

8.14.015: (no subject)

I find myself walking slowly, quietly, my hands clasped gently over my heart, always with a smile. it is such a magical journey to walk through a neighborhood, to be greeted by every single person with eye contact, a smile and "buenos". I am sure the slower pace of the pueblo allows for such kindness, but as I prepare to return to the states, i surely hope not to lose the ability for such grace... yeah, right!

As it stands, when I purchased my ticket to/from guatemala i selected August 25th as a perfunctory return date. As luck would have it, by returning home on that date, I will then have a chance to celebrate my father's 80th birthday, my sister's 50th birthday and my parents' 52nd anniversary on the 26th with my family! Serendipity, for sure.

Of course, I will admit after 10 weeks I am a bit homesick, but the day after I committed to returning home, a ticket to burningman came forth, I found a shotgun passenger to BRC (a lovely Australian woman who was planning on handling the playa with only a 40L sack?!?! ¡Que increíble! I'm gifting her a tent and a bike for the journey - i own too too much stuff, for certain), and I have a wonderful chance to housesit in Santa Rosa through September, along with a few other magical kismits I won't bore you with.

As it stands, the photos attached are of Volcan Tajumulco, 4220m above sea level, and the highest navigable peak in Central America. 2 Aussies, an Austrian, a guide and I hiked 4000m in the pouring rain on Wednesday to freeze our @sses off until 3am, at which time the clouds magically cleared for the Perseid meteor shower, followed by the final ascent to the peak for sunrise. the pics, obviously, do little to capture the beauty of the morning., but standing face to face with the various layerings of clouds was a magical beginning to my "year off" from teaching. If you look closely at the apex of the triangular shadow, you may see me. In fact, seeing the shadow cast that far into the atmosphere was the moment that simply took my breath away, ... and yes, i know, i know: *Allegory of the Cave*...

so, of course, I wonder onto what my eyes will turn this year...

i would love three more months of Spanish language, so trips to nicaragua and costa rica are very probable before '016.

However, i am very very open: if anyone has an amazing live-work opportunities in their neck of the woods, or some clever, intriguing, challenging work-ish sort of thing beginning in october, or at some point into next year, i would be very interested to hear from you.

and, not to be too demanding, i would also love your answers to the following: where would you spend your 40th birthday, anywhere in the world, if it happened to be the end of April in 2016? let me know!

lalala

leaving Xela for Tikal tomorrow... one more week back on the gringo trail and then home.

Thank you all for your support and kind words during this journey. I am a blessed man.

tata.

Jem



