GUATEMALA

Its natural beauty and magical Mayan Wisdom

Atitlan Lake, Chichicastenango Market, Antigua and Tikal & Uaxactun

February 11th to 22th / 2027

Day 1: Arriving t Guatemala City
We recommend not to arrive too late, it is nice to arrive at midafternoon or early evening to transfer to Barceló Hotel.

Day 2: Guatemala City to Atitlan Lake
It will take us 3 /2 to 4 hours drive through picturesque villages, until we get to Atitlan Lake one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, surrounded by volcanoes. We will arrive directly to Santiago de Atitlan. In the afternoon, we will visit the fraternity house of Maximon, the local idol. The devotees of Maximon practice a syncretic ritual - a mixture of Catholicism and idolatry, and the form of Maximon is moved from house to house of its devotees. Maximon is venerated, he is represented by an effigy which resides in a different house each year. It is an honor to have Maximon in one's home. He is most visible during the annual holy week celebrations and rituals of sacrifice that are carried out to cleanse and regenerate the world during this time. During the rest of the year, people of the communities visit Maximon in his chosen residence, where his shrine is always attended by two or more people, called Cofrades, who serve for a full year to care for him in the Cofradia (fraternity/brotherhood) and keep the altar and sacred items in order. Shamans come daily to do rituals on behalf of their clients.
Back to the Hotel Bambu for dinner and rest.

Day 3: Lake Atitlan Village Visit
It is a gift that invites us to step away from our frantic life and immerse ourselves in a culture that lives in harmony with the natural rhythms of the Mayan Culture. Our day takes us through the villages of Lake Atitlan in a day, without stress or pressures. There are three majestic volcanoes, Toliman, San Pedro and Atitlan overlooking what is considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, Lake Atitlan. Dotted along its shoreline are more than a dozen towns and villages, most of which have retained their Mayan character to this day. Maya culture is prevalent around the lake where traditions, customs, and culture, along with the traditional clothing (traje) has been retained. Each indigenous Mayan village has its own uniqueness and its own signature style of clothing that sets it apart from the others.

In a private motor boat we will head to San Juan de la Laguna Village to visit a

cooperative of local Mayan women who dye and weave textiles. We will also visit a medicinal garden that is run by a local women's cooperative. You will have an opportunity to tour the gardens, learn about the herbs and their uses, as well learn about their belief in caring for the land with love, and without harming it. Then we will visit San Pedro de la Laguna where we will have a nice local lunch.

Back to the hotel to enjoy the gardens and facilities. Rest, relax and dinner at the hotel.

Day 4: Chichicastenango Indigenous Market

We will start the day with a 45 minute motor boat ride to Panajachel where our van will be waiting to take us to Chichicastenango City to visit and enjoy one of the most colorful and important indigenous markets in Latin America. We will be there on the big market day. Among the local items sold are textiles, particularly women's blouses. The makers of masks used by dancers in traditional dances, such as the Dance of the Conquest, have also made this city well-known for woodcarving.

Another major attraction in Chichicastenango is the 400-year old church of Santo Tomas, which is next to the market. Shamans still use it for their rituals, burning incense and candles. Each of the 18 stairs that lead up to the church represents one month of the Mayan calendar. The Tzolkin Mayan calendar has 18 months of 20 days each. We will also visit the cemetery that is very famous and colorful.

In the afternoon we will visit the cemetery of this picturesque village, were with luck, we can observe some of the ceremonies and rituals the families do honoring their dead relatives. The cemeteries in Guatemala are one of the most important references of the Mayan culture.

Day 5: Chichicastenango - Antigua

We will continue our ride for 2 1/2 hours to Antigua, where we will check into our hotel, have lunch, and in the afternoon do a walking city tour in this iconic colonial city.

Day 6: Antigua

In the morning we will go to a plant nursery to participate in a workshop with our Mayan guide and spiritual master Julio Tot (Tata). Here we will learn about the contents of the fire ceremony, the Nahuals, the Popol Vuj, so we can be familiar with all these before our first fire ceremony.

Julio Tot, our Mayan guide will be with us for the rest of the trip. Julio is a Mayan shaman, and friend of Daniel's for many years, and an authority on the Mayan calendar, culture and traditions. He speaks English, as well as Spanish and Mayan. He grew up in and around Tikal, raised by a father who was the assistant to the head of the Mayan excavation team that worked with the University of Pennsylvania in the 1950s and 60s. He has amazing stories, and he will also do healings and private calendar readings for each participant during the trip.

Lunch and in the afternoon we will have free time to do some personal exploration of

this beautiful city.

Also in the afternoon Julio Tot will start doing the Nahual reading for each of you. This is a very personal space where you will find out your Nahual and the implications in your personality and life, related with it.

Dinner in a very nice local restaurant

Day 7: Antigua – Guatemala City airport – Flores – Tikal

We will drive for about 1/1/2 hours to the Guatemala City airport to fly to Flores – Petén. We will drive through primary jungle that is inhabited by jaguars, monkeys, coatis, and many other animals (with luck seeing a jaguar at the side of the road) and spend the night at the Tikal Jungle Lodge located inside the Tikal National Park (declared a World Heritage Site in 1979).

We will meet another Mayan shaman, Tata Domingo – who has worked with Daniel and Julio for many years, and will stay with us during the rest of our trip**.** In the past, Tata Domingo has often been joined and assisted by his wife and young daughter (a shaman in training) and we expect they too will be with us during our travels. Tata Domingo is an expert on Mayan seed readings – powerful divination tools that are incredibly accurate at defining a person's character and future paths. He will offer individual readings for each participant, and also will lead us through fire ceremonies that release blockages and empower our journeys along our future paths.

Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 8: Tikal

After breakfast we will begin our first exploration of Tikal, one of the most important cities in the ancient Mayan World. At the entrance of the park, we will stop at a giant guardian Ceiba (Kapok) tree where we will join the Mayan shamans in asking permission from the spirits of the trees, the land, animals, plants and elements for all of us to be there for the next three days. We will continue our walk to the Grand Plaza in silence, deeply mindful of all our senses and all our surroundings, including the monkeys, coatis, jaguars, and different bird and plant species. Here we can explore the magnificent palaces and structures with Julio Tot and Tata Domingo. In the Grand Plaza, surrounded by pyramids and temples, we will have the opportunity to take shamanic journeys, meditate, and connect with this magical place.

We will continue our walk through the forest to Temple IV, the highest of the Tikal pyramids. From the top, we can witness a magnificent view of the entire area. Near here we will make an offering to the Mayan Wisdom Keepers honoring the transition to the new cosmic cycle and the beginning of the new era (which officially opened in December 2012 and continues to unfold). We will learn about the Long Count calendar

(26,000 years), the Short Count calendars (5,200 years) and the optimistic prophecies of the new calendars that have just begun.

As we walk back to the hotel area, we will pass through several ceremonial sites. We can spend time exploring on our own or learning from our shaman guides the significance of the area. We will then continue back to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon we can rest or explore some of the other areas.

After dinner we will participate in a very special ceremony that only people who have received preparation from Mayan shamans (as we will have, during the previous days) are invited to join. This will be led by and include personal healings from Julio and Tata Domingo.

Day 9: Tikal

After breakfast, we will return to the Grand Plaza and then to the "Lost World Complex" (the oldest area in Tikal), where we will do a Shapeshifting Ceremony and workshop and continue our process of rising to higher consciousness, realizing our greater purpose, completing our missions, materializing our "dreams," ridding ourselves of blockages, and "touching the jaguar" (confronting our fears and hesitations and using their energy to empower us). Lunch will be in the park.

The early afternoon is for individual explorations of Tikal – inner/outer journeys in this magical place of the prophecies, with an emphasis on your personal role in your life, the planet, and the universe. This will be followed by a late afternoon-early evening special fire ceremony inside Tikal, at the altar of an ancient Ceremonial Pyramid.

Reiterating: During the days while we are in Tikal, Uaxactun and Lake Peten Itza, Tata Domingo and Julio will offer special individual "seed readings" and personal calendar interpretations (Mayan traditions) for each of the participants.

Day 10: Tikal – Uaxactún – Peten Itza Lake – Hotel Camino Real

After breakfast, we will leave Tikal and drive to the ancient site of Uaxactún. This is an important astronomical and ceremonial complex. Occupation of Uaxactún began in the Middle Formative Period (900–300 BC) of Mayan culture. Before the close of the Late Formative Period (300 BC–AD 100) a number of ceremonial buildings had been erected, including a temple with giant stucco masks reminiscent of the more ancient Olmec civilization. As in Tikal, the major constructions date from the Classic Period (AD 100–900). In the 9th century, Uaxactún was part of the general decline of other southern lowland Mayan centers, and was abandoned in the 10th century.

In the late afternoon we will travel to the Tikal Camino Real Hotel, located on the shore of Lake Peten Itza. This gorgeous and sacred lake is set within the Maya forest which constitutes the largest continuous expanse of tropical forest remaining in Central

America. Lake Petén Itza is about 48km long and covers an area of 98 km2. The lake is likely to have held water during arid glacial periods.

We will have time to rest in this beautiful and elegant hotel (laundry opportunity), enjoy lunch, the great views, and luxurious facilities. Once we are in the hotel Tata Domingo and Tata Julio will start with the seed reading for each of you.

Day 11: Peten Itza Lake – Purification Ceremony

We will have a free morning to rest and relax. Tata Domingo and Tata Julio will continue all day with the seed readings. Also, Daniel, will be available for personal consultations.

At 3:30 pm we will gather on the beach of the lake to participate in a Ritual Bath and Purification Ceremony. **(Tatas ask everyone to bring and wear white clothing for this ceremony – a bathing suit can be worn under the clothing if desired).** While in the lake we will submerge ourselves 13 times with an offering that will be prepared for each of us, and then participate in a fire ceremony on the beach.

Our farewell dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 12: Peten Itza Lake – Guatemala City – International flights connection

After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Guatemala City, arriving around 09:00 am in the morning for our connections home or to other destinations. **Please make your international flights after 11 am.**

Cost per person: $4,280 (double occupancy).
Initial deposit of $1000 will confirm your space. Second payment of $2,280 is due Nov. 11th, 2026. Balance of $1,000 is due January 11th, 2027.

Single Supplement: $1,490 per person.

Reservations: All reservations are subject to availability. To make a reservation for the journey or for information about how to reserve your space and make your deposit, please contact Linda Leyerle at **lleyerle@aol.com**. In Guatemala, it is not possible to reserve rooms, air tickets or park entrance fees without a copy of the traveler's passport. Linda will give you details about how to send a copy to us. Time is of the essence so please respond as soon as possible if you are interested in this journey.

Cost includes: Private tour bus or van for travel during the journey, all meals, hotels, tips for restaurants and hotels, water during meals, transportation to and from the airport in Guatemala, intra-country flights, entrance fees, local and shamanic guides to share history and archaeological information, Mayan shaman to share ancient teachings and traditional ceremonies.

Cost does NOT include: Round-trip airfare to Guatemala City, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, "seed readings" with the shaman, tips for the guides, shamans and private bus driver, personal items and souvenirs.

This journey is for individuals ready to have an educational/experiential experience. Persons with physical or psychiatric challenges may find this journey too difficult or uncomfortable. We recommend a visit with your doctor at least 6 weeks in advance of departure. No immunizations are required unless you will be entering Guatemala from a country with Yellow Fever – in which case you will need a Yellow Fever immunization and be prepared to show proof. We will not be in high altitudes in Guatemala. More information is available on the CDC webpage.

No visas are required for most people entering Guatemala (US, Canadian, EU, Australia and New Zealand citizens). If you have questions about this, please let us know. Your passport must be valid at least 6 months after the date of your return (August 23, 2027).

Please be aware that at some of the locations there may be limited or no cellphone and Internet service.

Once you have reserved your space, we will send you more information – packing lists, info about the country, etc. You will be fully prepared for the journey. Also, Linda is always available by email for any questions or concerns – whatever they may be.

Cancellations & Refunds: Due to availability of space on our journey and the time required to process trip reservations, your deposit will not be refundable if received after Nov. 11th, 2026. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance in order to protect yourself in case extenuating circumstances force you to cancel your trip. Travelex or CSA are two respected possibilities.

Responsibilities: ANDEAN PATHS reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a participant at any time, and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants, and to cancel a journey at any time. In the event a journey is cancelled, ANDEAN PATHS shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of monies paid to it by program participants as listed. By registering, the participant agrees that neither ANDEAN PATHS and/or their affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss or expense occasioned by any act or omission by any supplier providing services to any program participant. The only reason that Andean Paths would cancel a program is for safety reasons due to impassable roads, protests in Guatemala, or similar unforeseen events.

Daniel is very excited about the opportunity to share this amazing journey with you.

By Andean Paths ©