

# FULL & HALF DAY TOURS

\* All trips originate in Panajachel & include round - trip transportation between Panajachel and trip destinations.

\* Lunch is included for full-day / overnight trips.

## VISITS TO THE ARTISTS, ARTISANS & COFFEE GROWERS OF SAN JUAN LA LAGUNA

We travel by boat to San Juan la Laguna on Atitlan's southern shore. We visit studios of the pueblo's artist co-op which offer quality oil painting in a variety of genres, to include Arte naïf.

We visit a weaving co-op operated by women, who grow their own cotton at home to make thread as well as plants from which to extract natural dyes.

With the dyed thread they weave beautiful pieces on locally-made back strap looms. Near the weaver's demonstration area, we also receive a

demonstration of how locally produced cacao is transformed into chocolates.

We then walk to a nearby midwives' co-op where the women grow a large variety of medicinal plants and process them into traditional medicinal products (e.g. shampoos, teas, salves). The final stop (which is

added for the full-day tour) is a coffee plantation and processing plant operated by a co-op of families who cultivate coffee trees and harvest the coffee

beans. These are brought to a processing plant area where they are converted into coffee products and sold locally as well as to international vendors via fair-trade routes. The entire process

is explained / demonstrated. At all co-ops, what you see is offered for direct sale at costs that eliminate a 'middleman'.



*(Half Day – 6:30 to 11 a.m. & Full Day – 6:30 to 1 p.m.)*

## NORTH SIDE MAYAN VILLAGE TOUR

This tour is designed to introduce you to the unique character of communities on the north side of the lake. It visits historic churches and art/artisan activities in Santa Catarina Palopó & San Antonio Palopó

*(Half Day - 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., minimum 2 people)*



## **MAYAN TZUTUJIL PUEBLOS**

Travel by boat to Santiago Atitlan, the largest of the Tz'utujil communities, to visit various sites of interest to include the historic Franciscan mission church, the cofradia venerating Maximon (Guatemala's most famous Mayan deity), galleries selling works of Tz'utujil artists, and shops selling woodwork & other artisanry. Continue by boat to San Juan and San Pedro La Laguna to visit the museum of the Tz'utujil, home galleries of Mayan artists, and a women's weaving cooperative.

*(Full Day – 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., min. 2 people)*



## **HIKE THE ATITLAN RIM**

We travel by van to the most breathless overview of Lake Atitlan, Mirador Montenegro, on the east side of Atitlan's upper rim. We hike downhill on a network of cobblestone and dirt trails that pass through small Mayan villages and through woodland and terraced, cultivated vegetable and flower fields to arrive at the pueblo of Santa Catarina Palopó. We continue downhill through narrow alleyways bordered by the townspeople's dwellings to arrive at the town center's plaza. Given the interest and time, we can visit the town's small Spanish Colonial Church, local shops that sell Mayan handcraft and artwork. A trip to the lakeshore (optional) before returning to Panajachel along a winding road with breathtaking views, either by hiking or taking a pick-up truck (participant option).

*(Half Day – 8 a.m. – 12 a.m.)*

## **HIKE - JAIBALITO – TO SAN MARCOS**

Travel by boat to Jaibalito and hike the trail that connects Jaibalito, Tzununá, and San Marcos. We return to Panajachel from San Marcos by boat. This hike offers great views of the lake and photo opportunities. The Trail is primarily on the lakeside slope with many climbs and descents. The trail is generally good.

*(Half Day – 6:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)*

## **VOLCANO CLIMBS**

### **CLIMB VOLCANO SAN PEDRO**

We travel by boat to San Pedro La Laguna and climb to the top of the volcano in the morning and return to the village of San Pedro in the afternoon. The climb follows fairly easy trails that pass through corn and coffee fields before becoming steep and mostly primitive near the summit. There are great views of the lake and many photo opportunities. We return to Panajachel by boat in the afternoon.

*(Level: DIFFICULT, Full Day – 6 a.m. – 4 p.m., Minimum 2 people)*

### **CLIMB & TOUR CERRO DE ORO**

We travel by private van to Cerro de Oro (Hill of Gold) to climb this prominent geographical feature which is a parasitic dome of Volcano Tolimán, and to visit the village at its base. Cerro de Oro (Hill of Gold) is the subject of many legends and beliefs, which bestow it with a special mystical character. In the village we will

be treated to a Mayan Cleansing Ceremony, performed by a prominent local shaman. On the steep path to the summit of the Cerro, we will enjoy beautiful views of Lake Atitlán. Near the top, we will see ancient petroglyphs carved in rock faces by unknown chroniclers and visit a remote but important ceremony site. This tour requires 2 days advance notice.

*(Level: MODERATELY DIFFICULT, Half Day – 7 a.m. – 1 p.m., Minimum 2 people)*

## **OTHER VOLCANO CLIMBS**

We can arrange a climb of Volcano Atitlán (The tallest of the Atitlán volcanoes) and of other mayor sites in the Highlands of Guatemala. Prices will depend on the number of participants and lodging negotiated.

## ***OUR SERVICES:***

We have over 20 years of experience in providing adventure and cultural learning experiences in the United States, Mexico and Guatemala. We offer an assortment of standardized tours which can be taken as offered or modified to serve the interests of clients. We specialize in serving individuals and small groups on demand.

Tours described here are limited to day trips. We have a selection of longer tours and workshops for those with more time or interest to explore. Tours at Lake Atitlán are coordinated and mostly led by Richard Morgan, published author whose works include the [Lake Atitlán Reference Guide](#), the definitive eco - cultural guidebook on Lake Atitlán.

His books are offered at a special discount to tour participants.

Aside from our cultural tours, we offer a variety of hiking tours of different length and degrees of difficulty. The difficulty ratings are based on our judgment of what a well-conditioned, young to middle-aged person accustomed to hiking up to the elevation of 4.500 feet would feel. All hiking is done during the daytime when temperatures are normally in the 70-85 degree Fahrenheit range (21<sup>c</sup> – 30<sup>c</sup>). The price of hikes includes drinking water, snacks and the cost of water/road transportation. Some hikes carry a small risk of robbery. As your security is a special concern to us, we carefully select routes and discretely manage our schedules. Note risk when carrying valuable items along.

## **RESERVATION**

Availability of tours on specific dates are at our discretion. Most tours require a minimum of two days advance registration.

Payment should be made at the time of reservation and is non-refundable.

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