



Volcan Acatenango Overnight

Overview:

This 2-day/1-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 will enjoy a fresh camp dinner along with the sights and sounds of nearby Volcan Fuego's violent eruptions. We summit Acatenango's peak (3,975m/12,720ft - the third highest peak in Central America!) on the morning of the 2nd day, and descend back down through a myriad of environmental zones to return to Antigua by early afternoon.

Day 1:

Our group meets at the Old Town Outfitters Shop at 08:00hrs (5th Avenida & 6th Calle - 1 block south from Central Park) to board our private transport for the trailhead. 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 Guatemala's volcanic mountain chain. The trail up Volcan Acatenango has four distinct environment zones, each of which will take you a little over an hour to traverse. We'll begin by walking up 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 hikers acclimatize and warm their leg muscles up for the day's hike.

The second phase of our ascent passes through old-growth tropical cloud-forest. In this zone, we find some of Acatenango's oldest trees, the biggest biodiversity of flora and fauna, fresh clean 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. After exiting the cloud-forest, we will be rewarded with fantastic views northward of other highland volcanoes (Atitlan, Toliman, San Pedro, Santa Maria, 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 (pine, fir, etc...) cloud-forest and dry-forest characterize the 3rd phase of our ascent, and it will lead us to the storm-beaten tree-line of the mountain. 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 vegetarian camp dinner at ~3750m with hot tea and coffee.

Day 2:

In the morning - after an early breakfast - our group embarks on a 1hr 15-minute ascent to the summit on sand and gravel scree-trail dotted with dwarf pine trees and high alpine mosses. Here we find the exposed rocky surfaces left by the gusty and cold winds which constantly pass over Acatenango's peak.

At the summit, our group will rest and enjoy 360-degree views of the Guatemalan highlands. After 30-45min at the top (depending on conditions and time considerations), the group will begin the 3.5hr descent back towards La Soledad, and transport back to Antigua to arrive in town in the early afternoon (~13:00hrs).



Volcan Acatenango Overnight

Trip Information

Trip Price:

- \$99 per person
- \$10 will be donated back to your NGO

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, dinner, and breakfast + Juice/Coffee/Tea
- Sleeping bags, sleeping pads and comfortable tents for camping at high-altitude
- Full tour of Volcan 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)
- 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
- Personal Toiletries and/or medications
- Camera, Hat, Sunglasses & Sunscreen
- 4 liters of water (minimum)
- Flashlight
- TIP for great service from your Old Town Guide!

**Additional Porter
Service Available:
US \$20 per day
(Please let us know at
least 24hrs in advance)**

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