

# VACATIONS THAT MATTER!

## Guatemala Voluntourism Program



Please note that this proposed itinerary is subject to availability. Minimum group size is 4 passengers

### Day 1: Arrival and transfer to Antigua

Meet and Greet at airport. Transfer to hotel. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight Antigua

#### About Antigua Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala is one of the most idyllic destinations in the world, with painstakingly restored Spanish colonial architecture, manicured parks, stylish hotels, superb international cuisine and a horizon shaped by three spectacular volcanoes. Nestled in a mountain valley and surrounded by evergreen forests, Antigua retains the aura of the 17th Century capital that it was, while blending modern amenities that make it an internationally appealing getaway. Walking along cobblestone streets, visitors find high-end art galleries, fascinating museums, luxurious shops with international treasures and traditional markets packed to the rafters with locally made textiles and woodcrafts. With its architecture, culture and unique setting, Antigua, Guatemala, quite simply, is the most charming city in all the Americas.

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>None</b>

### Day 2: Climb the Active Volcano of Pacaya

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Pacaya volcano for a guided tour of Pacaya Active volcano. Have Lunch at the Summit and transfer to Antigua for dinner at a local restaurant.

*Our tour starts with a morning transfer (1hr) to the foothills of the active Pacaya volcano. The hike then begins with a fairly strenuous hike through wonderful pine forest up to the more tricky volcanic ash section and finally to the sulfur smoking cone. On occasions you can even see small eruptions and lava flow depending on the activity of the volcano. From the summit we can enjoy great views to the northern volcanoes, the pacific lowlands and all the way to El Salvador. Half way down, we stop to enjoy a picnic lunch with the impressive volcano in close sight. Back at the base of the volcano, our support vehicle awaits us for our transfer back to Antigua.*

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**Pacaya Volcano**

Located just 40km outside the capital city of Guatemala City Pacaya is at a height of approximately 2,552 meters (8,371 feet). Pacaya is a complex volcano, consisting of an older stratovolcano, domes, flows, tephra, and the modern basaltic stratovolcano. Most of the complex has formed in the last 23,000 years. Pacaya has erupted at least 23 times since 1565. Little is known about the early historic eruptions due to the remote location of the volcano. Since 1965, Pacaya has been erupting nearly continuously. The style of eruption alternates between strombolian and plinian. Hundreds of explosions occur each day at Pacaya. Strombolian eruptions throw incandescent bombs hundreds of meters into the air and produce small lava flows.



<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>None</b>

**Day 3: As Green As It Gets Project**

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Coffee Farm 15 mins transfer, Guided tour of As Green as it gets project. Welcome presentation with welcome gift, Hands on at project with picking coffee activity side by side with the local community, Lunch with local community, Transfer to Antigua, Dinner at local restaurant.

*As Green as it Gets (GAIG) is a charity working to support small independent coffee producers and promoting environmentally responsible agriculture in Guatemala. This project takes guests to visit some of the families supported by this organization where they can work side-by-side with small coffee farmers in their daily coffee processing, pick, pulp, ferment, wash, dry, trilla, sort, and grade the coffee (depending on the season), roast coffee over an open fire and grind by hand on a grindstone before sampling their handiwork. Coffee Season is Nov to Mar. This tour includes a donation to GAIG.*

*In the afternoon take a 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. When you are ready, walk back to the hotel.*



<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>6 Hours</b>

#### Day 4: As Green As It Gets Project

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Coffee Farm 15 mins transfer. Hands on at project with farmer activities and coffee process, Lunch at local community, Transfer to Antigua, Dinner at local restaurant, Overnight Antigua

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast and Lunch</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>7 Hours</b>

#### Day 5: As Green As It Gets Project

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Coffee Farm 15 mins transfer, Hands on at project with farmer activities and coffee process, Lunch at local community, Transfer to Antigua, Dinner at local restaurant, Overnight Antigua

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast and Lunch</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>7 Hours</b>

#### Day 6: Transfer to the Lake via Iximche ruins

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Iximche ruins, Guided tour of Iximche ruins, Transfer to restaurant, Lunch at local restaurant, Transfer to lake Atitlan, Overnight at Lake Atitlan

*Guests transfer 1hr from Antigua to the famous Maya archaeology site of Iximche for a tour of this fascinating site. After the tour guests can enjoy a traditional lunch in a local restaurant before continuing on to Lake Atitlan and their hotel (1.5hr)*

##### **About Iximché**

Iximché was the capital of the Cakchiquel Maya. The archaeological site sits atop a fortified hilltop site surrounded by a moat about nine feet deep, with a ball court & other structures. The patio for ball games is completely enclosed, which is common in many places on the altiplano. The ball courts were built near an area containing four plazas. The Cakchiquel Maya were powerful warriors & skillful builders. The stucco faces of many stone structures are still intact. It is thought that Iximché was founded in the year 1470 A.D. & throughout the life of the city were the bitter enemies of the Quiché Maya. The first Spanish settlement on Guatemala soil was in Iximché. Iximché is located very close to the ruins of Pocomán, also called Mixco Viejo.



Iximche Mayan site

**Lake Atitlan**

Lake Atitlan has been called by many, “the most beautiful lake in the world”. It is indeed an amazing setting with the crystal blue waters of the lake surrounded by the three lofty peaks of Toliman, San Pedro and Atitlan Volcanoes. Your guests can take a private boat to villages surrounding the lake and experience the local indigenous customs, traditions, dress and crafts.



Lake Atitlan

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>None</b>

**Day 7: Tour by Boat to visit San Juan Community – Reforestation Program & Learn to Fish Local Style**

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to dock area, Boat transfer to San Juan La Laguna community, Guided tour of village, reforestation program and learn to fish local style, Lunch at local restaurant, Boat transfer to Posada, Dinner.

Guests are met at their hotel by a representative from Global Visionaries and are transferred to an area of reforestation work in the nearby area. As well as learning about the importance of reforestation in the area and the ongoing work of Global Visionaries guests will get some hands on experience at the project. The exact nature of the work will depend on what season you are visiting. During planting season (the “green” or rainy season May 15 – Oct 15), participants will plant approximately 100 native tree species under the direction of our Service Coordinators. During maintenance season (the dry season Oct 16 – May 14), guests will work on maintaining 2 acres of reforested land ensuring trees’ survival and reducing possibility of forest fire. Either way participants will have a great deal of fun, getting hands-on experience while interacting along side with Guatemalan elementary community members and students.

**About San Juan La Laguna**

Traditions of farming and fishing stand alongside the weaving of reed mats or petates, and textiles. Many of the women have organized themselves into weaving cooperatives, exporting much of their high quality handiwork, and one group makes their dyes from local plants. Artists paint in the Arte Naif or primitivist style, some tinting their works exclusively in local natural dyes.



Reforestation Project Global Visionaries

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<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>5 Hours</b>

### Day 8: Chichicastenango Market

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Chichicastenango market, Guided tour of Chichicastenango Market, Lunch at local restaurant, Pascual Abaj hike, Transfer to Antigua, Overnight in Antigua

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, travelling 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 guests want to they can also hike up the hill to the Pascaul Abaj ritual site to see if any local shaman are performing rituals and/or to the cemetery on the outskirts of town. Lunch is on your own. When you are ready transfer to the lake.

#### About Chichicastenango

Chichicastenango is famous for its large craft market on Sunday and Thursday. This is when craftsmen and villagers from all over the highlands converge on this small town to sell their wares. Sunday is an interesting day to visit because as well as the hugely colorful market, many village shamans will come from miles around to “Chichi”, as the locals call it, to perform Mayan rituals on behalf of people in their community. There are many hillside Mayan altar sites where the rituals are performed and, yet more strangely, many are performed on altar slabs inside the Catholic Church. Chichi is one of the easiest places for travelers to experience the strange way that Mayan & Catholic faiths have merged in Guatemala. During a trip to Chichi, you can also visit the small mask factory and see a traditional dance display performed by the local children.



Chichicastenango

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>None</b>

### Day 9: Transfer to Antigua. Free day with Farewell Dinner at nice local restaurant

*Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to Antigua, Free day, Farewell Dinner at local restaurant,*

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Breakfast and Dinner</b>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Posada de Donrodrigo or equivalent</b> <a href="http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/">http://www.posadadedonrodrigo.com/</a>
<b>Service Project</b>	<b>None</b>

## Day 10: Departure

Breakfast at hotel, Transfer to airport

### Meals | Breakfast

#### TOUR COST

The tour cost is based on the above suggested hotel/room categories.. Rates may fluctuate based on availability, holiday season and group size. **Minimum group size is 4 passengers**

Tour Cost	4 persons
Price per person (no airfare)	FROM US\$ 2,325
Child Under 12	\$1,250

What's Included	What is NOT included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land transfers on private basis</li><li>• Entrance Fees at all activities</li><li>• Accommodations are based on standard double room</li><li>• Meals as mentioned</li><li>• Local tour leader throughout the whole itinerary – not staying at the same hotels as clients</li><li>• Locals or Project guides</li><li>• Donation at project</li><li>• Boat transfer as mentioned</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other meals not mentioned in the program</li><li>• All international flights &amp; airport taxes</li><li>• Personal expenses</li><li>• Travel insurance</li><li>• Tips &amp; gratuities</li><li>• Other services not listed in inclusive column</li><li>• Airport security fees and departure taxes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ \$3 per person security fee internal flight in Guatemala</li></ul></li></ul>