

PAN AMERICAN

TRAVEL SERVICES

SIGNATURE GUATEMALA

DAY 01 **GUATEMALA CITY – ANTIGUA**

Meet and Greet at Guatemala City International Airport and transfer to the hotel in Antigua. La Antigua (the old one), former colonial capital of the Kingdom of Guatemala, combines 17th and 18th century buildings and ruins with all the modern conveniences discerning travelers desire. The city was established as Santiago (St James) in 1543 after a mudslide destroyed the former capital. Santiago's history was punctuated by massive earthquakes, followed by rebuilding and reparation, until the earthquake of Santa Marta in 1773 prompted a move to the present capital in Guatemala City. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, Antigua exudes a unique atmosphere of history, intrigue and surprise. Resting in a fertile valley at 1530 m and surrounded by hills and volcanoes, Antigua's climate is likened to 'eternal spring'.

Overnight at the Panza Verde, Standard Suite

Panza Verde Hotel: Meson Panza Verde was established in 1986 as the first European style Inn (luxury boutique hotel) in Antigua, Guatemala. Ideally located at the quiet end of famous Fifth Avenue, it is a pleasant five minute walk from Antigua's main Plaza and Cathedral down cobble stone streets past wonderful ruins and delightful shops. Our hotel has nine uniquely decorated suites and three double rooms. Just beyond the entrance, there is an inviting central garden and fountain surrounded by a veranda that is quintessential Antigua. Our restaurant received the coveted Medal de Oro award in 2008 as best in the country. Our motto: "International cuisine with a twist".



DAY 02 **ANTIGUA**

B

Breakfast at the hotel. You will be met at your hotel reception by your private guide to begin your half day walking tour of Antigua. Your tour will cover the architectural & historical highlights of this colonial city with a behind-the-scenes look at some of the many ruined churches, convents, and cathedrals. Entrances are included to the Iglesia San Francisco, the Cathedral, Central Park, and La Merced Church. This tour is flexible and if you have specific sights that you wish to see please notify your guide. If you wish to visit

other monuments you will need to pay the entrances directly. At the end of the tour your guide can accompany you back to your hotel or take you to a place of your choosing. Overnight at the Panza Verde, Standard Suite

DAY 03 CHICHICASTENANGO MARKET – LAKE ATITLAN B,L

Breakfast at the hotel. Guests are met at their hotel by their private driver & guide for the 2.5hr transfer out to the highland town of Chichicastenango. Along the way guests will pass through the central highland region and see the local Maya people in their traditional dress going about their daily lives - working in the fields, collecting firewood, traveling between markets, selling their wares. Upon arrival at Chichicastenango your guide will take you to explore this famous market both the local areas of the fruit & vegetables & everyday items as well as the craft area where you can find endless variety of beautiful textile, wooden & ceramic crafts. Guests can also visit the famous St Tomas Church where local Maya people come to perform Maya rituals within the Catholic Church - demonstrating the interesting way the two faiths have combined in recent times. If they want to guests can also hike up the hill to the Pascual Abaj ritual site to see if any local shaman are performing rituals, and/or to the cemetery on the outskirts of town. Lunch is provided and when guests are ready they will be transferred onto Lake Atitlan (1hr) and to their hotel. Chichicastenango (place of the nettles) is a K'iche' Maya town perched at 2070 m in the Highlands, founded around 1550 by Dominican missionaries. The site had been occupied by Kaqchikel Maya, who left to establish Iximche around 1470 due to political unrest between themselves and the K'iche'. On Thursdays and Sundays the town of 76,000 inhabitants is invaded by indigenous from local villages that come to buy and sell in the market; conduct any business, like banking; and perform their religious ceremonies, both in the Catholic Church and at traditional Mayan sites.



Lake Atitlan was cited by author Aldous Huxley as being “the most beautiful lake in the world”. It was formed over 80,000 years ago by a violent volcanic eruption; the caldera now contains 130 km² of sparkling water, encompassed by hills and three towering volcanoes of subsequent birth: Atitlan (3,537 m), Toliman (3,158 m), and San Pedro (3,020 m). Being such a beautiful place, the lake has been home to many different

cultures, dating back to 1000 bc or more. By 1250 the Tz'utujil Maya were established around the lake and by the 1520s they ruled over the whole of the lake area, except for a strip from Panajachel to San Antonio Palopo, which was ruled by the Kaqchikel Maya. In 1524 the Tz'utujiles surrendered to the Spanish conquistadors, their Mexican allies and the Kaqchikeles, and began paying tribute to the Spanish crown. When the Kaqchikeles refused to provide ever increasing tributes in gold, the Spanish used their old enemies the Tz'utujiles to conquer them.

Overnight at the Hotel Atitlan, Standard Double

Hotel Atitlan: The finca was purchased in 1926 by Moisés and Blanca Rivera who then began their family business in coffee cultivation. In 1970, Arturo inherited the land from his parents and he, along with his wife Susan, built the Hotel Atitlán. The first wing consisting of the entrance, bar, restaurant and 14 rooms was completed in December of 1971. The second wing of 29 rooms was completed in 1974 and the last addition of 22 rooms in 1992. In total, there are 60 rooms; each individually decorated by family members with its own private balcony and breathtaking views.

Each room has a unique personality that is reflected in the decor of hand-woven fabrics and hand-crafted furniture, paintings and other decorations from the many indigenous villages in the region. The floors are made of traditional tile and covered by area-rugs that are also hand-made.

DAY 04 SANTIAGO CITY TOUR

B,L



Founded in 1547 at the foot of the Toliman volcano, this is the largest town with a population over 32,000, about 95% indigenous of Tz'utujil descent. Livelihoods include fishing, farming and making Cayucos (local canoes). Artisans specialize in painting, woodwork and weaving textiles. The stunning men's pants and women's huipiles are woven and then beautifully embroidered with birds. Some of the older women still wear the traditional tocoyal, an 8 meter length of red fabric wound round their head like a halo. Santiago is home to one of the three "original" Maximon characters, a pagan deity or god who receives offerings of alcohol and cigars. The market is held in the streets on Fridays and Sundays.



Guests are picked up from their hotel & transfer to Santiago Village. Upon arrival at Santiago guests will walk with their guide to find the house where the Maya God Maximon is living. Each year a different "brotherhood" has the privilege of taking care of their God so his location changes. Once with Maximon you may see local shaman performing rituals for local people and if you wish you can ask your guide to help you hire the services of a shaman for you to have a personal ceremony performed. After visiting Maximon guests can visit the local church and learn about the history of this very traditional town and also see the market and learn about the distinctive textiles and primitive art that is famous from this area. Lunch is included and then when guests are ready they will be transferred back to their hotel.
Overnight at the Hotel Atitlan, Standard Double

DAY 05 ATITLAN – GUATEMALA CITY AIRPORT – PETEN B

Breakfast at the hotel. Guests are met at their hotel by their private driver & guide for the 2.5hr transfer out to the Guatemala City Airport for flight to Flores. Upon arrival in Flores you will be greeted and transferred to the Camino Real Tikal Hotel.

The Department of Peten covers almost one-third of Guatemala and is the least populated. Situated in the north, with an average altitude of just 130 m, this area known as the lowlands is home to rainforests and ancient Mayan cities. The most well-known and impressive site is Tikal, at its height during the Classic period, with soaring temples concealed within the 576 km² Tikal National Park, where birds and wildlife abound. But there are many other, lesser-known sites to explore, away from the crowds. Within Lake Peten Itzá's 99 km² lies the island city of Flores. Incredibly, the Itza Maya who occupied this area held out against the Spanish conquistadors until 1697. A short causeway links Flores with the mainland and the Mundo Maya International Airport.

Overnight at the Camino Real Tikal Hotel, Standard Double

Camino Real Tikal Hotel: Camino Real Tikal opening sixteen years ago is a tropical five star retreat set in the heart of the Petén jungle with all the comfort and facilities to assure an unforgettable experience. Camino Real Tikal will be the perfect starting point of the Mayan Adventure. At only a 45-minute drive you will be able to explore and experience

the history, culture and tradition of the ancient Maya civilization, at Tikal National Park. The Hotel is located at a 30 minute flight from Guatemala City and inside the Cerro Cahuí Natural Reserve and on the banks of Lake Petén Itzá; close to El Remate, a farmers village offering hardwood souvenirs and the Island of Flores with its cobblestone streets.



DAY 06 YAXHA SUNSET TOUR

B

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning at leisure. Yaxha, Q'equchi' for green water, is located in the department of Peten, 73 km from Flores. This Maya site, discovered in 1904 by architect Teobert Maler, is situated within the Maya Biosphere Reserve along with the sites of Nakum and El Naranjo. It was occupied from pre classic (800 bc) to post classic (1600 AD) times and covers 3 km² with more than 500 buildings discovered, including the only twin pyramid complex outside of Tikal. It was allied to Tikal and an enemy of El Naranjo, from whom it suffered various defeats. Nearby is Yaxha lagoon, in the center of which was another Mayan site called Topoxte, where building continued after the classic collapse until 1450. The lagoon is home to the Moreletti specie of crocodile, endemic to Peten.

Guests are picked up from their hotel and they transfer with their driver and guide to Yaxha National Park (1hr) where they can enjoy a private guided tour of this lesser visited, atmospheric site. Guests can enjoy the sights and sounds of the howler and spider monkeys as well as many colorful tropical birds and other mammals in this area which is rich with wildlife. Sunset drinks are then enjoyed at the end of the tour on top of the main temple with views over the surrounding rainforest and nearby Lake Yaxha. Guests then trek back through the jungle with torches as it starts to turn dark - perhaps spotting some nocturnal wildlife along the way - and return to their hotel.

Overnight at the Camino Real Tikal Hotel, Standard Double



DAY 07 TIKAL

B,L

Breakfast at Hotel. The Tikal ruins lie within the 576 km² Tikal National Park, declared a World Heritage site in 1979. Among the 54 species of mammals in the park, the Spider monkeys and Pizotes (Coatimundi) are the easiest to see; among the 333 species of birds is the endemic Ocellated turkey. The site's mapped district covers 16 km² and comprises more than 3,000 individual structures, temples, and courtyard groups. Estimates suggest that, during the Classic period, more than 50,000 people lived in Tikal. The metropolis was occupied during the period between 800 BC and 900 AD, but the earliest architecture originates from the 4th century BC. The nobility resided in the Central and North Acropolis, the administrative center of the city, which is also where some of the rulers were buried.



Guests are picked up from their hotel. They transfer with their driver and guide to Tikal National Park (50mins) where they can enjoy a private guided tour of this fabulous site with huge temples rising up through the jungle canopy and a variety of tropical animals and birds on show. Guests can enjoy the sights and sounds of the howler and spider monkeys as well as many colorful tropical birds and other mammals. Lunch is provided. Guests can then explore the museum before returning to their hotel. If guests wish to return to the site they can do so unguided and the driver will return them to their hotel when they are ready. Late afternoon transfer to the airport in Flores for the short flight back to Guatemala City. Upon arrival in Guatemala City you will be greeted and transferred to the Westin Camino Real.

Overnight at the Westin Camino Real, Deluxe Double

Westin Camino Real: Classic and filled with tradition, like Guatemala itself, Westin Camino Real is an exquisite mixture of elegance and comfort, where we make you feel at home and offer you the finest first class service.

Westin Camino Real was conceived 50 years ago to be the first five star Hotel in Guatemala City, honor that still distinguishes us as the leading luxury Hotel in our wonderful City. The Hotel has recently been redecorated with marvelous pieces of art and wonderful classic european architectural details, which along with our personalized service make the difference in the experience our guests have when they stay with us. Westin Camino Real is the perfect starting point for an unforgettable experience in Guatemala, the "Land of Eternal Spring".

DAY 08 GUATEMALA CITY - DEPARTURE

B

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for international flights home. If time permits a tour of Guatemala City can easily be arranged.

****END OF SERVICES****

PRICES STARTING AT \$2035.00 per person based on double occupancy

NOTE: Lower category hotels are available. Contact for pricing options. Prices are good for the entire 2010 season except Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

Upgrades are also available; transfers & tours in SUV, private charter flight or helicopter transfer to the Peten Area, and a luxury picnic lunch at Tikal.

Included:

- ▶ Private transfers and tours
- ▶ Hotel accommodations w/breakfast
- ▶ Services of highly qualified English speaking guides
- ▶ Tours and meals as described (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, BL = Box Lunch, D = Dinner)
- ▶ Entrance fees to sights and shows as indicated
- ▶ Hotel taxes and service fees
- ▶ Flights within Guatemala

Not included:

- ▶ International airfare
- ▶ Airport departure taxes
- ▶ Border fees
- ▶ Drinks, meals, and tours not specified in itinerary
- ▶ Expenses of a pure personal matter
- ▶ Tips to guides and drivers
- ▶ Porterage
- ▶ Visas (if required)

****PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES AND AVAILABILTY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME. NO SERVICES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AND CANNOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT DEPOSIT OR IN SOME CASES FULL PAYMENT. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND TRAVEL INSURANCE. PRICE IS FOR LAND SERVICE ONLY****

Booking Policy:

Note: Some cruises and special properties may require additional deposits.

<i>Deposit to confirm reservations</i>	<i>\$300 per person</i>
<i>Full payment due 90 days before departure</i>	<i>100%</i>

Change Fee Policy:

<i>Changes made after full payment has been received</i>	<i>Change Fee</i>
<i>90 - 30 days before departure</i>	<i>\$100 plus any supplier fees</i>
<i>Less than 30 days before departure</i>	<i>\$200 plus any supplier fees</i>

Cancellation Policy for Land Arrangements:

Note: Airlines have different cancellation policies for air tickets. Please review the cancellation penalties before purchase.

<i>Written cancellation received before the scheduled departure date.</i>	<i>Per Person Cancellation Fee</i>
<i>Up to 90 days</i>	<i>\$200 plus any non-refundable fees</i>
<i>Between 89 - 30 days</i>	<i>50% of land arrangements</i>
<i>Less than 30 days</i>	<i>100% of tour cost</i>