



# Volcan Acatenango Day Hike With 4X4 'Off-Roading'

## Overview:

Our signature hike, combined with an adventure 4X4 off-road ride to the trailhead, is certainly a unique way to see the wild side of Guatemala. Whether you are the type of person seeking an adventurous ride up the volcano, or if you just want to knock off most of the uphill trek, this trip is for you. Our last 500 meter push is where we park the car, allowing us to still enjoy a solid, beautiful hike to the summit.

## 4X4 Ride:

Our group leaves from the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 7:00am, where you can fill up your water bottles and purchase any additional gear you might need. We will leave Antigua in our 4X4 car and drive through neighboring towns, getting a glimpse of the local life outside of Antigua. After about an hour's drive, transitioning from concrete to dirt, we will arrive at the entrance of a farm sitting at the base of Volcan Acatenango. From there we will enter the dirt farm roads, spending the next hour traversing the maze of farmland and forest as we head up some hills you will doubt we will make it up.

While we will be offered some amazing views on our ride, the extra beauty of this alternate route is that we cut off about 3½ hours of the typical hike, leaving a far easier trip to the summit, and giving us plenty of extra time. We will leave our car at 3500 meters, cutting out 1300 meters of elevation, and leaving just 2 hours on foot until we reach the summit.

## The Hike:

After we park our car and lace up our hiking shoes, we will take a beautiful trail up through temperate coniferous forest and tropical dry forest. This storm beaten tree-line was caught in a forest fire a decade back, leaving behind many starch-white petrified trees and a unique looking forest. Our trail turns to scree as we approach the saddle between Acatenango's summit, and Punta Yepocapa, its false summit. We reach a brief resting point at the site of the crater formed by Acatenango's last eruption in 1972. Here we admire the rugged volcanic landscape and jagged crater.

As we move on, we can see our final objective- a last 150 meter push up Acatenango's scree slopes. As we gain elevation, we will be afforded magnificent views of Guatemala's volcanic chain, including the volcanoes of Lake Atitlan, the Western highlands, and even to Tajumulco. As we make our way onto the rim of the summit crater, we get our first glimpses of the spectacularly active Volcan Fuego.

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. On the summit our guide prepares a fresh picnic lunch, and we will sit 4 kilometers away from Fuego and hope for a high altitude firework show. When we have finished, we will begin our hike back down to our car, a little over an hour long, and we will switch back to some more 4X4 adventure as we head down the steep road. We will arrive back in Antigua in the afternoon with plenty of time for you to enjoy the delights of the old Spanish colonial capital (~16:00hrs).



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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
- Fruit and snacks in the morning
- Freshly prepared picnic lunch
- Full tour of Volcan Acatenango by a local, bilingual guide with certified 1<sup>st</sup>-Aid training

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

- Hiking boots or trekking shoes (no sandals)
- Large-capacity backpack (35L+) with rain cover
- One warm layer and/or windbreaker
- Rain jacket (May thru October)
- Cold-weather clothing for near-freezing night-time temperatures at camp
- Personal toiletries and/or medications
- Camera, hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- 4 liters of water (minimum)
- Flashlight
- **TIP** for great service from your Old Town guide!

### **Price:**

**2 PAX - US\$375 p/p**

**3 PAX - US\$250 p/p**

**4 PAX - US\$195 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