

Guatemala: Socially Responsible Tourism

Mission: To uplift impoverished communities in the developing world through creating and supporting sustainable, income-generating projects. This trip will focus on rural community improvements in education, nutrition, and health in the Esquintla region of Guatemala.



Day 1: Arrive in Guatemala City and transfer to hotel in Antigua.

Day 2: Walking tour of Antigua in the morning. Group lunch and then free time to explore the city and its vibrant markets.

Day 3: Volunteer with Vamos Adelante, the only development organization in the isolated region of Esquintla, Guatemala. Vamos Adelante provides education, health, and nutrition services to poverty-stricken individuals in over 24 villages in the region of Esquintla, Guatemala. Help Vamos Adelante with one of their most pressing projects following the natural disasters of 2010. Enjoy a packed lunch in the village.

Day 4: Continue volunteering with Vamos Adelante. Enjoy a packed lunch in the village. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5: In the morning, visit local coffee farmer, Don Filiberto. Board a chicken bus and head to his village to explore his coffee farm, meet his family, learn how to make tortillas, and purchase his fair trade coffee. Don Filiberto and his family are part of Common Hope's "Income Generating Plan." In the afternoon, volunteer at Open Windows After School Program. Participate in tutoring, computer training, mentoring, and other after school enrichment programs. Return to hotel in the evening.

Day 6: Visit local family run farm and coffee plantation, La Azotea. Spend time exploring the textile museum, UNESCO music museum, education center, and coffee farm. Spend the afternoon volunteering on local projects and lending a hand to the on-site school. This school serves over 500 children from neighboring disadvantaged areas. Return to hotel in the evening.

Day 7: Free day. Options include hiking a local volcano, day trip to Lake Atitlan, bike ride through the valley, fair trade visits, zip-lining through the jungle, or day trip to the ruins at Tikal. Farewell dinner in the evening.

Day 8: Transfer to Guatemala City for return flight back to the U.S.