

GUATEMALA

June 2-June 16, 2022

ITINERARY

global
works
TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERISTY

2022

Day 1-2 Guatemala City - Antigua

Arrive in Guatemala. Disembark with the first step on a meaningful new adventure. Take in the beauty of Antigua through a local tour and experience the cobble-stone streets and warm-colored buildings surrounded by mountains and active volcanoes. Warm up to latin beats with a salsa lesson.

Day 3-4 Antigua - Chajul

Travel and Orientation. Travel up winding mountain roads, cornfields and through small communities. Stop for lunch in Chichicastenango and begin a cultural orientation of the Department of Quiché, the region with the biggest population of indigenous Maya in Guatemala. We continue our journey to the rural, traditional Ixil region. Upon arrival, we will receive an orientation and quick Ixil language lesson.

Days 5-9 Chajul

Service work, cultural exchange, and regional exploration highlight our stay in Chajul. Chajul is a town of roughly 20,000 people, 99% of whom are indigenous Maya. We will learn about the Maya Ixil culture and language, experience local traditions and work alongside community members. In partnership with local educational leader Limitless Horizons Ixil (LHI), we engage in meaningful service projects: helping build a new school, volunteering in a community library, and hosting a field day with a local middle school. We spend additional time learning to weave, making tortillas, and cooking traditional boxbol with local families. An ex-guerilla who lived through the traumatic events of genocide during the civil war will speak with the group and spark an engaging discussion. We also visit local markets and enjoy a hike through the surrounding landscape to visit sacred Mayan sites and sweeping views.

Days 10 -12 Chichicastenango -Lake Atitlán

We get an early start from Chajul to Chichicastenango where we visit Guatemala's most famed artisan market, tour the beautiful antique church, and have lunch at a local restaurant. From there, we head to the world famous Lake Atitlán surrounded by volcanoes. Here we relax and explore, taking in the beauty of the lake and enjoying kayaking, swimming, hiking, learning from local cooperatives, and shopping for crafts.

EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- SERVICE WORK
- MAYA IXIL CULTURE
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- LAKE ATITLAN EXPLORATION
- ANTIGUA CULTURE AND ORIENTATION

Day 13-14 Lake Atitlan- Guatemala City

Our final day after leaving Lake Atitlan's beauty we return to the quaint colonial city of Antigua for final shopping, cafes, last minute pictures, and to share our last evening dinner and discussion. We make the short trip to Guatemala City to spend the night where we end our amazing trip. Enjoy a final typical breakfast and sad farewells to the beauty, color and unique culture of Guatemala.

