



GUATEMALA & BELIZE JOURNEY

Provided by Maya Trails



QUICK SUMMARY

Day	Description	Accommodation
Day 1	Welcome to Guatemala & Transfer to Antigua	El Convento
Day 2	Walking Tour with Street Food	El Convento
Day 3	Coffee Experience & Chocolate Tour	El Convento
Day 4	Pacaya Volcano Hike	El Convento
Day 5	Chichicastenango Market Tour & Transfer to Lake Atitlan	Hotel Atitlan
Day 6	Villages Tour	Hotel Atitlan
Day 7	Flight to Flores & Yaxha Sunset	Las Lagunas Luxury Lodge
Day 8	Tikal Full Day	Las Lagunas Luxury Lodge
Day 9	Transfer to Belize Border & Xunantunich & Cahal Pech	Ka'ana
Day 10	ATM Caves	Ka'ana
Day 11	Transfer to Placencia	Itz'ana Belize Resort
Day 12	Day at Leisure	Itz'ana Belize Resort
Day 13	Day at Leisure	Itz'ana Belize Resort
Day 14	Departure	

ITINERARY DETAIL

Day 1: Welcome to Guatemala & Transfer to Antigua



DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Antigua

Accommodation: El Convento

Meals:

Transfer to Antigua. (This service is on a private basis.)

Antigua

Antigua is among the world's best conserved colonial cities in the Americas. It is a magic and captivating small town that makes you feel time might have stopped 300 years ago. From its colonial architecture to its beautiful surroundings; strolling through town on the cobblestone streets, will fascinate you!

Day 2: Walking Tour with Street Food



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: Antigua Walking Tour with Street Food

Accommodation: El Convento

Meals: B

Enjoy a guided walking tour through the enchanting streets of Antigua Guatemala, where history, architecture, and local flavors come together in one unforgettable experience. Starting at the Central Plaza, your knowledgeable guide will introduce you to Guatemala's colonial past, its role as a regional hub during Spanish rule, and key aspects of the country's history and contemporary life.

As you walk through the city, you will admire Antigua's most iconic colonial landmarks, including the exterior of the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, City Hall, and El Portal, as well as enjoy special visits to the Cathedral, its historic ruins, and the San Francisco Church. Along the way, you'll discover why Antigua remains one of the most important and captivating colonial cities in the Americas.

This experience goes beyond history by immersing you in Antigua's vibrant culinary culture. While strolling through lively streets, local markets, and hidden food stalls frequented by Antigüenos, you will taste a variety of traditional delicacies such as freshly made tortillas, atoles, and local sweets. Each bite offers insight into Guatemala's rich traditions and the deep connection between food and daily life

Day 3: Coffee Experience & Chocolate Tour



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: Coffee Experience & Chocolate tour

Accommodation: El Convento

Meals: B

Discover Guatemala's rich agricultural heritage through an immersive coffee and chocolate experience in Antigua. Renowned for producing some of the finest coffee in Central America, Antigua offers the perfect setting to explore the traditions behind two of the country's most iconic exports.

Begin with a visit to a traditional coffee hacienda, where you will enjoy breathtaking scenery while learning the complete coffee-making process—from bean to cup. Guided by local experts, you'll experience the aromas, flavors, and techniques that make Guatemalan coffee internationally celebrated, gaining firsthand insight into the care and craftsmanship behind every cup.

The experience continues with a hands-on cacao workshop that brings ancient traditions to life. You will work directly with cacao seeds, learning how to brew, toast, and grind the kernels before transforming them into artisanal chocolate. Under expert guidance, you'll become a true master chocolatier, crafting your own chocolates and enjoying the delicious results shortly after.

Day 4: Pacaya Volcano Hike



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: Pacaya volcano hike

Transportation: Transfer to Antigua

Accommodation: El Convento

Meals: B, L

Enjoy a private transfer to Pacaya Volcano, one of Guatemala's most fascinating natural landmarks. Located just outside Guatemala City, Pacaya rises to 2,552 meters (8,373 ft) and is one of the country's three active volcanoes. After a period of dormancy, it has remained active since 1965, offering visitors a unique opportunity to witness volcanic landscapes up close.

The journey from Antigua to Pacaya National Park (officially declared in 2001) takes approximately one hour, arriving at the trailhead in the small village of San Francisco de Sales. The hike follows a well-maintained trail of roughly 2 miles, steadily ascending through farmland and pine forest before reaching an exposed ridge. From here, you'll enjoy panoramic views of Pacaya's smoking black cone, vast lava fields, and, on clear days, the surrounding volcanoes near Antigua and Lake Atitlán.

The trail continues across a dramatic volcanic moonscape formed by ancient lava flows. Here, you'll have the chance to roast marshmallows over natural hot spots—a fun and memorable “Guatemalan-style s'mores” experience. The hike concludes with a picnic lunch enjoyed with scenic views of the volcano from a safe distance, as national park regulations do not allow access to the crater's summit.

Hike details:

Total distance: 8 km

Elevation gain: 400 m

Highest point: 2,552 m

Approximate tour duration: 8 hours

Please bring:

Hiking boots or trekking shoes (no sandals)

Daypack with rain cover

One warm layer and/or windbreaker

Rain jacket (May through October)

Personal toiletries and/or medications

Camera, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen

Two liters of water Transfer to Antigua. (This service is on a private basis.)

Day 5: Chichicastenango Market Tour & Transfer to Lake Atitlan



DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Chichicastenango

Tour: Chichicastenango market tour

Transportation: Transfer to Lake Atitlan

Accommodation: Hotel Atitlan

Meals: B

Transfer to Chichicastenango. (This service is on a private basis.) Chichicastenango is home to one of the most colorful and vibrant indigenous markets in the Americas. Held every Sunday and Thursday, this iconic market brings together not only the local K'iche' Maya community but also vendors from across Guatemala, representing a rich diversity of linguistic groups such as Mam, Ixil, Kaqchikel, and many others.

Upon arrival, you will meet your local guide, who will lead you through the heart of the town and introduce you to its deep cultural and spiritual significance. You will visit the historic church, an iconic monument of indigenous and Mayan heritage, where ancient traditions and Catholic influences blend in a unique expression of faith. If you are fortunate, you may witness traditional ceremonies that reflect this remarkable fusion of beliefs. Private transfer to Lake Atitlan. (This service is on a private basis.)

Day 6: Villages Tour



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: San Juan & San Antonio Palopo village tour

Accommodation: Hotel Atitlan

Meals: B

our guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel, where you will begin a scenic private boat transfer across Lake Atitlán to the village of San Juan La Laguna. Renowned for its naïf art galleries, colorful town murals, and textiles made with natural dyes, San Juan stands as a model of community organization and sustainable tourism in the highlands. Its artistic spirit and strong cooperatives have made it one of the most inspiring villages around the lake.

After exploring San Juan, you will continue by private boat to San Antonio Palopó. This village is celebrated for its high-quality, lead-free ceramics, a tradition introduced by renowned artist Ken Edwards and embraced by the local community. Artisans here create distinctive pieces inspired by the lake, surrounding volcanoes, and vibrant local colors.

During your visit, you will learn about the ceramic-making process, interact closely with local artisans, and have the opportunity to craft your own personalized ceramic piece—making this experience both cultural and hands-on.

Day 7: Flight to Flores & Yaxha Sunset



DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Guatemala City Airport

Domestic Flights: Flight FRS-GUA

Tour: Yaxha sunset tour

Accommodation: Las Lagunas Luxury Lodge

Meals: B

FLIGHT FRS-GUA

Local flight from FRS - GUA (approx 1hr)

Private transfer to Guatemala City airport. (This service is on a private basis.) After landing, your guide and driver will be waiting for you at the airport exit to begin your journey into the heart of the Mayan world.

Yaxhá is an impressive archaeological site and ancient ceremonial center of the Mayan civilization, located in northeastern Petén. Surrounded by pristine nature, the site offers a unique blend of archaeology, breathtaking landscapes, and ecological tourism. With over 500 structures, including 40 stelae, 13 altars, and 9 pyramids, Yaxhá is a must-visit destination for those exploring the region.

Upon arrival, your guide will introduce you to the site's layout and lead you through its most important temples, sharing insights into Mayan history, architecture, and cosmology. The experience concludes with one of Yaxhá's most magical moments—watching the sunset from the top of a pyramid, as the jungle and lagoon are bathed in golden light.

Day 8: Tikal Full Day



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: Tikal full day Tour

Accommodation: Las Lagunas Luxury Lodge

Meals: B, L

After breakfast, your guide will meet you in the hotel lobby for a transfer to Tikal National Park, one of the most important archaeological sites of the ancient Maya world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

During the guided tour, you will explore the impressive layout of the ceremonial center, including towering temples, plazas, palaces, and causeways hidden deep within the jungle. Your guide will explain the architectural symbolism, the advanced astronomical knowledge of the Maya, daily life in the ancient city, and the most intriguing theories surrounding the decline of this great civilization.

As you walk through the rainforest, keep an eye out for local wildlife such as howler and spider monkeys, parrots, macaws, toucans, and other native species that inhabit this protected biosphere.

After the tour, enjoy lunch at a restaurant located in the heart of the jungle, surrounded by lush vegetation and the sounds of nature—an unforgettable way to end this immersive cultural experience.

Day 9: Transfer to Belize Border & Xunantunich & Cahal Pech



DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Belize Border

Tour: Xunantunich & Cahal Pech

Accommodation: Ka'ana

Meals: B, L

Transfer to the Belize Border. At the border, you will cross on your own and a different vehicle will meet you on the Belizean side. (This service is on a private basis.) Enjoy a private transfer to the Xunantunich Archaeological

Site, where you will explore one of Belize's most impressive Mayan cities. Accompanied by your guide, you will visit the site's most important monuments, including the towering structure known as El Castillo. Rising 130 feet above the ground, it is one of the tallest structures in Belize and offers breathtaking panoramic views over the Mopan River Valley.

From the upper levels, you will also observe remarkable stucco friezes on lower temples, including a striking mask with prominent ears beside a lunar symbol bordered by glyphs representing Venus, highlighting the site's astronomical and ceremonial importance.

After your visit to Xunantunich, you will continue to the nearby Cahal Pech Mayan site, once a hilltop palace complex for an elite Mayan family. This more intimate site offers a fascinating glimpse into daily life, residential architecture, and ceremonial spaces of the ancient Maya.

Lunch is included as part of the experience.

Day 10: ATM Caves



DAILY SUMMARY

Tour: ATM Cave

Accommodation: Ka'ana

Meals: B, L

Enjoy a private transfer to the ATM Cave (Actun Tunichil Muknal), one of the most extraordinary archaeological and natural sites in Central America.

Upon arrival, you will begin a 30-minute hike through lush forest, crossing streams before reaching the cave entrance. A short swim then leads you into the cave, marking the gateway to a truly unforgettable underground adventure. As you move deeper inside, you will follow the main water passage on an exciting trek, surrounded by spectacular geological formations including shimmering stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstone formations.

Beyond its natural beauty, ATM Cave is a sacred place deeply connected to ancient Mayan beliefs. This hidden chamber reveals the Maya underworld known as Xibalba—a powerful and feared realm beneath the earth where kings and shamans once ventured to communicate with gods and ancestors through rituals and ceremonies. The cave offers a rare glimpse into both the spiritual and geological history of the Maya civilization.

A picnic lunch will be enjoyed on site following the exploration.

Day 11: Transfer to Placencia



Transfer to Placencia.

DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Placencia

Accommodation: Itz'ana Belize Resort

Meals: B

Day 12: Day at Leisure



Enjoy a day at leisure to explore on your own.

DAILY SUMMARY

Activity: Day at Leisure

Accommodation: Itz'ana Belize Resort

Meals: B

Day 13: Day at Leisure



DAILY SUMMARY

Activity: Day at Leisure

Accommodation: Itz'ana Belize Resort

Meals: B

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore on your own.

Day 14: Departure



DAILY SUMMARY

Transportation: Transfer to Belize International Airport

Meals: B

When you're ready, land transfer to Belize International Airport (This service is on a private basis.)

ACCOMMODATION



El Convento

Located in the heart of the historic yet vibrant city of La Antigua, inscribed by Unesco as Cultural World Heritage since 1979, El Convento Boutique Hotel is a door to a majestic experience, inside and out, with its contemporary colonial architecture and premises and world class services, surrounded by the spectacle of a diverse community that throbs with activity in 300 year old churches, plazas and markets.

Rooms: [NOT SET]



Hotel Atitlan

Hotel Atitlán has the best views of the lake. A property with fantastic gardens, birds, and great place to stay when visiting the lake. Each room has a unique personality that is reflected in the decor of hand-woven fabrics, 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 hand-made area rugs.

Rooms: [NOT SET]



Las Lagunas Luxury Lodge

Las Lagunas Luxury Boutique Lodge is a beautiful property that combines over 300 acres of land with the comfort of luxury. This hotel has 20 charming suites perfectly equipped (all with private balcony and jacuzzi) and surrounded by a magnificent view of the Quexil Lagoon that will make an unforgettable stay. The property provides with the most amazing SPA, world class dining, Pool, Avant-garde museum, biking and trekking, boat monkey tour, helicopter landing, etc.

Rooms: [NOT SET]



Ka'ana

This luxury hotel is nestled in the middle of the Belize jungle. At Ka'ana you will receive a five stars service and modern amenities. This beautiful hotel understands the meaning of a luxury vacation just minutes away from the Mayan ruins.

Rooms: [NOT SET]



Itz'ana Belize Resort

Itz'ana is the perfect base camp to everything wild and wonderful in Belize. Whether you're better suited seeking jaguars in the wild or sunshine aboard a sailboat, the adventures await. Itz'ana is situated where reef meets rainforest, and life meets luxury. The amenities are intended to satisfy your every whim. From sparkling pools and a pampering spa to an organic garden and inspiring adventures, Itz'ana invites you to relax, explore, and repeat.

Rooms: [NOT SET]