



Western Maya Highlands Trail 3-Day/ 2-Night

Trip Description

Day 1: Climb to Xeabaj

Our group leaves from the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 5:00am, where you can fill up your water bottles and purchase any additional gear you might need. Our early morning departure takes us out to our starting-point, located off the Pan-American Highway above Lake Atitlan. Our group will enjoy a light breakfast en route, and after arriving at the trail head we'll pack our gear and head out for a 3- day trek retracing centuries-old Mayan trade routes. We will hike through deep ravines and river canyons, past Mayan ceremonial sites, and up through remote Mayan communities of the Western Highlands. The group will take a brief rest and enjoy a freshly prepared picnic lunch around mid-day. We will finish the day at a quiet campsite nestled out on a narrow ridge in the abandoned village of Xeabaj. Xeabaj, translating to 'under the rock', will provide us with stellar views of the surrounding mountains and valleys in every direction. Guides will prepare a fresh camp dinner under the stars as a perfect finale to a hard days walk.

Day 2: Seven Crosses Trail

Breakfast and coffee are served to the group at sun up, after which we break down camp and set off for the day's objective - the "Siete Cruces" (Seven Crosses) trail. These seven crosses traverse the top of the spectacular ridgeline leading out to "Pico Zunil". Our hike starts with a tough climb up to a fertile shelf at about 2700m, where the landscape is surreal, highlighted by incredible views and lush flora. We'll take a break at the top of the climb to catch our breath and refuel at our lunch-spot. Afterwards, we start a gentle climb up to our trail on the ridge positioned at 3000m. This ridge offers up some of Guatemala's most impressive views of the "Ring of Fire" - 15 volcanoes stretching from the Salvadoran border all the way across to Mexico. Our group camps tonight on the ridge overlooking the Almolonga Valley on one side, and the other, overlooking the volcanoes surrounding Guatemala's 2nd largest city - Quetzaltenango (Xela).

Day 3: Zunil Summit and Hot Springs

Another sunrise breakfast and coffee prepares us for our last push across the ridge, summitting Pico Zunil after a 1½-hour hike. Our group will then move down the long and winding 1800-meter descent through thick tropical cloud forest, to the amazing therapeutic thermal waters of Fuentes Georginas. Here we drop our packs, don our swim trunks, and soak our tired legs in the thermal pools while enjoying an ice cold drink and delicious lunch. After our soak, we'll jump into our private transport and head back to Antigua, arriving just around sunset.



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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 and admission fees
- J 8 Freshly prepared picnic lunches, dinners, and breakfasts as detailed above
- J Sleeping bags, sleeping pads and comfortable tents for cool-weather camping
- J Fully guided tour from Lake Atitlan to Xela by a local, bilingual guide with certified 1st-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 (May thru October)
- J Cold-weather clothing for night-time temperatures
- J Personal toiletries and/or medications
- J Camera, hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- J 2-4 liters of water (minimum per day)
- J Flashlight
- J **TIP** for great service from your Old Town guide!

Price:

2 PAX - US\$330.00 p/p
3-5 PAX - US\$294.00 p/p
6-9 PAX - US\$270.00 p/p
7+ PAX - US\$249 p/p

Additional Porter Service:
US\$40 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