



August 2 -12/2024: United Church of Canada Guatemala: The Land of the Maya People

Day 1: Friday, Aug. 2: ANTIGUA Pickups at Guatemala City Airport. Overnight and dinner if arrived in Antigua. Hotel Aurora <http://www.hotelauroraantigua.com/en/>

Day 2: Saturday, Aug 3 ANTIGUA Breakfast at our Hotel. Opening Gathering with info/reflections/personal storytelling about the tour. Walking Tour in Antigua visiting colonial ruins, Hermano Pedro Church, café, jade, chocolate, markets, a chance to get familiar with the city. Lunch at Coaba Farm <https://www.caobafarms.com/> Optional visit to the Market at 4 pm or free time to explore the city. Dinner together, overnight in Antigua at Hotel Aurora.

Day 3: Sunday, Aug 4: ANTIGUA – PANAJACHEL Breakfast in Antigua. Morning freetime and 11 am depart and drive from Antigua to Lake Atitlan and Panajachel through the Highlands. Lunch enroute. Stop in Iximche, ancient Mayan City archeological site and spiritual centre, tour the ruins and learn about the lives of the ancient Mayans. Afternoon arrival in Panajachel. Dinner and evening group reflection. Overnight: Hotel Regis <https://www.regisatitlan.com/>

Day 4: Monday, Aug 5: PANAJACHEL Breakfast and morning visit with the elders in San Jorge as part of the Fundamaya project. Share some joyful time with the elders and hear about their lives and stories. Visit one of the elders in need and donate a bed or items they need. Share Lunch with the elders. <https://www.fundamaya.org/> Lunch out. Afternoon visit to Reserva Atitlan for a chance to swim in the lake hike to the hanging bridges. www.atitlanreserva.com. Dinner together. Hotel Regis.

Day 5: Tuesday, Aug. 6: SAN JUAN LA LAGUNA/PANAJACHEL Breakfast and 9 am boat over the lake to San Juan La Laguna one of the villages around the lake. Visit the coffee project, and the artisans of San Juan, visual artists and their incredible paintings, visit the Natural Dye Weaving Centre and Chocolate Café. Lunch at Alma de Colores, a labour and social inclusion project for people with disabilities. www.almadecolores.org . Later afternoon we will visit with Nan Maria, Mayan Spiritual Leader, for a Mayan Ceremony, giving thanks for the journey we are on. Boat back over the lake, overnight and dinner in Panajachel. Hotel Regis.

Day 6: Wednesday, Aug. 7: PANAJACHEL Rest and Reflection Day with optional activities: walk to Santa Catarina the next village along the lake and take a boat back. Shopping in the markets in Panajachel. Prep activities for the school the next day. Other options tba. Journalling. Resting. Lunch on your own. Dinner together and Evening Reflection. Hotel Regis.

Day 7: Thursday, Aug. 8: PANAJACHEL -- SANTA LUCIA UTATLAN: Breakfast, pack up van and drive to Santa Lucia Utatlan (Julio's community). Visit Nan Maria, our friend and Mayan Elder, have a window into her life. Lunch at Julio's and reflection on his story of being a teenager during the Civil

War in Guatemala. Afternoon visit to the local Youth Marimba group: Marimba Utatlan. Afternoon drive to Quezalteango (Xela). Overnight: Hotel Bonifaz <https://hotel-pension-bonifaz.negocio.site/>

Day 8: Friday, Aug. 9: XELA Breakfast at Hotel. Visit the Chwitziribal Community and the school, share some time with the children and teachers in the new school. (30 minute drive) Depart for Fuentes Georginas (Hot Springs) (30 min drive) and spend the afternoon there beginning with Lunch. Return to Xela and optional visit to Trama Textiles and Dinner and overnight in Xela. <https://newschoolguatemala.weebly.com/> <https://tramatextiles.org/> Overnight: Hotel Bonifaz

Day 9: Saturday, Aug. 10: XELA - ZACUALPA - CHICHICASTENANGO 7:00 am Breakfast at Hotel and 7:30 am departure to Zacualpa (3 hour drive). Spend the day and visit the Genocide Memorial at the Catholic Church there and share a Mayan Ceremony with Nan Juliana a Mayan Spiritual Leader and elder. Lunch at the Church with the Franciscan Sisters, afternoon time to reflect, drive back to Chichicastenango (1 hour), visit the cemetery, free-time, watch the market setup and evening Reflection. Dinner. Overnight at the Mayan Inn. <http://www.mayaninn.com.gt/>

DAY 10: Sunday, Aug. 11: CHICHICASTENANGO-ANTIGUA: Breakfast at the Hotel, visit to the Market in Chichicastenango. Lunch at Restaurante Casa San Jose. Drive to Antigua following the market. Freetime in Antigua. Closing reflection and party to end the tour. Overnight Antigua at Hotel Aurora.

DAY 11: Monday, Aug. 12: departures for CANADA or optional extra tour to TIKAL. Breakfast at Hotel, depart for airport.

All meals included except lunch on your own on August 7.

2 nights Antigua
4 nights Panjachel
2 night Xela
1 night Chichicastenago
1 nights Antigua