



Classic Guatemala & Belize
13 Nights



Summary

Discover the volcano-fringed colonial charm of Antigua and plumb the mysterious depths of Mayan burial caves of the Cayo District on this tour itinerary for Guatemala and Belize. The picturesque Lake Atitlan has legendary associations and offers equally legendary treks. Soak up the history and jungle heat at the towering pyramids of Tikal. Submerge yourself in crystal water to explore the world's second largest reef at Ambergris Caye. And experience the intense, hypnotic blue of the Great Blue Hole. This Guatemala and Belize itinerary is going to blow your bucket list out of the water..

Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

Overview

Interest: couples, group, family

Level of Comfort: 4/5

Minimum # of passengers: 2

Maximum # of passengers: none

Information about the destination

- **Currency:** US dollar
- **Language:** Spanish, English
- **Dialing Code:** 593
- **Transportation :** Private car or bus
- **Recommended vaccine :** Malaria risk exists throughout the year, Yellow Fever, Rabies Hepatitis A and Hepatitis A
- **Banks & currency exchange:** many banks in the airport will exchange currencies, all rates are similar.

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Day 1: Antigua

From Guatemala City we'll whizz you to the gloriously relaxed and sophisticated charms of Antigua. The ancient capital of colonial Guatemala oozes laid back charm. Make no mistake: this is one of the prettiest, and oldest, cities in Central America. Take in the volcano backdrop, cobbled streets, sun-kissed painted buildings and whitewashed monasteries before you bed down for the night in the restored splendour of a history-soaked, converted convent..

Day 2: Antigua

Spend the day snapping away as you stroll through this UNESCO world heritage city's terracotta coloured buildings, sparkling fountains and dreamy courtyards. The Central Plaza is not to be missed, and do keep an eye out for the Mayan markets that pop up seemingly at random. After visiting the Cathedral and San Francisco Church, browse the museums, galleries, boutiques and craft-filled stalls. Most of all take advantage of those chic cafes that line the atmospheric streets.

Day 3: Antigua- Lake Atitlan

Take a scenic morning drive into the highlands and magical Lake Atitlan appears. Surrounded by three volcanoes and many Mayan villages, Lake Atitlan is a photographer's dream. At the colourful market villages of Solola and Comalapa gaze upon the lake's shores: Mayan women wash colourful clothes and fisherman bring in the day's catch. But, be warned: heavenly as it seems, for the ancient Maya the lake was a door to the underworld..

Day 4: Lake Atitlan

It's time to take a cruise across the waters of Lake Atitlan to its southern shore and the ancient village of Santiago, home to the cigar chomping folk saint, Maximon. He moves house every year so ask around if you want to make an offering. Mayan beliefs hold strong here and there is a palpable sense of spirituality here. Women wear traditional purple skirts and embroidered clothes while men wear lavender or striped, embroidered trousers..

Day 5: Chichicastenango - Guatemala City

You'll drive through dramatic mountain landscape to reach the remote village of Chichicastenango, which houses the country's largest, traditional market. Smoke drifts as Mayans gather from nearby villages. Barter with local traders selling a dizzying array of arts and crafts, woven textiles and delicious fruits and vegetables. The village is also a rich cultural hub with a real mix of Mayan beliefs mingling with Catholic ceremony. The big city now calls as you head for the capital.

Day 6: Guatemala City - Flores

Take a short flight today to land in Flores, marooned in the Impressionist waters with its colourful Cubist houses tumbling down to the waters of Lake Peten Itza. You'll take an unforgettable boat ride downriver, deep into the forest to visit the archaeological site of El Ceibal, once the centre of Mayan power. Jumbles of jungle vines, the howls of monkeys and screeching rainforest birds give way to the Mayan ruins, which are perched just above the river. You'll sleep well in your jungle lodge tonight.

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Day 7: Tikal

The jungle parts once more as the majestic pyramids of Tikal tower over the surrounding canopy. This is one of the most important historical sites in Guatemala and like arriving on an advanced alien culture that has set up in the deepest, darkest woods and then vanished. Some mysteries will be explained on your guided tour through the ancient ruins.

Day 8: Flore - Cayo District

Collect another exotic passport stamp today as you cross the border into romantic Belize. The Cayo district is brimming with holiday activities set in a landscape of winding rivers, waterfalls, caves and mountains. The Xunantunich Maya ruin is one of the main attractions in the region but it's also a favoured destination for ecotourists with its verdant jungle landscape and diverse wildlife.

Day 9-10: Cayo District

Accompanied by our expert guide, create your own itinerary over two adventure-packed days. You can explore the Rio-Frio Cave system, whose huge 70 ft arches lead to a vault of dripping stalactites. Or there's Actun Tunichil Muknal cave, home to The Crystal Maiden's skeleton aglow with crystals. Did she die or was she pushed into a sacrifice? Other Mayan sites reveal more mysteries and answer some questions about this fascinating ancient culture: Xunantunich and Caracol should not be missed.

Day 11-13: Cayo District - Ambergris Caye

After all your adventuring, it's time for a rest as you head to the tropical island of Ambergris Caye. Enjoy a myriad of watersports and beautiful beaches while you kick back and relax. The island is a magnet for scuba divers - it's home to the world's second largest barrier reef as well as three superb reef atolls waiting to be explored. If you fancy something a little less energetic, watch the world go by in San Pedro and enjoy a fresh from the waters seafood dinner.

Day 14: Ambergris Caye

Take one last look at the azure waters of Ambergris Caye before you fly to Belize City for your connecting flight home, hopefully sun-kissed and relaxed and with a head full of plenty of awesome Mayan facts with which to wow your friends..

Day 9: Monteverde - Rio Perdido

For the next two days Guanacaste's vast network of hot water and mineral springs will wash the jungle off you. A private transfer to Rio Perdido delivers you to a hotel marooned in a 600 acre reserve of rare dwarf forest and rocky canyon lands. In the distance the imposing Miravalles Volcano provides a dramatic backdrop..

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Day 10: Rio Perdido

Enjoy an exhilarating white water tubing experience and experience the majesty of the canyon from the precarious wobble of a rubber inner tube. Or you can test your mettle on Rio Perdido's Canyon Adventure. This challenging aerial circuit through the jungle will have you swinging like Tarzan 50ft through the canopy.

Day 11-14:Tamarindo

Today you'll say goodbye to the swarthy jungle-clad hills and misty volcano peaks and head to Tamarindo, one of the most popular beach destinations in Costa Rica. There's friendly locals, a buzzing sundowner scene and some topnotch beachside retreats. This is the ideal place to recover from your jungle adventures. Take the opportunity to show off your surfing skills or head off on a canoe to Tamarindo National Wildlife Refuge.

Day 15: Tamarindo - San Jose

Enjoy one last stroll along the beach this morning before you fly back to San Jose for your connecting international flight. You'll return to the UK buzzing with a newfound sense of adventure and Costa Rica's Pura Vida vibes.

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

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