

Guatemala & Belize: Our Signature Journey



A trip to Guatemala and Belize provides a great introduction to Central America, combining Spanish-colonial charm, beautiful scenery, vibrant traditional markets and Mayan history with Belizean rainforest adventure and tropical relaxation on one of the islands off the Caribbean coast, offering crystal clear waters, fantastic snorkelling and world-class diving. Central America is still exceptionally good value too although travellers should note that there are no direct flights to/from Guatemala and Belize and you will usually have to transit via the United States. Please contact us if you would like a stopover in Miami, Dallas, Houston or New York.

Highlights: Antigua – Lake Atitlan – Tikal – Cayo District – Ambergris Caye

Number of Days: 15 Days

Accommodation: Choose upper, mid-range or value hotels.

Indicative costs: From £2,249 pp excluding transatlantic flights.



Central America Revealed: Guatemala and Belize - Our Signature Journey

Highlights: Antigua – Lake Atitlan – Tikal – Cayo District – Ambergris Caye

Days 1-4: Antigua

- Day 1: Arrival transfer to your hotel; 3 nights' accommodation.
- Day 2: Half day City Tour of Antigua.
- Day 3: Free day to explore Antigua.
- Day 4: Departure transfer to Lake Atitlan

Antigua is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with cobblestone streets and Spanish-colonial appeal which makes an ideal base for the start of your itinerary. There is plenty to see and do: explore the colourful local market, visit the jade and artisan workshops, learn how to make chocolate, get some cowboy boots made for you in Pastores. If you are feeling active go riding or mountain-biking or hike up a volcano.

Days 4-6: Lake Atitlan

- Day 4: Stop at one of the colourful markets before travelling to Panajachel, Lake Antigua, 2 nights.
- Day 5: Excursion by boat across Lake Atitlan to Santiago Atitlan.
- Day 6: Departure transfer via Iximche ruins to Guatemala City in time to fly to Flores.

Lake Atitlán is the deepest lake in Central America and is ringed by three volcanoes. The villages that dot the shoreline are full of colour and charm. On the way, stop at one of Guatemala's vibrant traditional markets: Chichicastenango on Thursdays and Sundays or Sololá on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Santiago Atitlan is an attractive town on the far shore of the Lake but was the site of an uprising in December 1990 during Guatemala's long civil war (1960-1996) which was brutally suppressed.

Iximche was the capital of the Kaqchikel Maya kingdom from 1470 until it was abandoned by them in 1524 following the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors.

Days 5-7: Tikal, El Petén

- Day 5: Arrival transfer from Flores airport to your hotel in the Petén rainforest. Stay for 2 nights.
- Day 6: Full day tour to Tikal.
- Day 7: Departure transfer to the border with Belize

Tikal is one of the largest and most important Maya sites. The city stretches over 575 square kilometres in total, with the centre of the city alone containing more than 3,000 buildings and covering 16 sq kms. Though dating back to 400 BC, the city reached its height during the Classic Mayan Period, from 200 to 900 AD.

Days 7-10: Cayo District, Belize Rainforest

- Day 7: Arrival transfer from the Guatemalan/Belize border to your hotel, 3 nights' accommodation.
- Day 8: Excursions in the Cayo District.
- Day 9: Optional excursions in the Cayo District
- Day 10: Departure transfer to Ambergris Caye.

Jungle rainforest, mountain pines, waterfalls, wildlife, birds, butterflies and tropical scenery are all part of the stunning natural beauty of the Cayo District. Excursions can be adapted according to your own needs but we recommend visiting the ATM Cave, exploring the bustling market town of San Ignacio or an adventure activity such as zip-lining or cave-tubing. There is an iguana project to visit or additional Mayan ruins in the area.

Days 10-14: Ambergris Caye, Belize Coast

- Day 10: Arrival transfer to your hotel.
- Day 11: Free Day.
- Day 12: Half day snorkelling adventure to Hol Chan Marine Reserve and swimming in Shark Ray Alley.
- Day 13: Free Day.
- Day 14: Departure transfer to Belize airport in time for your flight home.

Home to the biggest Barrier Reef in the Northern & Western Hemispheres, the multiple cayes and islands off Belize's Caribbean coast are great for diving, snorkelling, sailing and ocean fishing – luxury hotels offer fantastic tropical beach R&R. Ambergris Caye is the biggest island, but options vary with the more laid-back Caye Caulker and many smaller private islands.



Suggested Hotels:

We book the full range of accommodation from boutique hideaways and haciendas through to three-star mid-range hotels. Our team of travel specialists will be able to advise you on other hotels according to your budget and preferences.

	Upper	Mid-range	Value
Antigua:	El Convento	Meson de Maria	Villa Colonial
Lake Atitlan:	Casa Palopo	Posada de Don Rodrigo	Dos Mundos
Tikal:	La Lancha	Isla de Flores	Villa Maya
Cayo District:	Hidden Valley Inn	Blackrock Lodge (premium)	Blackrock Lodge (standard cabin)
Ambergris Caye:	Portofino	Ramon's Resort	Blue Tang

Indicative Costs (excluding transatlantic flights):

Upper	Mid-range	Value
From £3,699 pp	From £2,650 pp	From £2,249 pp

If you would like us to book your transatlantic flights we would be happy to do so in economy, premium economy, business or first class according to your preference.

Seasons and Climate

The best time to visit Central America is in the dry season from December to May.

Entry

British nationals travelling on a full, valid British passport do not require a visa for entry to Belize or Guatemala. You should ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of arrival.

Vaccinations

It is advisable to check your immunizations for Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A. If you have been to Africa within 3 months of arriving in Central America you may need to provide proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever.

Exchange Rates

Costs in Latin America are subject to \$/£ exchange rates. At present we are working on current exchange rates of 1.21 (as at 29 Aug 2019) although this may be subject to change, particularly in the event of a No Deal Brexit.



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