

# Pesach 2024 in Guatemala (Bendigamos)

## Sample list of attractions & tours

With so much to see within walking distance, self-guided walking tours are encouraged over Yom Tov at both destinations. Ask the locals for their recommendations.

To self-guide using an app see [GPSmycity](#) for details.

Prices & opening hours are approx. \$ indicates admission fee - usually under \$10.

Most attractions except for volcanoes, are easily reached via Uber in 15-30 minutes. **Note:** If you're heading out of town, Uber's can take a lot longer to collect you for the return trip. And, always be sure to leave plenty of time to get from A to B as traffic can be unpredictable esp on erev Shabbos/YomTov (see here for [Zmanim](#)).

Remember sunscreen and water!!

## Guatemala City

### *Play/relaxation areas at the hotel/Shul campus include:*

Large swimming pool/hot tub, Kids climbing area, basketball, tennis court, soccer field, use of Shul's pre-school play area, pool table, table tennis, board games.

### *Walking distance from shul/hotel:*

1. Zoo \$ (one of the most beautiful in Central America with 280+ species!)
2. Upscale mall / bowling
3. Historic promenade
4. Mini fairground: Rides, bumper cars etc.



### *By Bus or Uber:*

1. Popol Vuh Museum \$ or Kaminaljuyu \$ - a very important ancient classic Maya site (both are great for archaeology buffs)
  2. Railway museum \$
  3. Central America's only Holocaust Museum
  4. Paseo Cayala (expansive entertainment district including laser tag, ziplining, paintballing, carousel/kids area, upscale shopping center etc.)
  5. Palacio Nacional \$ (National Palace)
  6. World's largest *Magen David* ([Estrella de David](#)) in a public space.
- Tip: add a stop to your Uber journey to/from downtown; use MINEDUC: Ministry of Education across the street, as an alternative pit-stop.
7. Amusement Parks (our top pick: IRTRA Mundo Petapa)



# **Antigua and surrounding area**

## ***Play/relaxation areas at the hotel/Shul campus include:***

Rooftop @ El Carmen; pool deck @ The Porta. Toys, darts, pool table, table tennis, board games, couches, hammocks, al fresco coffee tables

## ***Walking distance from shul/hotel:***

1. Jade Museum
2. Art/artisan stores
3. Exceptional viewpoint over the city
4. Explore the streets and see Antigua's famous arch, Central Park (the main town plaza), and other historic areas and ruins.
5. Mini botanic garden
6. Farm including butterfly enclosure (for a fee)
7. Choco Museo - learn the history of cacao, and cacao in Guatemala. They also offer an in-house chocolate workshop daily for a fee. (We take no responsibility for the kashrus.)
8. The Artisan Market - bargain for a *metziah* at a covered market nestled in the heart of Antigua, filled with brightly colored textiles, jewelry, wooden handicraft and souvenirs.



## ***By tour or Uber:***

### **1. Acatenango Volcano**

Watching neighboring Volcan Fuego erupt (every 30-40 minutes!) is one of the highlights of any Central America trip. For most tourists this involves a 10-12 hour round-trip hike over 2 days. Instead, Iy”H our hosts will be coordinating an exhilarating overnight tour to get a direct view of the eruption, returning after an extraordinary sunrise.





## 2. [Hobbitenango](#) \$

Hobbit-themed nature park with incredible views, instagram opportunities at every turn, giant swing, archery, axe-throwing, and mini golf.



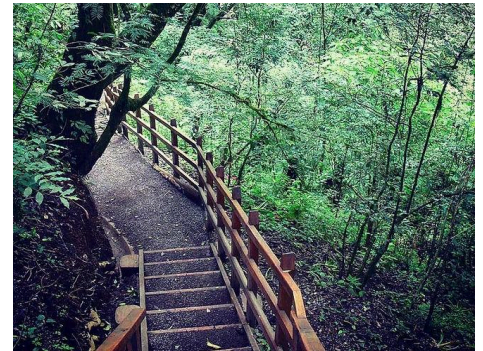
## 3. **Rock climbing**

The first bouldering gym in Antigua, built with the highest quality and safety standards, has more than 40 standard routes for beginners to expert level.

## 4. [El Pilar](#) \$

An amazing ecological park only a 12 minute drive away.

El Pilar has several hiking trails at different fitness levels, amazing views, and natural pools of water for swimming. The pool area also has showers and toilets.



Opening hours: Every day from 8:00  
- 17:00

## 5. [Coffee](#), [avocado](#), [macadamia](#) farms

There are several local farms where you can learn about processes like coffee making and taste authentic Guatemalan coffee straight from the orchard! Grounds are usually free to walk around. Guided tours available for \$. Check online for tour times. **Note:** Be sure the Uber drops you at the main building or gift shop; if they drop you at an entrance gate, you may have to walk a mile to get to the tour/store!



## 7. **Exotic animal rescue center**

## 8. Pacaya Volcano Tour \$

This hike is moderately strenuous and provides a breathtaking view of the surrounding area. The top of the volcano has “natural ovens” where you can even roast marshmallows! The hike is about 1.5 hours each way.

Optional Horse ride: ~\$18 each way



## 9. [Pastores](#)

Just 7 km from Antigua, you'll be in awe as you watch this town's artisans, famous for their handcrafted leatherworking products. Buy some new boots, a belt, a purse, a cap or even a jacket and support the town.

## 10. [ATV](#) and Motorbike Tours

Antigua offers multiple ATV tours for every style of traveler. Half-day and full day tours are available. We recommend a tour of the surrounding villages, but there are also sunset tours, mountain tours and coffee tours.



## 11. [Ziplining](#) and [Casa Santo Domingo](#)

A park with expansive views of all 3 of Antigua's volcanos, shops, a museum and ziplining!

Extreme Plus track ~\$50

Medium Extreme track ~\$40



## 12. [Corazón de Agua](#)

Hike in a beautiful forest area a short distance from the city. After a moderate hike, reach a spectacular viewpoint of the surrounding cities, volcanoes, and river. Try to spot some native Guatemalan wildlife such as toucans, ocelots, and white-tailed deer. Bring your own lunch and enjoy it in the eco park picnic area.

## 13. [Earth Lodge](#)

Beautiful views year round - plus avocados (best in-season: Aug-Sept).

Uber or take daily shuttle @ 8am from [Alegría Café / Specialty Coffee Shop](#) in Antigua (or Friday, Saturday & Sunday also @ 11.30am) Q30 pp. Return shuttle is at 12pm, on weekends also at 4.30pm.