



## Volcan Acatenango & Fuego Double Header (3-Day)

### Overview:

This 3-day/2-night hike brings you up the slopes of beautiful Volcan Acatenango to our private campsite - bench-cut into the side of this towering mountain. From here we enjoy our camp meals, incredible views, and plenty of room to stretch out. In camp there we will have ample time to appreciate the sights and sounds of nearby Volcan Fuego's violent volcano eruptions. We continue our hike across the saddle and up Volcan Fuego the next morning, where we will enjoy lunch beneath Fuego's smoldering caldera. After a return hike in the afternoon, we enjoy another evening at camp with fresh food and a warm fire. On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, our group will summit Acatenango's peak (3,975m/12,720ft - the third highest volcano in Guatemala), taking in panoramic views from atop the summit. Finally, we will descend back down through a myriad of microclimates to return to Antigua by early afternoon.

### **Day 1: Hike To Camp**

Our group leaves from the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 8:00am, where you can fill up your water bottles and purchase any additional gear you might need. Hikers should eat breakfast beforehand and pack a small snack for the road. A one-hour drive takes us from Antigua to the sleepy mountain village of La Soledad, perched on the ridge of the Pacific slope of Volcan Acatenango. The trail up Volcan Acatenango has four distinct microclimates, each of which will take you about an hour to traverse. We'll begin by walking up a steep trail through local farm fields - the same trail used by local villagers each morning to access their corn, snow pea and lily fields. Our first hour of hiking will help you acclimatize and warm up the leg muscles for the day's hike.

The second phase of our ascent passes through old-growth tropical cloud forest. In this environmental zone, we find some of Acatenango's oldest trees, an incredible biodiversity of flora and fauna, fresh mountain air and the sounds of local birds and wildlife. This type of high-alpine cloud forest is found on the upper slopes of many of Guatemala's tallest volcanoes and mountains, and is home to the famous Quetzal.

After exiting the cloud forest, we will be rewarded with fantastic views of the other highland volcanoes (Atitlan, Toliman, San Pedro, Santa Maria, Santo Tomas, Tajumulco), along with glimpses of the Cuchumatanes Mountain chain. A fresh picnic lunch is prepared around mid-day for our group to enjoy.

Temperate coniferous forest and tropical dry forest characterize the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of our ascent, which will lead us to the storm-beaten tree-line of the volcano. Our campsite is perched just below tree-line with sweeping views of the Antigua valley and Volcan Fuego. After setting up camp, hikers are free to rest, relax and enjoy their surroundings while our guide prepares a fresh camp dinner at ~3750m with hot tea and coffee.



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### Day 2: Volcan Fuego

In the morning, our group will enjoy a hearty breakfast after a mesmerizing sunrise experienced from above the cloud-line, bringing our next objective, Volcan Fuego, into sight. With expansive views south towards the tropical Pacific coast of Guatemala, and east across the Antigua Valley towards towering Volcan Agua, we will begin our 1-hour descent to the saddle between Volcan Acatenango and Volcan Fuego. After a short rest, we will wind our way up the 1½-hour push to the vertigo-inducing ridge of Volcan Fuego. At a responsible distance from the active summit of Fuego, teetering between the highland valleys and the Pacific slope, our group will rest and eat lunch as we wait for a chance to witness an eruption at close range. Our group will spend the afternoon hiking back to our campsite where we will have plenty of time to rest and relax. Another beautiful night on the mountain, and another delicious dinner prepared by your guide will help ease our tired bodies to rest.

### Day 3: Summiting Acatenango

In the morning, after an early camp breakfast, our group embarks on a 45-minute ascent to the summit on a sand and gravel scree-trail dotted with dwarf pine trees and high alpine mosses. The trail up to the summit is the steepest we will have seen, and leads to the rocky summit exposed to the gusty and cold winds which constantly pass over Acatenango's peak.

At the summit, our group will rest and enjoy unparalleled 360-degree views of the entirety of the Guatemalan highlands - all the way to the border of Mexico. After 45min at the top (depending on conditions and time considerations), the group will begin the 3-hour descent back towards La Soledad. Our group has the opportunity to descend through an alternate route down Volcan Acatenango, experiencing a variety of microclimates and beautiful trail. From La Soledad, we will transport back to Antigua, arriving in the afternoon with plenty of time for you to enjoy the delights of the old Spanish colonial capital (~13:00hrs).



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### Trip Information

#### Included in Trip Price:

- J Private round trip transportation from Old Town Outfitters office in Antigua
- J All park entrance fees + local guide from the community of La Soledad
- J Freshly prepared lunches (2), dinners (2), and breakfasts (2) + juice/coffee/tea & snacks
- J Sleeping bags, sleeping pads and comfortable tents for 2 nights camping at high-altitude
- J Tour of Volcan Acatenango & Fuego by a local, bilingual guide with certified 1<sup>st</sup>-Aid training

#### Not Included (what you need to bring):

- J Hiking boots or trekking shoes (no sandals)
- J Large-capacity backpack (50L+) with rain cover
- J One warm layer and/or windbreaker
- J Rain jacket
- J Clothing for near-freezing night-time temperatures
- J Personal toiletries and/or medications
- J Camera, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, & flashlight
- J 4 liters of water (minimum)
- J **TIP** for great service from your Old Town guide!

#### **Price:**

**2 PAX - US\$280 p/p**  
**3-4 PAX - US\$205 p/p**  
**5+ PAX - US\$197 p/p**

**Additional Porter Service:**  
**US\$20 per day**

#### **Every Old Town Outfitters' product is committed to honoring our sustainable tourism philosophy:**

- Work to support the local communities in all of the areas we visit
- Respect the cultures, beliefs and traditions in all of the areas we visit
- Respect the environment, work to utilize resources sustainably, and minimize our impact