

MexiMayan Tours  
**Museum Quality tours**  
**125675 Knoebel Drive,**  
**Lemont, IL 60439**  
 meximayan@meximayan.com

## Guatemala Expedition: Investigations led by Prof. Jose Benitez

January 12 – 19 \$1306 per person (Extension Jan 19 -24, 2016)

### Itinerary day by day

#### Day 1: Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Tues Arrival

Meet & greet at the airport by our host and transfer to your hotel, The **Grand Tikal Futura Hotel** in Guatemala City.

[www.grandtikalfutura.com.gt](http://www.grandtikalfutura.com.gt)

#### Day 2: Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Weds Guatemala City

Tour to the stunning **Popol Vuh Museum** with artifacts from the earliest settlers starting with a Clovis point and continuing through periods of funerary ceramics to the Postclassic. At the **Museum of Archaeology** you will say, "I see marvelous things!" Afternoon visit **Kaminaljuju**, This vast city was a very important trading center for the Mesoamerican region from the Preclassic (1200 BC) to the Postclassic period (900 AD). It may have had settlers from as early as 2000 BC. The Jade Museum in Costa Rica claims that their ancient artisans imported jade from Guatemala to carve and then exported Olmec carvings back. Most of this vast ancient city, -(Ka meanal-hoo' yu) has been destroyed by urbanization. We will enjoy a festive dinner at **Kakao Restaurant** with **Jose Benitez. Grand Tikal Futura Hotel (B, D)**



#### Day 3: Jan 14<sup>th</sup> Thurs Costa Sur: Olmec sites

Morning transfer to **Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa**. Today we visit **El Baul** and **Bilbao** with their acropolises connected by a wide sacbe and (foundations of) a 92 foot bridge. The **Finca Las Ilusiones** displays several fascinating sculptures. We continue to the site of **Monte Alto** in **La Democracia** to view several **Olmec type heads** and other enigmatic sculptures. Do these heads have similarities to the features of the heads of the 16 ritual figures at **La Venta**? Lunch and dinner at the lodge on you own. We suggest (best deal, pay

with quetzals) Afternoon transfer to rustic **Takalik Mayan Lodge (B)**

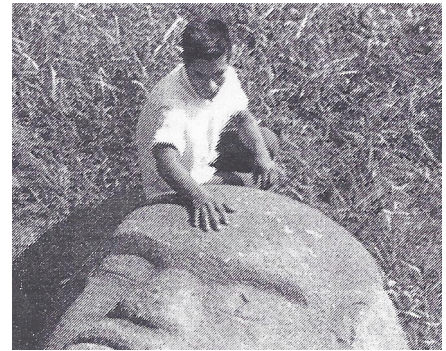
#### Day 4: Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Fri Takalik Abaj / Lake Atitlan

Today we explore **Takalik Abaj** the site of the recently excavated fabulous **burial** of an important priest, or king or chieftain **K'utz Chman who ruled about 700 BC. Hundreds of beads, Jade jewels** included a necklace with a green sculpted pendant in the shape of a **vulture** and a jade mask were included. Did K'utz Chman innovate changes that led to the development from Olmec to Maya?

Lunch at **Takalik Mayan Lodge**.

Afternoon transfer to famous cobalt blue **Lake Atitlan** and checking in to the **Porta Hotel in Panajachel (B)**

[www.portahotels.com](http://www.portahotels.com)



#### Day 5: Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Sat Free Day and Optional Tours

Today you can take the morning off to swim, shop, rent a bike or look at the gorgeous lake. Or:

**Optional: A LAKE TOUR to Santiago Atitlan** to learn about the **Maya god, Maximon**, a weaving village, a visit to the studios / homes of

the celebrated **naïf painters** and a ceremony with a shaman at San Marcos. Boats, tuk-tuks (3 wheeled vehicles w driver and guide \$50).

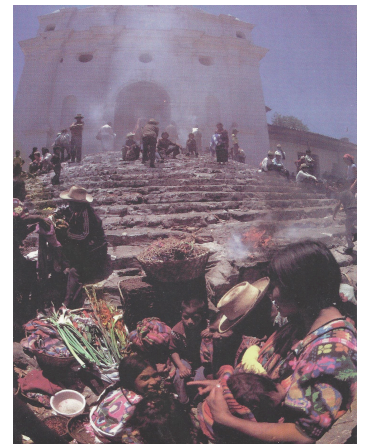
**Day 5 continued:** Lunch at **Posada de Don Rodrigo** and visit to their "**Museo Lacustre**" (Lakeside Museum) and witness the result of **underwater archaeology**. Learn about the volcanic activity that created Lake Atitlan's breathtaking landscapes and the underwater **Maya city of Samabaj** that was discovered by a scuba diving tourist. **Lodging La Porta Hotel in Panajachel (B)**

#### Day 6: Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Sun Chichicastenango / Iximche / Antigua Guatemala

Today you will visit **Chichicastenango** (1 hour) **mask makers, morerías** (dance costumes, drama scripts, props), **Iglesia Santo Tomas, Cemetery**, after the tour we will have lunch in tiny **Tecpan** probably at the friendly cozy **Paseo Xejsminthe**. After lunch we will be visiting **Iximche** archaeological site.

**Iximché** was a Maya **Cakchiquel** city founded in 1463, less than a century before the arrival of the Spaniards; it played a decisive role in the Spanish conquest of this region of Guatemala. When **Linda Schele** visited on a Catholic holiday she was excited to find crowds worshipping with candles and altars to their gods. Even today, its four ceremonial plazas with their temples and ball court host ceremonies for the gods. We continue to Antigua and Conte-Nast award winning hotel the **Casa Santo Domingo**

(Best Hotel of Central and South America. [www.casasantodomingo.com.gt](http://www.casasantodomingo.com.gt))



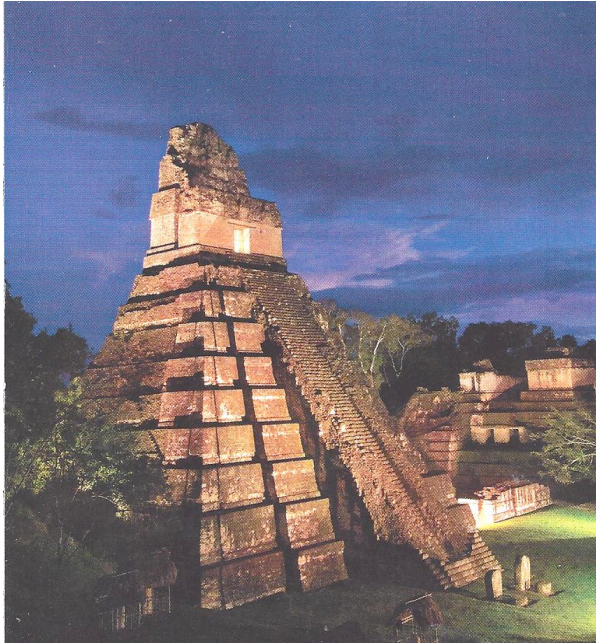
#### Day 7: Jan 18<sup>th</sup> Mon Antigua Guatemala

Antigua visit **Jade House** and archaeologist, **Mary Lou Ridinger** with important stories to tell about her discovery of the **source of jade**, her founding of an **archaeological conservancy** and the **recent theft of jade by a Chinese company**. **Optional Colonial Tour** of Central park,



**Cathedral, Convent of the Capuchinas** (home of unmarried daughters of rich Spaniards) and **La Merced Church**. (Transport, guide & fees \$40)

Afternoon visit all the **museums** at **Casa Santo Domingo**, Dinner in a local restaurant in Antigua  
Lodging at **Casa Santo Domingo (B)**



**Day 8: Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Tues. La Azotea / Antigua Guatemala (Optional Tour)**

Breakfast at your hotel,

**Optional:** Visit **La Azotea Cultural Center** with a **Coffee farm** Tour and an excellent **Museum of Maya Musical Instruments**. Take home some famous Guatemalan coffee for your pet sitter.  
Afternoon **transfer to the airport** to continue to Flores or back home.

**End of the first part of the expedition. Price per person \$1306. Single supplement \$400**

**Payments by check to MexiMayan Travel. A \$400 Deposit will hold your reservation. Please call Deb Stelton at 630 972 9090**

**Mail to MexiMayan Academic Travel**  
**12 S 675 Knoebel Drive,**  
**Lemont, IL 60439**

**ALL Hearty Breakfasts and 1 dinner are included.**

Jose Benitez will take us to safe restaurants for lunch and dinner.

You will be able to choose and pay for your own meal. (Currently 7.5 quetzals per \$1)

**Extension to Tikal, Quirigua & Copan area**

**Day 8: Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Tues Flight to Flores**

Continuing travelers will be transferred to the Guatemala City airport at 3:30pm

Your flight departs for Flores at 6:30pm, and arrives **Flores** at 7:30pm.

Dinner (on your own) at the air conditioned **Hotel Villa Maya, (B)**

**Day 9: Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Wed Tikal National Park**

After breakfast you will be transfer to **Tikal** where you will be guided along the paths of the most important city in the Mayan world. Abundant wild life, the Mayan forest, temples millennial silent witness of the birth and splendor as well as of the collapse of one of the most important civilizations in the planet. Did Tikal collapse because they did not have enough sustainability to serve 50,000 citizens?

Dinner in a local restaurant in Flores. Return to your hotel in time for viewing the sunset over the lake  
Lodging at **Hotel Villa Maya (B)**

**Day 10: Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Thu Quirigua / Copan**

Breakfast at your hotel and transfer to **Copan** (6 hours) on the way you will have guided tour at **Quirigua**, a site with the tallest stelae. What was the purpose of the zoomorphic carvings?

Dinner and lodging in Copan at **Hotel Clarion Suites (B)**

**Day 11: Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Fri Copan full day**

Breakfast and tour to majestic **Copan** archaeological site including ruins, tombs and Museums

Dinner and lodging at **Hotel Clarion Suites (B)**

**Day 12: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> Sat Guatemala City**

Breakfast and transfer to **Guatemala City**

Dinner and lodging at **Grand Tikal Futura Hotel Guatemala City (B)**

[www.grandtikalfutura.com.gt](http://www.grandtikalfutura.com.gt)



**Day 13: Jan 24<sup>th</sup> Sun Back Home**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport in time to catch your international flight back home (B)

**Prices in US\$ per pax \$1600 Single Supplement \$300**

**\$400.00 deposit will hold your reservation.**

**First information needed: Your name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, your home address, your e-mail, your home phone number and your cell phone number. Do you need help with the airlines or travel insurance? Call MexiMayan Academic Travel at 630-972 9090 and ask for Deb Stelton**

**Karina at Exito Travel can help you find the best fare if you need help.**

**This could be a rugged trip but you will be able to have tuk-tuks or other vehicles at points that might be considered difficult. We will start out after 9am in the morning.**

**Hepatitis A shots are generally recommended if you are traveling anywhere in the world. Preventative pills for malaria or soroche might be suggested by your doctor. Long sleeves and long lightweight pants are suggested.**

**The northwest part of Guatemala is an area known to have a high crime rate. This trip does not go there. Downtown Guatemala City is another place that we do not visit.**

**You will need to fill out an Enrollment form.**

**[MexiMayan@neximayan.com](mailto:MexiMayan@neximayan.com) or 630 972 9090 for questions.**



**Enrollment:**

**Guatemala Expedition January 12<sup>th</sup>-195<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**\$1,306 Double, \$400 Single Supplement**

Please complete this entire form and enclose a \$400.00 deposit. Final payment is due November 15, 2011

Full Name (s) as on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ ExpDate \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please enter my reservation for main tour ☐ Extension \$1600 Double, \$300 SS  
Accommodations (please indicate your Preference(s)) :

Please note: Your preference will be requested, but may not be available at all hotels.

☐ I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please assign a non-smoking roommate.

☐ I would prefer single accommodations where available. See SS rate.

☐ We prefer a double bed.

☐ We prefer two beds.

***Each applicant must read and sign the following Responsibility Statement***

**Responsibility Statement MexiMayan Academic Travel, Inc.**

The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for this tour and recognizes and accepts any risk thereof. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heir, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under Responsibility in the Tour Conditions and General Information, and to release and harmless Mexi-Mayan Tours. and any of its officers, agents, licensees or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries or death, or for the loss or damage to his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to this tour and the extension.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to MexiMayan Academic Travel and mail completed form and**

**payment to:** Mexi-Mayan Tours  
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