



CUSTOMIZED PROGRAM

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CENTER FOR
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TENTATIVE ITINERARY
GUATEMALA: CULTURE & CONFLICT
COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
MARCH 7 - 17, 2024
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Thursday, March 7: USA to Guatemala City

- Arrive into *La Aurora* International Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City
- Transfer and check-in at [Casa Emaus guesthouse](#) (26 Calle 15-56, Zona 11, Colonia las Charcas; Tel. 2442-3500)
- Introductions, review of daily schedule, and health and safety orientation, including COVID-19 protocols, with CGEE Trip Leader
- Overview of Guatemala's history and key current events
- Dinner and lodging at *Casa Emaus* in Guatemala City

Friday, March 8: Guatemala City

- 7:30AM Breakfast at *Casa Emaus*
- 8:30 Depart for meeting with staff of the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of Guatemala (ODHAG, *Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala*)
Visit San Sebastian Catholic Church and the place where Bishop Juan Gerardi, former director of the 'Never Again' Recovery of Historical Memory (RHEMI, *Recuperación de la Memoria Histórica*) project was assassinated
- 11:30 Meet with representatives of Relatives of Detained-Disappeared Persons of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA, *Asociación Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos de Guatemala*) to hear their testimonies and discuss impunity in Guatemala

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1:00PM Lunch in Zone 1 in downtown Guatemala City
2:30 Visit the [Museum of Memory](#) (*Casa de la Memoria*) to learn about Guatemala's history
4:00 Return to *Casa Emaus*
6:30 Dinner at *Casa Emaus*
7:30 Group reflection
Lodging in Guatemala City

Saturday, March 9: Guatemala City, Camanchay, and Chichicastenango

7:30AM Breakfast at *Casa Emaus*
8:00 Depart and travel about 3 ½ hours to the community of Camanchay to visit to International Hands & Service/*Salud y Paz*, an organization that promotes integrated health, healing, and education in Guatemala by enabling access to health care services and early childhood education with local and global partnerships
10:00 Talk on *Pertenencia Cultural* (use of medicinal plants), holistic healing and women's empowerment
11:30 Visit the home gardens of participants in the women's program
1:00PM Lunch prepared by the Saquic family at *Salud y Paz*
2:30 Talk about the children's nutrition program
Depart and travel to Chichicastenango
6:30 Check-in and dinner at [Hotel Santo Tomás](#) (7a Avenida 5-32, Zona Única; Tel. (5027-4934)
7:30 Reflection time
Lodging in Chichicastenango

Sunday, March 10: Chichicastenango

8:00AM Participate in or observe Catholic mass at the church of Santo Tomás, built around 1545 on top of a Mayan temple platform
9:00 Breakfast
Explore the open-air market in Chichicastenango where vendors sell handicrafts, food, flowers, medicinal plants, pottery, etc.
1:00PM Lunch at hotel
2:30 Participate in a Mayan ceremony by Fabiana Cochoy and Pedro Yac
6:30 Dinner at hotel
7:30 Group reflection and orientation to host families
Lodging in Chichicastenango

Monday, March 11: Chichicastenango, Chontalá, and to Santa Catarina Palopó

7:30AM Breakfast at hotel
8:30 Check out and travel for 30 min to the rural Indigenous community of Chontalá. Talk with widows from the community and Methodist Pastor Diego Chicoj to learn about events that occurred there during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala and about why they formed the [Ruth and Naomi artisan cooperative](#).

- 12:30PM Lunch in Chontalá, prepared by women from the cooperative, and an opportunity to purchase artisan wares directly from them
- 1:30 Depart by bus for about 2 hours to Santa Catarina Palopó on the eastern shore of Lake Atitlán in the department of Sololá
- 4:30 Introduction to host families
- 6:30 Dinner and lodging with host families in Santa Catarina Palopó

Tuesday, March 12: Santa Catarina Palopó and Santiago Atitlán

- 7:30AM Breakfast with host families
- 8:30 Travel by boat to visit the Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute (IMAP, *Instituto Mesoamericano de Permacultura*) to discuss sustainable development and food sovereignty in light of land tenure and current agricultural practices in Guatemala
- 12:30PM Lunch and group reflection at IMAP
- 2:00 Return to Santa Catarina Palopó by boat
- 2:30 Free time, dinner, and lodging with host families in Santa Catarina Palopó

Wednesday, March 13: Santa Catarina Palopó and Cerro de Oro

- 7:30AM Breakfast with host families
- 9:00 Travel to Cerro de Oro and talk on land issues by a representative of the Committee of Peasant Farmers Committee of the Highlands ([CCDA](#), *Comité Campesino del Altiplano*)
- 12:00PM Lunch in CCDA
- 2:30 Hear first-hand testimony from several people in the community about their experiences with immigration to the United States and the impact it has had on their families
- 4:00 Group reflection
- 6:30 Dinner and lodging with host families in Santa Catarina Palopó

Thursday, March 14: Santa Catarina Palopó, Panabaj, and Santiago Atitlán

- 7:30AM Breakfast with host families and farewell
- 8:30 Depart by boat across Lake Atitlán to Santiago Atitlán
- 10:00 Visit the Catholic Church and an effigy of Maximón (Mayan deity). Go to the room where Fr. Stanley Rother was murdered and to a massacre site to learn about human rights abuses that occurred in Santiago Atitlán
- 12:30PM Lunch at ANADESA in Santiago Atitlán
- 2:30 Visit the New Dawn Association (*ANADESA, Asociación Nuevo Amanecer de Santiago Atitlán*), a community development organization located in the village of Panabaj that is affiliated with the Mennonite church
- 6:30 Dinner and lodging in Santiago Atitlán

Friday, March 15: Santiago Atitlán, Panajachel, and San Andres Semetabaj

- 8:00AM Breakfast
- 9:00 Travel to Panajachel and check in at Hotel Posada Kamol Bey

- 10:30 Conversation about migration with Willy Barreno from Sustainable Development for Guatemala (DESGUA, *Desarrollo Sostenible para Guatemala*), a grassroots organization and network of community groups in Guatemala and the United States working to create economic and educational development with and for returned migrants and indigenous communities in Guatemala
- 12:00PM Lunch
- 1:30 Travel about 25 minutes to San Andres Semetabaj to visit [Proyecto Parutz: memory and resistance around the fire](#), a grassroots organization and a network of indigenous communities who share memory and resistance through cooking around the fire
- 6:30 Dinner and lodging at Kamol Bay in Panajachel

Saturday, March 16: Panajachel to Antigua Guatemala

- 8:00AM Breakfast
- 9:00 Depart and travel about 2 1/2 hours to Antigua. Check in at a modest hotel.
- 12:30PM Lunch in Antigua
- 5:30 Final group reflection and CGEE program evaluation
- 7:00 Farewell dinner (*cena de despedida*)
- Lodging in Antigua

Sunday, March 17: Antigua to USA

- Breakfast and check-out
- Transfer to *La Aurora* International Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City. Check-in for flights is 3 hours before departure.
- Departure for the United States

NOTE: Guatemala is an amazing country with a rich history and hospitable culture; we look forward to guiding you on a fascinating journey. In our experience in Guatemala, changes sometimes occur in an itinerary, often with little notice, such as: the order of activities, the time of events, or the activities themselves. A spirit of flexibility and patience will go a long way toward making your educational program in Guatemala successful and enjoyable. We look forward to working with you!