ALDEA offers a unique, eye-opening, 8-day/8-night tour of the western highlands of Guatemala, the “Land of Eternal Spring.” Participants visit rural Mayan partner communities and experience Guatemala’s incredible beauty, vibrant culture, colonial splendor, and breathtaking landscape around Antigua and Lake Atitlán.

The tour is full of opportunities to meet local Mayans in their villages and learn of their struggles, sacrifices, and dreams of a better life for themselves and their children. See first-hand the positive changes in these indigenous communities where ALDEA has partnered to create lasting solutions to the persistent problems of poverty and inequality in rural Guatemala. Delve into the history of a people with extraordinary artistic and architectural creativity and sophistication. Witness the impact of colonization and religion on Guatemalan culture.

Participants from various areas and professions travel with ALDEA, forming strong bonds and a shared commitment to improving the lives of rural Mayans.

Tour Highlights: (Day-by-day itinerary follows)
- Learn about ALDEA’s community development projects with Mayan partner villages.
- Discover daily activities of rural Mayans in their homes, learn their stories first-hand, and meet community leaders.
- Experience Guatemala’s thriving Mayan heritage and amazing legacy.
- Explore colonial Antigua and learn of its rich history.
- Experience one of Antigua’s famous Lenten processions.
- Relax surrounded by the mesmerizing beauty of volcano-ringed Lake Atitlán.
- See the Lake’s rich and fertile hills, fishermen, artists, traditional weaving, and daily activities.
- Walk the Mayan ruins of Iximché and witness a Mayan ritual.
- Enjoy delicious Guatemalan food and some of the best coffee in the world.
- Take advantage of shopping opportunities in Antigua, Santiago Atitlán, San Juan La Laguna, and Panajachel.
- Enjoy optional activities, which include climbing an active volcano, touring a coffee plantation, and making chocolate truffles.

What’s Included:
- Extensive pre-tour information, trip coordination assistance, welcome packet, souvenir gift.
- Pick-up and shuttle to/from La Aurora Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City.
- Five nights at Hotel Aurora in Antigua, one night at San Ricardo Farm & Lodge in Tecpán, and two nights at Hotel Bambú at Lake Atitlán.
- Daily breakfasts plus six lunches and seven dinners (including a special farewell dinner).
- Air-conditioned, chauffeured coaster bus for in-country trips; water and some snacks included.
- Bilingual guides/available translators, all excursions and entrance fees except March 5 options (many are free).
- Gratuities for meals, chauffeurs, local on-site guides, and hotel service.

Price per Person: $1,690 double occupancy; $1,900 single occupancy

What’s Not Included:
- Roundtrip air transportation.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g. souvenirs, laundry, extra snacks and drinks.
- Meals on Friday, February 26 and lunch on Friday, March 5.
- Entrance or workshop fees for optional Friday, March 5 activities.
- Travel medical insurance.
**Deposit/Final Payment/Cancellations:**
- **One-half the tour price** is due at the time of registration: **$845** per person for double occupancy and **$950** for single occupancy. **$200** per person is non-refundable. Space is limited with sign-up on a first-come, first-served basis. The remaining **balance is due by January 4, 2021.** Use the form below for payment and registration, or **register and pay online here** (through ALDEAGuatemala.org).
- A refund of tour payments made less the non-refundable **$200** will be issued for a cancellation made by January 26, 2021, if the vacancy is filled by another participant with equivalent occupancy. No refunds will be made for cancellations after January 26, 2021, or if the vacancy caused by the cancellation cannot be filled.

**Participation Details:** Tour is limited to 15 participants; minimum age of 21; moderate difficulty—includes walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths, up/down slopes, uneven surfaces. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver and to have travel medical insurance coverage.

**Travel Documents:** A current U.S. passport is required. No visa is required for Guatemala visits of less than 90 days.

**Climate:** February/March weather in the Guatemalan Highlands is sunny, rain is unusual, daytime temperatures in 70s F, nights in the 50s.

### Brief Day-by-Day Itinerary (Subject to Change):

**Friday, February 26:** Arrive at Guatemala City airport (GUA). Shuttle to colonial Antigua, check in at **Hotel Aurora**.

**Saturday, February 27:** Antigua orientation walk followed by tour orientation. After lunch, explore Antigua on your own. Pre-dinner discussion of Guatemala’s social/political/economic situation with former U.S. Consul General/ALDEA board member.

**Sunday, February 28:** Experience Guatemalan Lenten procession, typical lunch/cooking & weaving demo/product display at local family home in San Antonio Aguas Calientes. Over dinner, discuss ALDEA’s history and current program with former ALDEA board president.

**Monday, March 1:** ALDEA update in Chimaltenango by onsite Executive Director, travel to two rural Mayan villages—one village with ALDEA-sponsored environmental and empowerment projects completed and one without projects. Overnight stay at San Ricardo Farm & Lodge in Tecpán—best available local accommodations.

**Tuesday, March 2:** Guided visit of the pre-Columbian ruins of Iximché en-route to Lake Atitlán, check in at **Hotel Bambú**.

After lunch, join local guide Don Diego Chavez for tour of Santiago Atitlán’s church, and rectory where the first U.S.-born priest to be beatified was murdered in 1981. Shopping opportunities. Possible “Maximón” encounter.

**Wednesday, March 3:** AM boat rides—visit a San Pedro La Laguna museum on Mayan culture and the Lake’s geology and history, witness the natural dye process at local weavers’ cooperative in San Juan La Laguna. Free time in afternoon to relax at Hotel Bambú’s pool, shop in Santiago Atitlán, or visit neighboring communities by boat.

**Thursday, March 4:** AM boat ride to Panajachel for brief visit. Travel by bus to visit another rural ALDEA village—participate with villagers in typical daily activities. Return to Antigua in time for dinner.

**Friday, March 5:** AM to mid-afternoon time to relax, shop, stroll in fascinating, colonial Antigua. Among many activity options: Visit a coffee plantation, jade factory, handicrafts market, museum, or spa; participate in chocolate truffles workshop or cooking class, climb Pacaya Volcano, or get a massage in your hotel room. Late afternoon guided tour of the historic Casa Santo Domingo monastery, followed by special dinner finale at the hotel’s exquisite restaurant.

**Saturday, March 6:** Shuttle to Guatemala City airport for flight departures OR plan additional post-tour activity, e.g. famous Chichicastenango market, overnight to Tikal or Copan, Spanish language school, cooking class, or visit more of Antigua.

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“**Caball**” is the local saying for celebrating our recent trip with ALDEA to lovely Guatemala! We enjoyed Antigua’s colonial charms and its renowned restaurants, as well as home-cooked meals in surrounding towns. We marveled at the workmanship of local weavers and the colorful sawdust carpets laid before somber Lenten processions, paddled the tranquil shores of stunning Lake Atitlán, and hiked to the steaming caldera of the Pacaya volcano. But the true highlights were visits to highland Maya communities where ALDEA and its sister organization, ABPD, are supporting the proud, industrious and resilient people who for millennia have made the country and surrounding regions their home. We gained a unique glimpse into the potential for their prosperous future.”

— Kathleen and Kelly Drummond, 2019 Tour Participants

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*Caball:* excellent, spot-on, perfect
ALDEA February 26 – March 6, 2021 TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Please use this form to register and make your payment by mail. **Online registration and payment options are available here** (through ALDEAGuatemala.org).

**Traveler Information:**

Name(s) __________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip ______________________
Phone: (h) ______________________ (cell) __________________________ Email: __________
Emergency Contact: __________________________ Relationship: __________
Phone(s): __________________________ Email: __________________________

**Tour Reservations:**

____ Double ______ Single ______ Special request, including dietary: __________________________

☐ Please check here if you do not wish to have your contact information shared with other tour participants.

**Questions?** Contact Wayne Gilbert at wgilbert@twsglaw.com or (415) 307-4364, Bruce Robbins at barobbins14@gmail.com or (858) 945-8672, or C.J. Sultz at cjsultz@comcast.net or (312) 933-0413.

**PAYMENTS:** One-half of the tour fee per person ($845 double/$950 single), which includes the $200 non-refundable amount, secures your place on the tour. **Balance is due no later than January 4, 2021.** Space is limited: sign-up is first-come, first-served. Payments can be made as follows:

1) **Online:** [Online registration and payment options are available here](through ALDEAGuatemala.org).

2) **By check:** $ _____ Made out to “ALDEA.” Please notate “2021 Tour deposit/balance” in “For” or “Memo” line and send the check with this registration form to: ALDEA, 1732 1st Avenue #26867, New York, NY 10128.

3) **By credit card.** $ _____ Charge to (circle one): MasterCard  VISA  Discover with information below and a) send to address in #2 above OR b) call ALDEA Executive Director, Arianne Peterson, at (929) 274-3098. If using this mode, scanned registration forms can be sent to aldea@aldeaguatemala.org.

Card number __________________________________________________________
Name on card __________________________________________________________
Expiration date ______________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________ Date __________________________

We promise ready communication and a pre-tour flow of information to enhance your Guatemala experience! ALDEA has a proud and long-time presence in Guatemala. Your tour participation adds another dimension to our people-to-people connection.