

WEEKEND - SPECIAL

1 - NIGHT SPECIAL

The three Saturday and Sunday Weekend Tours, described on the inside, are optional offered as package with one night lodging at Posada Los Encuentros.

2 - NIGHTS SPECIAL

Round-trip transportation: Antigua - Atitlan Lake, 2 nights Bed & Breakfast, Lodging, Lake & Village Tour, Mayan fire Ceremony, Trail Hike, Bilingual Guide. Friday 2pm - Sunday 5pm

5-DAY VACATION PACKAGE

Airport pickup and return.

3 nights Lake Atitlan @ Posada Los Encuentros includes lake tour with visits to lakeside Mayan villages and San Buenaventura Nature Reserve.

2 nights Antigua @ mid-priced hotel includes tour of Spanish Colonial buildings & ruins and working jade factory.

Day trip to Chichicastenango artisan market center includes visit to sacred Mayan hill site.

Includes all breakfasts, in-country transportation, and guide fees.

RESERVATION

www.losencuentros .com
www.adventurestudy.com
:Tel.: 00502 7762 2093
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HIKE -JAIBALITO- SAN MARCOS

We travel by boat to Sta. Cruz 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 lake-side slope with many climbs and descents. The trail is generally good.
MODERATE to DIFFICULT.
(Half Day - 7am - 13pm)
minimum 2 people

ECO TOUR ATITLÁN

Travel by boat to San Juan La Laguna to see the LEMA project. Natural produced cloth. Almost lost technics for dying and weaving have been rescue from the brink of distinction. A short walk away we find ourselves in a the tropical garden of an organic coffee farm, where we relax and enjoy the view. Horseback riding offered for an additional price. We take a boat to Jaibalito, where we visit a recycling project and take lunch. Back to Panajachel, to the San Buenaventura Nature Reserve, where we visit the Butterfly Sanctuary, optionally travel over the valley on zip lines, admiring the gorgeous views, or enjoy a swim on the private beach.
(Full Day - 8am- 6pm)
minimum 2 people

MAYAN VILLAGE TOUR

These trips are designed to introduce you to the unique characteristics of specific communities around the lake. Tours marked with an asterisk(*) include boat rides on the Lake. Trips commonly incorporate visits to village centers, historic churches and artistry activities.

The following tours are offered:

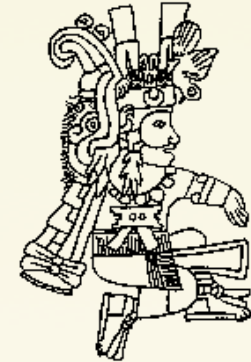
- Santa Catarina Palopó, & San Antonio Palopó
 - Santiago Atitlán *
 - San Pedro La Laguna & San Juan La Laguna *
- (Half Day - 8am - 14pm)
minimum 2 people

PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS

LAKE ATITLÁN

DAY & OVERNIGHT EXCURSIONS

FROM PANAJACHEL



GENERAL

All trips originate in Panajachel & include round - trip transportation between Panajachel and trip destinations.
Lunch is included for full-day/overnight trips.

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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OUR SERVICES

We have 16 years of experience in providing "soft" 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 in this brochure are limited to day trips and some overnight volcano hikes. 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.

The book is 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 4,000 feet would feel. Lake Atitlán is at 4,500 feet. All hiking is done during the daytime when temperatures are normally in the 70-85 degree Fahrenheit range. Lodging for overnight tours is in simple hotels. All hikes originate and terminate at our center at Posada Los Encuentros in Panajachel, at Lake Atitlán. They all include an orientation on the history, geography, and cultures of the lake.

The price of hikes includes drinking water, snacks and the cost of water/road transportation. Hikers are responsible for their own clothing and carry packs. No special equipment is needed. 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 to minimize the likelihood of attracting thieves. However, nothing in life is completely safe and there is always an extra risk when carrying valuable items along.

Group discounts available

NATURAL HEALING

INTRODUCTION TO MAYAN MEDICINE

The day begins with a sunrise Mayan Cleansing Fire Ceremony on the shore of Lake Atitlán, conducted by a Cakchickel Mayan *Coriander*. From there, participants are treated to a special health-oriented breakfast of yoghurt, granola, full-grained bread, fresh fruit, coffee/tea.

Afterwards we travel by boat to a Mayan community (San Pedro or Santiago Atitlán) to meet a Tz'utujil Mayan *Curandero*. From there we return to Panajachel by boat and visit the medicinal herb garden at Los Encuentros Posada y Centro Cultural.

(Full Day - 6am - 5pm - minimum 2 people)

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. **DIFFICULT**

(Full Day - 6am - 6pm - 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 p Fire, 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.

MODERATELY DIFFICULT

(Half Day - 8am - 2pm - 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.

WEEKEND TOURS

Saturday

Maya Artists &Artisans at work

Travel by boat to San Juan La Laguna to meet some of the best artists who paint in the genre of arte naif. These are masters whose works are featured internationally. We will meet them at home, see works in progress, and have the opportunity to directly buy their original oils. Visit weavers who, as part of the process they employ, make their own dyes to tint their threads from plants they grow. Learn how this process is done and see how these artisans prepare their thread and weave on backstrap looms. Visit their co-op outlet, with the opportunity to buy their artistry.

(Half Day - 9.30am - 3pm - min. 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 Pedro La Laguna to visit the museum of the Tz'utujil and home galleries of Mayan artists. Time & circumstances permitting, visit Feliciano P'op, the most well-known of Tz'utujil curanderos, who carves symbolism from local myths and his prophetic dreams into volcanic rock artwork (offered for sale).

(Half Day - 9am - 4pm - min.2 people)

Sunday

HIKE UPPER RIM – TO SANTA CATARINA

Travel by van to the most breathless overlook of the Lake. Hike downhill on a network of cobblestone & dirt trails that pass by small Mayan villages and through woodland and cultivated vegetable and flower fields to arrive at the pueblo of Santa Catarina Palopo. Entering Sta. Catarina through its "back door", we continue downhill through a network of alleys bordered by primitive homes to arrive at the plaza, where we visit the town's small, picturesque Spanish colonial church and some small shops that sell Mayan handcraft and artwork. There is time to relax with a drink/snack at the lakeshore before we return to Panajachel along a winding roadway with breathtaking views, optionally by hiking or vehicle.

(Half Day - 8am - 12am - minimum 2 people)

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309