

# Guatemala Tour

March 31 - April 11/2017

Lynn Valley United Church



**WHO?** WHO: Anyone from LVUC who wants to participate in an all-ages travel experience – the best kind of all. 19 to 90, teens 14 – 18 with a parent or guardian.

**WHAT?** Discover the Highlands of Guatemala, exploring this beautiful region of Latin America. You'll meet inspiring people and visit projects working to better Guatemalan Society. You'll learn about Mayan culture, traditions and spirituality, and visit some of the most beautiful areas of Guatemala. Be guided by and meet Guatemalans listening to their stories and struggles. You'll spend time learning about the history of the 36 year civil war and genocide and it's effects on Guatemala today. Focus on a small project with the children at the school in Chwitziribal, a small Mayan village. Visit Chichicastenango's market, a volcanic hot-spring to relax, an environmental project on re-forestation, a fair trade coffee project, a weaving centre and historic Antigua, as well as other worthwhile projects and sites. Build community when travelling with a group of great people, visiting some of the most beautiful places in Guatemala. You'll be in Guatemala during the lead up to Easter and that is an exceptional time to witness the faith and practice of virtually all of Guatemala. You'll have chances to see the processions which are incredible. Post-trip, we can help you organize an optional trip unescorted to Tikal and the Mayan Biosphere. (at an additional cost and self guided)

**WHERE?** Travel by air to Guatemala City from your city where we embark on our journey spending some days in Antigua and Guatemala City, around Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango, Chwitziribal, Quezaltenango, and in Santa Lucia Utitlan.

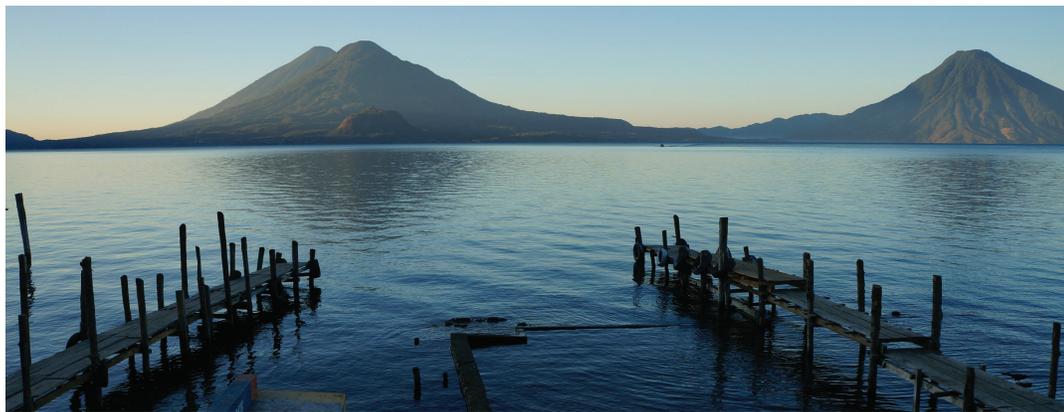
**HOW MUCH?** Cost for the tour is \$1575 US Dollars (all inclusive in country costs, gst included) for 12 days in Guatemala. The registration fee includes: all organization of the program, resources to help you prepare for the journey (readings, suggested films etc), all in country travel costs including pickup and drop off at airport, 11 nights accommodation (shared), all in country meals during those 12 days, fully escorted tour by one Canadian guide and Guatemala guides, in country transportation with private van and driver, translation as required for all talks, tips, all programme expenses such as entrance fees, donations to all organizations we visit made on behalf of the group, and all administration of the tour. This does not include airfare or personal travel insurance, spending money, the cost of your passport, and any immunizations you may need. There will be an additional fee for a single room, please enquire.

**For more information and an application form please contact the trip coordinator Doris Kizinna, 604.341.2724  
worldpilgrims@gmail.com www.worldpilgrim.ca**

**LEADERSHIP:** Julio Cochoy, Eduardo Elias, Doris Kizinna and Blair Odney. Doris has been coordinating travel groups to Guatemala, Cuba and India for the past 20 years and is the founder of World Pilgrim. She is working on her Spanish and considers accompanying people on global education experiences a great privilege of her life. She has travelled extensively in Guatemala and knows the country well. Julio Cochoy is co-leading this tour and is Maya-Quiche from Santa Lucia Utitlan. He is a human rights activist and 10 years ago started a healing process for his community in gathering the historical record of the atrocities that happened there during the Genocide through the Maya Skills Project. Eduardo Elias is our wonderful translator and friend who will accompany part of the trip. As chaplain, Blair will share how Guatemala was a life-changer for him and will help everyone reflect upon their faith and their respective calls to live.

**www.worldpilgrim.ca**





## **Guatemala: The Land of the Mayan People: Itinerary: March 31 – April 11, 2017**

Friday, March 31 ANTIGUA: arrivals to Guatemala City, overnight at Casa Cristina, Antigua. [www.casa-cristina.com](http://www.casa-cristina.com)

Saturday, April 1: ANTIGUA: Breakfast and Orientation. Mid morning visit with the Transitions Foundation. [www.transitions-foundation.org](http://www.transitions-foundation.org) Freetime in the afternoon. Dinner at Cerro de San Cristobal, viewpoint restaurant. Overnight at Casa Cristina.

Sunday, April 2 PANAJACHEL: Breakfast in Antigua. Easter Procession in Antigua. Drive from Antigua to Lake Atitlan and Panajachel. Stop in Solola for a visit with Tzotzil, a mayan dance and music group performance. Eduardo Elias, our translator joins us in Panajachel. Overnight at the Utz Jay Hotel in Panajachel. [www.hotelutzjay.com](http://www.hotelutzjay.com)

Monday, April 3 PANAJACHEL: Breakfast at Hotel and visit the Mayan Families Project and the Senior's lunch and day care centre. Group will sponsor the lunch for the senior's. Visiting and share lunch with them. Freetime to explore Panajachel in the afternoon. Dinner together. [www.mayanfamilies.org](http://www.mayanfamilies.org). Overnight at Utz Jay.

Tuesday, April 4 SAN JAUN: Breakfast at the Hotel and morning boat over the lake to Santiago Atitlan with luggage, visit to the church and hear the story of Father Stanley Rother. Beautiful art markets. After lunch boat over to San Juan la Laguna. Settle into Hotel. Optional afternoon tour of Voz Coffee Cooperative. Sunset Mayan Ceremony with Nan Maria, a mayan spiritual leader. Dinner in San Juan. Overnight at the Pa Muelle Hotel.

Wednesday, April 5 SANTA LUCIA/XELA: Breakfast at café across the street from Hotel. Departure to visit Julio's village of Santa Lucia Utatlan, visit the school, and the Women of the Maya Skills Project, hike to the view of the lake, and lunch with Julio's family. Drive to Xela in the late afternoon. Dinner and Overnight at Hotel Posada Antigua in Xela.

Thursday, April 6 XELA: Breakfast at Hotel. Visit the Chwitziribal Community and the school, share a Day of Joy for the students involving crafts, games, snacks. Dinner and Overnight in Xela. Hotel Posada Antigua.

Friday, April 7 XELA/FUENTES GEORGINAS/LAS CUMBRES: Breakfast at the Hotel, morning visit Trama Textiles Weaving Cooperative and Reforma market in Xela, lunch and afternoon trip to Fuentes Georginas (Hot Springs). Mid afternoon depart for Chichicastenango. Overnight in Chichi.

Saturday, April 8 CHICHICASTENANGO/ZACUALPA: early Breakfast at Hotel, 8 am leave Hotel and drive to Zacualpa, visit the Genocide Memorial at the Catholic Church there and share a Mayan Ceremony in a cave outside town with Nan Juliana a Mayan Spiritual Leader and elder. Drive back to Chinique to Visit Betty and have a late lunch at her house, drive to Chichicastenango, overnight and dinner.

Sun, April 9 CHICHICASTENANGO/ANTIGUA: Breakfast at the Hotel, Palm Sunday morning market in Chichicastenango, lunch in chichi and departure for Antigua in the afternoon. Stop enroute to see Ixmiche, a ancient Mayan City Ruin. Easter Procession in Antigua in evening. Overnight in Antigua at Casa Christina. [www.casa-cristina.com](http://www.casa-cristina.com)

Monday, April 10 GUATEMALA: Breakfast in Antigua, freetime. Lunch together and early afternoon departure for Guatemala City. Stay over in the capital for early morning departures on Wednesday. Closing evening meal and celebration. Spring Hotel. [www.hotelspring.com](http://www.hotelspring.com)

Tuesday, April 11: Home or Beyond: Departures