



Introduction to Education Journey

9 days / 8 nights

October 3-11, 2020

\$4,499 (Based on double occupancy)

\$699 (single supplement)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of Guatemala while you spend time exploring the cities and splendor of the gorgeous countryside. Explore several indigenous village communities around the lake, immersing yourselves in the culture and participating in educational and fun workshops.

Program Highlights

- ✓ Enjoy participating in a **Mayan culture workshop**, **school visits** and more. This program is for you if you are looking for an adventure that will align with your passion for education and leave a life-long memory of a unique and rich cultural and educational perspective.
- ✓ **Accompanying guest program** – *alternate activities will be provided for those who do not wish to attend the meetings.*

Focus on Community & Culture

- ✓ Giving back and engaging with the local community is an important part of your journey. Take part in many hands-on activities including a **Guatemalan cooking class**, volcano hiking, and visiting archaeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Mayan civilization.
- ✓ Take in the beauty and serenity of one of the world's most beautiful lakes, **Lake Atitlán**.

Focus on Professional Interaction

- ✓ **Meaningful interaction and collaboration** will immerse you in local life in Guatemala and allow a chance for participation in education focused visits across a range of facilities.
- ✓ Spend time at **Niños de Guatemala's** Nuestro Futuro School. It serves nearly 200 children living below the poverty line and a visit will give you time to learn about their education, empowerment, and environmental initiatives.
- ✓ This educational journey combines the perfect blend of cultural immersion, **support of local schools/educators** and an introduction to current education policy during a meeting with the **Ministry of Education**.

What's Included:

- 4* accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- International air to and from Guatemala (gateway tentatively Miami International Airport)
- Local English-speaking guide
- Meals as mentioned, group transfers and most tips

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotels including room service and spa services
- Meals not specified
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city



📍 Miami, FL (MIA)

DAY 1– Saturday, October 3, 2020 Depart for Guatemala & Welcome

Depart from the designated gateway city and journey to Guatemala, a country otherwise known as the “Land of Trees”. After claiming your luggage and clearing customs in Guatemala City, you will be met by a representative and transferred to Antigua.

Antigua is a small city surrounded by volcanoes in southern Guatemala. It’s renowned for its Spanish colonial buildings, many of them restored following a 1773 earthquake.

Lunch will be provided at the hotel this afternoon.

The **Good Hotel**, chosen for its wonderful location and relaxed and friendly environment, is also known for the unique and important role it plays in giving back to the local community of Antigua. All profits from the hotel go directly to funding three local schools that have been established to educate over 500 children in underserved communities in Guatemala.

After lunch and check-in, take part in an **orientation and welcome briefing** on Guatemala. This comprehensive briefing covers an introduction to your local staff, some historical background, and current information on Guatemala’s society and economy.

Late this afternoon the group will take a short **walking tour of Antigua** to get acclimated to the city around your hotel. Walk back through Antigua’s beautiful streets and visit the famous and important places in Antigua, including churches, ruins, monuments, the local market, the central park and more. Important highlights of the walking tour include the famous **La Merced Church** and the **Arco de Santa Catalina**.

Enjoy dinner at Welten Restaurant this evening. Their gourmet cuisine includes international and Guatemalan dishes, all made to order with the freshest local ingredients.

Overnight: Good Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Lunch & Dinner

📍 Antigua, Guatemala

DAY 2 – Sunday, October 4 Cultural Exploration

Note: Breakfast will be served daily during your stay.

After breakfast, embark upon a glorious hike of the **Pacaya Volcano**. Pacaya is a complex stratovolcano located within the rim of the Amatitlan Caldera Lake. Its continuous activity in past years has made it one of the most notorious volcanoes amongs climbers. Pacaya rises to an elevation of 2,552 meters and first erupted approximately 23,000 years ago.

A fresh, warm packed lunch will be served atop the volcano. After returning from the hike, you’ll have some **free time** to rest and relax.

Dinner will be provided this evening followed by a **salsa class** to learn from a local dancer.

Overnight: Good Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner





📍 **Antigua, Guatemala**

DAY 3 – Monday, October 5
Professional Interaction

This morning the group will depart for one of **Niños de Guatemala's** schools. The organization provides education to 525 children who otherwise would not have access. Learn about the power of education and how impactful it is to the local community.

Niños de Guatemala's **Nuestro Futuro School** serves nearly 200 children living below the poverty line. You will tour the school and explore how the school is focused on not only traditional education but also recycling, organic growing, and health/nutrition.

Break time starts at 9:30, so the entire group will have a chance to support the mothers in the kitchen to **prepare snacks**, drinks and **hand deliver them to the kids**.

Next meet a mother of four children in one of the NDG schools and learn about the art of making a **Guatemalan worry doll**. This industry is now the main income generation source for 80% of mothers in the San Lorenzo el Cubo community. Make your own traditional worry doll as a souvenir.



Later, professionals will be joined by Julio Salazar to take part in a **talk and workshop** regarding education in Guatemala, the issue of the impact of bio-psycho-social health, and a presentation regarding the Guatemalan curriculum implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Skills for Success program implemented by Ninos de Guatemala & Meso Americano.

Lunch will be provided at the school today for the professionals.

Guest program:

Guests will depart after the worry doll session to explore Kukul Tales, a sustainable tourism project that consists of a Guatemalan food tour guided by a Guatemalan chef who explains the origin of their cuisine. The goal is to help promote culinary and cultural heritage with the participation of artisans, cooks and weavers from the village communities in Antigua Guatemala who participate as tour providers, foster an inclusive society and thus help preserve Guatemalan traditions and customs. Kukul Tales also want to impact environmentally, eliminating the use of plastic and replace with the use of biodegradable and recyclable materials made by small Guatemalan merchants in an artisanal way. The cuisine of Guatemala is the third reason to visit Antigua Guatemala and needs to be known through A culinary tour is also a potential source of opportunities for Guatemalan youth and passionate communities in their country and custom. Return to the hotel for some free time this afternoon.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense).

Overnight: The Good Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



Note: A list of needed donations for the school will be provided prior to travel (*i.e., recorders, books, cash, and other items like sports equipment*).



📍 Lake Atitlán, Guatemala

DAY 4 – Tuesday, October 6 Travel to Lake Atitlán

Check out of your hotel after an early breakfast and meet in the hotel lobby. Today you will journey to **Lake Atitlán**, once referred to as “the closest thing to Eden on earth” by *Lonely Planet*. Lake Atitlán, a crater lake formed around two million years ago, is nestled between three majestic volcanoes (Atitlán, Tolimán and San Pedro), mountains, and twelve different Mayan villages.

In route, explore some of the most revered and historically significant Mayan ruins in **Iximche**. You will be joined by a local expert to guide you around the ruins, Mayan culture and spirituality. Together you will experience the transformational wonders of the former and first capital of Guatemala in all its architectural and spiritual significance.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon at the **Waybi Foundation** promoting the integral well-being of Guatemalan families.

After lunch, the group will visit a **local university** to explore the campus and meet with a faculty member to discuss higher education and teacher training.

Check into your local hotel on arrival. **Hotel y Café La Casa del Mundo**. Located in El Jaibalito, they have free Wi-Fi, onsite dining and a private beach. The rooms feature hand-crafted Mayan décor and a private or shared bathroom with free toiletries and solar-heated water. The hotel has a garden, terrace and a bar.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: La Casa del Mundo (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Lake Atitlan, Guatemala

DAY 5 – Wednesday, October 7 Community Interaction

Spend the day with fellow travelers exploring several **indigenous village communities** around the lake. Immerse yourself in the culture by participating in educational and fun workshops.

After lunch, visit **San Juan La Laguna** which is considered one of the more traditional villages around the lake and is off the beaten path from most tourist destinations. You will first visit a local **women weavers’ textile cooperative** to learn about and participate in the process of ancestral weaving and see how different plants are used to dye the fabric with natural colors.

Enjoy a traditional local lunch and visit an **art gallery**, where you’ll see the beautiful artworks and learn about the techniques used to create them.

The final stop in San Juan is a community cooperative producing **medicinal plants and herbal products**. Here you will learn about traditional Mayan healing and how to make organic shampoo, creams, and tea.

Dinner is included back at your hotel this evening. At night, guests from all over the globe dine together and share the stories of their travels at the hotel’s famed family-style dinners.

Overnight: La Casa del Mundo (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



📍 Lake Atitlan, Guatemala

DAY 6 – Thursday, October 8 Explore the Lake

Start the day with a **native indigenous cooking class** with the Mesoamerican Institute of Permaculture, (IMAP), an ecological education center to promote permaculture techniques, local biodiversity conservation, production of organic food, and a seed bank that strives to reconstruct the Mayan seed heritage. The cookery class is focused on native cookery, going back to the roots of indigenous Mayan cooking and sharing the rich and flavorful culinary culture. Learn about how education regarding nutrition plays a key role in Guatemala in addition to learning about and preparing multiple dishes. Lunch is included in your class in addition to a beautiful location surrounded by nature and abundance.

This afternoon the group will have **free time** to relax and explore the hotel and all it has to offer. Perched on a secluded cliff, it has gorgeous gardens, swimming holes, and a hot tub overhanging the lake. Swim, relax, and read in a hammock, speak with other guests, or discover your favorite secluded rock balcony or adorning güpil.

Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

Overnight: La Casa del Mundo (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



📍 Guatemala City

DAY 7 – Friday, October 9 Drive to Guatemala City

This morning the group will check out of the hotel.

Professionals will head out to visit **Mayan Families**. As an accredited 501(c)(3) non-governmental organization, Mayan Families' mission is to facilitate sustainable development programs in impoverished communities throughout the Lake Atitlán region of rural Guatemala. Their objective is to stimulate long-term progress through school sponsorships, health initiatives, vocational training and microfinance, while providing emergency aid to those in critical need. **Sandra Chiroy, Director of the Education Program**, will provide a presentation regarding education in the context of the lakeside communities.

Guest program:

Guests will go on a walking tour of San Antonio de Catarina. Walk through San Antonio de Catarina's beautiful streets and discuss the local attire, go to the local beauty spots and take in the spectacular view across the lake. Important highlights of the walking tour include the beautiful blue decoration, clothing and lakeside scenery. During the tour our leader will tell you much more about the rich history and culture of San Antonia de Catairna and its beautiful landscape as well as what life is like here for locals nowadays.

Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant in route.

Arrive at the nation's capital. **Guatemala City**, Ciudad de Guatemala, is the capital of Guatemala and the largest city in Central America. It is the political, social, cultural, and economic center of the country and lies in a valley of the central highlands at an elevation of 4,897 feet (1,493 meters) above sea level.

Check into your local hotel (**Good Hotel Guatemala City**) which at the time of this printing is still under construction with an open date set for spring of 2020.

Dinner will be served at Guatemalan restaurant **7 Cados**, famous for delicious Guatemalan dishes. With a beautiful garden and ambiance, it is an inviting place to have a wonderful meal.

Overnight: Good Hotel Guatemala (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Guatemala City

DAY 8 – Saturday, October 10 Professional Interaction

This morning the professional members of the group will meet with an educational assessor from the **Ministry of Education**. Discussions will focus on the field of education in Guatemala including the successes and challenges of education in the Guatemalan context and the specific role played by educational assessors in working with the Ministry to provide a public, inclusive education system. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their cross-cultural perspective with regards to the application of education across continents and in the Guatemalan context.

You will be joined today by Diana Bonillam from **FUNDAL**. It is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to educational, social, recreational and cultural inclusion for children and young people with deaf blindness and multiple disabilities, through its Educational Centers based in the Capital City, Quetzaltenango and Huehuetenango, as well as through support programs for the interior of the Republic. Information will be shared with the group on the perspective of the population with disabilities regarding education, the expectations and plans for the future, and the impact that their organization has on this population.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

Guest program:

Guests will explore discover the history and modern-day life of Guatemala City including a visit to "Mapa en Relieve", the historic center, and multiple museums to focus on the country's history, development and culture. The National Palace and Historic Center is one of the most important buildings in Guatemala. Constructed in the early 1940's and once home to former President Jorge Ubico, El Mapa en Relieve is a giant relief map of Guatemala spanning approximately 1,800 square meters and was built in the early 1900's. One of the various museums you will see includes Museo Ixchel, Guatemala's Museum of Indigenous Textiles and Clothing. Visit the museum's collection of ceramics, textiles, and jewelry and learn about their traditions of dress throughout the country. Enjoy a cheese and wine tasting and some time for shopping at Cavala this afternoon.

Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Departure

DAY 9 – Sunday, October 11 Departure

Fly back to Miami today with arrival the same day.

Social need in Guatemala:

- ✓ 59% of the Guatemalan population live below the national poverty line.
- ✓ 41% are educated to primary level.
- ✓ 19% are educated to secondary level.
- ✓ Only 8% are educated to higher education level.

How you are helping:

- ✓ Your participation covers the direct expenses associated with the yearlong education of one student at a Ninos de Guatemala school.
- ✓ Each half-day of cultural experiences and activities that you participate in funds a nutritious and wholesome snack for 3 students at a Ninos de Guatemala school for one whole month.
- ✓ By supporting social cooperatives, you're directly protecting the cultural heritage of indigenous communities.
- ✓ You will spend a full day giving back at one of Ninos de Guatemala's schools. By sharing your passion and knowledge, you will be supporting teachers, students and families.





📍 Antigua

Good Hotel

Calle del Hermano Pedro 12
Antigua
Guatemala

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<http://www.goodhotelantigua.com>



📍 Lake Atitlán

La Casa del Mundo

El Jaibalito
Lake Atitlan
Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 5218-5332

<http://www.lacasadelmundo.com/>



📍 Guatemala City

Good Hotel, Guatemala City

Ruta 4 6-32, Zona 4
Guatemala City
Guatemala

Telephone: +COMING SOON

COMING SOON (HOTEL OPENING IN MAY)

