



GLIMPSE OF GUATEMALA TOUR OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 2, 2022



- **ALDEA offers a unique, eye-opening, 8-day/8-night tour of the western highlands of Guatemala, the “Land of Eternal Spring.” Participants visit rural Mayan partner communities and experience Guatemala’s incredible beauty, vibrant culture, colonial splendor, and breathtaking landscape around Antigua and Lake Atitlán.**



The tour is full of opportunities to meet local Mayans in their villages and learn of their struggles, sacrifices, and dreams of a better life for themselves and their children. See first-hand the positive changes in these indigenous communities where ALDEA has partnered to create lasting solutions to the persistent problems of poverty and inequality in rural Guatemala. Delve into the history of a people with extraordinary artistic and architectural creativity and sophistication. Witness the impact of colonization and religion on Guatemalan culture.

Participants from various areas and professions travel with ALDEA, forming strong bonds, and a shared commitment to improving the lives of rural Mayans.

Tour Highlights: (Day-by-day itinerary follows)

- Learn about ALDEA’s community development projects with Mayan partner villages.
- Discover daily activities of rural Mayans in their homes, learn their stories first-hand, and meet community leaders.
- Experience Guatemala’s thriving Mayan heritage and amazing legacy.
- Explore colonial Antigua and learn of its rich history.
- Experience the spectacular Sumpango Kite Festival held on All Saints Day.
- Relax surrounded by the mesmerizing beauty of volcano-ringed Lake Atitlán.
- See the Lake’s rich and fertile hills, fishermen, artists, traditional weaving, and daily activities.
- Walk the Mayan ruins of Iximché and witness a Mayan ritual.
- Enjoy delicious Guatemalan food and some of the best coffee in the world.
- Take advantage of shopping opportunities in Antigua, Santiago Atitlán, and San Juan La Laguna.

What’s Included:

- Extensive pre-tour information, trip coordination assistance, welcome packet, souvenir gift.
- Pick-up and shuttle to/from La Aurora Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City.
- Five nights at [Hotel Aurora](#) in Antigua, one night at San Ricardo Farm & Lodge in Tecpán, and two nights at [Hotel Bambú](#) at Lake Atitlán.
- Daily breakfasts plus six lunches and seven dinners (including a special farewell dinner).
- Air-conditioned, chauffeured coaster bus for in-country trips; water and some snacks included.
- Bilingual guides/available translators, all excursions and entrance fees during group activities.
- Gratuities for meals, chauffeurs, local on-site guides, and hotel service.

Price per Person: \$1,690 double occupancy; \$1,990 single occupancy

What’s Not Included:

- Roundtrip air transportation.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g. souvenirs, laundry, extra snacks and drinks.
- Meals on Tuesday, October 25 and lunch on Tuesday November 1.
- Cost of optional activities during free time.
- Travel medical insurance.

Deposit/Payments/Cancellations: \$200 deposit is due at the time of registration and the remaining balance (\$1,490 for double occupancy and \$1,790 for single occupancy) is due on **June 30, 2022**. If a participant cancels by June 30, 2022, they will receive a full refund of the amount paid. No refunds will be made for cancellations after June 30, 2022, unless the vacancy can be filled with a participant of equivalent occupancy. [Register and pay online here](#) through ALDEAGuatemala.org.

Participation Details: The activity level for this trip is moderately difficult due to walking on cobblestones, uneven surfaces, and up and down slopes; standing for periods of time; getting in and out of boats; and riding on bumpy roads. Tour is limited to 15 participants; all must be a minimum of 21 years of age. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver, to provide proof of COVID vaccination, and to have travel medical insurance coverage.

Travel Documents: A current U.S. passport is required. No visa is required for Guatemala visits of fewer than 90 days.

Climate: Daytime temperatures in 70s F, nights in the 50s. The tour takes place at the end of the rainy season so some rain is possible.



Brief Day-by-Day Itinerary (Subject to Change):

Tuesday, October 25: Arrive at Guatemala City airport (GUA). Shuttle to colonial Antigua, check in at [Hotel Aurora](#).

Wednesday, October 26: Antigua orientation walk followed by tour orientation. After lunch, explore Antigua on your own. Pre-dinner discussion of Guatemala's social/political/economic situation with former U.S. Consul General/ALDEA board member.

Thursday, October 27: Continue exploring Antigua in the morning. Typical lunch/cooking and weaving demo/product display at local family home in San Antonio Aguas Calientes. Over dinner, discuss ALDEA's history and current program with former ALDEA board president.

Friday, October 28: ALDEA update in Chimaltenango by onsite Executive Director, travel to two rural Mayan villages – one village with ALDEA-sponsored environmental and empowerment projects completed and one without projects. Overnight stay at rustic San Ricardo Farm & Lodge in Tecpán. – best local accommodations.

Saturday, October 29: Guided visit of the pre-Columbian ruins of Iximché en-route to Lake Atitlán, check in at [Hotel Bambú](#). After lunch, join local guide Don Diego Chavez for tour of Santiago Atitlán's church, and rectory where the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified was murdered in 1981. Shopping opportunities. Possible "Maximón" encounter.

Sunday, October 30: AM boat rides—visit a San Pedro La Laguna museum on Mayan culture and the Lake's geology and history, witness the natural dye process at local weavers' cooperative in San Juan La Laguna. Free time in afternoon to relax at Hotel Bambú's pool, shop in Santiago Atitlán, or visit neighboring communities by boat.

Monday, October 31: AM boat ride to Panajachel to meet our bus which will take us to visit another rural ALDEA village and participate with villagers in typical daily activities. Return to Antigua in time for dinner.

Tuesday, November 1: Morning visit to the Sumpango Kite Festival. Early afternoon free time in Antigua. Late afternoon guided tour of the historic Casa Santo Domingo monastery followed by special dinner finale at the hotel's exquisite restaurant.

Wednesday, November 2: Shuttle to Guatemala City airport for flight departures OR plan additional post-tour activity, e.g. climb a volcano, travel to Tikal or Copan, attend Spanish language school, take a cooking class, or visit more of Antigua.

"The 'Glimpse of Guatemala Tour' exceeded my expectations! We enjoyed the vibrant city of Antigua with its colonial architecture, museums, colorful marketplaces and shopping. The well-developed itinerary and fabulous local American, Guatemalan and Mayan guides provided fascinating presentations on history, culture, society, spirituality and political life. Among the many highlights, one stands out. We had the opportunity to visit with Mayan villagers and observe the extraordinary impact made by ALDEA and ABPD to improve Mayan quality of life and living conditions. The tour was more than a glimpse of Guatemala—it was a tour like no other—a transformative experience for me."

— Mary Jane Snyder, 2020 Tour Participant