



Volcan Acatenango Daytripper

Trip Description

Our group leaves from the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 5:00am. Hikers should eat breakfast beforehand and pack a small snack for the road and make sure they have enough water for the day trip. 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 3rd phase of our ascent, which will lead us to the storm-beaten tree-line of the volcano. Our last section of ascent is sand and gravel scree-trail dotted with dwarf pine trees and high alpine mosses. As we approach the summit, we find the exposed rocky surfaces left by the gusty and cold winds which constantly pass over Acatenango's peak.

At the summit, your guide will prepare a fresh, well-earned picnic lunch while you rest and enjoy unparalleled 360-degree views of the Guatemalan highlands. Atop the summit we will also fix our attention on nearby and constantly erupting Volcan Fuego. With a bit of luck, Fuego will put on a high altitude firework show, displaying violent explosions of gas, rock, and lava.

After 30min-1hr 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.



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Trip Information

Included in Trip Price:

- Round trip transportation from Old Town Outfitters office in Antigua
- All park entrance fees + local guide from the community of La Soledad
- Freshly prepared picnic lunch
- Full tour of Volcano Acatenango by a local, bilingual guide with certified 1st-Aid training

Not Included (what you need to bring):

- Hiking boots or trekking shoes (no sandals)
- Daypack with rain cover
- One warm layer and/or windbreaker
- Rain jacket (May thru October)
- Personal toiletries and/or medications
- Camera, hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Two liters of water (minimum)
- Flashlight
- **TIP** for great service from your Old Town guide!

Price:

02 PAX - US\$140 p/p

03 PAX - US\$100 p/p

4+ PAX - US\$85 p/p

Porter Service: \$25.00 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