



GROUP TRAVEL  
CAE 2443



# GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS

## 9 days / 8 nights

Central America has a lot to offer to travellers avid of adventure, culture and joy. Mayan ruins, colonial cities, cloud forest, volcanoes and lakes are our suggestions for this short trip in Guatemala and Honduras, giving you a great overview of what these two countries have to offer. After landing in Guatemala, we will start our journey in Honduras visiting Copan that is very close to be Guatemalan-Honduran border. You will visit this archaeological site of the Mayan civilization that ruled a vast kingdom within the southern Maya area. Next visit will be at the archaeological Site of Quirigua located on the banks of the Motagua River, with outstanding monuments and an impressive series of carved stelae and sculpted calendars in sandstone. It follows the beautiful Río Dulce (Sweet River), the only region of Guatemala with access to the Caribbean coast and contact with the unique afro Garifuna population. We will then take a boat to visit the village of Livingston and continue upstream, from where you can observe the lush vegetation and a natural canyon.

Back in Guatemala, we will also visit the Tikal archaeological site, the ruin of an ancient city and one of the largest archeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, Tikal was the capital of a conquest state that became one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Maya. Chichicastenango is our next destination, home of the Quiché-Mayan civilization and one of the most important towns in Guatemala since it treasures a lot of Mayan culture, history and traditions. It is also one of the most traditional places in Guatemala, conserving its indigenous authenticity. Experience a religious ritual and visit the market, one of the biggest in Central America. We will invite you to cross the Lake Atitlán on board a boat, one of Guatemala's most important national and international tourist attractions. We will visit the market and the church of Santiago Apostol in Santiago Atitlán, lying between two volcanos, San Pedro and Toliman. Finally, Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site is in our program, with magnificent examples of colonial architecture in the Americas. Time for shopping, to discover the area on your own, to relax or to live adventurous experiences are of course included in the program.

### DAY 1 DEPARTURE TO GUATEMALA

Arrival at the international airport in Guatemala City. Reception by our partner, and transfer to the hotel. You will have the rest of the day at leisure for private activities. Overnight at the Radisson & Suites Guatemala or similar.

### DAY 2 GUATEMALA - COPAN

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to the Northeast in Guatemala towards the Border with Honduras. After following the procedures of migration and customs, continue your ride to Copán and visit of the archaeological site. Copán is an archaeological site of the Maya civilization added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980. It was the capital city of a major Classic period kingdom from the 5th to 9th centuries AD. Copán was a powerful city ruling a vast kingdom within the southern Maya area. Its central district consists of stone temples, two large pyramids, several stairways and plazas, and a court for playing the ball game tlachtli. Most of these structures centre on a raised platform (now called the Acropolis) that was apparently the architectural centre of the ancient city. Copán is particularly noted for the friezes on some of its other buildings and the portrait sculptures

**PRICE PER PERSON  
EN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

**EUR 1.466.-**

**Surplus single room  
EUR 491.-**

**DEPARTURES EVERY  
TUESDAY AND SATURDAY**

**Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024**

**PRIVATE SERVICES  
upon request**

#### INCLUSIONS

- Transfer from/to the Hotel in all airports
- 8 Nights in 4\*\*\*\* Hotels
- 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch.
- All excursions and services as described in the program. Highlights :
  - Guided Tours in Antigua, Chichicastenango, Atitlán
  - Archaeological sites of Copán, Quirigua, Tikal
  - Boat ride at Río Dulce
- Local english-speaking guide in all services
- All entrance fees to national parks, museums and excursions.

#### NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for tour guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





on its many stelae. There is evidence that astronomers in Copán calculated the most accurate solar calendar produced by the Maya up to that time. After the guided visit transfer to the hotel and check-in. Overnight at the Clarion Copan Hotel or similar. (B)

### **DAY 3 COPAN – QUIRIGUA – MARISCOS O RIO DULCE**

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to the Archaeological Site of Quirigua located on the banks of the Motagua River. The ruins of Quirigua contain some outstanding 8th-century monuments and an impressive series of carved stelae and sculpted calendars in sandstone that constitute an essential source for the study of Mayan civilization. The highest stele in the entire Mayan world was found here, with more than 10.60 meters high. At the core of Quirigua is the Great Plaza, the largest known public space in the entire Maya area. The monumental complexes which are set out around the Great Plaza, the Ceremonial Plaza and the Plaza of the Temple are remarkable for the complexity of their structure - a highly elaborate system of pyramids, terraces, and staircases which results in a complete remodeling of the natural relief and which creates a singular dimension as at Copan. After the visit, you will continue to Mariscos or Río Dulce. Accommodation at the Banana Palms Hotel. (B)

### **DAY 4 MARISCOS O RIO DULCE – LIVINGSTON - FLORES**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Rio Dulce. Departure by boat to visit the village of Livingston. Continue by boat upstream, from where you can observe the lush vegetation and a natural canyon. With the boat you will enter the canals, continuation to Rio Dulce. On the way you will have a panoramic view of the Castillo de San Felipe de Lara, a Spanish colonial fort at the entrance to Lake Izabal. The fort was strategically situated at the narrowest point on the Rio Dulce river. The Castillo de San Felipe was used by the Spanish for several centuries, during which time it was destroyed and looted several times by pirates. Later we will continue to the city of Flores. Accommodation at the Casona del Lago Hotel or similar. (B)

### **DAY 5 FLORES – TIKAL – GUATEMALA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the Tikal archaeological site for a visit. Tikal is the ruin of an ancient city and one of the largest archeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization. It is located in the archeological region of the Petén Basin in what is now northern Guatemala. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Tikal was the capital of a conquest state that became one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Maya. Though monumental architecture at the site dates back as far as the 4th century BC, Tikal reached its apogee during the Classic Period, c. 200 to 900. During this time, the city dominated much of the Maya region politically, economically, and militarily, while interacting with areas throughout Mesoamerica such as the great metropolis of Teotihuacan in the distant Valley of Mexico. After the visit, lunch and transfer to the Airport Mundo Maya for your flight to Guatemala City (not included). Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Accommodation at the Radisson & Suites Guatemala or similar. (B) (L)

### **DAY 6 GUATEMALA CITY – CHICHICASTENANGO - PANAJACHEL**

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure to Chichicastenango, one of the most important towns in Guatemala since it treasures a lot of Mayan culture, history and traditions. It is the home of the Quiché civilization (largest group of Mayan population).

Chichicastenango is one of the most traditional places in Guatemala. The town was able to conserve its indigenous authenticity and this will give you the opportunity to experience its religious rituals, practiced almost on a daily basis. Upon arrival, you will visit the market, one of the biggest in Central America. You will find yourself surrounded by every type of handicrafts, fruits and vegetables, flowers and many other goods. Among others, you will also visit the Iglesia de Santo Tomas, a 400 year old church with colonial architecture. It is the main place where Mayan prayer leaders practice their rituals. Especially on Sundays, these "priests" burn incense and devote themselves to their





ancestors. The 18 steps that lead you up to the entrance, stands for each month of the year of the Mayan calendar. After the visit, we will continue to Panajachel at the shores of Lake Atitlán with a panoramic visit. Later, check in and free time for private activities. Overnight at the Porta del Lago Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### **DAY 7 PANAJACHEL - ANTIGUA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will take a boat to cross the Lake Atitlán, renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and is one of Guatemala's most important national and international tourist attractions.. Our target is Santiago Atitlán, lying between two volcanos, San Pedro and Toliman. We will visit the market, the church of Santiago Apostol which structure dates back to as far as 1571 and some shops where you can purchase local handicrafts such as beautiful woven stuff, volcanic jade carvings and dubiously ancient Tz'utujil pieces allegedly unearthed from the grounds around. At a given time, you will return to Panajachel and further to Ciudad de Antigua.

Accommodation at the Camino Real Antigua Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### **DAY 8 ANTIGUA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will invite you to a guided city tour. Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was founded in the early 16th century. Built 1,500 m above sea-level, in an earthquake-prone region, it was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773 but its principal monuments are still preserved as ruins. In the space of under three centuries the city, which was built on a grid pattern inspired by the Italian Renaissance, acquired a number of superb monuments. Most of the surviving civil, religious, and civic buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries and constitute magnificent examples of colonial architecture in the Americas. These buildings reflect a regional stylistic variation known as Barroco antigüeño. Among other significant historical buildings, we will visit the Palace of the Captains General, the Casa de la Moneda, the Cathedral, the Universidad de San Carlos, Las Capuchinas, La Merced and Santa Clara. After the tour, you will have free time for private activities, go shopping or just to relax at the hotel. Overnight at the Camino Real Antigua Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### **DAY 9 ANTIGUA – CIUDAD GUATEMALA**

After breakfast, free time to enjoy the last moments in Antigua, go shopping or just to relax at the hotel. On-time transfer to the airport in Guatemala City for your connecting flight home or extension of your stay in Guatemala or Central America. End of our services. **(B)**

**(B)** Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

