



11 - 10
Days Nights

CODE:

PCAMSB1

COUNTRIES 3:

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

OPERATES

Package may start Wednesday or Saturday.

SERVICE

Private services
(vehicle and guides)

DIFFICULTY

Easy.

LODGING

- 1 night in Guatemala City
- 2 nights in Atitlan
- 2 nights in Antigua Guatemala
- 1 night in Copan
- 2 nights in Flower Route
- 2 nights in Suchitoto.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Shop at vibrant Chichicastenango Market.
- Experience live Maya Culture at Atitlan.
- Walk the cobblestone streets of Antigua Guatemala, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Admire the beautiful archaeological site of Copan, a World Heritage Site
- Pick coffee with locals at Flower Route (If in season)
- Explore Volcanoes National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- Look into the past of a Mayan Civilization at Joya de Cerén, a World Heritage Site.
- Dye your own scarf with Indigo: a Maya natural colorant.



Indigo Workshop

Maya and Some Blue

Live Maya culture in Guatemala and authentic experiences in El Salvador! Atitlán, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world and rich in Maya culture; the World Heritage Site of Antigua Guatemala and its charming cobblestone streets; Volcanoes National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; traditions within coffee plantations; Indigo Blue workshop, a Maya natural colorant.

GENERAL ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrival to Guatemala. Transfer to Hotel. Night in Guatemala City.
- Day 2:** Chichicastenango market. Afternoon transfer to hotel in Atitlan. Night in Atitlán. (B, L)
- Day 3:** Private boat Tour in Atitlan. Visit 2 towns to experience live Maya Culture. Return to hotel. Night in Atitlán. (B, L)
- Day 4:** Transfer to Antigua Guatemala. Walking tour in Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Night in Antigua Guatemala. (B, L)
- Day 5:** Free Day at Antigua Guatemala. Night in Antigua Guatemala. (B, L)
- Day 6:** Transfer to Copan. Afternoon visit Copan Archaeological site. Night in Copan. (B, L)
- Day 7:** Transfer to Flower Route in El Salvador. Free afternoon at Flower Route. Night in Flower Route. (B, L)
- Day 8:** Coffee Tour at Flower Route. Charming towns of Flower Route. Night Flower Route. (B, L)
- Day 9:** Volcanoes National Park. Continue to Joya de Cerén, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Transfer to Suchitoto colonial town. Night in Suchitoto. (B, L)
- Day 10:** Indigo Workshop and City Tour Suchitoto. Night in Suchitoto. (B, L)
- Day 11:** Transfer to airport for departure flight (END OF SERVICES) (B)

INCLUDES

- Private vehicle and driver for all trip. All pax travelling together. Extra transfer has extra cost.
 - o SEDAN type vehicle for 2 pax.
 - o H1 or HIACE type vehicle from 6 to 8 pax.
 - o COASTER type vehicle from 10 to 15 pax.
 - o MINIBUS type vehicle from 16 to 20 pax.
 - o BUS type vehicle from 21 + pax.
- 1 night in Guatemala City, 2 nights in Atitlan, 2 nights in Antigua Guatemala, 1 night in Copan, 2 nights in Flower Route and 2 nights in } Suchitoto.
- All Breakfasts (10) and lunches (9)
- Private English-speaking guide for all trip.
- All activities and entrances as stated on detailed itinerary.
- All local taxes and fees are included.

DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Travel Insurance.
- Dinners.
- Airport taxes.
- Tips.
- Personal expenses.
- International or Local Flights.
- Border crossing fees.
- Any services not specifically mentioned.





SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- All general conditions apply.
- Chichicastenango market is available only Thursday and Sunday.
- Day 5: Free day No vehicle / Guide.
- On transfer day to El Salvador, passengers may switch vehicles at border.
- Coffee picking season: December to March
- Coffee mill tour may be done all year: From December to May you will be able to see it operating.
- Joya de Ceren is closed on Monday.
- Indigo process is seasonal: June to November. But Indigo workshop (dye) can be done all year.
- Extra fee may apply for high season such as Holy Week and from 15 December to 15 January.
- For groups of 15 or more, some special arrangements may be done to accommodate at certain locations due to sizes and capacities of the hotels.
- We reserve the right to change itinerary due to weather or any other situation outside of our control.

HOTELS

GUATEMALA CITY:

- A) Hotel Real Intercontinental or similar.
- B) Radisson Hotel & Suites or similar.
- C) Crowne Plaza or similar.

ATITLAN:

- A) Atitlan Hotel or similar.
- B) Porta Hotel del Lago or similar.
- C) Regis or similar.

ANTIGUA GUATEMALA:

- A) Camino Real or similar.
- B) Posada de Don Rodrigo or similar.
- C) La Ermita or similar.

COPAN RUINS:

- A) Marina Copan or similar.
- B) Clarion Copan or similar.
- C) Don Udo´s or similar.

FLOWER ROUTE:

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

SUCHITOTO:

- A) Los Almendros de San Lorenzo - Apartment or Suite
- B) Los Almendros de San Lorenzo - Standard Room.
- C) Tejado or similar.



Guatemala City

DETAILED ITINERARY:

DAY 1: TRANSFER TO HOTEL GUATEMALA CITY

Arrival to Guatemala International Airport. Transfer to hotel.

Lodging in Guatemala City.

DAY 2: GUATEMALA CITY - CHICHICASTENANGO MARKET – ATITLÁN LAKE (B, L)

Today we will start heading to Lake Atitlán, stopping first at Chichicastenango to enjoy its iconic Market Day (Thursdays and Sundays). Chichicastenango is well known for its famous market days where vendors sell handicrafts, food, flowers, pottery, wooden boxes, condiments, medicinal plants, candles, copal (traditional incense), cal (lime stones for preparing tortillas), grindstones, pigs and chickens, machetes, and other tools. We will then continue to Atitlán.

Lodging in Atitlan hotel.



Chichicastenango

DAY 3: ATITLÁN - BOAT TOUR – ATITLÁN (B, L)

This morning we will enjoy a private boat Tour in Atitlan, considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. We will visit 2 towns and experience live Maya Culture, where habitants still wear their colorful traditional clothes. We will have a local lunch in Santiago. The restaurant offers amazing views of the three volcanoes and the lake. Return to Panajachel. On a Tuesday or Friday, we can also visit Solola market for an authentic experience. Transfer to hotel.

Lodging in Atitlán hotel.



Atitlan Lake

DAY 4: ATITLAN - ANTIGUA GUATEMALA CITY TOUR (B, L)

Morning transfer to Antigua Guatemala. Antigua Guatemala was the third capital city established by the Spaniards. It was founded in 1543. In 1773 it was completely destroyed by an earthquake. Even though a new capital was established at a different location, people slowly started to give life back to Antigua Guatemala, which is now one of the main attractions of Guatemala due mainly to its colonial architecture where it seems like if time has stopped. Antigua Guatemala is located at the Panchoy Valley and is surrounded by three volcanoes and mountains with coffee plantations.

With its cobblestone streets and ancestral edifications, it provides a marvelous setting for cultural and religious traditions. A gem of urban planning and colonial architecture, Antigua's features have been well preserved. Because of its immense historical and cultural value, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) named Antigua as a World Heritage site in 1979. We will enjoy a walking tour through the entire town.

Lodging in Antigua Guatemala hotel.



Convento Santa Clara

DAY 5: FREE DAY ANTIGUA GUATEMALA (B, L)

Today we will enjoy a free day in Antigua Guatemala.

Lodging in Antigua Guatemala hotel.

DAY 6: ANTIGUA GUATEMALA – COPAN (B, L)

Today we will continue east towards the border of Guatemala and Honduras. After crossing the border, we will continue to Copan. Afternoon we will visit Copan Archaeological site: The Paris of the Mayans and one of the most distinguished cultural monuments in the world. In 1980, Copán archaeological park was declared a World Heritage Site. Mayan Influence is seen starting at around 300 A.D. By 400 A.D. it became one of the most important Maya cities in Mesoamerica, developing its own art and architecture. Arguably, Copán is the most beautiful Maya City. It doesn't have the verticality of Tikal or the huge buildings of Uxmal or Palenque, but each stone of Copán reveals the majesty of the rulers and the skills of the craftsmen. A local guide will travel with us and explain the history behind all the temples, sculptures, hieroglyphics and tunnels.

Then transfer to hotel.

Lodging in Copan Ruins hotel.



Copan



Palacio de Capitanes, Central Plaza

DAY 7: COPAN – FLOWER ROUTE, EL SALVADOR (B, L)

Today we will continue El Salvador. After crossing the border, we will continue to the Flower Route. Free afternoon upon arrival.

Lodging in Flower Route hotel.

DAY 8: FLOWER ROUTE CHARMING TOWNS – COFFEE TOUR. (B, L)

The Flower Route is a coffee plantation area in Western El Salvador. It consists of 4 main towns and has comfortable weather due to the altitude. The towns are Nahuizalco, Juayua, Apaneca, and Ataco. The region offers amazing views of mountains and volcanoes and offers crafts, coffee tours, charming towns, markets, and adventure options.

We will visit a coffee plantation and if the tour takes place within coffee season (DEC-MAR), travelers will be able to collect coffee themselves along with the locals. After this experience, a local guide will explain each step of the coffee process at the mill, finishing by tasting a delicious cup of coffee.

Lodging in Flower Route hotel.



Coffee cupping



Apaneca



El Patio



Coffee Plantation



Joya de Cerén

DAY 9: VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK – JOYA DE CERÉN – SUCHITOTO (B, L)

This morning we will head to 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 since 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. Volcanoes National Park offers amazing hiking and trekking. For an easy trek, in the extinct volcano "Cerro Verde" you can enjoy the flora and fauna with a local guide. We will learn about volcanoes and the importance of this specific ecosystem. You can also choose to hike Santa Ana Volcano, from which you will enjoy amazing views of Coatepeque Lake, the Pacific Ocean, Izalco Volcano and of course the sulfur lagoon within the crater.



Hiking Santa Ana volcano

Later, we will visit the archaeological site of Joya de Cerén, unique in all Mesoamerica since it shows how indigenous people lived before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors. The eruption of Volcano Caldera in 600AD interrupted the daily life of this community which was preserved by more than 10 layers of ash until its discovery in 1976. It is an important site since it now represents the remains of the best-preserved Pre-Hispanic Village of Mesoamerica.

Then transfer to Suchitoto.
Lodging in Suchitoto hotel.



Hiking Santa Ana volcano

DAY 10: INDIGO BLUE AND SUCHITOTO COLONIAL TOWN (B, L)

Today we will learn about indigo, 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. 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 design our own scarf along with local artisans.

In the afternoon, we will tour the city. The founding of San Salvador's "Ciudad Vieja"- Old City-back in 1525-1528 happened in the surroundings of Suchitoto, which is perhaps the Salvadorian town with the oldest edifications. Fortunately, even though most of its inhabitants left the town during the 1980´s conflict, it didn´t suffer significant infrastructure damage. Suchitoto is "The cultural capital of El Salvador", an amazing colonial town with cobblestones streets, large balconies, tile roofs, doorways, porches and windows that will take you to colonial past. In Nahuatl language, its name means the place of the Flower Bird, and it is considered a national historic jewel. Suchitoto is home to Santa Lucia Church, built in 1853, majestically situated in the town's Central Square.

Lodging in Suchitoto hotel.



Indigo production (oxygenation)



DAY 11: SUCHITOTO – INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (B)

Transfer to airport for departure flight.

END OF SERVICES.



Suchitoto town