m. at your hotel.

Day 2 • Guatemala City

B, L, D

After breakfast, join us for an 8:00 a.m. welcome briefing. Then visit an archaeology museum. Learn about Guatemala’s pre-Columbian cultures and extensive archaeological sites. See a priceless collection of Mayan pottery and jewelry. Lunch. Next, a sightseeing drive of the historic center. See the Metropolitan Cathedral dating from 1782 and the French influence on the dramatic National Palace. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Enjoy the Barcelo’s large outdoor pool, jacuzzi, spa and racquet club. Dinner.

Day 3 • Quiriguá, Tikal Area

B, L, D

Your great Tikal adventure begins! An early start for a full day's drive east to Guatemala’s Caribbean region. Visit Quiriguá, the impressive and remarkably preserved Mayan archaeological site. Walk among fantastical carved stone animal figures and some of the world’s largest stelae. The huge monoliths are inscribed with ancient writings recording Mayan history. Enjoy lunch overlooking the scenic Rio Dulce, 'sweet river,' which flows into the Caribbean Sea. Arrive in time for dinner at your lodge located in a 67-acre nature preserve on the wild shores of Petenche Laguna. Enjoy a two-night stay. Villa Maya has two pools, a jacuzzi and nature walking trails.

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Day 4 • Tikal Ruins

B, L, D

Today, an unforgettable visit to the ruins of Tikal. Settled in 700 B.C., Tikal was the grandest of all Mayan cities. Long protected by the jungle in the remote Peten Peninsula, Tikal is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, see towering pyramids rise above the rainforest canopy while the sounds of tropical birds fill the air. Look for spider and howler monkeys. Visit Tikal's great plaza. See the Temple of the Grand Jaguar and Temple II. Visit the Plaza of the Seven Temples and El Mundo Perdido, the Lost World. Enjoy lunch in Tikal. Late afternoon returns to your resort. Enjoy dinner.

Day 5 • Tikal Area, Antigua

B, L, D

This morning drive through jungle draped hills. Enjoy lunch. Continue to romantic Antigua. Enjoy a relaxing two-night stay at the elegant Porta Hotel. Your hotel is two blocks from the main plaza with its fine stores offering jade pieces and exotic native artwork. Dinner.

Day 6 • Antigua

B, L, D

Morning exploration of Antigua, Guatemala's capital for more than two centuries. This UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the best-preserved colonial cities in all Latin America. On a walking tour visit the Main Plaza, see the Cathedral and Fountain of the Sirens. Visit Las Capuchinas Convent, with its 18 circular living quarters. Enjoy lunch. Then, free time in Antigua. Shop in the artisan markets for elaborately carved dance masks and richly embroidered hand weavings. Stroll cobblestone streets and marvel at Antigua's colonial churches and historic buildings. Enjoy dinner at the Porta Hotel.

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Day 7 • Coffee Tour, Lake Atitlán

B, L, D

This morning drive into the picturesque and world-famous coffee growing region of Guatemala. Visit a coffee plantation and sample fresh Guatemalan coffee. Learn why many consider Guatemala coffee the best tasting coffee in the world. After lunch, visit a museum highlighting Guatemala's unique musical instruments, including the Marimba. Then, to Hotel Atitlán for a two-night stay overlooking Lake Atitlán, 5,000 feet above sea level. Dinner.

Day 8 • Lake Atitlán, Panajachel

B, L, D

Morning visit to the nearby Mayan village of Panajachel where Mayans still wear traditional dress. Visit the colorful artisan market. Return to Hotel Atitlán. Lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure. Explore your hotel's beautiful botanical gardens and pools. Enjoy the dramatic scenery. Dinner.

Day 9 • Lake Atitlán Boat Cruise

B, L, D

Morning cruise across Lake Atitlán. Flanked by three dormant volcanoes, Lake Atitlán is one of the world's most beautiful lakes. Then gorgeous scenery unfolds as you descend from the Guatemala highlands to the central valley. Pass Indian villages where crops are still hand-tilled and grown on impossibly steep hillside terraces. Lunch. Continue to Guatemala City. Enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day 10 • Guatemala City

B

Your tour ends this morning after breakfast at the Barcelo in Guatemala City. Breakfast begins at 6:00 a.m. We provide transfers throughout the day to the Guatemala City airport. Thanks for vacationing with us. ¡Hasta la vista!

MEALS

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner