



“Paddle in Paradise” Rio Dulce Kayak Tour

Trip Description

Day 1:

A Our group leaves from the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 6:00am, where you can fill up your water bottles and purchase any additional gear you might need. Our group will embark on 6-hour transport from Guatemala’s mountainous Western Highlands out to her tropical East. After a short breakfast on the outskirts of Guatemala City, we continue heading northeast through the morning, traversing a wide range of diverse climates, terrain and topography. We’ll enter the Rio Dulce as we cross over one of Central America’s longest bridges, and continue the last 20 miles of our ride to arrive (~12:00hrs) at Finca Paraiso on the shores of Lago Izabal – Guatemala’s largest freshwater lake. Finca Paraiso is both idyllic and unique, located on a tropical stream inlet of the lake where thermally heated waterfalls cascade into a cool and deep natural swimming pool. Lunch is prepared for the group here, and afterwards our group will follow the river upstream for 20 minutes until we arrive to the mouth of a submerged cave. Group members will explore this local oddity by swimming as far inside as they wish. Afterwards, we head back towards the mouth of the Rio Dulce and check-in at our waterfront cabanas at the old tropical plantation *Hacienda Tijax*. We’ll enjoy a delicious seafood dinner at our hotel and sleep peacefully during our first night on the river. (Meals: B, L, D)

Day 2:

Breakfast and coffee are served at 08:00hrs at our hotel, and after a 45-minute boat ride downstream through the beautiful Golfete, we will leave our luggage with our boat driver and get settled into our kayaks for the day. The lagoons and creeks throughout the *Biotopo Chocon Machacas Manatee Reserve* are full of local birds and wildlife. We’ll spend all morning in this playground for paddlers, and arrive around mid-day with strong appetites to a tasty local river restaurant renowned for the region’s famous *tapado* - fresh seafood soup. After lunch, our group continues further downriver, stopping off at natural hot springs and caves for a swim and a rejuvenating mineral soak. Further downstream we will follow a small tributary (*Rio Tatin*) up to the riverside dock of our hotel, and spend the evening enjoying the symphony of jungle sounds which fill the air after nightfall. (Meals: B, L, D)

Day 3:

Paddlers wake up before sunrise to have a chance at spotting some of the many beautiful birds that commune at our hotel’s riverside dock. Breakfast for our group is served at 08:00hrs. After preparing our kayaks and packs for the day, our first stop is just upstream at the local indigenous association *Ak’ Tenamit*. Here artisans from Rio Dulce’s communities employ sustainable natural resources (i.e. banana leaves and coconuts) to fashion the unique handicrafts available for sale. We continue paddling downstream throughout the morning, passing the steep limestone canyons of the lower Rio Dulce, and finally arriving to the river’s mouth at the coastal town of Livingston (~13:00hrs). For lunch, we’ll pick up some great Caribbean seafood in a favorite local restaurant, and have the rest of the afternoon to walk around this relaxed and funky beach community, the only town in Guatemala which hosts Caribbean *Garifuna* culture. For dinner we will find a delicious restaurant that satisfies the hunger earned today on the river, and grab some cool drinks to beat the coastal heat. Our waterfront hotel in Livingston is just a short walk from town-center. (Meals: B, L, D)



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Day 4:

After breakfast our group will embark at 09:00hrs for our ~1½ hour boat ride back upriver to our transport. We'll load up the van, wave goodbye to the coconut trees and river otters, and head back westward towards the Guatemalan highlands. We break up today's drive with a visit to the Mayan ruins of *Quirigu*, which is home to the largest and most well preserved centuries-old carved *stelae* (rock monuments) in all of Central America. We'll enjoy lunch on the road, and arrive back to Antigua late in the afternoon or early evening, depending on road conditions. (*Meals: B, L*)

Trip Information

Included in Trip Price:

- Private, round trip transportation from Old Town Outfitters/Antigua Guatemala
- 3 Nights hotel accommodations along the beautiful Rio Dulce
- All park entrance fees to protected areas, private reserves, co-ops, etc...
- All paddling gear (sea kayaks, paddles, lifejackets, dry bags)
- All meals throughout the tour as specified (drinks *not* included)
- Full tour of the Rio Dulce by a local bilingual guide with certified 1st Aid training

Not Included (what you need to bring):

- Walking shoes, sandals, swimsuit & towel
- (1-2) Changes of clothes + rain jacket
- Personal toiletries & medications
- Camera, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent
- 2L bottle for carrying water
- Flashlight
- **TIP** for great service from your Old Town guide!

Price:

2 PAX - US\$540 p/p
3-4 PAX - US\$495 p/p
5+ PAX - US\$475 p/p

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