

Guatemala Trek

The Volcano Challenge



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Guatemala Trek

A spectacular volcano challenge

Guatemala lies southeast of Mexico and is the Mayan heartland of Central America. For centuries travellers have been seduced by its incomparable mountain setting and by the Mayan traditions of language and dress that survive in the picturesque villages along its shores. Ringed by towering volcanoes and dubbed the most beautiful lake in the world, Lake Atitlan is undoubtedly the jewel in Guatemala's crown. This stunning five-day, trekking challenge takes us along ancient Maya trading routes, along the highland passage through many of Guatemala's Volcanoes, ending the trek with a tough ascent of Pico San Marcos (over 3000m) and on to the shores of Lake Atitlan.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Guatemala City

Depart London for our international flight to Guatemala City. Upon arrival late evening we will be transferred directly to our hotel in Antigua.

Day 2: Alaska area to Parraxim Area 2- 3hrs

This morning we will transfer to our starting point for today's hike. We start off in lush pine forests and hike on dirt roads used by the local people as we head towards a highland area known as "Alaska". Hiking through the spectacular green mountainside of Guatemala will really allow a glimpse of the everyday life from the local people as you see them working in the fields as it has been done for centuries. Our hike today will certainly be challenging as we will hike in rugged areas. Upon arriving in the Parraxim area- we will have time to get comfortable in the camp area and enjoy the breath-taking views of the Guatemalan highlands.

Day 3: Parraxim area to Vieja Santa Catarina , 9hrs

After breakfast we will start our day's trek and head south towards the valley of the Nahualate River. We cross through dense forest as well as more open areas that have been cleaned by the local farmers to grow their crops. Upon arriving in our next camp close to the village of Vieja Santa Catarina we will get set up for another night and will enjoy a delicious dinner.

Day 4: Vieja Santa Catarina to Santa Catrina Utatlan, 9-10hrs

After breakfast we set off towards the Santa Lucia Utatlan – a traditional Mayan village situated above Lake Atitlan. Today is our most challenging hiking day - so get ready for some serious up and down hill walking! If necessary the group can split into subgroups considering the different walking speeds. After this challenging day we will once again settle down in our comfortable camp site where we will enjoy dinner.

Day 5: Santa Catrina Utatlan to Pico San Marcos, 7-8hrs

Today we will have an early morning start in order to make good time to enjoy the crisp morning air for our hike to Pico San Marcos. Our hike will take us high up to over 3000m to this stunning mountain peak. From up here you will enjoy 360 degree views down to the breath taking Lake Atitlan, up into the highlands and towards the pacific lowlands. We will then return to the same campsite at Santa Catarina for a well deserved dinner.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Santa Catrina to Lake Shore of Lake Atitlan 9-10hrs

Today we will hike towards the shores of Lake Atitlan set at 1500 meters above sea level – so most of our hike is downhill. Once getting closer to the lake we will hike through avocado and coffee plantations and will see the locals work this crop that is enigmatic for Guatemala. Upon arriving at the lake shore we will have a boat waiting for us that will take us to our next overnight stop- a Hotel in Panajachel- located on the north- eastern side of this volcanic lake. This evening we will enjoy a gala dinner to celebrate our fantastic achievement of trekking through the heartland of Guatemala!

Day 7: Transfer to Antigua

Today we have a free morning to either relax, take a dip in the refreshing waters of Lake Atitlan or just stroll along the “Calle Santander” that is famous for its handicraft sellers that come from all villages surrounding Lake Atitlan. After lunch will hop into our vehicles and make our way on the road towards the picturesque town of Antigua. Overnight Antigua Hotel. Dinner not included.

Day 8: Depart Guatemala City to London

We depart Guatemala City for a flight back to London, UK

Day 9: Arrive UK

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This itinerary is complex
and subject to change*

Challenge grade

Tough

Best time of year

February to November

