

**4 - 3**  
Days Nights  
OR  
**3 - 2**  
Days Nights

# A Taste of El Salvador



Ataco Town

## CODE

PSALAT1 OR PSALAT2

## OPERATES

Package may start any day.

## SERVICE

Private services  
(vehicle, driver and guide).

## DIFFICULTY

Easy.

## LODGING

- 2 nights in Flower Route.
  - 1 night in Suchitoto.
- OR
- 1 night in Flower Route.
  - 1 night in Suchitoto.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse in the culture of Nahuizalco, Juayua, Apaneca and Ataco Charming towns in the Flower Route.
- Pick up coffee with locals (if in season) and learn about the coffee process at a mill tour.
- Enjoy amazing views in the middle of three volcanoes at Volcanoes National Park.
- Visit Joya de Cerén archaeological site, a World Heritage Site.
- Walk the cobblestone streets of Suchitoto Colonial Town.
- Dye your own scarf with indigo: a Mayan natural colorant.

If your main destination is Guatemala or Honduras, El Salvador is a wonderful option as an extension trip since near the border you can find several interesting attractions and your departure flight may very well depart out of El Salvador airport. This program may be of 3 or 2 nights, visiting charming towns and crafts, coffee plantations, Mayan sites and volcanoes.

## GENERAL ITINERARY

**DAY 1:** Transfer from border El Salvador to Flower Route. Night in Flower Route.

**DAY 2:** Coffee tour. Town tours of Flower Route. Local Lunch. Free afternoon or optional adventure tour. Night in Flower Route. **(B, L)**

**DAY 3:** Volcanoes National Park. Local lunch. Joya de Cerén. Transfer to Suchitoto. Night in Suchitoto. **(B, L)**

**DAY 4:** Suchitoto town. Indigo Workshop. Local lunch. Transfer to airport for return flight. **(B, L)**

## OR

**DAY 1:** Arrival to El Salvador border before noon. Transfer to Flower Route. Local lunch. Coffee Tour. Night in Flower Route. **(L)**

**DAY 2:** Volcanoes National Park. Local lunch. Joya de Cerén. Transfer to Suchitoto. Night in Suchitoto. **(B, L)**

**DAY 3:** Suchitoto town. Indigo Workshop. Local lunch. Transfer to airport for return flight. **(B, L)**

## INCLUDES

- Private vehicle and driver for transfers and tours.
- 2 nights in Flower Route and 1 night in Suchitoto OR 1 night in Flower Route and 1 night in Suchitoto.
- All breakfasts (3) and lunches (3) OR All breakfasts (2) and lunches (3)
- Private English speaking guide for tours.
- All Activities and entrances as stated on detailed itinerary.
- All local taxes and fees are included.

## DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Dinners.
- Tips and personal expenses.
- International flights.
- Travel insurance.
- Airport taxes and any services not specifically mentioned.



## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- All general conditions apply.
- We may change itinerary due to weather or situations beyond our control.
- Holidays and festivity periods may carry additional surcharges, payment requirements and cancellation penalties. Sites such as: museums, archaeological sites, restaurants, and shopping centers may be limited or not available during holidays or special events.
- Transportation service starts from border.
- Last day: late afternoon/evening flight is considered.
- Joya de Cerén is closed on Mondays.
- Coffee season for picking: Late November to Early March.
- Coffee Mill tour may be done all year: From December to May you will be able to see it operating.
- Indigo process is seasonal: June to November. But Indigo workshop (dye) can be done all year.
- Groups of 20 or more PAX may need special lodging arrangements in Suchitoto.
- Transportation: 2PAX: Car/Sedan 4-8PAX: HIACE type VAN 10-16/18PAX: COASTER 20+PAX: BUS.

## HOTELS

### Flower Route:

- A) Casa de Graciela/Misión de Angeles or similar.
- B) Finca El Carmen/ Santa Leticia or similar.
- C) Alicante or similar

### Suchitoto:

- A) Los Almendros de San Lorenzo / Suite Room.
- B) Los Almendros de San Lorenzo / Double Room.
- C) El Tejado.



Santa Lucia Church, Suchitoto



## DETAILED ITINERARY:

### DAY 1: BORDER EL SALVADOR – FLOWER ROUTE.

Transfer from El Salvador border to Flower Route. Free afternoon.

Lodging in Flower Route.

### DAY 2: COFFEE TOUR – FLOWER ROUTE (B, L)

The Flower Route is a coffee plantation area in Western El Salvador and consists of four main towns: Nahuizalco, Juayua, Apaneca and Ataco. The region offers amazing views of mountains and volcanoes, offering crafts, coffee tours, charming towns, markets, and adventure options. Today we will visit a coffee plantation, where during coffee season (Dec - Mar), you will be able to collect coffee along with the locals. After this experience, a guided tour will explain each step of the coffee process at the “beneficio” (mill). Then, we will visit the towns of Flower Route.

After local lunch, free afternoon or optional tours: travelers will be able to enjoy adventure options such as horseback riding, mountain bike, ATV tour, or a zip line tour.

Transfer to hotel.

Lodging in Flower Route.

### DAY 3: VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK – JOYA DE CERÉN - SUCHITOTO (B, L)

Today we will visit Volcanoes National Park a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, where three amazing volcanoes (Izalco Volcano, Santa Ana Volcano and Cerro Verde) embrace beautiful Coatepeque Lake which fills a crater of another volcano. Izalco Volcano is one of the youngest volcanoes in America given that it was born in the 1700's, whereas Santa Ana Volcano is thousands of years old. Izalco Volcano was known as the “Lighthouse of the Pacific” since its lava guided the ships on the Pacific Ocean Coast. No lava is currently flowing, but both volcanoes are still active since constant fumaroles are present. In Cerro Verde, located in the middle of the other two volcanoes, we will walk around its extinct crater providing breathtaking views of Izalco and Santa Ana Volcanoes and Coatepeque Lake. Local lunch.

Then we will continue to El Salvador’s main archaeological site. Joya de Cerén was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993, and it is known as the “Pompeii of the Americas”. This agricultural community was buried by the ashes of Volcano Caldera back in 600 AD. Thanks to the excellent preservation, this site allows us to witness the everyday lives of the Mesoamerican agricultures of such time period. There is also a comprehensive museum on site. In the museum, you will witness the oldest cacao seeds known in the world.

Continue to Suchitoto colonial town.

Lodging at Suchitoto.



Coffee beans at El Patio



## DAY 4: SUCHITOTO - INDIGO WORKSHOP (B, L)

Today we will visit Suchitoto, one of El Salvador's colonial towns. Its name means the place of the Flower Bird. We will walk along the charming cobblestone streets surrounded by lovely old colonial homes. Suchitoto is home to Santa Lucia Church, built in 1853, majestically situated in the town's central square.

We will experience an Indigo Workshop. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from the Xiquilite plant. It was a very important element for the Mayans since they used it for magical/religious rituals, as a medical plant, for pottery, and for painting. When the Spanish "Conquistadores" arrived to El Salvador in 1524, Indigo became the new source of wealth in the region. Pedro de Alvarado noticed how the Indians used several shades of blue in their clothes. In 1558, the Habsburg King Charles I ordered the territories of Guatemala and Cuscatlán (El Salvador), to produce indigo for Spain. The commercial route was through Granada, then to Cartagena de Indias from where it travelled to Spain.

In the XVII century, the ounce of indigo was as valuable as gold. El Salvador indigo, has always been recognized as top quality worldwide. We will learn the process of indigo as well as art techniques used on clothing as we experiment in designing our own scarf. El Salvador's indigo is considered of the highest quality in the world.

Afternoon transfer to airport for departure flight.  
End of services (B)

