

Please join us on our sixth international adventure as



AARCH GOES TO GUATEMALA

March 3—March 13, 2023

On this eleven-day guided journey we will explore the UNESCO World Heritage city of Antigua with its rich Spanish-influenced architecture, see Mayan ruins, native villages around Lake Atitlan, and learn about Guatemalan history and culture. The tour will be led by guide, author, and preservationist Elizabeth Bell and her professional Antigua Tours staff.



Antigua, with one of several volcanic peaks that surround the town in the distance

Please join us on an exciting and educational AARCH-sponsored adventure!
**\$3,700 per person (based on double occupancy). Please add an additional
\$900.00 for single occupancy.**

PLEASE NOTE: This cost does **NOT** include round-trip airfare to Guatemala City. Each traveler will be responsible for arranging his or her own air transportation.

Introduction

Guatemala is one of the most diverse and beautiful countries in Central America with an extraordinary landscapes and civilization-spanning culture that reaches back centuries. On this outing, we will explore the best that Guatemala has to offer, including the rich architecture and cultural life of the Spanish Colonial capital of Antigua, the Mayan ruins of Tikal, Iximché, and Uaxactun, and the native villages around stunning Lake Atitlan. We will be led by author, guide, and preservationist Elizabeth Bell and her professional staff and you'll be in the company of fellow AARCH members, friends, and staff.

ITINERARY

Friday, March 3, 2023—Arrival Day

Morning arrival in **Guatemala City**, group transport by bus to **Antigua**, lunch on our own, and check in at Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo, where we'll spend three nights. Late afternoon lecture "Antigua Behind the Walls" by our guide Elizabeth Bell and a welcome dinner at the hotel with live marimba music and a folkloric dance "Los Moros."



Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo

Saturday, March 4—Antigua Day 1

Built at an elevation of 5028', Antigua was the capital of the Spanish Captaincy-General of Guatemala from 1543 to 1773 when, after a devastating earthquake, the capital was moved to Guatemala City. While the capital for 230 years, Antigua developed as the cultural, religious, economic, and educational center of the entire region. Its streets were laid out in a Italian Renaissance-inspired grid pattern and the city is rich in Spanish Colonial Baroque architecture, known for its charming vernacular neighborhoods. Antigua is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This day will include a morning tour of the local market and an afternoon guided tour that focuses on the city's history, cultural trends and restoration efforts and will include a visit to the Paseo de los Museos (museum) at Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, a walk to Central Park, the City Hall Palace, Royal Palace, San Jose Cathedral, and a tour of the Capuchinas church and convent. There will also be an afternoon reception at the home of Sarah Cohen.



San Jose Cathedral with flower and sawdust carpet in foreground

Sunday, March 5—Antigua Day 2

In the morning we will walk to the nearby town of Santa Ines, where we will admire the elaborate carpets made of flowers and sawdust carpets near the church and watch the street procession with the sculpture of Jesus Nazareno and the Virgen de Dolores. After lunch at Restaurante Fermento we will have a free afternoon and dinner on our own.

Monday, March 6—Iximche and Panajachel

In the morning we will check out of our hotel and travel by private shuttle to the Maya ruins at Iximché. Situated at 7000' on high plateau, Iximche was the capital of the Late Kaqchikel Maya kingdom from 1470 until its abandonment in 1524. There are 160 mapped structures at this fortress city, including six plazas, a number of pyramid temples, palaces, and two Mesoamerican ballcourts. Iximche were declared a Guatemalan National Monument in the 1960s. We'll have a guided tour of the ruins and talk about the history and architecture of the site, the Maya calendar, and the Maya ball game.



The ruins at Iximche

In the afternoon, we'll travel to Panajachel and check in at the Hotel Posada de Don Rodrigo there (for two nights). After lunch at Chichoy Agua Escondida, we'll have the rest of the afternoon on our own to explore the town. Panajachel is a village on the north shore of Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.

Tuesday, March 7 — Santiago Atitlan

We will travel across the lake to Santiago Atitlan, the largest town on the lake. We will visit a local church, built in 1547, where we'll learn about Priest Stanley Francis Rother and his beatification. After lunch at the Hotel Bambu in Santiago, we'll boat back to Panajachel for some free time, dinner, and drinks at the nearby Sunset Café, while the sun sets over the lake.



Lake Atitlan

Wednesday, March 8 — the Maya Villages of Lake Atitlan

Today we will travel by boat around Lake Atitlan to first visit San Juan la Laguna, where we'll visit a textile cooperative and local painters' workshop. We'll then boat back to Panajachel for some free time, drinks at the nearby Sunset Café (on our own), while the sun sets over the lake, and dinner at the Circus Bar.

Thursday, March 9 — Chichicatenango and beyond

After checking out of the hotel, we'll travel by shuttle to Chichicatenango, where we'll visit its colorful market, the Santo Tomas church where Maya-Catholic rituals are held, and see the "Moreria," a ceremonial masks workshop. We'll then continue to the Tecpan region for lunch in Katok, then make our way to Guatemala City, where we'll visit the Museo Ixchel (indigenous weaving, textiles, and clothing).

Overnight at the Hotel Marriott Courtyard in Guatemala City.



The market at Chichicatenango

Friday, March 10 — Tikal National Park

An early morning start will take us to the Guatemala City airport to fly to Flores and then, by shuttle, to Tikal National Park. Tikal is a complex of Maya ruins that includes more than 3,000 structures. It was the capital of one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient empire and was occupied from about the 4th century BC to 900 AD. Tikal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Through both a guided tour and time on our own, we will explore Tikal's Complex Q, the Central Acropolis and Central Plaza, North Acropolis and Temple IV. Overnight at the Hotel Jungle Lodge.



Plaza Mayor at Tikal National Park (above) and Uaxactun (below)

Saturday, March 11—Uaxactun

In the morning we will travel by bus to Uaxactun after checking out of Hotel Jungle Lodge. This settlement was among the first Maya archaeological sites excavated in the Maya Lowlands. The earliest known public buildings date back to 600 BC, yet archaeological research suggests that the site may have been occupied 400 years earlier. It was one of the longest-occupied Maya settlements. In the afternoon we will travel by bus to Flores Island with an overnight at the Hotel Isla de Flores.

Sunday, March 12—Flores

After some free time in the morning to explore Flores, we will fly back to Guatemala City, check into the Courtyard by Marriott, and have some free time to explore Guatemala City.



Monday, March 13—Departure

After breakfast and checkout, transportation will be provided to the Guatemala airport for return flights home.

Note: some small details to this itinerary may change. A more detailed itinerary, along with lots of other travel planning materials, will be provided to participants well ahead of trip.



Flores on Lake Peten

What Is Included? The tour cost includes: 10 hotel overnights, 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 8 dinners, all in-country transportation, admission fees, tips (for drivers, guides, bellboys, housekeepers, and wait staff), taxes, and special events. The tour cost does not include air transportation to Guatemala, meals not specified above, and other personal expenses.

How Do I register? Please confirm your interest in this trip by emailing info@aarch.org or by mail by **Friday, November 11, 2022**. **50% of the payment is required with reservation, with payment in full by December 30, 2022.** Within your response please include a paragraph or two expressing your trip interest and any previous international travel experience, including any past international AARCH trips. The trip is limited to 26 participants. Registrants must provide a copy of their passport with registration.

Why travel with AARCH?

Adirondack Architectural Heritage has organized and offered several hundred day-long and multi-day tours across the Adirondacks for over 30 years. In 2016, we began offering international travel with a trip to Cuba. We took a group of members and friends to this country, off-limits to Americans for decades, and learned a great deal in our time there. Following the success and excitement of this first trip, we organized a second adventure to Cuba in 2017, and then in 2018 traveled to Armenia. Our most recent international trip was to Slovakia in 2019, before COVID paused international travel for several years.

Participants in our tours have the opportunity not only to explore the world's rich diversity in architecture, culture, and landscapes, but also to make life-long friends. This unique travel experience allows you to explore new landscapes with a group of preservation- and architecture-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds. Plus, these trips help support AARCH's work in the Adirondack region. We hope you can join us on our next adventure to Guatemala!



2016 AARCH Trip to Cuba



2018 AARCH Trip to Armenia



2019 AARCH Trip to Slovakia