

Guatemala & Belize – 11 Days

Guatemala City 1nts, Lake Atitlan 2nts, Flores 2nts, Cayo 2nts, Belize City 2nts, Belize City 1nts

Itinerary Brief:

Guatemala and Belize, central American Countries, where you will find natural beauty, with highland lakes ringed by perfect volcanic cones and steamy jungles teeming with wildlife and beautiful birds. Delightful colonial architecture with flashes of highland culture contrast with brightly coloured markets and impressive Mayan ruins.

Daywise Itinerary:

Day 01 DEPART FROM UK AND ARRIVE IN GUATEMALA CITY - ANTIGUA

Arrive in Guatemala City and transfer to Antigua for your hotel. Rest of the evening, at leisure.

[x] Breakfast [x] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 02 ANTIGUA - LAKE ATITLÁN

After breakfast travel to Antigua, the most important and enchanting city of colonial Guatemala. Founded by the Spaniards in 1543, nowadays Antigua is a beautiful blend of ruins, restored colonial buildings, and new buildings in colonial style. Visit the Central Plaza that is surrounded by the antique Cathedral, the Municipal Government Building, and the Palace of the Captains General; colonial churches and monasteries, primitive foot-looms where colourful textiles are woven, and a jade factory where this stone is worked into beautiful jewellery. The city is filled with colonial buildings and considered the country's cultural capital. It's beautiful backdrop consists of three looming volcanoes that tower over the cobbled streets and colourful houses below. In the afternoon proceed to Lake Atitlán, one of the most beautiful in the world, with its crystalline-azure waters in the crater bowl below. Surrounded by Twelve Indian villages the Lake and their inhabitants are descendants from the great Quiché, Cackchiquel, and Tzutuhil nations. Rest of the evening at leisure.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 03 LAKE ATITLÁN - SANTIAGO ATITLÁN - LAKE ATITLÁN

After breakfast, today we cross the lake on a boat and head to picturesque Indian village of Santiago Atitlán, one of the twelve lake-shore villages surrounding the lake. Spend the rest of the day in the village enjoying this bustling Indian community, where weavers work the colourful textiles. Head back to Lake Atitlán in the evening. Overnight accommodations at a Hotel in Lake Atitlán.

[Y] Breakfast [x] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 04 LAKE ATITLÁN - CHICHICASTENANGO - GUATEMALA CITY - FLORES

After breakfast we head to Chichicastenango. You will get a chance to see the most colourful and picturesque Indian open-air market in the country. Hundreds of Indians from the surrounding countryside gather to barter their goods and products. This is also an opportunity to witness the captivating religious ceremonies held on the steps and inside the 400-year old Church of Santo Tomás. After a very exciting morning we head towards Guatemala City and guide you around landmarks like the Avenue of the Americas, Constitution Plaza and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Learn more about the city's rich history and heritage as you admire the murals and mosaics of the Bank of Guatemala, browse for handicrafts at the bustling Central Market, then explore the vast Paseo Cayala shopping complex. After lunch take a flight to Flores. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Indian Dinner



Day 05 FLORES - TIKAL NATIONAL PARK - MAYAN CITY

Today transfer to the Mayan City of Tikal located in the centre of the National Park, where some 3,000 ancient structures rise from the rainforest floor. Not only you will enjoy a fascinating tour of this impressive UNESCO World Heritage Site, but you will also experience the sights and sounds of tropical birds and animals, including howler and spider monkeys, that live in the jungle canopy. Once home to an estimated at 50,000 residents or more, Tikal flourished from 800 BC to 900 AD. You will follow in the footsteps of Maya royalty and commoners as your guide leads you to such sites the Twin-Pyramid Complexes "Q" and "R", Lost World Complex where the Great Pyramid and Temple 5C-49 are the most important, the Temple III and the Palace of the Windows, the Great Plaza, squared off with the pyramids of the Grand Jaguar and the Masks, the Palace of the Nobles, and Pyramid IV. This one is the highest of the Mayan pyramids, from its top a complete view of Tikal and its surrounding



jungle can be enjoyed. At the end of this exciting long day we head back to the hotel to digest all this ancient civilization.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 06

BELIZE - CAYO DISTRICT AND BARTON CREEK CAVE ADVENTURE

After breakfast meet your local guide, transfer to Cayo District through the Mennonite Community of Upper Barton Creek river. The Barton Creek Cave Tour is a low intensity adventure trip which is great for couples and families, offering something for everyone. Equipped with canoes and high powered lights guests gently paddle along the river into the cave system known as Xibalba (she-bal-ba), Maya for under world. Stalactites hang high overhead as you float past impressive calcite crystal formations. Knowledgeable guides discuss the relevance of the cave to the ancient Mayan people and the archaeological significance of this 7.5km limestone cave system which was used for ceremonial purposes and as a burial site by the ancient Maya people. In the evening return back to the hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 07

CARACOL - FULL DAY WITH RIO FRIO CAVES AND POOLS - CHIQUIBUL FOREST RESERVE

After breakfast today we visit an area of sub-tropical rainforest in the Maya village of San Antonio. Here you'll have an opportunity to see the Mestizo culture which is the mix of Maya and Spanish people. Two indigenous tribes live in San Antonio, the Mopan and the Yucatec Maya. San Antonio is also a famous village because it was the home of Dr Elijio Panti, one of the last Shaman in Belize. From here you'll continue up to the Mountain Pine Ridge Reserve which is a 106,000 acre, protected national park. In the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, many Belizeans were employed as timber cutters in this area and on our journey we will see testament to that history. Unfortunately, this forest was affected by the Southern Pine Beetles in 1999 and so some areas are rather barren but it is interesting to see and learn about the reforestation programs taking place. After the Mountain Pine Ridge you start to see that the mountain change from Pine Forest to Tropical Rainforest and you'll enter the Chiquibul Forest Reserve. About 1 hour drive from the Pine Ridge you will arrive at the beautiful Maya site of Caracol (which means the Snail), named by the archaeologists because they found lather of the snails on site. The original name is "Oxwitz" which means the sky place. Caracol is the largest archaeological site located in the tourist-friendly Cayo District of Belize. It is located about 25 miles south of the town of San Ignacio in the foothills of the Maya Mountains within the Chiquibul Forest Reserve in western Belize near the border with Guatemala, covering 30 square miles of thick, high canopy jungle, and includes five plazas, an astronomic observatory and over 35,000 buildings that have been identified. The loftiest among them, a massive pyramid (Caana) capped by three temples and rises over 140 feet above the jungle floor. You will enjoy a private guided tour of the site.

[Y] Breakfast [x] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 08

CULTURE VILLAGE TOUR - SAN IGNACIO

After breakfast today transferred to San Ignacio to visit a Maya family for an interactive chocolate making workshop. The demonstration starts with the peeling of the roasted cacao beans, then crushed on a grinding stone and turned into a chocolate paste. Guests then will mix a chocolate drink with the pure chocolate paste and then add sugar and honey, they also have the option of adding ground cinnamon, all spice or ground pepper to the mixture. Finally, the leftover chocolate paste is added sugar and moulded into heart or square shaped bars which you can take back home as souvenir. Afterwards continue to San Antonio village to visit the home of a local women's cooperative and experience the lifestyle and culture of the villagers. After a brief introduction, we enter the kitchen, grind corn on a grinding stone and make tortillas, where you can participate in a pottery workshop and make clay figures either by hand or using a spin wheel for making vases and pots. A typical village style lunch is served after the workshops. Our tour concludes with a visit to Sak Tunich, a place to meet local Mayan artists, famous for their handmade slate carvings; we also visit their workshops and exhibits before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 09

CAVE TUBING - BABOON SANCTUARY

After breakfast get transferred to Jaguar Paw where they begin a short jungle hike upriver. At the "put in point" they begin their scenic & tranquil journey down river floating on inner tubes and enjoying the views of the surrounding rainforest and the river cave formations as they pass into and out of several different cave systems. After lunch in the afternoon more adventure waits to continue a guided tour of the Baboon Sanctuary. At the Baboon Sanctuary you will learn about their work to protect the Howler Monkey (called baboons in the local Creole dialect) and where you can get up close and personal with these fascinating animals. Rest of the day at leisure.

[Y] Breakfast [x] Lunch [Y] Dinner

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Day 10 BELIZE CITY - UK

After breakfast depending on your flight time transfer to the airport for your flight home.

[Y] Breakfast [x] Lunch [x] Dinner

Day 11 ARRIVE UK

Arrive UK.

Return with the Happy Memories of the Tour!!!

Departures:

2018 Tour Departures:	
October	25
November	15
2019 Tour Departures:	
January	17
February	21

Tour Cost:

Departures: 25/10/2018, 15/11/2018, 17/01/2019, 21/02/2019

Title: Ex. London

Passengers	Rates		Sharing
	With Flight From UK	Without Flight	
	GBP	GBP	
Per Adult	3,299.00	2,699.00	Twin Room
Per Adult	3,299.00	2,699.00	Double Room
Per Adult	3,299.00	3,699.00	Triple Room
Child 2-11YRS	2,650.00	2,150.00	1st Child(with Bed) when 2 adults paying
Child 2-11YRS	2,450.00	1,950.00	2nd Child(without Bed) when 2 adults paying
Infant 0-23 Months	1,000.00	800.00	Infant
Per Adult	3,949.00	3,349.00	Single Room

Accommodation:

City	Nights	With Flight From UK	Hotel Rating	Without Flight	Hotel Rating
Guatemala City	1nts	El Convento Boutique Hotel or Similar	4 Star	El Convento Boutique Hotel or Similar	--
Lake Atitlan	2nts	Hotel Atitlan or Similar	4 Star	Hotel Atitlan or Similar	--
Flores	2nts	Hotel Camino Real Tikal Hotel or Similar	4 Star	Hotel Camino Real Tikal Hotel or Similar	--
Cayo	2nts	San Ignacio Resort Hotel or Similar	4 Star	San Ignacio Resort Hotel or Similar	--
Belize City	2nts	Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina or Similar	4 Star	Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina or Similar	--

Travel Mode:

From	Via	To	By
London		Guatemala City	Flight
Guatemala City	Lake Atitlan	Guatemala City	Coach
Guatemala City		Flores	Flight



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Flores	Cayo	Belize City	Coach
Belize City		UK	Flight

Inclusions:

- * All nights in 3* / 4* star hotels with breakfast
- * Meal plans as indicated in the itinerary
- * Entrances to sightseeing's and excursions as per the itinerary
- * Tips to guides and drivers included
- * All transportation in executive coaches, cruise liners, trains and some places in A/C Cars
- * Premium services of Bi-lingual Tour Director / Escort / Leader / Manager (when minimum numbers of passengers reached)
- * Services of local tour guides
- * All Internal Flights Including Airport Taxes
- * Return flights from one of these airports depending on availability of flights: London Heathrow / Gatwick / Stanstead / Luton / London City Airport

Exclusions:

- * Travel insurance
- * Visa charges
- * Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks (beverages), laundry, other meals, potter service, other personal expenses, etc..
- * Any cost of beverages, alcohols with the set meals.
- * Other services not listed in inclusive item & the itinerary

Cancellation Policy:

- * More than 56 days prior to departure date 50% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 55 - 42 days prior to departure date 75% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 41 - 0 days prior to departure date 100% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours



Services:

More information to follow

Terms & Conditions :

* Please refer to the full Terms and Conditions on our website