

SERVICE LEARNING IN GUATEMALA (20 days / 19 nights)

Antigua - Vuelta Grande - Lake Atitlán - Chichicastenango



This program is developed for students interested to make a positive impact through service learning projects, deepen their understanding of other cultures and integrate in meaningful community service activities.

During the service learning experience in Vuelta Grande students will teach English lessons to the local students from age 3-13 at FUNCOLI'S Learning Center, which has been established in 2014 to give local children the opportunity to attend daily classes, receive a nourishing meal, and participate in art workshops. Additionally, students will help with the construction of dry latrines or ecological stoves. Dry latrines greatly reduce the contamination of ground water, while ecological stoves help to reduce respiratory ailments and deforestation.



Fundación Corazones Libres (FUNCOLI) is a Guatemala based non-profit organization. Its goal is to improve the education, health, infrastructure, living conditions and community development in the indigenous Maya communities of Vuelta Grande, Agua Colorada and La Cumbre which are all part of the municipality of Antigua Guatemala.

The Foundation has been active since 2013. From the beginning, CEPA Foundation has worked in close partnership with FUNCOLI to provide funding and to build a learning center that focuses on pre-and elementary school education, alphabetization and adult learning initiatives.

Besides the educational programs FUNCOLI secures basic healthcare for the local Maya population.

See next page for a detailed itinerary.



SERVICE LEARNING IN GUATEMALA (20 days / 19 nights)

Antigua - Vuelta Grande - Lake Atitlán - Chichicastenango

Day 1 >> Fri.: Guatemala City - Antigua

Stay 3 nights at a 3-star hotel in Antigua

- Flight to Guatemala City and arrival at Guatemala City Airport (group flight can be booked separately)
- Transportation by private bus to the hotel
- Orientation session with your coordinator at the hotel
- Welcome dinner at a restaurant in Antigua

Day 2-3 >> Sat. -Sun.: Antigua

- Guided walking tour of Antigua
- Information session on the Guatemalan and Maya culture
- Free afternoons to explore Antigua on your own

Day 4 >> Mon.: Antigua - Vuelta Grande

Stay 11 nights at the Antigua Mountain Lodges in Vuelta Grande

- Transportation by private bus
- Orientation session with your coordinator
- Service learning activity: Instruction of local Maya children at FUNCOLI's Learning Center
- Further service learning options: Help with the construction of latrines, stoves or houses for the local population
- Spanish language course

Day 5-8 >> Tues.-Fri.: Vuelta Grande

- Service learning activities in the mornings and during some afternoons
- Spanish language course (2 x 3 hrs) in the afternoon
- Experimental Spanish/Mayan training session with your coordinator
- Visit an NGO specializing in adult educational training in Antigua

Day 9 >> Sat.: Antigua

- Guided tour of a coffee plantation incl. group lunch to learn about the coffee production in Guatemala

Day 10 >> Sun.: Vuelta Grande

- Hiking around the village with your coordinator incl. a picnic lunch

Day 11-14 >> Sun.-Thur.: Vuelta Grande

- Service learning activities in the mornings and during some afternoons
- Spanish language course (2 x 3 hrs) in the afternoon
- Experimental Spanish/Mayan training session with your coordinator
- Visit to Escuela Publica Vuelta Grande to learn how public schools are run
- Tortilla baking workshop at a local Maya family's home
- *Optional cooking class with local community including a trip to local market*

Day 15-16 >> Fri.-Sat.:

Vuelta Grande - Lake Atitlán

Stay 2 nights at a 3-star hotel at Lake Atitlán

- Service learning activity
- Transportation by private bus to Lake Atitlán
- Group dinner at Lake Atitlán
- Guided boat tour at Lake Atitlán
- Free afternoon to explore the villages around the lake with your coordinator

Day 17 >> Sun.:

Lake Atitlán - Chichicastenango

Stay 1 night at a 3-star hotel in Chichicastenango

- Transportation by private bus
- Visit to the traditional open-air market, considered to be the largest in Central America
- Group dinner at a local restaurant

Day 18 >> Mon.:

Chichicastenango - Tecpan - Antigua

Stay 2 nights at a 3-star hotel in Antigua

- Transportation by private bus
- Visit to the Iximche Mayan Ruins

Day 19 >> Sat.: Antigua

- Free day in Antigua for a final reflection
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant

Day 20 >> Sun.:

Antigua - Guatemala City

- Transportation by private bus to Guatemala City Airport
- Return flight (not included in the package price)

PROGRAM PRICE: \$ 3,070 PER PERSON based on a minimum number of 12 paying participants

As of March 2024

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS SAMPLE ITINERARY:

Service learning experience as described • cultural excursions and field trips incl. admissions with local, bilingual guides • accommodation in 3-star hotels in Antigua, at Lake Atitlán and in Chichicastenango (twin or triple rooms) and the Antigua Mountain Lodges in Vuelta Grande (multi-bedded dorms for students, faculty in single rooms) • daily breakfast • welcome and farewell dinner in Antigua • group dinner at Lake Atitlán • full board in Vuelta Grande • local transportation by private coach bus during all excursions • local on-site coordinator during all planned activities • gratuities for guides, drivers and waiters • 24/7 Emergency contact in case of an emergency

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Materials for stoves and latrines (approx. material cost per unit \$250-350) • fundraising opportunities are available through CEPA Foundation (to be discussed) • airfare • insurance