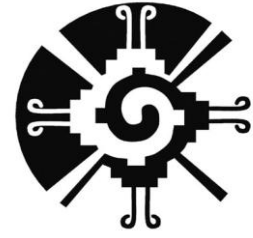


A.R.E. Travel Program's
Guatemala and the Mayan
Year of Destiny



Led by Peter Woodbury

November 9-17, 2012

<i>Rates</i>	<i>Per person Double occupancy</i>	<i>Additional Single Supplement</i>	<i>Land Only Rate</i>
\$	\$*4,295	\$715	\$3,895

ITINERARY

(Subject to change according to the needs of the tour)

Friday, Nov. 9 – Travel to Guatemala - Antigua

The group flight will depart from Miami, FL. Upon arrival in Guatemala City, meet your tour director and transfer to Antigua, one of the most beautiful and authentic cities in all of the Americas. Check in at Casa Santo Domingo, one of the finest accommodations in Central America, built into a ruin itself. Enjoy a welcome banquet this evening and an overview of your Mayan adventure. (D)

Saturday, Nov. 10 – Antigua

After breakfast, explore the magical city of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in the central highlands of Guatemala. Surrounded by volcanoes, this enchanting city is famous for its well-preserved Baroque architecture, original cobblestone streets and colonial churches, as well as a number of ruins layered around the city and its surroundings. The day will cover the architectural and historical highlights of this charming town, with a behind-the-scenes look at some of the many ruins. After lunch, explore the villages surrounding Antigua - from the Archbishop's Palace in San Juan del Obispo, to the Mayan town of San Antonio Aguas Calientes specializing in some the finest Mayan textiles. (BLD)

Sunday, Nov. 11 – Lake Atitlan – Panajachel

After breakfast, take a morning departure to Lake Atitlán, enjoying first a visit to the post classic archeological site of Iximche, followed by lunch en route in Tecpan as you wind along the Guatemalan highlands. Encircled by majestic volcanoes and towering cliffs, Lake Atitlan is the deepest lake in Central America, although nobody is quite certain how deep the lake is beneath the crystal blue surface. The lake is also home to tiny waterside villages of the Mayan people, where Maya culture still prevails and traditional dress is worn. Most communities are reached only by boat. Arrive to Panajachel, the largest city around the lake, and explore its local indigenous markets and colorful shops. Enjoy a welcome dinner by candle-light this evening and an overview of this enchanting region of the country. (BLD)

Monday, Nov. 12 – Lake Atitlan and surrounding villages

After breakfast, enjoy a full day exploring the lake and its waterside villages by private boat. Each village has a different character and customs, and you will enjoy several presentations on indigenous traditions and beliefs. From spiritual centers of worship to art painting schools to local

chocolate factories, enjoy getting to know small-town life around this breathtaking body of water. A highlight will be a visit to the wooden statue and Mayan god "Maximon", whose movement around the lake is directed by local spiritual leaders. (BLD)

Tuesday, Nov. 13 – Chichicastenango

After breakfast, transfer by boat and bus to the famous market of Chichicastenango. "Chichi" is Guatemala's most well-known marketplace, where vendors sell handicrafts, food, flowers, pottery, medicinal plants, candles, pom and copal (traditional incense), grindstones, pigs, chickens, machetes, furniture, clothing... almost anything one can imagine. The manufacture of masks, used by dancers in traditional dances, such as the Dance of the Conquest, has also made this city well-known for woodcarving. Enjoy lunch in Chichicastenango and then return to Panajachel. The late afternoon is at leisure, before returning for a dinner and discussion on current and changing Mayan religious practices. (BLD)

Wednesday, Nov. 14 – Transfer to Flores

After breakfast, and a relaxing morning by the lake, transfer to the airport back to Guatemala City for your afternoon short flight to Flores airport. Transfer to a jungle resort, and enjoy a welcome dinner and a presentation on the archeological wonders we will explore over the next two days. (BLD)

Thursday, Nov. 15 – Tikal & Uaxactun

After an early breakfast, marvel as you explore the most majestic sites of the former Mayan kingdom, of Tikal and Uaxactun. During the Classic Period, Tikal was one of the largest and most important of the Mayan cities. Today it is not only one of the most fascinating and enjoyable archeological wonders in the world, but it is the center of speculation around the Mayan predictions concerning 2012. Discuss the "end of time" theories with local guides, archeologists, and astronomers, discovering why many thought that the December solstice of this year would bring about the end of the world. (BLD)

Friday, Nov. 16 – Yaxhá

On our final day, enjoy a guided tour of Yaxhá, situated between Lakes Yaxhá and Sac nab in the Petén Basin region. Yaxhá was a former ceremonial center of the Mayan civilization, and is home to more than 500 ruins. Travelers who wish to return to Tikal and explore the expanse on their own may also choose to do so. Our day ends with a celebratory farewell dinner at our jungle resort. (BLD)

Saturday, Nov. 17 – Transfer to Guatemala City

Take a morning flight back to Guatemala City, and continue onwards to your home destination. Or, enjoy an optional extension to the ruins of COPAN, an enchanting journey to Honduras and a visit to another one of the archeological wonders of the world. The extension includes two additional nights with your guides who will offer a behind the scenes look at the Copan complex. (BLD)

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## OPTIONAL COPAN EXTENSION

| <i>Rates</i> | <i>Per person<br/>Double occupancy</i> | <i>Additional<br/>Single Supplement</i> |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| \$           | \$549                                  | \$169                                   |

### **Sunday, Nov. 18 – Copan**

Enjoy a full day tour of the Copan complex. The morning will feature guided exploration of the Acropolis, the "golf ball game", the Hieroglyph stands, and majestic Mayan Stele square, and the Museum of Mayan Sculpture, hailed by experts as unique in the Mayan World. After lunch, enjoy free time to further explore the sites on your own. (BLD)

### **Monday, Nov. 19 – Transfer to Guatemala City**

After breakfast, return to Guatemala City, stopping at a local market along the way for some final souvenir shopping. Return home in the early afternoon on a flight back to the United States, arriving the same day. (B)

\*This includes international group flight in economy class from and to Miami, all domestic flights while in Guatemala, meals where indicated, transfers to and from airports in Guatemala, transportation by private coach, tips, entrance fees, and portorage for 1 piece of luggage per person. This does NOT include airline upgrades, alcoholic beverages and personal expenses.