



Explore

AMAZING PLACES



EXPERIENCE GUATEMALA
WITH MIKE KELLY

JUNE 11th- 21st, 2024

Wed June 12 Day 1 Fly to Guatemala City, and after clearing customs, please exit the terminal. Be sure to have a dollar or two handy if you need help getting your luggage to the bus. You will be met and taken to the beautiful Hotel InterContinental in Zona Viva, an upscale area of the city, where we will spend the night.

Arrive in Guatemala Hotel Camino Real Dinner

OPEN Because travelers will be arriving at all different hours, dinner will be on your own tonight. The hotel has restaurant options, as well as room service. Depending on arrival times, we may wish to meet before dinner. We will chat about our goals for the trip and what to expect.

Thu June 13 Day 2 Rise and shine; have an early breakfast. Please have your bags outside your room before going to breakfast, and check out before going to breakfast. Our day will begin with a wonderful introduction to Guatemala and its culture by visiting the Ixchel (textile) Museum with its outstanding collection of native Maya costumes. Just next door we will explore the fascinating Popol Vuh Museum containing a number of Maya archaeological relics and serve as an introduction to Guatemala and its culture.

Breakfast 7:00am
Depart 8:30am
Museums

Highlands

Katok Lunch TBA

Lake Atitlán
Hotel Atitlán

Welcome

Free time

Social Hour 6:00pm
Dinner 7:00pm

Next, we will travel through the magnificent Guatemalan highlands with spectacular vistas and scenes of the Maya in a world not too changed from hundreds of years ago. We will stop along the way at Katok, a local, well-patronized, smokehouse restaurant tucked away in the mountains for lunch. Then, we'll continue on to one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, Lake Atitlán. Here we will be staying at the Hotel Atitlán with lake views, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, and twelve Maya villages; absolutely breathtaking!

Mike will welcome you to Lake Atitlán and will give you an overview of your time here at the lake, answering any questions you may have. Yes, massages are available; sign up at the front desk.

The remainder of the afternoon will be free to settle in, explore the hotel's renowned Botanical Gardens, have a drink brought to you at the jacuzzi, or just sit by the pool with a good book.

This evening we will gather in the bar for social hour before we dine on a feast especially prepared for us by the chefs of Hotel Atitlán. (B/L/D)

Thu June 13 Day 2
Breakfast 6:30am
Departure 8:30am
Museums

Fri June 14	Day 3	This day will be filled with cultural experiences and surprises!
Breakfast	7:00am	Enjoy a hearty breakfast in the dining room or on the terrace.
Depart by Boat to San Juan La Laguna	8:30am	After breakfast, we will depart for a boat trip around the lake, stopping first at the Maya village of San Juan La Laguna to visit a cooperative for demonstrations of weaving and dyeing techniques followed by an opportunity to purchase the completed textiles. You will see village life of the Maya, have an ethno-botanical garden medicinal plants tour, and visit chocolate shop to learn about cacao and sample their variety of flavors. Artesanias abound here; we'll visit the galleries of local painters, with their unique styles and local subject.
Lunch Private home	TBA	Next, our boat will take us to the private lakeside home of Candis and son, Cameron Krummel, for both a cultural and an ecological experience. Their unique home, featured in Architectural Digest August 2002, is built in the traditional style of Maya Tz'utujil architecture. Our hosts will prepare a delicious traditional Tz'utujil gourmet festive lunch for us over an open wood fire. Have your sketchbooks and cameras handy. This will be an experience you will not soon forget.
Social Hour	5:00pm	This will be a free evening. Meet up for a fun time in the bar. As lunch will have been huge and late, dinner is not included tonight. If you feel the need for dinner you may, of course, have dinner on your own. (B/L)
Dinner	OPEN	
Sat June 15	Day 4	This morning after breakfast, you may go into Panajachel (neighboring village) to Santander Street where you'll find shops and stalls full of everything imaginable (lots of good shopping for friends and family back home).
Optional Activities		Or, you may choose to explore the hotel's renowned Botanical Gardens, hike the Atitlán Nature Reserve, or take a ride on <i>Cables X-tremos</i> (the zipline), have a massage, enjoy a cold beverage in the Jacuzzi, or just sit by the pool with a good book.
Lunch	12:00pm	Lunch on the terrace overlooking beautiful Lake Atitlán.
Free Time		This afternoon will be free time to do as you please.
Dinner	6:30pm	This evening we will enjoy a Churasco (Guatemalan Barbecue) on the Terrace with views of twinkling lights around the lake, and stars to match (weather permitting). (B/L/D)

Sun June 16 Day 5 This morning after breakfast, we're off to the famous Maya Market of Chichicastenango, where the traditions of the past encounter the present in a kaleidoscope of colors and a flurry of activity. Feel the energy of the sights and sounds of the open air Chichi market.

Santo Tomas Church and the Market First, we will visit the Santo Tomas Church to witness the convergence of the Catholic religion with the ancient Maya rituals, then on to the market brimming with arts and crafts as well as everything imaginable for, of, and by the local Maya. Bargain for exquisite textiles, unique handicrafts and brightly painted, carved masks, all replicating designs and technique passed down through generations. Cameras are a must.

Lunch 12:30pm We will meet for lunch at *Restaurante Don Juan*
Return to TBA Tired but happy, we make our way back to Hotel Atitlán
Hotel Atitlán
Social Hour 6:00pm Come join us for Social Hour at the hotel bar.
Dinner 7:00pm Our last dinner at Hotel Atitlán. (B,L,D)

Mon Jun 17 Day 6 This morning you may enjoy the spirit of the place that has moved you the most; explore the hotel environs, hike the nature walk (highly recommended), visit the local town of Panajachel, sketch, photograph, or just sit by the pool with a good book.

Check out By 12:00 Have your bags picked up and be checked out by 12:00.
Lunch 12:00pm Immediately after Lunch say "adios" to Lake Atitlán as we depart for our next amazing place – Antigua and the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, a Monastery built in the XVI century. Beautifully restored and named by Condé Nast as one of the top 100 hotels in the entire world; you will be captivated by its magic. It is the most complete archeological monument in the Americas. Candlelight throughout, and the sounds of running water will simply take your breath away. Be sure to check out Santo Domingo's world class SPA and make your reservations.
Depart for Colonial Antigua
Casa Santo Domingo
Welcome Dinner 6:00pm This evening, gather on the terrace for a welcome glass of wine then a special dinner in the Casa Santo Domingo's Dining room of the Monks.
7:00pm (B/L/D)

Tue June 18	Day 7	Awaken to the sounds of the Macaws chattering and the sights of bright bougainvillea, emerald volcanoes, and richly textured ruins.
Breakfast	8:00am	Delight in the wonderful breakfast buffet in the Dining Room of the Monks.
Walking Antigua	9:00am	We start the day with a walking tour accompanied by renowned author, tour guide, 50 year resident and walking encyclopedia of Antigua, Elizabeth Bell, starting with a walk through our Monastery/Hotel, the Casa Santo Domingo. This 30 year archeological project is replete with an extensive collection of Guatemalan Spanish Colonial religious works of art and is considered the most complete archeological monument in the Americas. We will walk through the <i>calles and avenidas</i> to <i>Parque Central</i> , with its large central fountain. From the Plaza Mayor we'll see many of the spectacular structures and ruins from the 1600s, including the <i>Catedral de San José</i> and the <i>Captains General Palace</i> .
Lunch	12:00pm	Lunch at our "Bohemian" eatery, Café Sky, overlooking the Iglesia de San Francisco; the only 3 story building in Antigua – rooftop bar.
Dinner	OPEN	Dinner on your own tonight at one of the many exceptional restaurants in Antigua. We'll hand out a recommended list. (B/L)
Wed June 19	Day 8	The sun rises early: sleep in today, or rise with the sound of the doves in this magical place. Breakfast in the exquisite dining room of the Casa Santo Domingo.
Breakfast	7:00am	
Jades	9:00am	We will visit Jades, to learn of the rediscovery of the ancient Maya Jade mines by renowned archeologist Mary Lou Ridinger who has been featured in National Geographic magazine. This is the best place in Antigua to shop for Jade.
Explore Antigua		Spend the rest of the day as you please, but we will be on hand to direct you to the things you are most interested in. Explore, or shop on your own. This colonial jewel of a city covered in colorful bougainvillea with its cobblestone streets is filled with monumental buildings, including 30 churches, 18 convents and monasteries, 15 hermitages, 10 chapels, and the San Carlos University.
Lunch	OPEN	Lunch at your leisure. On 5th Avenida you'll see the Arco de Santa Catalina, built in 1613 (the most photographed colonial structure and the symbol of the city), where the nuns practiced a vow of seclusion which did not allow them to be seen or have any contact with the outside world. Drop in at Nim Pot, an amazing shopping experience.
Dinner	7:00pm	Depart for dinner to Epicure, another of Antigua's superb restaurants. (B/D)

Thu June 20	Day 9	Awaken to a beautiful day in this fascinating colonial city.
Depart for Breakfast	8:00am	A leisurely stroll through the cobblestone streets of Antigua with the fresh highland air will awaken your hunger. No worries, we are eating at a breakfast “institution” in Antigua.....CAFE CONDESA.
Convento Capuchinas	9:30am	After breakfast, for those interested, you may accompany John on a personal tour of Convento Capuchinas, one of the most mysterious, and least understood, from an architectural point of view, Convents in Antigua.
Lunch	OPEN	Check our Recommended Restaurants list
Free afternoon		This afternoon is free to shop, rest, pack, explore, whatever.
Dinner	6:30pm	Tonight’s final dinner will be at one of Explore’s favorite Guatemala City Restaurants. (B/D)
Fri June 21	Day 10	Check out and have your luggage ready to go at least 30 minutes before your scheduled airport ride. Say good bye to your new friends, and to Guatemala. Thank you for coming with us to this beautiful country.
Breakfast	7:00am	
Departures for Home		

• B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Included in your Tour: 10 days, 9 nights at unique and luxury lodging ▪ most meals per itinerary, including tips ▪ hotel baggage handling and driver gratuities ▪ deluxe motor coaches/private boat ▪ excursions/entrance fees per itinerary

NOT Included:

▪ Airfare from your hometown to Guatemala ▪ Airport baggage handling tips (we recommend \$1 per bag) ▪ Alcohol or any personal room charges ▪ any newly implemented airport security or exit taxes ▪ any “optional” items listed in the itinerary

COST: DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$3250

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$635

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

To direct dial to Guatemala, dial 011 (international operator), then 502 (country code) and then the number you wish to call. Guatemala time is Central Standard Time – however, during Daylight Savings Time the time may be different. If you wish to direct dial from Guatemala you must dial 001 and then the area code + the number.

U. S. Consulate and Embassy:

Guatemala City, Guatemala
Tel. 502-2331-1541
or 502-2832-2628

In Guatemala City: 6/12 - 6/13

Westin Camino Real
Tel: 502-2333-3000

Transportation Company:

T & T Travel / Rolando
Tel. 502-5703-1649

In Antigua: 6/13 - 6/17

Casa Santo Domingo
www.casasantodomingo.com.gt
Tel. 502-7820-1220

Explore Amazing Places cell phone

In Guatemala: (Anita or John)

Tel. 502-5550-4386
U.S. 210-807-4222

In Panajachel: 6/17 - 6/21

Hotel Atitlán www.hotelatitlan.com
Tel. 7762-1429 or 7762-1441

**If, for any reason, the party traveling misses their flight to
Guatemala, please contact:
Our U.S. (SKYPE) phone 210-807-4222
or Explore Amazing Places cell – 011-502-5550-4386**