

We're taking a trip!

Come join the gang from Single Parent Travel

What: Guatemala 7 Nights

When: July 18-25, 2009

Guatemala, often trumpeted as "the country of eternal spring," is one of the most-often listed travel destinations in Central America: the stunning Maya ruins at Tikal, the well-preserved colonial city of Antigua, a vibrant indigenous culture, active volcanoes, highland lakes and exotic wildlife are its chief draws. This summer, Single Parent Travel will take you where savvy travelers have been traveling for years. With our exclusive partnership with Maxim Tours, we know how to show you the beauty of Guatemala!

- ✓ Step back into time as you meander through the delightful colonial town of Antigua where you will enjoy a guided walking tour of the city.
- ✓ Experience the exciting colorful market of Chichicastenango where Mayans and tourists mingle to buy and sell goods.
- ✓ Marvel at the incredible beauty of Lake Atitlan with its backdrop of dramatic volcanoes Here you enjoy a visit to the Mayan village of Santiago where time has stood still.
- ✓ Explore the temples and ruins of magnificent Tikal National Park, where curious animals, such as the cotomundi, compete for your attention. A guided tour of the ruins is included.

Price: See pricing on itinerary sheets

For more information

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SINGLE PARENT TOURS GOES TO GUATEMALA

JULY 18-25, 2009

Presented in conjunction with Maxim Tours

Saturday, July 18 - Antigua

You'll be met on arrival at Guatemala City airport and depart for Antigua, about 45 minutes away (depending on traffic). World renown for its colonial beauty, Antigua has its own personality...tourists learning Spanish, locals selling crafts, monumental and picturesque ruins of churches and monasteries remaining from the last earthquake. By examining the details of the church façades and figures you'll get an idea how the church tried to appeal to the Maya. There are good restaurants, art galleries, bars, a theater and library. It is multicultural, multilingual, and a delightful place.

Stay in Posada Don Rodrigo. Nearly 300 years old, this colonial mansion is located near the famous arch. The accommodations are first class, and there is a restaurant with a marimba band for lunches. You will have a welcome dinner this evening with your guide at your hotel.

Overnight Posada Don Rodrigo – Antigua (D)

Sunday, July 19 – Chichicastenango Market & Lake Atitlan

You'll be picked up at your hotel and depart for Chichicastenango to enjoy the famous Sunday market. A white stucco town set in the mountains, Chichicastenango is famous for its colorful, bustling handicraft market, with outstanding textiles and woodcarvings. Shamans burn copal incense on the steps of the Santo Tomás church, a centuries old ritual. Visit the extensive market and the church. You might want to walk at least part way up the hill behind town – there's a place that makes beautiful masks and costumes – and there's a path up the hill to a Maya sacred site (the hike is a bit strenuous, though not that long). Your guide will be with you but you are free to roam the market stalls until departure time. After lunch with your guide, you will be transferred to Lake Atitlan.

Surely one of the world's most beautiful lakes, Lago Atitlán is framed by volcanoes and surrounded by 12 villages. Local inhabitants, Tzutujil or Cakchiquel Maya, fish from dugout canoes, cut reeds to make mats, farm, tend coffee farms, make ceramics, and weave. There's a crafts market in Santiago Atitlán which draws tourists daily. Other activities in the area include, hiking, bird watching, and horseback riding. Called Pana by the locals, this lakeside town of Panajachel is surrounded by volcanoes, and is home to small museums and galleries

Posada de Don Rodrigo Panajachel is the sister hotel to the one in Antigua. There is a new first class wing and an older tourist class wing. The swimming pool overlooks the lake and there is a very nice museum. You are free this evening for dinner to enjoy one of many local café/restaurants overlooking the lake and serving tasty local cuisine. Be sure and witness the sunset settling over the volcanoes and lake – an awesome sight and a marvelous photo op!

Overnight Posada de Don Rodrigo - Panajachel (B/L)

Monday, July 20 – Lake Atitlan – Village of Santiago & Hiking

Cross the lake by boat this morning to reach Santiago Atitlán. (The local boats are called *lanchas*). The women are known for their unique headdress – and you'll receive many offers for photos. Tourism has definitely affected this town, and you'll have to pay to take a photo of its Maximón. This was the ancient capital of the Tzutujil Maya and it remains an important commercial center for the region. The street ascending from the dock is lined with handcraft stalls.

After lunch with your guide you will be transferred to another area of the lake for an afternoon easy hiking excursion. The hiking is more like a walk; it is within the reserve, (Reserva Atitlan). You will enter the tropical forest over some bridges and there, in the reserve, you can view monkeys, butterflies and other animals living there. You will pass by enchanting waterfalls and observe interesting indigenous plants and animals, including the raccoon-like coatis and exotic birds, such as Guatemala's national bird, the quetzal." A canopy tour is included with the hike.

This evening you are free to enjoy dinner in the town.

Overnight Posada de Don Rodrigo - Panajachel (B/L)

Tuesday, July 21 – Antigua – Visit to Coffee Farm

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred by mini bus back to Antigua. This afternoon you will learn how coffee is farmed with a visit to a working coffee farm and the local museum. Lunch is included this afternoon.

Visit the Azotea Museum, which gives you an insider's view of how coffee goes from the bean to the cup. Exhibits and dioramas introduce you to the history of coffee and explain the growing process of the golden bean. You'll walk through a working mill built in 1883 and operated by a water wheel. A video show completes your visit. At the coffee shop, taste the delicious brew made from the beans grown on the plantation. A nature walk through the working plantation is included in your visit.

Stay at Casa Santo Domingo. A deluxe, full-service hotel, Casa Santo Domingo was created from the ruins of the Dominican Monastery, completed in the 17th century. Walking through the winding halls of stone more than 400 years old offers a unique ambience! There is a nice small museum with local artifacts that complement the building's treasures. There are 96 rooms equipped with minibar and television.

Overnight Casa Santo Domingo – Antigua (B/L)

Wednesday, July 22 – Antigua – *Community Reforestation Project*****

Single Parent Tours has arranged a very special cultural activity for you and your family today. You will participate in a Community Reforestation Project. You will work side by side with the local citizens to reclaim the land and beautify their surroundings. A private guide from the project will be assigned to your group. Young children will be assigned age-appropriate tasks so they will be full participants in this meaningful activity.

Included in this activity is a donation to the Reforestation Project, the cost of equipment and plants, private transfers to the site, private guide from the project and your private guide as well. Refreshments are included during the project as well as lunch in a local restaurant.

Overnight Casa Santo Domingo – Antigua (B/L)

Thursday, July 23 – Flores – Canopy Excursion or Fly like Tarzan!

You will be transferred to Guatemala City Airport for your short morning flight to Flores, gateway to Tikal National Park. You will depart on Inter Regional Taca Airlines # 976 departing 9:55am. Upon arrival Flores you will be met by your local Flores guide and transferred to your hotel. Flores is a lovely lakeside town with shops, restaurants, and a mini zoo with indigenous animals.

Hotel Ecologico Villa Maya is located in a vast private nature reserve on the shores of Petenchel and Monifata Lagoons, about 45 minutes from Tikal. The hotel's 56 rooms are air-conditioned and have private bathroom and private balcony. Phone, fax and Internet service is available on-site, as well as many fun activities.

This afternoon you will be transferred to Ixpanpajul Reserve, just outside Flores, for an exciting excursion in a beautiful setting. You have a choice of a canopy tour or a zip line excursion where you can fly like Tarzan (in a safe environment) over 9 platforms.

Overnight Hotel Villa Maya – Flores – (B)

Friday, July 24 – Tikal National Park

This morning you will depart for a 45 minute drive to Tikal National Park for a full day guided tour of the park including a picnic lunch and entrance fees. Tikal was the "New York City" of Mundo Maya (the Mayan World). Tikal has been a national park for more than 20 years. In addition to magnificent ruins, there's abundant wildlife such as peccaries, ocellated turkeys, howler monkeys, and a wide variety of birds. Tikal was important from the late Pre-classic Period until the end of the Classic Era (900 AD). At its peak the city covered about 48 square miles and had a population of 55,000.

Tonight you will enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel (SPT group only, no guide).

Overnight Hotel Villa Maya – Flores – (B/L/D)

Saturday, July 25

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Flores Airport for your flight to Guatemala City. You will depart on Inter Regional Taca Air # 979 departing 8:30am and arriving Guatemala City one hour later. You will check in on your own for your connecting flight back to the U.S.A. **(B)**

If you are scheduled for a late afternoon departure, we can arrange to have you met at the airport and taken for a short tour of Guatemala city and returned to the airport in time for your flight. This service will be an additional cost, upon request, and cost will be based on number of participants.

Important Notices:

- The tour will begin on July 18 with individual family or small group pick ups at Guatemala City Airport and transfer directly to your hotel in Antigua. All transfers on the tour are by private mini bus with A/C.
- **Single Parent Tours will book your local flights round trip from Guatemala City to Flores (entry point for Tikal National Park).** These flights are included in the tour price.
- **Passengers should book their own flights from their home city to Guatemala City and return.** Single Parent Tours will quote international consolidator airfares upon request.
- Current local airport departure taxes run about \$5.00 per person per flight to be paid in cash prior to check in. Your guide will remind you to have cash handy.
- **Visas are not required for travel to Guatemala. U. S. citizens only need a passport valid for 6 months from date of entry.**
- This is a custom designed tour for Single Parent Tours. You will have a private special guide for Antigua and the Highlands. In Flores and Tikal National Park you will have local guides from that region.
- Meals are abbreviated as follows: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D= Dinner.

TOUR COSTS:

If you are a parent traveling with 1 child, the tour cost is:

TOUR COST PER FAMILY: (with less than 8 participants in the tour)

One adult + one child under 10 = \$4992.00 total for two
One adult + one child 10 or over = \$5042.00 total for two

TOUR COST PER FAMILY: (with 8 or more participants in the tour)

One adult + one child under 10 = \$4526.00 total for two
One adult + one child 10 or over = \$4578.00 total for two

If you are a parent traveling with 2 children the tour cost is:

TOUR COST PER FAMILY: (with less than 8 participants in the tour)

One adult + 2 children under 10 = \$6748.00 total for three
One adult + 1 child under 10 + one child over 10 = \$6798.00 total for three
One adult + 2 children over 10 = \$7298.00 total for three

TOUR COST PER FAMILY: (with 8 or more participants in the tour)

One adult + 2 children under 10 = \$6283.00 total for three
One adult + 1 child under 10 + one child over 10 = \$6335.00 total for three
One adult + 2 children over 10 = \$6598.00 total for three

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Hotel accommodations (7 nights) including taxes and breakfast daily.
- Additional meals as indicated on the itinerary. (5 lunches + 2 dinners)
- Private transfers and tours with English-speaking guide
- All park and museum entrance fees included in touring
- Round trip flights from Guatemala City to Flores

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

- International airfare
- Meals not indicated on the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, alcoholic beverages, etc.