Guatemala: Where Mayan Tradition meets Modern Life
November 8-16, 2026
Journey #26453

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival
[Guide, Transfer only]
Arrive in Guatemala City and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy a group welcome dinner with your guide.

Day 2: The Capital
[Guide, Transportation]
Head out for a full day tour of a city often overlooked, including stops at the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace of Culture and more. After lunch at a local restaurant, meet a journalist / analyst on Guatemala's current realities (migration, inequality, indigenous rights). Drive to Antigua, check in and enjoy a dinner with a local family/community host.

Day 3: Antigua Sites & Sounds
[Guide, Transportation]
Begin the day exploring the city center including; the downtown area, Santa Catalina, the Antigua Central Park, San Jose Cathedral. Take the afternoon to explore at leisure.

Day 4: Pacaya National Park
[Guide, Transportation]
Meet with a volcanologist in the morning to discuss the active volcano in the city and its impact on infrastructure and local psyche. Travel to the Guatemalan countryside in the afternoon, taking a light hike over the volcanic terrain in Pacaya National Park.

Day 5: Tecpán - Atitlan
[Guide, Transportation]
Depart Antigua, stopping in Tecpán for a visit with coffee producers exploring the industry, harvest, and community livelihood. Continue to Atitlan Lake to board a water boat for a short journey to your hotel for the night. Enjoy a group dinner featuring local cuisine.

Day 6: San Juan La Laguna – Cooperatives & Creative Livelihoods
[Guide, Transportation]
Explore Mayan culture through visits to several local cooperatives and take a boat to San Juan La Laguna, a vibrant town known for artists and cooperatives. Visit the women-led organization, Q'omaneel, for a discussion of medicinal plants and traditional Mayan folkwear. Learn about native and endangered bee species at Mundo de Abejas Mayas and check out the cotton-weaving cooperative of Casa Flor Ixcaco. Conclude the day with a bean-to-bar chocolate experience at Xocolatl San Juan La Laguna.

Day 7: Santiago Atitlán – Tradition, Faith & Community
[Guide, Transportation]
Take a boat to Santiago Atitlán, one of the most traditional communities on the lake for a walking orientation through town, then meet a local educator, cultural mediator, or community leader for a conversation on identity, faith, history, and modern adaptation. Return to Panajachel mid-afternoon for time at leisure and group reflection.

Day 8: Volunteerism & Conclusions
[Guide, Transportation]
Drive from Atitlan back to Guatemala City (or Antigua, depending on volunteer activity) for an afternoon of giving back through a volunteer opportunity organized with a local organization. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner with your group.

Day 9: Departure
[Transfer only]
Transfer to the airport for your departing flights.

More information

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL COST

- 8 nights' accommodation at hotels/guesthouses (double occupancy, breakfast included - subject to change based on confirmation)
- 1 guide throughout the tour
- Customary gratuities for guides, drivers
- 9 Days of private transportation including airport arrival transfers on Nov. 7 or 8
- Additional meals: 4 lunches [L]; 4 Dinners [D]
- All site entrances, activities, and honoraria per itinerary (subject to confirmation based on availability)
- Water on bus throughout tour

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL COST

- International Airfare
- Travel and Medical insurance
- Single supplement = $670
- Customary gratuities for hotel housekeeping or luggage assistance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport departure transfers or arrivals prior to Nov. 7th
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

Each ambassador should check the entry requirements for their country

EARLY ARRIVALS:

Extra nights accommodation can be reserved at $150/room

PRICING, DEADLINES & SCHEDULE:

Total: **USD $2795 double occupancy*. Single supplement $670.**

based on 13+ ambassadors

$2995 for 10-12 ambassadors - minimum group size

$1500 due upon acceptance of application

Balance $1295 due July 31, 2026 (based on $2795 fee)

Link for payment: https://friendshipforce.org/journey-payment-new/

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancel 0-60 days before arrival date - no refund

Cancel 60-90 days before arrival date - 50% of fees paid is refundable

Cancel 90 days or more before arrival date - Refund of fees paid **minus $100 processing fee**