The Maya: Guatemala Revealed

Tikal, Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango and Antigua

December 2-10, 2024

Featuring Archaeologist Bill Saturno
DEAR TRAVELERS,

Embark on a nine-day tailored journey for an exclusive experience, immersing yourself in the wonders of Guatemala. A trip highlight is the renowned archaeological site of Tikal, where ancient marvels like the Great Plaza and Temple of the Jaguar await.

Delve into the rich history of the Maya with unique insights provided by archaeologist Dr. Bill Saturno and resident regional expert Wiggie Andrews. Travel to Tikal and venture to remote Maya sites like Topoxte, Yaxha, and Uaxactun in the Petén rainforest, famous for having the oldest complete Maya astronomical complex. Along the way, be enchanted by the sights and sounds of tropical birds and animals, including howler and spider monkeys, that playfully inhabit the jungle canopy.

Absorb the stunning natural beauty of Lake Atitlán, immerse yourself in the lively and colorful Sunday market in Chichicastenango, and experience the captivating colonial city of Antigua. Antigua boasts beautifully restored colonial architecture and superb cuisine, nestled in a mountain valley embraced by evergreen forests and three majestic volcanoes, creating a magnificent backdrop for your Guatemalan journey.

Visit artisan villages and connect with local artisans, weavers, and musicians who take great pride in creating intricate textiles and cultural crafts. Engage with local guide and our expert study leaders through informative lectures and group discussions, allowing for a deeper understanding of Guatemala’s historical and cultural significance.

This program seamlessly blends education and adventure. Secure your spot today and be part of this exceptional journey. Contact us at travel@commonwealthclub.org or (415) 597-6720.

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director

EDUCATIONAL TEAM

Archaeologist William Saturno served as the director of the Proyecto San Bartolo-Xultun at the Instituto de Antropología e Historia in Guatemala. He received numerous National Geographic grants to support his excavation of ancient Maya murals and artifacts. His breakthrough discovery at San Bartolo in northwest Guatemala, of the oldest intact Maya murals yet found, became the focus of the January 2006 National Geographic magazine article ‘The Dawn of Maya Gods and Kings,’ and the June 2012 issue described his recent unearthing of murals at Xultún. Bill has also served as the Field Director of the Río Amarillo Archaeological Project in Western Honduras, examining the relationships of Maya cities around Copán.

A native Yucatecan, Tour Manager Margaret “Wiggie” Andrews is the daughter of the late well-known archaeologist E. Wyllys Andrews. She is a graduate of Tulane University with a degree in art history and has studied in France, Italy, and Egypt. Wiggie has worked extensively at Chichen Itza, helping to interpret and record Maya glyphs and stone carvings, and has coauthored two papers on this subject. She is fluent in French, Spanish, and English.
ITINERARY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2
HOME / GUATEMALA CITY
Arrive in Guatemala City and transfer to the Westin Camino Real Hotel. Gather for introductory remarks and enjoy a festive welcome dinner. WESTIN CAMINO REAL HOTEL (D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
GUATEMALA CITY / FLORES
Begin the day with breakfast and a morning lecture by Bill Saturno. Visit the National Museum of Ethnology & Archaeology to view its impressive collection. Fly north to Flores and settle into the Camino Real Tikal Hotel, elegantly perched alongside the eastern shore of Lake Peten Itza. CAMINO REAL TIKAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
TOPOXTE & YAXHA
Journey to Yaxha National Park, and visit the distinctive ruins nestled on the island of Topoxte. This Postclassical site, believed to be the last inhabited Maya site in Guatemala, features temples and structures shrouded by the dense jungle. Continue to the Maya ceremonial site of Yaxha, sitting atop a hill overlooking two scenic lakes and containing more than 500 structures, including the impressive Temple 216 in the East Acropolis, which towers above the region. CAMINO REAL TIKAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
TIKAL & UAXACTUN
Envision what the ancient city of Tikal was like at its height in the 7th century AD as you walk amid structures that rise from the rainforest floor. Follow in the footsteps of the Maya as you visit the majestic Great Plaza and its Temple of the Jaguar, the Temple of the Masks, and the Acropolis. While visiting, enjoy the vibrant sights and sounds of tropical birds and animals, including howler and spider monkeys, thriving in the jungle canopy. Continue to the site of Uaxactun, famous for having the oldest complete Maya astronomical complex. Later, savor a traditional meal prepared with local ingredients. CAMINO REAL TIKAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
FLORES / GUATEMALA CITY / IXIMCHE / LAKE ATITLAN
Return by plane to Guatemala City to visit the archaeological site of Iximche, which once served as the capital of the Kaqchiquel Mayas. Modern-day shamans still use part of the site for rituals. Continue to Guatemala's highland jewel, the sparkling waters of Lake Atitlan, watched over by three majestic, dormant volcanoes and surrounded by Maya villages. HOTEL ATITLAN (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
LAKE ATITLAN
Embark by boat across the lake to the town of San Juan la Laguna to observe indigenous weavers mixing natural dyes from locally grown plants and flowers, creating intricate textiles with colorful thread. Visit a workshop of art naïf painters before boarding the boat for the cruise to Santiago Atitlan. Learn about Maximon, the town's Maya folk saint and stop by the thriving market. Return to the hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure. HOTEL ATITLAN (B,L)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
CHICHICASTENANGO / ANTIGUA
Arrive at the highland town of Chichicastenango to experience and relish navigating the expansive, world-famous market known for its vibrant array of handmade crafts, textiles, and traditional Mayan goods. Visit the renowned St. Tomas Church, where both Maya and Catholic rituals are performed in the sanctuary, reflecting the intertwining of these two diverse faiths in this region. After lunch, continue to Antigua and its beautifully restored colonial architecture, manicured parks, and superb cuisine, nestled in a mountain valley surrounded by evergreen forests and three spectacular volcanoes. This evening is at your leisure. Delight in the culinary offerings of the many renowned restaurants in the colonial city. CASA SANTO DOMINGO (B,L)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
ANTIGUA
Commence the day by delving into this colonial city's architecture and history. Gain a behind-the-scenes look at some of Antigua's ornately decorated churches, Spanish colonial-era ruins, and the tomb of the first Guatemalan saint. In the afternoon, visit the village of Jocotenango and its wonderful Azotea Coffee farm, learning about the importance of coffee in Guatemala's history and its impact today. Continue to the village of San Antonio Aguas Calientes and visit a women's textile cooperative to witness the beautiful and intricate Guatemalan textiles being made. Celebrate your journey with a festive farewell dinner in the evening. CASA SANTO DOMINGO (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
GUATEMALA CITY / HOME
Transfer this morning to the Guatemala City airport for flights home. (B)
GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eight hotel nights • On-tour roundtrip flights between Guatemala City and Flores • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers • Entrance fees • Soft drinks, house wine and beer with group dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Criterion Tour Manager Wiggie Andrews.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE
U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or

PROGRAM RATES
Per person, Double Occupancy..... $6,390
Single Supplement.................. $1,090

GENERAL INFORMATION

BEHOLD the magnificent archaeological site of Tikal and its majestic Great Plaza, Temple of the Jaguar and Acropolis.

VISIT the Maya sites of Topoxte and Yaxha, situated between two scenic lakes, and Uaxactun, to the north of Tikal.

EXPERIENCE the natural beauty of Guatemala’s Peten Rainforest and the stunning landscapes around Lake Atitlan, framed by its surrounding volcanoes.

IMMERSE yourself in the cultural and religious world of today’s Maya at Iximche and Santiago Atitlan.

ENJOY the renowned and vibrant Sunday market at Chichicastenango.

DELIGHT in the captivating charm of Antigua, with its beautifully restored colonial architecture, manicured parks, superb cuisine, and a setting nestled in a mountain valley surrounded by evergreen forests and three spectacular volcanoes.

VENTURE to a small artisan village that preserves ancient handicraft traditions, and take the opportunity to meet local coffee farmers, weavers, and musicians.

LEARN about today’s Maya and their thriving culture and communities, including the local textiles of the Guatemalan Highlands.

Highlights

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dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be an active program, with considerable walking at some destinations. Daily activities can involve up to three miles of walking, unaided, over varied terrain (e.g., uneven walkways, steep and sandy trails, dirt streets and paths in some locations). Participants must be physically fit, in good health, and capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES
Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participating travelers. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS
Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed “Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause” is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

GROUP SIZE
This program can accommodate 25 participants.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this condition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

ELIGIBILITY
We require membership to Commonwealth Club World Affairs to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a worldwide membership. To learn about membership types and purchase a membership, call 415-597-6720 or visit commonwealthclub.org/Membership.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call 415-597-6720 or email travel@commonwealthclub.org. Final payment deadline is September 3. For those who register on or after September 3, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Upon payment of the $1,000 per person deposit, reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Commonwealth Club World Affairs. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the September 3, 2024, final payment deadline: payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither Commonwealth Club World Affairs nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Criterion Travel reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088900-40

The Maya: Guatemala Revealed
December 2-10, 2024

Reservation Form
To reserve space, please call (415) 597-6720 (preferred method) or complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Commonwealth Club World Affairs, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105. If you have questions, please call (415) 597-6720 or email travel@commonwealthclub.org.

Contact Information (please print)

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

□ Yes, ________________________________

PAYMENT INFORMATION

□ Enclosed is my check for $__________ ($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), for ____________________________ on The Maya: Guatemala Revealed.

□ Please charge my deposit of $__________ ($1,000 per person) to my ____________________________

□ VISA □ MasterCard □ American Express □ Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER IN+DATE SECURITY CODE CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Bed Preference □ King / Queen □ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

□ I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)

□ I plan to share accommodations with:

__________

□ I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a □ non-smoker □ smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of September 3, 2024 I will pay the single rate.

If we have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the terms and conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE
The Maya: Guatemala Revealed

TIKAL, LAKE ATITLAN, CHICHICASTENANGO AND ANTIGUA

DECEMBER 2-10, 2024

FEATURING ARCHAEOLOGIST BILL SATURNO

commonwealthclub.org/travel • (415) 597-6720 • travel@commonwealthclub.org