



## GUATEMALA TOUR EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE, EMPOWER FEBRUARY 19 - 27, 2027



ALDEA offers a unique, eye-opening, **8-day/8-night tour** through the western highlands of Guatemala, the “Land of Eternal Spring.”



ALDEA and its sister organization, Asociación BPD (ABPD), partner with Indigenous and rural communities in Guatemala to improve the health and well-being of families through integrated initiatives. Together, we work toward a vision where communities fully exercise their universal rights to health and well-being through sustainable, inclusive, and culturally rooted approaches that elevate local leadership and participation

This immersive experience provides the rare opportunity to be welcomed into Mayan villages and witness this work firsthand. As ALDEA celebrates its 60th anniversary, you will see the lasting impact of six decades of partnership in action. You will gain a deeper understanding of the realities facing rural families and discover how you can be part of creating meaningful, lasting change. Along the way, you will be inspired by Guatemala’s breathtaking landscapes around Antigua and Lake Atitlán, its vibrant culture, and the warmth and gracious hospitality of its people. Participants form lasting bonds and leave with a shared commitment to improving the lives of rural Guatemalan families.

### **Tour Highlights:** (Day-by-day itinerary follows)

- Learn about ALDEA’s community development projects in partnership with Mayan villages.
- Discover daily activities of rural Mayans in their homes, learn their stories first-hand, and meet community leaders.
- Experience Guatemala’s thriving Mayan heritage and amazing legacy.
- Explore Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and learn about its rich history.
- Experience one of Antigua’s famous Lenten processions.
- Relax surrounded by the mesmerizing beauty of volcano-ringed Lake Atitlán.
- See Lake Atitlán’s rich and fertile hills, fishermen, artists, traditional weaving, and the daily life of its residents.
- Walk the Mayan ruins of Iximché and possibly witness a Mayan ritual.
- Enjoy delicious Guatemalan food and some of the best coffee in the world.
- Take advantage of shopping opportunities in Antigua, Panajachel, and San Juan La Laguna.

### **What’s Included:**

- Extensive pre-tour information, trip coordination assistance, a welcome packet, and souvenir gifts.
- Pick-up and shuttle to/from La Aurora Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City.
- Five nights at [Hotel Eterna Primavera](#) in Antigua, one night at Hotel de Montaña in Tecpán, and two nights at [Hotel Posada De Don Rodrigo](#) at Lake Atitlán.
- Seven breakfasts, seven lunches and seven dinners (including a special farewell dinner).
- Air-conditioned, chauffeured coaster bus for in-country trips; water and some snacks.
- Bilingual guides, all excursions and entrance fees during group activities.
- Gratuities for meals, chauffeurs, local on-site guides, and hotel service.

**Price per Person:** \$2,500 double occupancy; \$2,800 single occupancy

### **What’s Not Included:**

- Roundtrip air transportation.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g. souvenirs, laundry, extra snacks and drinks.
- Meals on Friday February 19 and lunch on Friday February 26.
- Cost of optional activities during free time.
- Travel medical insurance.

**Deposit/Payments/Cancellations:** \$500 deposit is due at the time of registration and the remaining balance (\$2,000 per person for double occupancy and \$2,300 for single occupancy) is due on **November 30, 2026**. If a participant cancels by November 30, 2026, they will receive a full refund of the amount paid. No refunds will be made for cancellations after November 30, 2026, unless the vacancy can be filled with a participant of equivalent occupancy. [Register and pay online here](https://www.aldeaguatemala.org) through [ALDEAGuatemala.org](https://www.aldeaguatemala.org).

**Participation Details:** The activity level for this trip is moderately difficult due to walking up to three miles at a time on cobblestones and uneven surfaces, walking up and down slopes; standing for periods of time; getting in and out of boats; and riding on bumpy roads. Tour is limited to 15 participants; all must be a minimum of 21 years of age. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver and have travel medical insurance coverage.

**Travel Documents:** A current U.S. passport is required. No visa is required for Guatemala visits of fewer than 90 days.

**Climate:** February weather in the Guatemalan Highlands is sunny, rain is unusual, daytime temperatures in 70s F, nights in the 50s.



#### **Brief Day-by-Day Itinerary (Subject to change):**

**Friday February 19:** Arrive at Guatemala City airport (GUA). Shuttle to Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Check in at [Hotel Eterna Primavera](#).

**Saturday, February 20:** Antigua walking tour followed by tour orientation. After lunch, explore Antigua on your own. Pre-dinner discussion of Guatemala's social/political/economic situation with former U.S. Consul General at a historic Antigua home.

**Sunday, February 21:** Experience Guatemalan Lenten procession, typical lunch/cooking and weaving demo/product display at local family home in San Antonio Aguas Calientes. Pre-dinner discussion of ALDEA's history and current program with ALDEA Executive Director.

**Monday, February 22:** Program update in Chimaltenango by Executive Director of ABPD (ALDEA's Guatemalan sister organization), travel to two rural Mayan villages – one where ALDEA-supported environmental and empowerment projects have been completed, and one in the early engagement phase before projects are implemented. Overnight stay at rustic Hotel de Montaña in Tecpán, best local accommodations.

**Tuesday, February 23:** Guided visit of the pre-Columbian ruins of Iximché en-route to Lake Atitlán, check in at [Hotel Posada De Don Rodrigo](#) in Panajachel. After lunch, free time to relax at the hotel's pool, shop, visit Reserva Natural Atitlán (nature reserve), or explore Pana.

**Wednesday February 24:** Morning boat ride to San Juan La Laguna, witness the natural dye process at local weavers' cooperative, learn about coffee production by touring a small local plantation, see a demonstration of San Juan's unique painting style by a local artist. Travel by boat to Santiago Atitlán for lunch, visit to the church and rectory where the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified was murdered in 1981, and possibly encounter "Maximón." Return to Pana late afternoon.

**Thursday, February 25:** Return to Antigua by bus, stopping along the way to visit another rural ALDEA village and participate with villagers in typical daily activities.

**Friday, February 26:** AM to mid-afternoon time to relax, shop, stroll in fascinating colonial Antigua. Among many activity options: Visit a jade factory, handicrafts market, museum, or spa; participate in chocolate truffles workshop or cooking class, climb Pacaya Volcano, or get a massage in your hotel room. Late afternoon guided tour of the historic Casa Santo Domingo monastery followed by special dinner finale at the hotel's exquisite restaurant.

**Saturday, February 27:** Shuttle to Guatemala City airport for flight departures **OR** plan additional post-tour activity, e.g. famous Chichicastenango market, overnight to Tikal or Copan, Spanish language school, cooking class, or visit more of Antigua.

"We have been to Guatemala many times and thought we knew it well, but our ALDEA tour showed us aspects of Guatemala that we otherwise could not have experienced. We visited remote villages, witnessing ALDEA's life-changing work. We experienced both the before (women cooking over open fires in smoky kitchens and spending hours each day carrying water) and the after (vented stoves, running water, and modern latrines). Most striking to us was the contrast between the shy, barely audible women before participating in ALDEA's program and the confident, articulate, hopeful women after participating in ALDEA's program. The tour also included some "can't miss" highlights of Guatemala: colorful Lenten processions, beautiful Lake Atitlan nested in a ring of volcanoes, and Antigua with its lovely old churches and fabulous restaurants. The ALDEA tour was perfectly executed, making the travel days easy, informative, and, most importantly, fun. This was one of our favorite trips."

Patricia Salber and Dov Michaeli, Recent Tour Participants