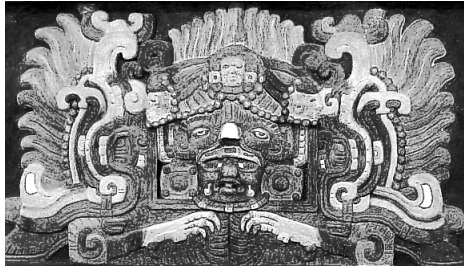


and zoomorphic altars. We then cross the border into Honduras. Overnight Hotel Marina.



#### Day 12.

All day in Copan. We spend the day touring the spectacular central plaza of Copan, another of the most famous of all ancient Maya sites, focusing on the assemblage of carved stelae and altars, the most beautiful of all Mesoamerican ballcourts, the extraordinary hieroglyphic staircase, and the excavation tunnels revealing amazing new substructures. Overnight Hotel Marina

#### Day 13.

Another full day in Copan, focusing on the site museum with its spectacular reconstruction of the newly excavated temple nicknamed "Rosalila." We also visit the outlying district called Las Sepulturas, with a magnificent example of a scribe's house. Overnight Hotel Marina



#### Day 14.

Morning in Copan, visiting the town museum, which includes, among many other artifacts, the

contents of the tomb of a female shaman who was buried with a jaguar; in the afternoon, we continue on to San Pedro Sula. Overnight Gran Hotel Sula

#### Day 15.

Transfer to International airport for departure back home.

**Middle America Travel**  
2a. Avenida "A" 28-62 Zona 3  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

## THE MAYA HEARTLAND



A 14-DAY TOUR TO KEY MAYA SITES IN  
GUATEMALA & HONDURAS  
& THE GUATEMALA HIGHLANDS

### Middle America Travel

Marco Antonio Tello  
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Guatemala City, Guatemala  
Central America  
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## Itinerary for the Maya Heartland Tour

### Day 1.

Arrive Guatemala City and transfer to colonial capital of Antigua. After arrival and check-in at our centrally-located hotel, time permitting, we will take a short orientation stroll around the central plaza. Overnight Hotel Antigua or Posada Don Rodrigo.



### Day 2.

All day in and around Antigua. We will start our tour in the Central Plaza for a historical orientation; then we will visit the Cathedral, the Colonial Art Museum in the

former original home of the University of San Carlos, the convent of San Francisco and the grounds of Santo Domingo (now a luxury hotel). As we amble through town, we will allow time for stopping in shops and galleries along the way. Overnight Hotel Antigua or Posada Don Rodrigo.

### Day 3.

Depart for Lake Atitlan via Iximche. We leave after breakfast for a scenic drive into the Cakchikel-speaking part of Guatemala, stopping briefly at the town of Tecpan and then touring the ancient site of Iximche, former capital of the Cakchikel Maya, and visiting the shamanistic shrine in the pine woods at the back of the site. We then arrive in the colorful tourist town of Panajachel on the shores of Lake Atitlan. We



will have ample opportunity to browse in the interesting shops on “Gringo Street.” Overnight Hotel Cacique Inn or Posada.

### Day 4.

Boat trip to Santiago Atitlan, return to Panajachel.

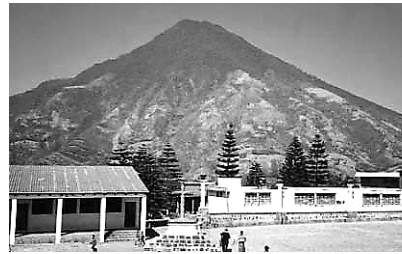


We begin the day with a scenic boat ride, crossing beautiful Lake Atitlán, surrounded by volcanoes. We will visit the traditional Tz’utujil Maya town of Santiago Atitlan, touring the church of Santiago with its unique collection of *santos* figures and an altarpiece re-

stored by local woodcarvers, filled with Maya/Catholic symbolism; we will also visit the shrine of Maximon, a uniquely Guatemalan folkloric “power figure.” Overnight Hotel Cacique Inn or Posada.

### Day 5.

Depart for Chichicastenango, via Sololá. We drive through beautiful highland countryside, stopping briefly at the town of Solola, famous for its Maya textiles, and then continue on to the most renowned of all Maya market towns, the Quiché Maya town of Chichicastenango, where we will have



ample time to sample the market on a weekday, not as bustling as on a Sunday, but not nearly as chaotic either! Those up for a bit of a hike can visit the shrine of another local folkloric figure, called Pascual Abaj. Overnight Hotel Mayan Inn.

### Day 6.

Morning in Chichi; afternoon departure for Guatemala City. If we leave Chichi early enough, we will be able to visit a pair of lovely museums in Guatemala City: the Museo Popol Vuh (a choice collection of Maya artifacts) and next door, the Museo Ixchel (a textile museum). Overnight Hotel Pan American.

### Day 7.

Short flight to Flores, and continue by coach to Maya archaeological site of Uaxactún. We then continue on to one of the most famous of all classic Maya cities, Tikal. Overnight Hotel Jungle Lodge.

### Day 8.

All day in Tikal. We will tour the central plaza, with its famous pyramid platforms, stelae and altar stones, and the northern acropolis. Overnight Hotel Jungle Lodge.

### Day 9.

In the morning, visit Tikal; after lunch, depart for Rio Dulce via Poptún, arrive and transfer to Hotel Banana Palm for overnight accommodations.

### Day 10.

Boat trip to visit the Caribbean town of Livingston with a beautiful ride along the Rio Dulce with its colorful flora and fauna; lunch at Restaurant El Viajero, Overnight Rio Dulce, Hotel Banana Palm.

### Day 11.

Depart for Copán via Quiriguá. The main stop on this day is at the ancient Maya site of Quiriguá, famous for its spectacularly carved, huge stone stelae

