



**Single Parent Travel**

The definitive resource for single parents looking to travel the world!



YOUR PERSONAL

Africa

and

Latin America

SPECIALISTS

## **Single Parent Tours Guatemala July 2014**

### **Tour Highlights include:**

- A stay in the exquisite colonial city of Antigua
- Interaction with local school children on a reforestation project
- A stay in stunning Lake Atitlan with cultural activities
- Sleep under the stars in magnificent Tikal National Park (1 night camping)
- A visit to exciting, bustling Chichicastenango, a world famous market day
- Special multi-cultural family activities throughout the tour

### **Please note:**

- A valid passport is required for entry in Guatemala. No visa is required.
- An exit tax must be paid when departing Guatemala by air. The exit tax (currently \$30 – subject to change) is generally included in an airline ticket price, but may be charged separately so please check with your airline. There is an additional airport security fee (20 Quetzales, approximately \$2.60) that all travelers must pay at the airport.
- Hotel check in times are typically mid-afternoon and check out is typically mid morning (exact times vary). If you wish to guarantee early check in or late check out at any hotel, please advise us in advance. Additional costs will apply.

**Jul 19**

**Arrive Guatemala City / Transfer to Antigua**

Welcome to Guatemala! After collecting your luggage, you are met by a representative of Maxim Tours and transferred to your hotel in Antigua, approximately 45 minutes away. Your driver will be holding a paging board with your name.

Antigua is an exquisite Spanish colonial town with elegant 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century architecture, cobblestone streets, tranquil central squares, charming shops and superb international cuisine. The town enjoys a unique and impressive setting, nestled beneath three towering volcanoes and surrounded by lush evergreen forest. Antigua has its own personality...tourists learning Spanish, locals selling crafts, monumental and picturesque ruins of churches and monasteries remain from the last earthquake.

**Jul 19**

**Antigua**

Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

**Jul 19 - 22**

**Antigua**

Constructed in harmony with the colonial style and beauty of Antigua, the Hotel Meson de María was established in a finely restored mansion and provides a relaxed yet refined atmosphere. The hotel is located in the heart of the city, just a few steps from the Main Plaza. You can enjoy the soothing sounds of the water fountain while you walk through the beautiful corridors where you can admire the uniquely decorated rooms. There's a rooftop terrace with the best view of the Agua, Fuego and Acatenango volcanoes which surround the valley. This 20 room boutique hotel is a great value.

**You stay at Meson de Maria (Deluxe Rooms)**

**Includes: Breakfast**



**Jul 20**

**Antigua Walking Tour (Half Day / Private)**

You will be met at your hotel reception by your private guide to begin your half day walking tour of Antigua. Your tour will cover the architectural & historical highlights of this colonial city with a behind-the-scenes look at some of the many ruined churches, convents, and cathedrals. Entrances are included to the San Francisco Monastery, La Merced Monastery and the ruins of the Cathedral.

This tour is flexible and if you have specific sites that you wish to see please notify your guide. If you wish to visit other monuments you will need to pay the entrances directly. At the end of the tour, your guide can accompany you back to your hotel or take you to a place of your choosing.

**Includes: Private guide, entrances specified & use of tuc tucs**

**\*Not included: entrances to other monuments, use of taxis**



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**Jul 21**

**Reforestation Program (Full Day / Private)**

You are met at your hotel by a representative from Global Visionaries and are transferred to an area of reforestation work in the nearby area. In addition to learning about the importance of reforestation in the area and the ongoing work of Global Visionaries, you will get some hands on experience at the project. The exact nature of the work will depend on what season you are visiting. During planting season (the "green" or rainy season May 15 - Oct 15), participants will plant approximately 100 native tree species under the direction of the Service Coordinators. During maintenance season (the dry season Oct 16 - May 14), guests will work on maintaining 2 acres of reforested land ensuring trees' survival and reducing possibility of forest fire. Either way you'll have a great deal of fun, getting hands-on experience while interacting along side with Guatemalan elementary community members and students.

**Includes: Transportation, private guide, entrance fees, equipment, donation & lunch**



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**Jul 22**

**Transfer to Lake Atitlan with Iximche & Comalapa**

You will be met at your hotel by your private guide & driver for the 1 hour transfer to the town of Comalapa. Here you'll see the famous painted mural that the school children of the town painted depicting major events in Guatemala's history up to the signing of the peace accords in 1996. Then visit some local painters who continue the tradition of naïve paintings that the town is so famous for. Finally, explore the wonderful authentic market of Comalapa to see the local people go about their daily life buying produce and goods for the rest of the week still dressed in the traditional textiles of the area. You'll also visit the small museum dedicated to the composer who wrote Guatemala's national anthem who came from Comalapa. Enjoy a local lunch before heading off to explore the Mayan ruins of Iximiche.

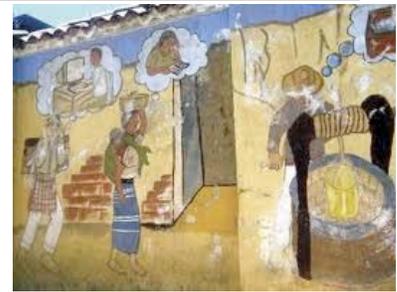
Undisturbed for several centuries and largely buried under lush vegetation, the pre-Colombian ruins of Iximche were finally explored and partially excavated during the 1960s.

Iximche's core is bounded on three sides by ravine walls and separated from the main residential area by an artificial creek. The center consists of four large and two small plazas surrounded by temples, palaces and ceremonial platforms. The archaeological site of Iximche also hosts a museum, where sculptures, ceramics and other pieces found during the excavation and restoration are on display. *\*An optional Shaman ceremony is also available at Iximche at an additional cost\**

After exploring the site, you are transferred to the back of Lake Atitlan. From here, hike to the lake. Experience walking through glorious Maya mountain villages and beautiful remote highland countryside. In the last portion of the hike, enjoy magnificent views towards Lake Atitlan and her three surrounding volcanoes. *The duration of hike is approximately 3 hours. Elevation gain is approximately 500 feet. Elevation drop is approximately 1500 ft. Hike is on loose soil, slightly rocky, terrain, single track.*

Lake Atitlan has been called by many "the most beautiful lake in the world". It is indeed an amazing setting with the crystal blue waters of the lake surrounded by the three lofty volcano peaks. This is a fabulous place for hiking, mountain biking, kayaking or just relaxing at one of the lovely lakeside hotels. Visits to traditional Mayan village are a highlight with opportunities to see their colorful dress and traditions

**Includes: Transfers, private guide & entrances & lunch**



**Jul 22 - 24**

**Lake Atitlan**

Dos Mundos hotel is a comfortable mid-range hotel offering a good central location on the main road in the town of Panajachel on the shore of Lake Atitlan. This property has 22 rooms which open out to the pool and garden. The rooms are simple but nicely decorated. There is an outdoor open cabana where guests can enjoy their breakfast, while restaurants, shops and bars are just a few steps away on the main street of Calle Santander.

**You stay at Dos Mundos (Standard Rooms)**

**Includes: Breakfast**



**Jul 23**

**San Juan & Santiago Villages  
(Full Day / Private)**

This morning you are picked from your hotel for the transfer to San Juan La Laguna Village where you visit a local textile cooperative to see the back strap loom in use and to see how they still dye with natural dyes. Visit the home and workshop of local naïf painters before boarding the boat onto Santiago Village for lunch. After lunch, walk with your guide to find the house where the Maya God Maximon is living. Each year a different "brotherhood" has the privilege of taking care of their God so his location changes. Once with Maximon, you may see local shaman performing rituals for local people and if you wish you can ask your guide to help you hire the services of a shaman for you to have a personal ceremony performed. After visiting Maximon, stop at the local church and learn about the history of this very traditional town and also see the market and learn about the distinctive textiles and primitive art that is famous from this area.

**Includes: Transfers, private guide & lunch**



**Jul 24**

**Chichicastenango Market / Transfer to  
Guatemala City**

Get an early start and drive about one hour to Chichicastenango, a white stucco town set in the mountains. "ChiChi" is famous for its colorful, bustling handicraft market with outstanding textiles and woodcarvings. Along the way, pass through the central highland region and see the local Maya people in their traditional dress going about their daily lives - working in the fields, collecting firewood, travelling between markets, selling their wares.

Upon arrival in ChiChi, your guide will take you to explore this famous market overflowing with fruit, vegetables, everyday items, as well as an endless variety of beautiful textile, wooden & ceramic crafts. You will also visit the famous St Thomas Church where local Maya people come to perform Maya rituals within the Catholic church - demonstrating the interesting way the two faiths have combined in recent times. If you like, you may also hike up the hill to the cemetery on the outskirts of town or to the Pascual Abaj ritual site to see if any local shamans are performing rituals. Have lunch at a local restaurant before being transferred to the airport in Guatemala City, about a 3 hour drive.

**Includes: Transfers, private guide & lunch**



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### Jul 24

### Flight to Flores

Board your short flight to Flores departing at 5:00pm. (Flight included in tour price, but you must pay local airport taxes in cash before boarding). Upon arrival Flores, after collecting your luggage, you are met by a representative of Maxim Tours and transferred to your hotel by private vehicle. Your driver will be holding a paging board with your tour name – Single Parent Tours

The northern rainforest area of Peten is a huge expanse of rainforest, home to thousands of archaeological sites and a myriad of exotic wildlife. Tikal is the largest and most spectacular Mayan temple site yet uncovered. The largest temples here tower above the jungle canopy and spectacular views can be gained from climbing their height.

### Jul 24 - 25

### Lake Peten Itza

Located in a vast private nature reserve on the shores of Petenchel and Monifata Lagoons, about one hour from Tikal National Park, is Villa Maya. In addition to 56 comfortable rooms with private balconies, there's a small swimming pool, a restaurant and bar overlooking the lake. Nature trails, bicycle and binocular rental, horseback riding and a variety of tours are available for guests to explore the fascinating surroundings.

**You stay at Villa Maya (Standard Rooms)**

**Includes: Breakfast**



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### Jul 25 - 26

### Transfer to Uaxactun / Overnight Camping

Today depart for a tour of the Uaxactun archaeology site and community. Here you'll learn more about the chicle (gum) process and the different crafts. The community has also a small yet interesting archaeological museum. At sunset, go to the lookout tower for drinks. If you are lucky, you'll be able to see the ruins of Tikal rising above the jungle! After drinks we will head back to the campsite where you'll have a simple local candlelight dinner with members of the local community. The night will be spent in tents in this impressive site in the midst of the jungle

**Includes: Transportation, private guide, entrance fee, community donation, all meals & camping equipment**



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**Jul 26**

**Tikal National Park (Full Day / Private)**

The next morning, have breakfast at the campsite before you are transferred to Tikal National Park for a privately guided tour of Tikal National Park, the "New York City" of Mundo Maya (the Mayan World). Tikal, the crown jewel of Maya archaeological sites, has been fascinating visitors for over 100 years with its stunning beauty and sheer grandeur as it rises out of the lush jungle of Guatemala's Petén district. Once the sprawling capital of one of the greatest empires of the ancient Maya, Tikal flourished during the Maya Classic period of 200 to 900 AD and was the most important city state in the Maya region, ruling a vast realm before suddenly falling into decline in the late 800s. At its height the city of Tikal had a population estimated to be as large as 90,000. Earthworks and other defense systems supplied by ingenious irrigation and agricultural systems which can still be seen today. It is the largest excavated site in the American continent, containing over 3,000 structures.

Today, Tikal is an UNESCO world heritage area and national park, with a 222 sq mile area of unspoiled natural beauty and home to many exotic animals, including tapir, jaguar, crocodile, cougars, monkeys, coati mundi and other species as well as a colorful assortment of birds. The layout, beautiful architecture and scale of impressive buildings, the rich jungle life and the relaxed ambience make this an unforgettable experience.

**Includes: Transfers, guide, entrance fee & lunch**



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**Flight to Guatemala City**

After the tour, you are then transferred by private vehicle to Flores airport for the return flight to Guatemala City departing at 6:00pm. (Flight included in tour quote. Airport taxes must be paid locally in cash).

After collecting your luggage, you are met by a representative of Maxim Tours and transferred to your hotel by private vehicle, about a 15 minute ride. Your driver will be holding a paging board with your tour name – Single Parent Tours.

This is Guatemala's capital and most important city – but most visitors use it as a transit point. Built in the late 18th century after Antigua was nearly destroyed by an earthquake, the city has good museums and restaurants.

**Jul 26 - 27**

### **Guatemala City**

Biltmore Express is a business class hotel in the lively and safe Zone 10 area of Guatemala City, just 10 minutes from the airport. Guests can easily explore the nightlife district on the hotel's doorstep with its variety of museums, restaurants, bars and shopping malls.

**You stay at Biltmore Express (Standard Rooms)**

**Includes: Breakfast**



**Jul 26**

### **Guatemala City**

Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant with your fellow travelers.

**Jul 27**

### **Museo de los Ninos (Private)**

After checking out of the hotel, head to Museo de los Ninos (The Children's Museum) - a must for those with kids in Guatemala City. It has many hands-on exhibits, including a centrifugal force simulator and a fun bicycle display that involves a cycling skeleton. There is also a large map of the country in the form of a jigsaw, an earthquake simulation and lots of ball games. (Lunch is not included in the morning tour).

**Includes: Transfers, private guide & entrances**



### **Depart Guatemala City**

After your museum visit, you are transferred to the airport in time for your international flight home. There will be one transfer for all passengers to the airport. You must pay local airport taxes at the airport before boarding your flight. (For those travelers who book an early morning flight home, Maxim Tours can arrange a credit for the unused morning tour).

**Tour Cost for parent including child under 10: \$4268.00**  
**Tour cost for parent including child 10 & over: \$4836.00**  
*Triple room rate available upon request*

**The trip will operate with a minimum of 3 families. If the tour falls short of 3 families, the remaining participants have the option to take the tour at a slightly higher cost or to be able to cancel with full refund of their deposit.**

What's Included	What's Excluded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All accommodation as indicated in the itinerary</li> <li>• All transfers as indicated in the itinerary. All transfers are private unless otherwise indicated.</li> <li>• All meals as indicated in the itinerary: <b>(Breakfast daily, 6 lunches &amp; 3 dinners)</b></li> <li>• All tours as indicated in the itinerary. All tours are on a private basis unless otherwise indicated. Standard entrance fees included.</li> <li>• Scheduled flights that are specified in the itinerary as being included <b>(Round trip Guatemala City to Flores included)</b></li> <li>• 24/7 local assistance in Guatemala</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>International scheduled flights</b></li> <li>• Gratuities</li> <li>• Optional activities offered by lodges and payable directly</li> <li>• Travel Insurance</li> <li>• Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages unless specified in the itinerary</li> <li>• Meals not specified in the itinerary</li> <li>• Items of a personal nature</li> <li>• Laundry unless specified in the itinerary</li> <li>• Visa fees</li> <li>• Airport departure taxes</li> <li>• Any items or services not specified in the itinerary</li> </ul>

**Domestic luggage weight restrictions in Guatemala**

*Subject to change*

Taca:	Checked bags (max. 2 pieces) of 70lbs plus 22 lbs in one carry-on
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**Terms & Conditions**

- A deposit of \$400.00 per person is required to confirm your place(s) on the tour. Deposit is fully refundable if cancelled on or before May 19, 2014.
- Balance is due on or before May 19, 2014 and is non refundable once paid. We recommend purchase of travel insurance.
- Payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card.
- Cost increases due to currency exchange, government fees, taxes, surcharges or other reason beyond our control are payable by the client at final payment.

- Where foreign currency is involved, clients have the option of pre-paying their trip in full at any time in order to lock in the going exchange rate. Otherwise final balance will be based on current exchange rates at the final payment.
- Cancellation 60 days or more prior to the start of the trip will result in a loss of the deposit paid. Cancellations 59 days or less from the start of the trip will incur a 100% cancellation penalty. We strongly recommend Trip Cancellation Insurance.
- Any changes to the confirmed itinerary within 2 weeks of final departure will incur a \$75 fee per change.
- Transfer service includes carriage of one suitcase and a carry on, per person. If you plan to bring additional luggage, please advise so that we can arrange a larger vehicle, at additional cost.
- Hotel check in times are typically mid-afternoon and check out is typically mid morning (exact times vary). If you wish to guarantee early check in or late check out at any hotel, please advise us in advance. Additional costs will apply.
- All tour and transfer pick up times will be advised locally by your guide in each destination.
- If you have requested special bedding (king or queen bedded room, for example) or a special request for a room (such as non-smoking), every effort will be made to accommodate these requests. However, these room types may not be offered in some hotels, or, if offered, may not be available upon check-in. The individual hotels are responsible for the actual room allocation.
- Visa and passport requirements vary for each country. It is the travelers' responsibility to familiarize themselves with latest requirements for the countries they are visiting.
- Airport departure taxes are not included in land cost. Unless included in your airline tickets, International taxes are approximately \$25 - \$45 and domestic taxes approximately \$6 - \$15 (subject to change) and are payable directly at the airport.
- It is the travelers' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the latest health requirements for the countries they are visiting.
- All itineraries are sold as complete packages and we cannot break out pricing.
- Payment of a deposit constitutes your acceptance of our full Terms & Conditions specified on our Reservation Form.