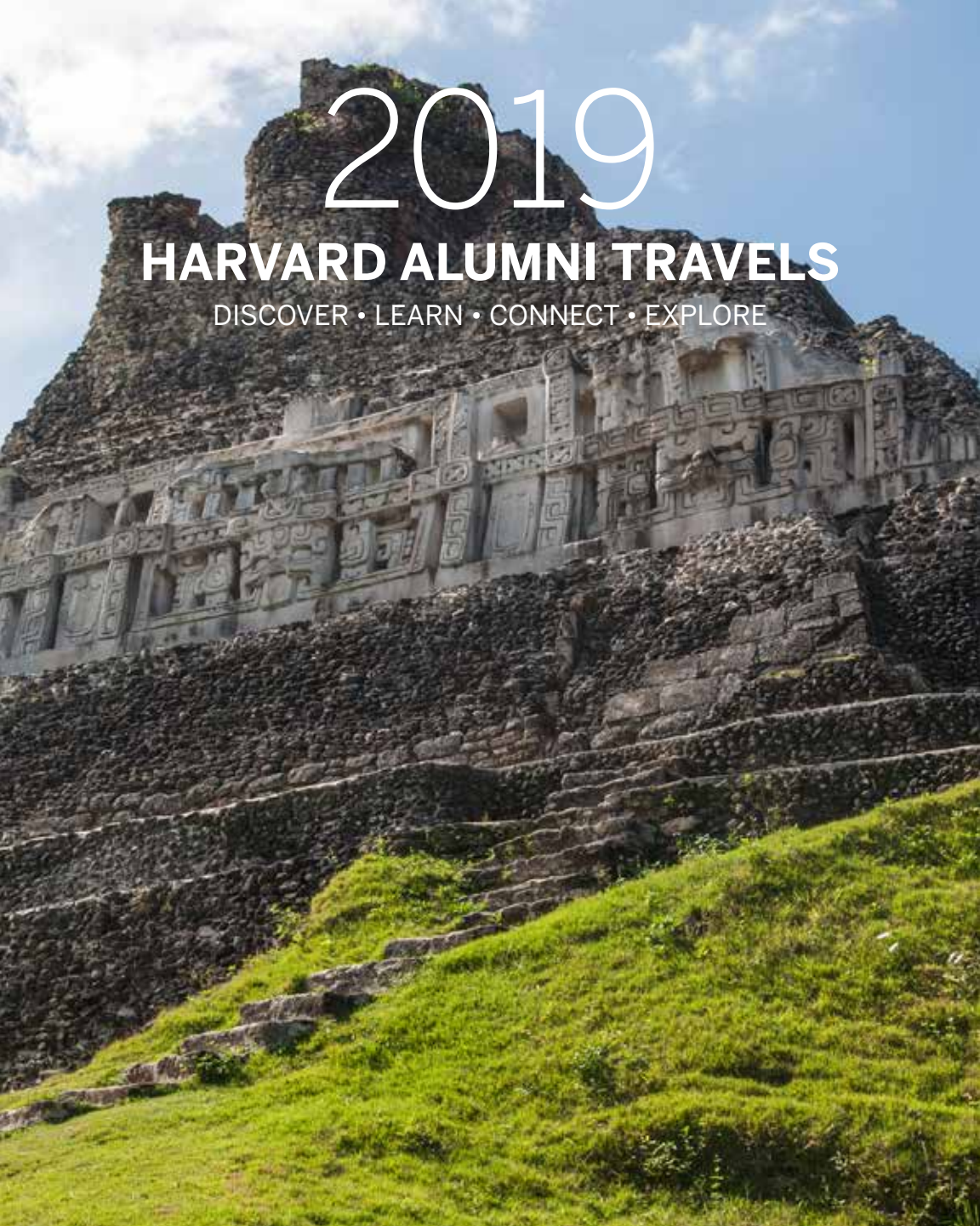


2019

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE



THE LEGACY OF THE MAYA: Belize & Guatemala

February 25–March 5, 2019






Above: Waterfalls at Hidden Valley Inn private reserve

Escape to Central America for the perfect winter getaway. Belize and Guatemala offer some of the most breathtaking scenery: thick tropical forests stretching up towards the misty heights of the sparsely populated Maya Mountains, extraordinary Maya archaeology, exuberant wildlife, Spanish colonial heritage, impressive volcanoes, and a vibrant indigenous culture. Discover two amazing Central American countries, while staying in charming, luxurious, tropical boutique hotels and lodges.

Your adventure starts in Belize from where you travel to the Pine Ridge area for explorations of the ancient Maya cities of Caracol and Xunantunich. Continue to Guatemala to visit the impressive archaeological site of Tikal surrounded by the exuberant forest of the Petén. These sites provide a thorough introduction of the Maya civilization during the Classic Period 600 to 900 A.D. Your journey then takes you to Lake Atitlán, considered one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, with visits to indigenous open-air markets where the men and women still wear traditional colorful hand-woven dress. Learn about the living Maya of today, their culture, and communities, as well as local textiles and music.

Your tour concludes in the graceful and charming colonial town of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Surrounded by majestic volcanoes, this city of the eternal spring is filled with vestiges of its colonial past, transporting you back to when the Spanish ruled this land.

Activity Level 3: 

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

My walking shoes are laced up tight and I'm ready to keep up with my traveling companions. I look forward to getting to know them on the drives and/or flights we'll take between cities. I enjoy getting around in Zodiac rafts and 4x4 vehicles for short durations. A little mental and physical stimulation will do me good!

Study Leader

Harvard Study Leader to be announced.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT [ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel)



Trip Sampling

LAND & RAIL

**EGYPT & THE NILE:
A JOURNEY INTO ANTIQUITY ON
SANCTUARY NILE ADVENTURER**
DEC 26, 2018–JAN 6, 2019

TANZANIA MIGRATION SAFARI
MAR 10–20, 2019

**SCIENCE & COOKING
IN BASQUE COUNTRY:
SAN SEBASTIÁN & BILBAO**
MAY 24–31, 2019
MICHAEL BRENNER

**HMSC UGANDA SAFARI &
PRIMATE TREKKING**
MAY 31–JUN 13, 2019
ELIZABETH ROSS &
RICHARD WRANGHAM

GATEWAY TO AUTHENTIC IRELAND
JUN 7–17, 2019
CATHERINE MCKENNA

**HMSC TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE:
CHILE & THE SKIES OF THE
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE**
JUN 25–JUL 6, 2019
MARK VAN BAALEN

**SCOTLAND'S ORKNEY & SHETLAND
ISLANDS HIKING ADVENTURE**
AUG 23–SEP 2, 2019
DANIEL SMAIL

AZORES GETAWAY
OCT 11–14, 2019

CRUISES

**EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA
ON *LE BORÉAL***
JAN 5–18, 2019
JOYCE CHAPLIN

**A CRUISE OF THE PANAMA CANAL
& COSTA RICA ON *LE CHAMPLAIN***
FEB 2–10, 2019
DON PFISTER

**CUBA BY LAND & SEA
ON *LE PONANT***
FEB 3–12, 2019
LIZABETH COHEN &
HERRICK CHAPMAN

**ARCTIC EXPEDITION: SPITSBERGEN
AND SVALBARD ON *L'AUSTRAL***
JUN 14–24, 2019
LISA RANDALL

**CRUISING ALASKA'S GLACIERS &
THE INSIDE PASSAGE ON *LE SOLEAL***
JUL 6–13, 2019
JAMES ENGELL

**CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND
ON *LE CHAMPLAIN***
JUL 31–AUG 8, 2019
FRAN UIMER

**NEW YEAR'S GALÁPAGOS
ON *ORIGIN***
DEC 28 2019–JAN 6, 2020
JANET BROWNE

RIVERS & LAKES

**CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER:
VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
ON *MEKONG PRINCESS***
JAN 14–27, 2019
SUSAN SULEIMAN

**THE PRIDE OF SOUTH AFRICA,
NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE**
MAR 14–30, 2019
SUZANNE BLIER

**NORMANDY TO PARIS:
COMMEMORATING THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY**
JUN 4–13, 2019
CHARLES MAIER

FAMILY ADVENTURES

**GREECE: A FAMILY ODYSSEY
ON *RUNNING ON WAVES***
JUN 20–29, 2019
JONATHAN WALTON

**CHINA FAMILY TOUR: IMPERIAL
GRANDEUR, TERRACOTTA
WARRIORS, GIANT PANDAS**
JUN 21–JUL 3, 2019
R. NICHOLAS BURNS

**HMSC GALÁPAGOS FAMILY
ADVENTURE ON *LA PINTA***
JUN 23–JUL 2, 2019
BRIAN FARRELL

Photos: Istockphoto: © cover; Hidden Valley: © waterfall; Royal Adventures: © Tikal and Mayan Girl; Shutterstock © underworld, Lake Atitlán, Antigua © Diego Grandi, © zimmytws, mailing panel; Viaventure © toucan.

Above: Antigua, Catalina Arch



Left: Archaeologist guide at Tikal, Right: Lake Atitlán

DAY 1 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

US / Belize City / Pine Ridge area

Depart the U.S. and fly to Belize City, Belize. Transfer to your hotel in the Pine Ridge area. Welcome reception and dinner.

Hidden Valley Inn (D)

DAY 2 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Caracol

Spend a full day at Caracol, the largest Maya site in Belize and one of the most impressive in Central America. The ruins were lost in the rainforest for several centuries until their rediscovery by chicleros in 1936.

Once Caracol has been fully excavated it may dwarf even the great city of Tikal. The site is a Natural Monument Reserve, and heaven for wildlife as well as archeologists. Look out for exotic birds and other wildlife as you meander through the ruins. On the return to the lodge, stop the massive Rio Frio cave and nearby pools where you may consider taking a refreshing dip.

Hidden Valley Inn (B, L, D)

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Xunantunich / Flores (Guatemala)

Drive to the nearby Xunantunich Maya Site. An impressive

well-excavated site, Xunantunich was a thriving Maya city during the Classic Period, from about 600 to 900 A.D. You reach this major ceremonial center by crossing the Mopan River aboard a hand-cranked car-ferry. Once there, the site provides an impressive view of the entire river valley; its centerpiece, El Castillo, rises 120 feet above the plaza, making it one of the tallest buildings in Belize. After lunch travel to the Petén jungle in Guatemala where Tikal is located.

Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel (B, L, D)

DAY 4 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Tikal

Today explore Tikal, one of the grandest of the Mayan cities. Tikal flourished in the Classic period from A.D. 250 to 900 until it suddenly collapsed its population vanished. The jungle closed over the ancient metropolis and for a thousand years it lay buried under its cover. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Tikal has been under excavation and reconstruction since the late 1950s. Its location within a national park provides excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Today, Tikal is an extraordinary exhibit of temple pyramids topped with stone roofed combs towering above the surrounding Petén jungle. Plazas, deep reservoirs,

carved stelae, and massive altars rise from the rainforest floor.

Visit the Tikal Museum and the Lithic and Stelae Museums to view treasures from the excavations. Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel (B, L, D)

DAY 5 FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Lake Atitlán

Take a morning flight to Guatemala City and transfer to Lake Atitlán. With breathtaking volcanic panoramas, Atitlán is considered one of the most beautiful volcanic lakes in the world. On the way, visit the authentic Indian market of Sololá. See men in their traditional dress of gold-embroidered jackets distinctive of the town and behold stunning mountainside views of the lake.

Alternatively, visit the Maya archaeological site of Iximché once the capital of the Maya Kaqchiquel before arriving at your hotel located on the shores of Lake Atitlán and featuring beautiful gardens.

Hotel Atitlán (B, L, D)

DAY 6 SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Santa Cruz / San Juan La Laguna

Enjoy the views as you take a pleasant boat ride to Santa Cruz, one of the 12 Indian villages



located around the lake, all with striking, distinctive dress and traditions. Walk through the town, see the foot-loom art inside native homes and learn about weaving. After lunch continue by boat to the beautiful town of San Juan La Laguna where the Tz'utujil Maya lived. Return to the hotel with time to explore the beautiful vistas of Lake Atitlán and the lovely gardens, or visit the village of Panajachel which is great for walking and seeing the local textiles and handicrafts.

Hotel Atitlán (B, L)

DAY 7 SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Chichicastenango / Antigua Guatemala

Depart for Chichicastenango, an Indian village nestled in the highlands at 7,000 feet. Spend the morning at the colorful native market of Chichicastenango, the largest in Central America. Here vendors sell flowers, textiles, food, pottery, handicrafts and more! Enjoy seeing the indigenous women from surrounding villages wearing superb native dress of heavily embroidered blouses. In addition, see beautiful carved masks. After lunch, transfer to the town of Antigua Guatemala and to your lovely hotel located in what it was a 17th-century monastery.

Casa Santo Domingo (B, L)

DAY 8 MONDAY, MARCH 4

Antigua

At 5,000 feet in a valley surrounded by 14,000-foot volcanoes, Antigua is one of the most charming of the colonial towns of the Americas and is a World Heritage site. This morning's walking tour starts at the Central Park and includes the Ayuntamiento (Administrative building), Cathedral, Convent of the Capuchinas, and Merced Church, among other sites. Continue to Casa K'Ojom for the preservation of Maya music and instruments, and visit the Centro Cultural La Azotea to see a collection of typical dresses of the region.

Casa Santo Domingo (B, L, D)

DAY 9 TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Antigua / US

Transfer to the international airport for your return flight home. (B)



Highlights

- **Marvel** at the biodiversity of pristine rainforests where wildlife thrives
- **Immerse** yourself in the history of the charming colonial town of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Learn** about Guatemala's colorful indigenous cultures and traditions as you visit local markets in the villages of Sololá and Chichicastenango.
- **Cruise** across Lake Atitlan on a private boat ride with volcanic panoramas.
- **Explore** some of the most impressive archaeological remains of the ancient Maya Civilization including Caracol, Xunantunich and Tikal.

What to Expect

This exclusive expedition is designed for Harvard alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the nature, history, culture, and archaeology of Belize and Guatemala. Visits include some of the finest rainforest reserves in Central America plus the archaeological sites of Xunantunich and Tikal and the colonial and cultural wonders of the highlands of Guatemala. While at the national parks, reserves, and colonial towns, there is a daily program of nature exploration, guided rain forest and historical walks, and educational discussions. This program is described as active to moderately active and includes hiking and walking over unpaved uneven and sometimes slippery surfaces often without handrails. Travel is by motor coach,

vans, chartered planes, or scheduled flights, ferry, and motor launch with daily walks of up to two miles in length at a leisurely pace suitable for nature study and Maya ruins explorations. Typically, the weather is hot and humid in the rainforest (mid 80s); and spring like in the highlands. Even in the dry season, when this trip is scheduled, some rain can be expected. Since some of the travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules. This program is a tremendous experience for travelers who are in good shape, able to walk, with an appetite for adventure who can tolerate some insects, heat, and bumpy dirt roads for the chance to explore superb archaeological and natural areas.



Accommodations

Hidden Valley Inn

The Hidden Valley Inn (above left) is an intimate luxury resort set inside a vast private reserve exclusive to guests. Located in the Mountain Pine Ridge area of the Cayo District of Belize, The Inn and its twelve cottages are appointed with comforts and amenities. Comfortable lounges with stone hearths, mahogany bar room, pool terrace, free Wi-Fi, and flourishing gardens create an atmosphere that accommodates a sense of adventure as well as comfort and leisure.

Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel

This small boutique hotel (above right) is located amongst 300 acres of private rainforest reserve overlooking the Quelix Lagoon and Petén jungle and minutes away from the Mayan ruins of Tikal. Each private bungalow features satellite TV, a

minibar, air-conditioning and its own free Wi-Fi network. Common areas include a swimming pool, restaurant, bar, hot tub, spa and onsite museum.

Hotel Atitlán

Hotel Atitlán (above middle) is a rustic-style property offering extensive gardens and panoramic views of Atitlán Lake. It has an outdoor pool, hot tub, and a botanical garden. Free Wi-Fi in rooms and public areas.

Casa Santo Domingo

Set within a former convent, this 5-star hotel offers an outdoor pool, spa and gym, as well as several museums and galleries. The spacious rooms at Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo feature elegant décor, Wi-Fi, a fireplace and scenic views. Also includes a plasma cable TV, a safe, minibar and private bathroom.

Cost

Per person, double occupancy\$6,595

Per person, single supplement\$1,260

Terms & Conditions

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS: Hotel accommodations per the itinerary; internal flight between Flores and Guatemala City; professional tour director throughout program; English speaking local guides; meals as set forth in itinerary; welcome and farewell receptions and dinners with wine and beer; bottled water throughout trip on excursions and in the bus; transportation by private motor coach; airport transfers and baggage handling for those using recommended flight schedule; guided field trips, excursions and tours; gratuities to guides, porters, restaurant staff, tour director, and service charges and taxes; pre-departure information; \$200,000 emergency medical assistance and evacuation insurance.

PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare; passport fees, airport departure tax; personal items such as room service, liquor, laundry, fax, phone calls, excess baggage charges; gratuities for non-group services; individual transfers for those not on recommended flights; medical expenses and immunizations; travel insurance; private touring, optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour; any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the main program cost); security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included.

PROGRAM SIZE: This tour, (exclusively developed for Harvard Alumni Association Travels), is limited to 22 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 12. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to cancel the program, levy a small group surcharge, and/or send the program without a Harvard study leader. We retain the right to add staff members and/or invited guests to any of our group departures regardless of the stated group-size limitation.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form (to 617-495-0434). Reservations

are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Deposits may be made by check, payable to Harvard Alumni Travels, or with a major credit card. Final payment, payable by check, is due November 27, 2018, 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: cancellations received within 14 days of booking will receive a full refund of the trip deposit. Cancellations received up to 90 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 90 days prior to departure are subject to a 100% penalty of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date per person. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations or other trip features.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and the rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at <https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/belize-guatemala-2019>. If you are not able to access the internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels is not responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this document is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, or email at haatravels@harvard.edu

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Program • CST #2009579-40

Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of \$1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:

Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

PROGRAM NAME START DATE

FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

METHOD OF DEPOSIT

CHECK (please enclose check) MASTERCARD VISA

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT [ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL](https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel).

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

DOUBLE ROOM SINGLE ROOM SHARE A ROOM WITH:

ROOMMATE

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