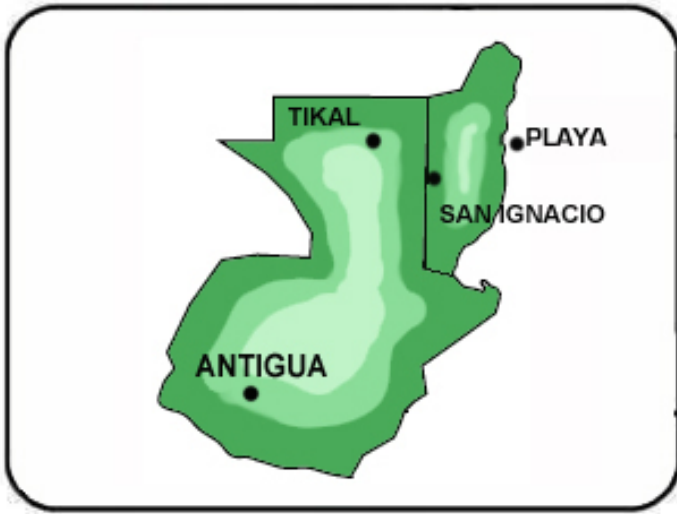




Echoes of the Maya



DAY ONE - Arrival Antigua Homestay or Hotel

Most flights arrive in the evening. Greeting by Interact's Foreign Representative in the Guatemala City airport lobby. Transfer to Antigua and your hotel or homestay. Homestay groups will meet the Program Director and your host families

Antigua homestay groups live with middle class host families who are relatives, neighbors, or lifelong friends of our homestay director. Homes are within walking distance of the Tecun Uman language school, which serves as the meeting point and social center for group activities. All host families are monitored and continually evaluated. Everyone speaks Spanish in the home.

Antigua is among the world's best conserved colonial cities, it is a magical and captivating small town that makes you feel time might have stopped some 300 years ago. It's famous for its spring-like climate, cobblestone streets and impressive ruins. Antigua is renowned for its tranquility and friendliness.

DAY TWO - Centro Historico, Shopping, & Salsa

Guided walking tour of Antigua's Centro Historico landmarks and craft market - with over 400 vendors. Following lunch, meet for your salsa dance interACTION.

DAY THREE - Pacaya Volcano Hike

Drive to San Francisco de Sales. Hike (moderate) this active volcano and explore the crater area. Recommendations: hiking shoes, raincoat, jacket or sweater, gloves, camera, flashlight, purified bottled water, and snack. Bring this equipment in your back-pack and clothes in a nylon bag. Later, return to the bargaining markets where you'll have fun practicing your Spanish and bargaining skills.

DAY FOUR - Coffee & Crafts / SOMOS humanitarian

interACTION

Enjoy your morning visit to the Centro Cultural Azotea: coffee, Maya musical instruments, and traditional textiles. OPTION: include zip-lining tour. Following lunch, participate in our exclusive SOMOS humanitarian total experience. You'll receive a list of the most needed items and visit a local 'super', where you'll have an opportunity to purchase those supplies (budget \$15 each). Complete your SOMOS experience as you interact with the children while painting, gardening, etc.

DAY FIVE - ✈ Tikal / Belize

Early morning flight to Flores, where you'll transfer to Tikal, Ancient City of Echoes. Explore Tikal with a specialized local guide. The site is set in within a protected area and boasts 5 temples, 3 of which you may climb. Return to a nearby lodge for lunch. Later, meet your Belizean guide for your transfer to the twin cities of San Ignacio & Santa Elena, for dinner and an opportunity for a refreshing swim in your hotel.

DAY SIX - Barton Creek Cave / SOMOS

Today, participate in your second SOMOS humanitarian experience (budget \$15 each). Here you'll visit a local school and interact with the students and teachers. Continue to Barton Creek Cave, where you'll glide through a remote underground ancient Maya water cave system in a canoe equipped with a powerful spotlight. Witness large and colorful formations, skeletal remains and other cultural artifacts left behind by the Maya centuries ago.

On your return, you'll pass through a picturesque Mennonite community, where you can observe a slice of local, daily life.

DAYS SEVEN & EIGHT - Playa 2 nights

Breakfast in your hotel. Transfer to the coast for your boat taxi to San Pedro (Ambergris) or Caye Caulker. Close your eyes and picture a tropical island with white sand, blue-green water, and palm trees rustling overhead in the warm breeze.

Belize's barrier reef is a paradise. In just 6-10 feet of water you'll find an amazing diversity of marine life. The reef provides protection which makes for clear, calm water, so it's ideal for optional snorkeling.

DAY NINE - Return to the USA



DEPARTURES: 9d/8n



NIGHTS

Antigua Homestay or Hotel	4
San Ignacio	2
Playa	2



Inland: All meals are included in Homestay program. Two meals in hotel program. Playa meals are independent.