



Laura Bachmann
Travel Specialist
Columbus Luxury Travel

+1 (352) 668-8668

Laura@ColumbusLuxuryTravel.com
<http://www.ColumbusLuxuryTravel.com>



Discover Mayan Treasures

Aug 31, 2018 - Sep 11, 2018

\$1,160 per person

Start your trip in the amazing colonial city of Antigua. What was once the country's capital, Antigua boasts much of Guatemala's rich history and offers a magnificent look into earlier days. The nearly 500-year-old city is cradled by three volcanoes and accented with colorful facades of 16th century mansions, churches and convents.

Next, begin your journey to the most beautiful lake in the world, Lake Atitlán. Stop to take a trip back in time at the ancient ruins of Ixim'che. Gain exclusive access to hidden treasures at the villages surrounding Lake Atitlán known only to local guides, and immerse yourself in the diversity of local cultures.

Head to “Xela”, Quetzaltenango, the second largest city in Guatemala. Sitting at an altitude of 2,333 meters (8,000 feet) above sea level, Quetzaltenango ensures warm days, cool nights and no mosquitoes. This enchanting vibrant city is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes and is laced with narrow, cobblestone streets built for walking and filled with the colorful signs of Mayan culture.

Arrive in Tonicapán with surprising handicrafts from traditional people! Family weavers use the foot loom and you will also find artisanal ceramic and wood crafts in this area.

Experience the San Francisco el Alto market, full of farm and domestic animals, textiles and fabrics from traditional wear, as well as many different vegetables.

With luxury accommodations for 12 Days, including private transportation and travel, bilingual private guides, lunch, and hotels, this deal can not be beat.

Available: August 31-September 11

Group Size: 12 minimum to fill

Trip Summary

August 31 - Friday

Transfer - Guatemala City to Antigua - Guatemala City, Antigua Guatemala

Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala - Antigua Guatemala

September 1 - Saturday

8:50 AM Transfer - Antigua Villages visit - Antigua Guatemala

9:00 AM Visit Antigua's Nearby Villages - Antigua Guatemala

Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala

September 2 - Sunday

9:00 AM Experience Antigua Walking Tour - Antigua Guatemala, Arco de Santa Catalina, La Merced, Iglesia de San Francisco el Grande, Casa del Jade, Iglesia del Carmen

Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala

September 3 - Monday

9:00 AM Transfer - Antigua to Panajachel (Lake Atitlan) via Iximche Archeological site - Antigua Guatemala, Lake Atitlán

10:30 AM Ixim'che Tour - Ixim'che

Dos Mundos Panajachel - Lake Atitlan - Lake Atitlán

September 4 - Tuesday

8:50 AM Boat Taxi - Panajachel to San Juan & Santiago Atitlán - Lake Atitlán

9:00 AM Visit the Villages around Lake Atitlán - Lake Atitlán

Dos Mundos Panajachel - Lake Atitlan - Lake Atitlán

September 5 - Wednesday

8:50 AM Transfer - Panajachel to Quetzaltenango (Xela) via Sololá - Lake Atitlán, Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Sololá Market - Sololá Department

Check in at Hotel Los Olivos - Hotel Los Olivos

September 6 - Thursday

8:50 AM Transfer - Villages around Quetzaltenango (Xela) & Georginas Hot Springs - Quetzaltenango "Xela"

9:00 AM Tour Quetzaltenango "Xela" - Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Visit Xela's Fuentes Georginas - Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Hotel Los Olivos - Hotel Los Olivos

September 7 - Friday

Transfer - Quetzaltenango (Xela) to Totonicapán vía San Francisco Market - Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango "Xela", San Francisco el Alto

San Francisco el Alto - San Francisco el Alto

Homestay at Totonicapán - Totonicapán

September 8 - Saturday

Cultural Totonicapan & Homestay - Totonicapán

September 9 - Sunday

Transfer - Totonicapán to Quiché - Totonicapán, Chichicastenango

Chichicastenango Market - Chichicastenango

Check in at Hotel Santo Tomas - Hotel Santo Tomas

September 10 - Monday

Check out at Hotel Santo Tomas - Hotel Santo Tomas

Transfer - Chichicastenango to Guatemala City & City Tour - Guatemala City

Hotel Biltmore - Guatemala City - Guatemala City

7:00 PM

Farewell Dinner! - Kacao

September 11 - Tuesday

Transfer - hotel Biltmore to Guatemala City International Airport - Guatemala City

August 31 - Friday



Transfer - Guatemala City to Antigua



Guatemala City

Guatemala, Guatemala, GT

Location: The southern-central area of Guatemala lying within the Valle de la Ermita (Hermitage Valley) mountain valley.

Significance: Capital and largest city of Guatemala; has the largest populous in Central America; Capital of the Guatemala Department; starting point for many tours within Guatemala.

What you will see: The city divided into 22 zones is also home to many museums and archeological sites, as well as a large market.



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately 24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.



Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala

One of La Antigua Guatemala's most enchanting hotels has been family owned and operated for

generations. Consisting of three lovingly restored colonial residences — one of which, the three-hundred-year-old “Casa de Los Leones”, is a national historic monument — the hotel perfectly captures the essence of old-world Antigua. All rooms are uniquely decorated with original artwork, hand-painted ceilings, fireplaces and furniture hand-carved by local artisans. The hotel's romantic restaurant features enticing Guatemalan cuisine, along with live Marimba music daily and Baile de los Moros folk dancing EVERY NIGHT AT 8 P.M.



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately 24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.

September 1 - Saturday



8:50 AM - Central Time

Transfer - Antigua Villages visit



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately 24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.



9:00 AM - Central Time - 3 hr 30 min

Visit Antigua's Nearby Villages

Immerse yourself in the diversity of local Antigua culture. The nearly 500-year-old city is cradled by three volcanoes and accented with colorful facades of 16th century mansions, churches and convents. Enjoy hands-on experiences visiting the places where Guatemala's special treasures are cultivated and created.

Villages to visit: Pastores (leather workshop), San Juan del Obispo (chocolate workshop), San Pedro las huertas (Jade workshop), Ciudad Vieja (coffee workshop), San Antonio Aguas Calientes (textiles workshop), and Santa María de Jesús (Santa María de Jesús has special events only on Sunday).



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately 24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.



Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala



September 2 - Sunday



9:00 AM - Central Time

Experience Antigua Walking Tour

The first day around Antigua you will enjoy the harmonic combination of past and present. You will visit ancient buildings that once were convents, monasteries, and churches. This will be the most beautiful introduction to the Guatemalan lifestyle, tradition and culture. Visit San Francisco church and ruins, Santo Domingo ruins, La Merced church and ruins, the street with the famous Santa Catalina Arch and buildings around the Main Square (Municipality, Palace, Cathedral).



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately 24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.



Arco de Santa Catalina

5a Avenida Norte, Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT, 03-001



La Merced

6a. avenida norte, La Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT



Iglesia de San Francisco el Grande

7a. Calle Oriente, La Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT



Casa del Jade

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT, 03001



Iglesia del Carmen

Small but exciting ruins lining a popular street in Antigua, Guatemala



Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo - Antigua, Guatemala



September 3 - Monday



9:00 AM - Central Time

Transfer - Antigua to Panajachel (Lake Atitlan) via Iximche Arqueological site



Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, GT

Population: At Antigua's peak in the mid 18th century, prior to moving the capital, Antigua was home to 60,000; now 45,669

Location: Central Highlands of Guatemala; departmental capital of Sacatepéquez Department; approximately

24 miles from Guatemala City

Elevation: 5,029 feet

Significance: Served as the capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala prior to moving the capital in 1773 to Guatemala City, due to the constant tremors and damaging earthquakes in September and December of that year. La Antigua has been named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is a central location for many visitors.

What you will see: Santa Catalina Arch; Volcán de Agua; Volcán de Fuego; Acatenango Volcano; San Francisco church and ruins; Santo Domingo ruins; La Merced church and ruins; Antigua's market days.

Fun Facts: Panza Verde, or green belly was the name given to those that remained in Antigua after the capital was moved to Guatemala City. It is said that the people received this name because of their reliance on avocados for a food source after the damage to the city from earthquakes. Founded in 1542, Antigua was the first planned city in the Americas, structured on a rigid grid pattern, and is easily recognized by its cobblestone streets.



Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan "underwater city" (located 55 feet below the lake's level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.



10:30 AM - Central Time

Ixim'che Tour

Ixim'che is one of the Post Classic cities from the Maya Civilization. The "K'aqchik'el" Mayan group founded it in, approximately, 1463. Ixim'che is the best way to start getting involved in the Mayan Cosmic and Spiritual Vision.



Ixim'che

Ixim'che is one of the Post Classic cities from the Maya Civilization. The "K'aqchik'el" Mayan group founded it in, approximately, 1463. Ixim'che is the best way to start getting involved in the Mayan Cosmic and Spiritual Vision.



Dos Mundos Panajachel - Lake Atitlan

Hotel Dos Mundos is a full service hotel complete with swimming pool, restaurant, café, bar and conference room. We are locate in Panajachel one block from the shores of Lake Atitlán, considered by many the most beautiful lake in the world.



Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan “underwater city” (located 55 feet below the lake’s level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.

September 4 - Tuesday



8:50 AM - Central Time - 30 min

Boat Taxi - Panajachel to San Juan & Santiago Atitlán





Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan “underwater city” (located 55 feet below the lake’s level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.



9:00 AM - Central Time

Visit the Villages around Lake Atitlán

Gain exclusive access to hidden treasures known only to local guides and immerse yourself in the diversity of local cultures.

San Juan La Laguna: This tiny pueblito is home to cooperatives that sell traditional textiles, paintings, weavings and other Guatemalan goodies that serve as great souvenirs. Being one of the less-visited towns around the lake, San Juan offers a more authentic, Guatemalan experience than that of nearby San Pedro or Panajachel.

Santiago Atitlán: is famous for the neighborhood house where the syncretized deity Maximón resides for the current year. Santiago Atitlan is home of the Cojolya Weaving Center and Museum, founded by the Cojolya Association of Maya Women Weavers. The museum shows the history, tradition, and process of backstrap-loom weaving, and the evolution of the traditional costume of the Tzutujil, and the indigenous people of Santiago Atitlán. San Juan la Laguna hosts the origins of cotton and the museum offers a unique insight into the process of thread dying and the transformation from cotton to distinct wearables.



Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan "underwater city" (located 55 feet below the lake's level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.



Dos Mundos Panajachel - Lake Atitlan

Hotel Dos Mundos is a full service hotel complete with swimming pool, restaurant, café, bar and conference room. We are located in Panajachel one block from the shores of Lake Atitlán, considered by many the most beautiful lake in the world.



Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan "underwater city" (located 55 feet below the lake's level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.

September 5 - Wednesday



8:50 AM - Central Time

Transfer - Panajachel to Quetzaltenango (Xela) via Sololá



Lake Atitlán

Panajachel, Sololá Department, GT

Location: Guatemala Highlands.

What you will see: Many traditional Mayan lakeside communities are found near Atitlán. The inhabitants of the area still dress in customary garb and practice many traditions of their culture, some with a fusion of Spanish influence, including the worship of Maximón.

Fun Facts: This volcanic crater lake is the deepest lake in Central America, and renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Multiple Mayan archeological sites have been discovered at the lake; the latest Mayan "underwater city" (located 55 feet below the lake's level) discovered, dates back to the late pre-classic period.



Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Quezaltenango, Quetzaltenango, GT

Location: Located in a mountain valley within Guatemala's western highlands (Los Altos).

Landscape: The surrounding department of Quetzaltenango has landscapes including volcanoes, hot springs, rivers, mountains and valleys, with much of the land used for agriculture, including coffee, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

What you will see: Natural hot springs at Fuentes Georginas; Volcán Santa Maria, 12,256 feet, and the extremely active Santiaguito crater are located just outside of the city; near by Salcajá hosts the first Western church in Central America and market days on Tuesdays; on the highway leading to the coast the town of Zunil is the center for worship of Maximón, the life-sized wooden sculptor bestowed with supernatural power.

Fun Facts: Better known by its Mayan name "Xelajú" or "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. It's industrial development during 18th and 19th century gave the city the economic resources to become a powerful city. The city's population consists of 61% indigenous and 34% ladino. The name Quetzaltenango was given to the city when the Spanish Conquistadors' native allies, the Nahua, called the city Quetzaltenango, meaning the native Nahua "the place of the Quetzal bird".



Sololá Market

Sololá's market is one of the most vivid in the Guatemalan highlands. While an enormous new market building is under construction in front of the cathedral, the sprawling Mercado Mayoreo (wholesale market), 10 blocks north (uphill) of the Parque Centroamérica serves the function. On Tuesday and Friday mornings the building is ablaze with the costumes of people from surrounding villages.

Displays of meat, dried fish, chilies, onions, beans, kindling wood (known by locals as Ocote) fruit, housewares and clothing are neatly arranged in every available space, with tides of buyers ebbing and flowing around the vendors. Elaborate stands are stocked with brightly colored yarn for making

the traditional costumes you see around you.



Sololá Department
Sololá Department, GT



Check in at Hotel Los Olivos



Hotel Los Olivos
13 Avenida 3-32 zona 1, Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango Dept, GT
+502 7761 0216

September 6 - Thursday



8:50 AM - Central Time

Transfer - Villages around Quetzaltenango (Xela) & Georginas Hot Springs



Quetzaltenango "Xela"
Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango, GT

Location: Located in a mountain valley within Guatemala's western highlands (Los Altos).

Landscape: The surrounding department of Quetzaltenango has landscapes including volcanoes, hot springs, rivers, mountains and valleys, with much of the land used for agriculture, including coffee, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

What you will see: Natural hot springs at Fuentes Georginas; Volcán Santa Maria, 12,256 feet, and the extremely active Santiaguito crater are located just outside of the city; near by Salcajá hosts the first Western church in Central America and market days on Tuesdays; on the highway leading to the coast the town of Zunil is the center for worship of Maximon, the life-sized wooden sculptor bestowed with supernatural power.

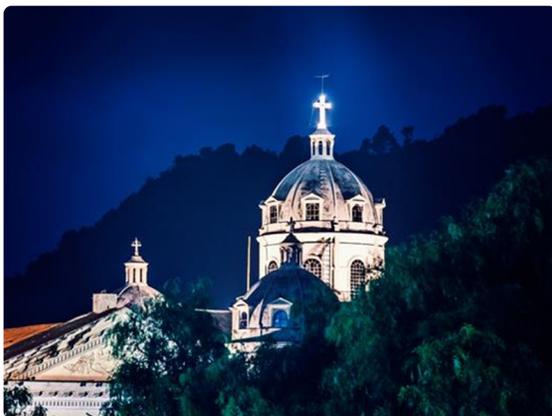
Fun Facts: Better known by its Mayan name "Xelajú" or "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. It's industrial development during 18th and 19th century gave the city the economic resources to become a powerful city. The city's population consists of 61% indigenous and 34% ladino. The name Quetzaltenango was given to the city when the Spanish Conquistadors' native allies, the Nahua, called the city Quetzaltenango, meaning the native Nahua "the place of the Quetzal bird".



9:00 AM - Central Time

Tour Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Better known as "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. Sitting at an altitude of 2,333 meters (8,000 feet) above sea level, Quetzaltenango ensures warm days, cool nights and no mosquitoes. This enchanting vibrant city is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes and is laced with narrow, cobblestone streets built for walking and filled with the colorful signs of Mayan culture.



Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango, GT

Location: Located in a mountain valley within Guatemala's western highlands (Los Altos).

Landscape: The surrounding department of Quetzaltenango has landscapes including volcanoes, hot springs, rivers, mountains and valleys, with much of the land used for agriculture, including coffee, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

What you will see: Natural hot springs at Fuentes Georginas; Volcán Santa Maria, 12,256 feet, and the extremely active Santiaguito crater are located just outside of the city; near by Salcajá hosts the first Western church in Central America and market days on Tuesdays; on the highway leading to the coast the town of Zunil is the center for worship of Maximon, the life-sized wooden sculptor bestowed with supernatural power.

Fun Facts: Better known by its Mayan name "Xelajú" or "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. It's industrial development during 18th and 19th century gave the city the economic resources to become a powerful city. The city's population consists of 61% indigenous and 34% ladino. The name Quetzaltenango was given to the city when the Spanish Conquistadors' native allies, the Nahua, called the city Quetzaltenango, meaning the native Nahua "the place of the Quetzal bird".



Visit Xela's Fuentes Georginas

For the second part of your excursion, you will travel through the villages around "Xela" to enjoy the "Fuentes Georginas" natural hot springs, surrounded by beautiful primary rainforest. Bring a towel and bathing suit to relax in the healing waters, and release all those stresses and strains of modern-day life.



Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango, GT

Location: Located in a mountain valley within Guatemala's western highlands (Los Altos).

Landscape: The surrounding department of Quetzaltenango has landscapes including volcanoes, hot springs, rivers, mountains and valleys, with much of the land used for agriculture, including coffee, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

What you will see: Natural hot springs at Fuentes Georginas; Volcán Santa Maria, 12,256 feet, and the extremely active Santiaguito crater are located just outside of the city; near by Salcajá hosts the first Western church in Central America and market days on Tuesdays; on the highway leading to the coast the town of Zunil is the center for worship of Maximon, the life-sized wooden sculptor bestowed with supernatural power.

Fun Facts: Better known by its Mayan name "Xelajú" or "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. It's industrial development during 18th and 19th century gave the city the economic resources to become a powerful city. The city's population consists of 61% indigenous and 34% ladino. The name Quetzaltenango was given to the city when the Spanish Conquistadors' native allies, the Nahua, called the city Quetzaltenango, meaning the native Nahua "the place of the Quetzal bird".



Hotel Los Olivos



Hotel Los Olivos

13 Avenida 3-32 zona 1, Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango Dept, GT
+502 7761 0216

September 7 - Friday



Transfer - Quetzaltenango (Xela) to Totonicapán vía San Francisco Market



Totonicapán

Totonicapán, Totonicapán, GT

Totonicapán is a crucial region for Guatemala's fight for independence. In 1820, the indigenous residents of Totonicapán revolted against the government in response to excessive tributes imposed by the Spanish. The rebellion is widely celebrated in Guatemala as the opening volley in the independence struggle. Today, approximately 97% of the population of Totonicapán identify as indigenous (primarily K'iche' Maya), and many traditional activities like weaving continue to thrive among the inhabitants.



Quetzaltenango "Xela"

Quezaltenango, Quetzaltenango, GT

Location: Located in a mountain valley within Guatemala's western highlands (Los Altos).

Landscape: The surrounding department of Quetzaltenango has landscapes including volcanoes, hot springs, rivers, mountains and valleys, with much of the land used for agriculture, including coffee, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

What you will see: Natural hot springs at Fuentes Georginas; Volcán Santa Maria, 12,256 feet, and the extremely active Santiaguito crater are located just outside of the city; near by Salcajá hosts the first Western church in Central America and market days on Tuesdays; on the highway leading to the coast the town of Zunil is the center for worship of Maximon, the life-sized wooden sculptor bestowed with supernatural power.

Fun Facts: Better known by its Mayan name "Xelajú" or "Xela", Quetzaltenango is the second largest city in Guatemala. It's industrial development during 18th and 19th century gave the city the economic resources to become a powerful city. The city's population consists of 61% indigenous and 34% ladino. The name Quetzaltenango was given to the city when the Spanish Conquistadors' native allies, the Nahua, called the city Quetzaltenango, meaning the native Nahua "the place of the Quetzal bird".



San Francisco el Alto

Residing atop a gorgeous hill overlooking Quetzaltenango Valley, San Francisco El Alto must be seen to believe. From the town you can see the entire valley below on a clear day and the Santa Maria volcano.

The San Francisco el Alto market is full of farm and domestic animals, textiles and fabrics from traditional wear, and many different vegetables. According to historian, Horacio Cabezas, the San Francisco el Alto market is "the largest and biggest in Central America".



San Francisco el Alto

Through textiles and ideology we will share with you why the Maya Culture has been named one of the Most Other Cultures of Humanity. You have the opportunity to set atop a gorgeous hill overlooking Quetzaltenango Valley, San Francisco El Alto, which must be seen to believe. From the town you can

see the entire valley below on a clear day and the Santa Maria volcano.

The San Francisco el Alto market is full of farm and domestic animals, textiles and fabrics from traditional wear, and many different vegetables. According to historian, Horacio Cabezas, the San Francisco el Alto market is “the largest and biggest in Central America”.



San Francisco el Alto

Residing atop a gorgeous hill overlooking Quetzaltenango Valley, San Francisco El Alto must be seen to believe. From the town you can see the entire valley below on a clear day and the Santa Maria volcano.

The San Francisco el Alto market is full of farm and domestic animals, textiles and fabrics from traditional wear, and many different vegetables. According to historian, Horacio Cabezas, the San Francisco el Alto market is “the largest and biggest in Central America”.



Homestay at Totonicapán

Mayan Home Stays have begun this program of home stays in the Totonicapan Town to give something back to the communities throughout the department. This program is also a way to give travelers a truly genuine experience of living as a Mayan family and a way to experience their culture and customs.

Meals in the home will be prepared by the family and you will have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast and dinner meals at home with the family. (Both are included).



Totonicapán

Totonicapán, Totonicapán, GT

Totonicapán is a crucial region for Guatemala's fight for independence. In 1820, the indigenous residents of Totonicapán revolted against the government in response to excessive tributes imposed by the Spanish. The rebellion is widely celebrated in Guatemala as the opening volley in the independence struggle. Today, approximately 97% of the population of Totonicapán identify as indigenous (primarily K'iche' Maya), and many traditional activities like weaving continue to thrive among the inhabitants.

September 8 - Saturday



Cultural Totonicapán & Homestay

The beautiful local handicraft that is produced at Totonicapán will astonish you! Family weavers use the foot loom; artisan ceramic and wood is also common in this area.



Totonicapán

Totonicapán, Totonicapán, GT

Totonicapán is a crucial region for Guatemala's fight for independence. In 1820, the indigenous residents of Totonicapán revolted against the government in response to excessive tributes imposed by the Spanish. The rebellion is widely celebrated in Guatemala as the opening volley in the independence struggle. Today, approximately 97% of the population of Totonicapán identify as indigenous (primarily K'iche' Maya), and many traditional activities like weaving continue to thrive among the inhabitants.

September 9 - Sunday



Transfer - Totonicapán to Quiché



Totonicapán

Totonicapán, Totonicapán, GT

Totonicapán is a crucial region for Guatemala's fight for independence. In 1820, the indigenous residents of Totonicapán revolted against the government in response to excessive tributes imposed by the Spanish. The rebellion is widely celebrated in Guatemala as the opening volley in the independence struggle. Today, approximately 97% of the population of Totonicapán identify as indigenous (primarily K'iche' Maya), and many

traditional activities like weaving continue to thrive among the inhabitants.



Chichicastenango

Chichi is one of the biggest markets in Guatemala. It is full of textiles, vegetables, fruits, and handcrafts. Here you can visit the mask factory and Santo Thomas church, where you can see the Guatemalan syncretism. Have a day full of fun and enjoyment in this traditional Mayan market.



Chichicastenango Market

Our market days have been vibrant and colorful since more than 4,000 years ago. These are the best places to experience our rich culture. Chichicastenango: (Sundays and Thursdays 94km away from Antigua), This is one of the biggest markets in Guatemala. It is full of textiles, vegetables, fruits, and handcrafts. You also will visit the mask factory and Santo Thomas church, where you can see the Guatemalan syncretism. Have a day full of fun and enjoyment in this traditional Mayan market. This city has a lot of tradition. Enjoy lunch at Moreria Sto. Tomas and observe how traditional dresses are made.



Chichicastenango

Chichi is one of the biggest markets in Guatemala. It is full of textiles, vegetables, fruits, and handcrafts. Here you can visit the mask factory and Santo Thomas church, where you can see the Guatemalan syncretism. Have a day full of fun and enjoyment in this traditional Mayan market.



Check in at Hotel Santo Tomas



Hotel Santo Tomas

GT

September 10 - Monday



Check out at Hotel Santo Tomas



Hotel Santo Tomas

GT



Transfer - Chichicastenango to Guatemala City & City Tour



Guatemala City

Guatemala, Guatemala, GT

Location: The southern-central area of Guatemala lying within the Valle de la Ermita (Hermitage Valley) mountain valley.

Significance: Capital and largest city of Guatemala; has the largest population in Central America; Capital of the Guatemala Department; starting point for many tours within Guatemala.

What you will see: The city divided into 22 zones is also home to many museums and archeological sites, as well as a large market.



Hotel Biltmore - Guatemala City

In a completely renovated atmosphere, we are your best option on your next visit to Guatemala. Located in the heart of the Zona Viva, financial and commercial center of the city, steps from museums, restaurants, shopping centers and entertainment.



Guatemala City

Guatemala, Guatemala, GT

Location: The southern-central area of Guatemala lying within the Valle de la Ermita (Hermitage Valley) mountain valley.

Significance: Capital and largest city of Guatemala; has the largest populous in Central America; Capital of the Guatemala Department; starting point for many tours within Guatemala.

What you will see: The city divided into 22 zones is also home to many museums and archeological sites, as well as a large market.



7:00 PM - Central Time

Farewell Dinner!

After these amazing days exploring Guatemala it is time to say farewell. A wonderful traditional meal is prepared by the fantastic staff at the Kacao Restaurant as a final evening for our time together.



Kacao

13 1 Avenida, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala, GT

September 11 - Tuesday



Transfer - hotel Biltmore to Guatemala City International Airport



Guatemala City

Guatemala, Guatemala, GT

Location: The southern-central area of Guatemala lying within the Valle de la Ermita (Hermitage Valley) mountain valley.

Significance: Capital and largest city of Guatemala; has the largest populous in Central America; Capital of the Guatemala Department; starting point for many tours within Guatemala.

What you will see: The city divided into 22 zones is also home to many museums and archeological sites, as well as a large market.

Information & Documents



INCLUSION

All Tours Include: Meet and Greet at the airport, English Speaking Guide, Private Transportation (ground and water in noted locations), Entrance Fees and Necessary Donations, Lunch (villages around Antigua, villages around Lake Atitlan, Workshops (Tonicapan) and Farewell Dinner in Guatemala City.

All Hotels Include: Breakfast and Taxes



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Payment Policy

Agreement

Enrollment and payment for a service or a package implies agreement and acceptance of the terms and conditions set forth below. In this agreement, Columbus Luxury Travel S.A. may be referred to as the operator, or Columbus Luxury Travel.

Reservations

Reservations should be made in writing.

Invoices

An invoice will be issued upon confirmation of service.

Payment Terms

**Until a deposit has been made, no services can be guaranteed.*

A 25% deposit should be made upon confirmation of services.

A 50% deposit should be made within 30 days of confirmed services.

Payment in full should be made within 45 days prior to date of arrival.

Any services confirmed by Columbus Luxury Travel during the time of activity planning are subject to availability if payment has not been received.

Forms of Payment

Bank/Wire Transfer

Payments can be made by check or wire transfer. Please contact us for bank information.

Credit Card

Please go to the "Pay an Invoice" page on our website to utilize credit card payments. Please note there is a 3% charge for credit card charges.



CANCELLATION

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellations

Cancellations must be made in writing. The following charges and refunds will apply when a cancellation is made after Columbus Luxury Travel confirms the booking:

If a trip is cancelled more than 45 days prior to start date, any cancellation fees, surcharges, or nonrefundable deposits charged to Columbus Luxury Travel by individual hotels, airlines or other third parties will be charged. Additionally, a cancellation fee of 10% of the total trip cost will apply. The remainder of any deposits paid to Columbus Luxury Travel will be refunded.

If a trip is cancelled between 45 and 30 days prior to start date any cancellation fees, surcharges, or nonrefundable deposits charged to Columbus Luxury Travel by individual hotels, airlines or other third parties will be charged. Additionally, a cancellation fee of 25% of the total trip cost will apply. The remainder of any deposits or payments paid to Columbus Luxury Travel will be refunded.

If a trip is cancelled within 30 days prior to arrival date 100% cancellation fees will apply. No refunds will be made.

We strongly recommend that each client purchase comprehensive trip-cancellation insurance (must be purchased through a third party insurer — not provided by Columbus Luxury Travel).

Refund Policy

Refunds will be made in accordance with the Cancellations Policy mentioned above. No additional refunds will be made for no-shows or any unused part of the itinerary whether voluntary, caused by airline delay or cancellation, or any other factor beyond the control of Columbus Luxury Travel, including but not limited to acts of god (sickness, injury, poor health, weather, etc.) strike, detention, riot, war, quarantine, theft, civil disturbances, government regulations or restrictions, third-party or subcontractor negligence, or any other. No responsibility can be accepted for expenses incurred due to delay or change in schedule or other causes.

Insurance Recommendation

It is highly recommended that all guests insure themselves and their property prior to arrival. We

especially advise medical, emergency evacuation, and trip cancellation coverage. For the safety of its clients Columbus Luxury Travel reserves the right to use / authorize expensive emergency evacuation / rescue operation measures (i.e., Helicopters, Ambulances, etc.), at the financial responsibility of the client.