

GUATEMALAN ADVENTURE

JUNE 2010



LAKE ATITLAN



TIKAL

EXPERIENCE BEAUTIFUL, EXOTIC GUATEMALA

Join Geography Professor Matt Ebner and his wife Suzan on an exciting 10-day trip to Central America's most diverse country
June 11 – June 20, 2010 (Honduras June 20-27)

Places & Excursions Included:

- Stroll through colonial Antigua, with beautiful historical buildings and mild weather
- Explore Tikal, one of the greatest ancient cities of the Americas, situated amidst a rainforest with monkeys and other wildlife
- Immerse yourself in the colorful Chichicastenango Sunday market, filled with indigenous villagers in traditional clothing
- Cruise by boat around beautiful Lake Atitlán, Guatemala's "crater lake", with volcanoes towering above the shoreline
- Hike up active Pacaya Volcano (if you're energetic) with a chance to see flowing lava
- Ride in a dugout canoe through El Boqueron gorge with a wonderful swimming opportunity
- Soak in hot springs and waterfalls at El Finca Paraiso
- Stay at the beautiful jungle lodge, Hacienda Tijax, on a river amidst mangroves
- Explore magnificent Bombil Pek cave, with an option to abseil from the top of the sinkhole
- Shop for traditional handicrafts at great prices (e.g., carved wooden masks for \$5-10)
- Enjoy the outstanding value of fine restaurants where excellent meals cost \$3-15
- Wonderful photographic opportunities of people and cultural, historical, and natural features
- Small group of about 17 travelers plus the Ebner leaders; comfortable private tour bus
- **OPTIONAL 7-DAY EXTENSION TO HONDURAS, INCLUDING THE ANCIENT MAYAN CITY OF COPAN, RAINFORESTS ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST, AND THE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AND CORAL REEFS OF ROATAN ISLAND (+\$700)**



ANTIGUA

COST FOR GUATEMALA: \$800, LAND ONLY

COST FOR HONDURAS: \$700, LAND ONLY

Includes all land/sea transportation (small private tour bus with English-speaking driver, occasional boats),
Hotels (based on double occupancy), some breakfasts, activities/entries listed above

AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ARRANGE THEIR OWN AIRLINE TICKETS; GO TO WWW.KAYAK.COM

Participants only doing Guatemala should purchase the following tickets (\$590 as of 2/28/10 on www.kayak.com):

Fri 6/11/10: Taca (TA) #511 Departs LAX at 12:20 am; Arrives GUA at 6:05 am

Participants must arrive in Guatemala no later than Saturday, June 12

Returns Sunday, 6/20/10 LACSA (LR) #640 Departs GUA at 7:55 pm arriving LAX at 12:10 am

Participants doing Guatemala + the Honduras extension should purchase the follow tickets (\$645 as of 2/28/10 on www.kayak.com):

Fri 6/11/10: Taca #511: Departs LAX at 12:20 am; Arrives GUA at 6:05 am

Return Sun 6/27/10 Taca (TA) #381 Departs Roatan (RTB) at 5:27 pm; Connects in Salvador, Arrives LAX at 11:59 pm

Participants only doing Honduras (LAX-GUA June 20; returning Roatan-LAX June 27) (\$674 as of 2/28/10 on www.taca.com):

Sun 6/20/10: LACSA LR #641 - Departs LAX at 1:45 am; Arrives GUA at 7:25 am

Return Sun 6/27/10 Taca (TA) #381 Departs Roatan (RTB) at 5:27 pm; Connects in Salvador, Arrives LAX at 11:50 pm

Other Comments

Guatemala is a less-developed country and requires the proper attitude and a fair degree of energy. Things don't work as perfectly as in the USA. Participants must be flexible and adaptable. Some roads will be rough, the rainforest has insects, and the weather will be hot and humid in some of the places we visit. It is the rainy season, although the rain is usually brief and the sun still shines most days. Safety and security is not a major problem, but there are still precautions to take in order to avoid crime.



CHICHICASTENANGO

Hotels for the trip:

Antigua (2 nights) – Hotel Aurora, <http://hotelauroraantigua.com/>

Panajachel (Lake Atitlan) (2 nights) – Hotel Utz-Jay, www.hotelutzjay.com

Rio Dulce – Hotel Tijax (2 nights) - <http://tijax.com/english.htm>

El Remate (Tikal) (1 night) – Casa de Don David, <http://www.lacasadedondavid.com/>

Coban (2 nights) – Casa Duranta, http://www.casaduranta.com/index_eng.htm

Program Leaders: Matt, Suzan, and Sophia Ebner, www.geotours.us

Questions: mattebner@geotours.us (888) 496-8676

Fri 6/11/10 – Arrive Guatemala; Guatemala City to Antigua (45 minutes driving time on the bus)

Fly TACA (or LACSA) LAX-GUA, arriving 6:05 am (or 7:25 am)
Drive 45 minutes to Antigua, old colonial capital, located below Volcan Agua (volcano)
Antigua is one of the most pleasant towns of Latin America
Pleasant temperatures (5000' elevation)
Beautiful colonial-era buildings and cobblestone streets
Good restaurants and shopping with very good prices
Nim Pot is the best shop – huge selection, fixed prices

Walking tour of Antigua

Overnight - Hotel Aurora, Antigua for 2 nights

“Fine colonial building...
spacious rooms around lovely grassy courtyard and fountain”



Sat 6/12/10 – Antigua (No driving today)

Full day in Antigua or arrival day for some in the group if they left on Friday night
Saturday is market day in Antigua, very active in the morning when Mayan villagers converge
Time to soak up the ambience of Antigua
Option to do a hike up active Volcano Pacaya (medium difficulty) with a group (\$8); arrange day before
Can ride a horse partway up. Might get close to flowing lava! 7-hour tour leaves at 2 pm

Hotel Aurora, Antigua, night #2

Sun 6/13/10 – Antigua – Chichicastenango – Panajachel on Lake Atitlan (3 hours on the bus)

Depart Antigua at 7 am for Chichicastenango (2 hours)
Sunday is market day in Chichicastenango
One of the most famous and colorful markets in Latin America
Sunday procession of cofradias (religious brotherhoods) through the streets to church
Music, statues, incense, lots of color!
Depart for Lake Atitlán in late morning (about 1-1½ hour drive)
Atitlan Nature Reserve has nice trails, forest, monkeys, and option to go ziplining (\$19)
Check into Hotel Utz Jay in Panajachel, on Lake Atitlán
Lake Atitlán is a caldera lake (like Crater Lake in Oregon or Lake Taupo in New Zealand)
Surrounded by volcanoes and villages with traditional Mayan culture
Oftentimes called one of the world's most beautiful lakes
Pleasant temperatures due to 5000' elevation (mid-70s)

Hotel Utz Jay, Panajachel



CHICHICASTENANGO

Mon 6/14/10 – Panajachel & Lake Atitlan (No driving today)

Take a boat (20 minutes) to village of Jaibalito
Hour walk along the lake to Jaibalito and Tzununa
Great views across the lake to 3 volcanoes
Boat from Tzununa to San Marcos for lunch at Posada Schumann
Boat to Santiago Atitlan – visit the church, main plaza and pagan shrine for Maximon

Hotel Utz Jay, Panajachel, night #2



LAKE ATITLAN

Tue 6/15/10 – Panajachel – Guatemala City – Rio Dulce (7-8 hours on the bus; our longest day)

Long drive to Rio Dulce (7+ hours; 3.5 hrs to Guatemala City + 4 hrs to Rio Dulce)
Hacienda Tijax, Rio Dulce on the river amidst mangroves and jungle; nice pool

Wed 6/16/10– Day trip around Rio Dulce (2-3 hours on the bus)

Sunrise option to go kayaking amidst the mangroves (\$13) or walk in the rainforest
Castillo de San Felipe, a Spanish castle built to fight British pirates
El Boqueron - river trip (20-30 minutes on the water) through a canyon in a dugout canoe
Can swim/float back down the river (about a half mile)
Finca El Paraiso Hot Waterfall (into a cool river) – bring your swimming suit and towel
Hacienda Tijax, Rio Dulce, night #2

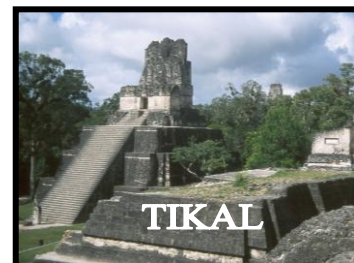


HACIENDA TIJAX

Thu 6/17/10 – Rio Dulce to El Remate; 6 hours on the bus

Drive Rio Dulce – El Remate, check into hotel (4 hours driving time)
Visit ancient Maya city of Tikal with English-speaking guide to Tikal
One of the greatest ancient cities of the Americas
Wear good walking shoes; will probably walk 3-4 miles

Stay one night at Casa de Don David in El Remate

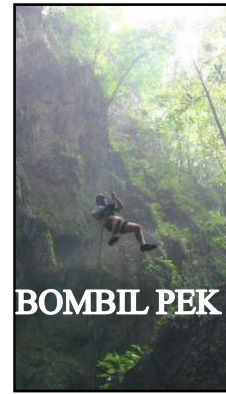


TIKAL

Fri 6/18/10 – Tikál – Cobán (5 hours on the bus)

Optional morning visit to Tikal for the wildlife and birds
Drive to Cobán (4½ hours)
En route we visit Bombil Pek, a very impressive cave, 40-minute walk from the road
Wear good shoes and bring headlamp or flashlight; clothes might get dirty
Entrance to the cave is at the bottom of a deep sinkhole
Hike down steep, dirt (muddy?) steps; bring a walking stick if possible
Or can descend by abseiling 280' on a rope (no experience required)
Full exploration of the cave requires squeezing through some small openings

Hotel Casa Duranta, Cobán, Night #1



Sat 6/19/10 – Excursion around Cobán (5 hours on the bus)

Visit Semuc Champey, cascades & turquoise pools, one of the most beautiful spots in Guatemala

Hotel Casa Duranta, Cobán, Night #2

Sun 6/20/10 – Cobán – Guatemala City – Antigua (5 hours on the bus)

Travel back to Guatemala City and Antigua for final afternoon (5 hours driving time)
Antigua - last chance to go shopping; Nim Pot closes at 5 pm
Depart Guatemala City at 7:55 pm on LACSA (the best flight time)
Arrive LAX at 11:55 pm
Or extend your trip another 7 days to Honduras
For extension group, **Hotel Aurora, Antigua** for 1 night



Monday 6/21/10 - Antigua, Guatemala to Copán, Honduras (6 hours)

Copán is one of the great archeological sites of the Americas, a Mayan city with outstanding sculptures

Hotel Marina Copán, Night #1

Very comfortable hotel, the nicest in Copán

COPAN



Tuesday 6/22/10 - Copán

Morning guided tour of Copán ruins and excellent museum
Afternoon to enjoy the very pleasant town of Copán Ruinas
Hotel Marina Copán, Night #2

Wed 6/23/10 – Copán to Omega Jungle Lodge (just outside of La Ceiba, near Caribbean coast) (6 hours)

Afternoon option to do a canopy zip-line tour of the forest (\$35)

Night #1, Omega Jungle Lodge

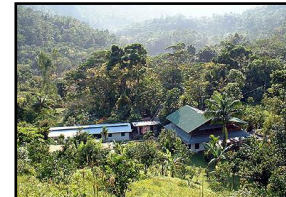
Highly rated ecotourist accommodation in the rainforest on the edge of Pico Bonito Nat'l Park

Thu 6/24/10 – Around Omega Jungle Lodge

Many different optional activities; might be able to do two:
Whitewater rafting on Grade III-IV rapids (4-5 hours) = \$49
Horseback riding on the beach (3 hours on the horse) = \$65
Jungle Hiking in Pico Bonito National Park to a 250' waterfall (4-5 hours) = \$39
Mountain biking (independently = \$15/2 hrs or \$28/day)
(or with guide to end of road by 4X4 and then downhill through villages = \$52/5 hrs)
Kayaking/canoeing through mangroves, past howler monkeys, to a beach (5-7 hrs) = \$62

Omega Jungle Lodge, Night #2

**OMEGA
LODGE**



Fri 6/25/10 – Omega Jungle Lodge to Roatan Island

Morning ferry (9:30 am) to Roatan Island (about 90 minutes)
All afternoon to relax at the white sand beach, clear blue water, and see the beautiful sunset

West Bay Lodge, Night #1

Excellent accommodation just 3 minutes walk from the best beach on Roatan



Sat 6/26/10 –Roatan Island

All day for snorkeling, scuba diving, lounging on the beach or by the pool
Option to take a tour around the island to see monkeys, iguanas, butterflies, more

West Bay Lodge, Night #2

Sun 6/27/10 – Roatan – Los Angeles

Much of the day for snorkeling and scuba diving, or relaxing or further exploring
Late afternoon departure at 5:00 pm connects in San Salvador and arrives in L.A. at midnight

Registration Form - GeoTours Trip to Guatemala/Honduras: June 11 – June 27, 2010

CONTACT: Matt Ebner, Trip Organizer and Leader, (888) 496-8676, mattebner@geotours.us

WHAT TRIP YOU ARE SIGNING UP FOR? (please check one):

- Guatemala – June 11-20, 2010 - \$800 for land costs
- Honduras – June 20-27 - \$700 for land costs
- Guatemala + Honduras – June 11-27 - \$1500 for land costs

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT PROCEDURE

1. Complete this form (or a photocopy) and submit it to Matt Ebner/GeoTours. You should keep a photocopy of this completed form.
2. Attach a deposit check to this registration form for \$200 if doing Guatemala or Honduras, for \$400 if doing both Guatemala and Honduras
3. Second payment of \$300 is due March 1
4. Final payment is due on April 11

Checks should be made payable to GeoTours LLC and sent to: **GeoTours**
427 Larkin Drive
Covina, CA 91722

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (Please print clearly and use your precise name as it appears, or will appear, on your passport)

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Gender: _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Are you a US citizen? Yes ___ No, I am a citizen of _____ Passport # _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST The program price is based on double occupancy. A single room incurs a supplement.

Please check one: Sharing a twin/double room _____ Single Room (+\$350 in Guatemala; +300 in Honduras) _____
Please circle one: Non-smoking _____ Smoking _____ Do you object to a roommate smoking? Yes ___ No ___

Name of preferred roommate (if any) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____ Email Address _____

CANCELLATIONS

To cancel your participation, you need to inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the day when GeoTours has received your written notice.

Date of Cancellation	Cancellation Penalty
Before March 15, 2010	No Penalty
March 16 - April 10, 2010	\$200
April 11 – May 10, 2010	\$400
May 11 – May 31, 2010	\$600
After June 1, 2010	No Refund

Responsibility

The program participant agrees that GeoTours LLC assumes no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity and delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC harmless for damage and delay due to equipment problems, quarantine, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC is not responsible for delay, rerouting, omission and additional expense resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC. GeoTours LLC is not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all such terms and conditions.

I have carefully read and agree to the regulations above.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Travel arrangements by GeoTours LLC, CST # 2099683-40
427 Larkin Drive, Covina, CA 91722
Toll-free phone: (888) 496-8676; Fax (626) 209-4339; Email: info@geotours.us
www.geotours.us

