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Designed for nature lovers with a passion for wildlife and conservation.



**GUATEMALA
NATURE TOUR 2021**

Contents



- 03 • Nature Tour Dates
- 04 • Welcome
- 05 • About Us
- 06 • The Indigo Team
- 07 • Nature Tour
- 08 • Itinerary
- 10 • Photos
- 12 • Guatemala Map
- 13 • Preparing
- 14 • What to bring
- 15 • Testimonials
- 18 • Travel Notes



Nature Tour



**GUATEMALA NATURE
TOUR - Reptile and
Amphibian Wildlife
Conservation**

DATES

14 May - 26 May 2021

13 Days / 12 Nights

CONTACT

info@explorewithindigo.com



Welcome

Welcome to **Indigo Expeditions**, and thank you for connecting with us!

Travelling through cloud forests, arid thorn scrub and volcanos to find the most rare and endangered species in the country.

Join us on this 13 day experience of Guatemalan amphibians and reptiles.

You'll travel through cloud forests, arid thorn scrub and volcanos to find the most rare and endangered species in the country.

Our nature tours are designed for wildlife enthusiasts who wish to explore the less travelled road. They offer you the opportunity to visit projects at the leading edge of conservation.

Each location has been carefully selected based on the unique community of wildlife found there, and you'll experience some of the most diverse habitats in the world.

With an expert field team to guide you on your tour, and with unique access to remote locations, you'll experience a different side to wildlife watching.

At Indigo Expeditions we're committed to providing experiences that are both inspirational and respectful to nature.

Expedition places are **limited to 12**

Thank you for expressing your interest to *explore with us!* Any more questions?

Get in touch! info@explorewithindigo.com

Rowland Griffin – Director, Indigo Expeditions



About us

OUR VISION

Our Vision is of a world where the inter-connectedness of all life is honoured & appreciated, bringing humankind into harmonious relationship with Nature, the Earth and all Creatures in the web of life.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to be of Planetary Service, effecting Positive Change for humanity, by addressing wildlife conservation needs, and demonstrating an Appreciation for All Life.

INITIATIVES

Conservation expeditions – promoting the importance of field biology, ecology, and experiencing nature directly. We encourage developing an appreciation for all life.

Conservation projects – providing training with a focus on ethical and respectful survey and monitoring protocols. We encourage applying these ethics in our personal lives and in the world.

Education – developing training programmes to empower others through a deeper understanding of ecology. We encourage learning from nature to explore ecology.

Inspiring others – by modelling planetary service. We encourage working with Integrity and Compassion for All Life.

“

Many many thanks to Rowland for your tireless effort and enthusiasm and for imparting your knowledge of this magnificent habitat.

My expectations have been blown out of the water in every respect. We have spent 10 days in the most awesome of places, in great company, with exceptional food and have found some truly amazing creatures.

To be able to be part of such important work is a truly gratifying experience.

~ AMY SHURING



INDIGO TEAM



Rowland Griffin

EXPEDITION LEADER

*Advocate for connection to nature
and wildlife conservation.*

rowland@explorewithindigo.com

“

A huge thanks to Rowland and Indigo Expeditions for yet another incredible experience.

This is the third time I have been out to this amazing country and spent it not only with a good friend, but a great teacher in fieldwork and practical herpetology.

I couldn't recommend this experience more!

~ ADAM RADOVANOVIC

Nature Tour



NATURE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Guatemala's diverse habitats
- Discover endemic and endangered wildlife
- Contribute to inspiring conservation projects

Nature Tour, Guatemala
Dates: 14 May - 26 May 2021
Tour: 13 Days / 12 Nights

NATURE TOUR

From rainforest to thorn scrub, and cloud forest to volcanos, you'll explore some of the most diverse habitats Guatemala has to offer.

Partnering with **Guatemala Nature Tours** one of the country's leading wildlife tour operators, we've designed an itinerary that offers you a remarkable experience of the wildlife and culture of Guatemala.

Wildlife highlights include palm pitvipers, spikethumb frogs, glass frogs, beaded lizards, and resplendent quetzal.

Visiting conservation projects such as **Reserva Natural Heloderma** working with beaded lizards and black-tailed iguanas. This promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

Itinerary

ARRIVAL DAY 14 MAY 2021

Most International flights to La Aurora International Airport arrive in the evening.

Arrival in Guatemala's sprawling capital. Full of Latin spirit and vibrancy, it is set in the midst of volcanos. Guatemala City will be the starting point for your adventure.

DAY 2-3: BAJA VERAPAZ

After a group breakfast at the hotel we will leave the city and head east. Our journey will take us over mountains and through deserts, before finally climbing up in the mysterious cloud forests of Baja Verapaz in the Central Highlands.

The cloud covered forests here are dripping with mosses and lichens, and are a haven for many endemic species of amphibians and reptiles.

We will spend our time searching the cloud forest for endangered spikethumb frogs, yellow-blotched palm-pitvipers, and elegant coral snakes.

Here in the heart of the Central Highlands we may also be privileged enough to spot Guatemala's national bird, the resplendent quetzal, as well as many other bird species such as the highland guan, trogon, and white-tailed hummingbird.

DAY 4-5: MOTAGUA VALLEY

Today we drive out of the cloud forests and down into the Motagua Valley. The dry thorn scrub here looks like the Wild West.

Filled with cacti and terrestrial bromeliads it is the perfect place to find rattlesnakes and of course the elusive and endangered Guatemalan beaded lizard.

As we explore this incredible habitat we may also encounter other amazing species including indigo snake, Guatemalan black-tailed iguana, and western hog-nose pitviper.

DAY 6-7: LAS ESCOBAS

Las Escobas natural reserve lies on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. The forests of this region are the only true rainforest in the country and the habitat is very different to any other we will experience on this tour.

We will be able to relax amongst the many amazing waterfalls and clear water pools – bring your swimming gear for this one! You won't regret it!

Being a rainforest, reptiles and amphibians are prolific here and with luck we will encounter casque-headed iguanas, red-eyed treefrogs, and fer-de-lance amongst many others.

DAY 8-9: ANTIGUA

We will spend the morning exploring Las Escobas some more, before travelling back to Guatemala City by plane in the early evening, where we will transfer directly to the old Capital of Guatemala, Antigua.



Itinerary

The stunningly picturesque colonial city of Antigua is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Every turn brings a new vision of cobbled streets, brightly coloured buildings, and of course volcanos. We will have the opportunity to explore the many cafes, restaurants, and souvenir shops.

The nearby volcanic slopes offer the chance to explore lush green cloud covered forests in search of alligator lizards, Guatemalan pine snakes, and endemic salamanders

DAY 10-11: LAKE ATITLÁN

Today we go west up into the volcanic corridor. Our final stop is the stunningly beautiful Lake Atitlán, known as one of the wonders of the natural world. The combination of volcanic peaks, mirror-like waters, and fresh mountain air makes this place truly magical.

We will spend the next few days discovering the varied habitats surrounding the lake. Based on the southern shores we will be on the look out for black-eyed treefrogs, Guatemalan spikethumb frogs, and Guatemalan palm pitvipers.

We will also take the time to visit the nearby town of Panajachel on the northern shore of the lake.

We'll take a boat across the crystal waters to visit a nature reserve and also to do some shopping in town – the perfect place to pick up some local artisanal gifts and souvenirs. The region around Lake Atitlán is renowned for its traditional Mayan weavings.

DAY 12: GUATEMALA CITY

Today we return to Guatemala City for the final time. Arriving in the afternoon we have time to relax and prepare for our final meal together and the journey home.

DAY 13: DEPARTURE DAY

Private transfers will ensure that you arrive at the airport with plenty of time to check-in and catch your flight home.

FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

You'll be full board, in shared rooms.

Meals include: breakfast, lunch, and an evening meal. Mineral water is provided.

DEPARTURE 26 MAY 2021

Please arrange your International flight from Guatemala City to depart on the 26 May 2021.

EXPEDITION DATES

14 May - 26 May 2021

13 days / 12 nights







EXPEDITION MAP

GUATEMALA CITY >
BAJA VERAPAZ >
LAS ESCOBAS >
ANTIGUA >
LAKE ATITLÁN



ARRIVAL LA AURORA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT (GUA)
GUATEMALA CITY



Preparing

FOR YOUR EXPEDITION

1) VISA

If you are travelling via the US (including in-transit) you will need to apply for an ESTA (Electronic System For Travel Authorisation). You need to apply online:

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

The tourist visa for Guatemala lasts for 90 days from the date of your arrival and is applied for at arrival in the airport. Please check your countries travel advice bureau for full requirements for your nationality.

2) FLIGHTS

Please arrive in Guatemala City the day BEFORE your Expedition. Most International flights to La Aurora International Airport arrive in the evening.

3) TRAVEL ADVICE

You may wish to check the travel advice from the Foreign Office, or your countries travel advice bureau, about Guatemala. However in our experience we have found Guatemala to be a safe country to travel as a group.

4) IMMUNISATIONS

We recommend that you seek the advice of a medical professional regarding anti-malarials and any immunisations you may need.

6) CURRENCY

The official currency in Guatemala is the Quetzal (GTQ) named after the resplendent quetzal, Guatemala's national bird.

US Dollars (USD) are also widely accepted, we recommend smaller denomination bills of \$20 or less.

It is recommended to bring some cash for any additional meals in the hotel on your arrival night in Guatemala, and for any souvenirs you may wish to purchase from local artisans.

“

This experience for me was a blessing in all ways.

I learned to respect nature more than I had, and to respect reptiles because of the importance that they have for the environment.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explore and learn from you. And to meet wonderful Guatemalans and foreigners that make such a wonderful and good impact to our country.. we respect and thank you very much.

~ TIGRE



What to bring

While this is not an exhaustive list, these items are recommended for your [Indigo Expedition](#):

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passport and other travel documents, including a printed copy of your travel insurance policy. We also recommend bringing a duplicate of these documents and a photocopy of your passport.

ESSENTIAL FIELD KIT

- Sturdy walking boots – Essential!
- Field clothes: At least two sets of suitable field clothes. Quick drying long sleeved tops and trousers. We recommend thicker fabrics as they will protect you from biting insects more effectively.
- Sunhat & sun block.
- Casual wear: Clothes to relax in, including warmer items for the evening.
- Day pack: For carrying cameras, batteries, snacks and water etc.
- Batteries: For any electrical equipment such as head torch and camera. Rechargeables if possible.
- Head torch: You will need a good quality head torch for nocturnal surveys. ESSENTIAL minimum 300 lumens.
- Waterproofs: Lightweight waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers.
- Adaptors: For plugging in, and recharging, equipment and batteries. Guatemala uses a standard US two pin plug.

- Zip lock bags and dry bags will help keep important documents and electrical equipment dry and free of humidity. TOP TIP: add sachets of silica gel to zip lock bags and dry bags with the things you don't want getting wet.
- Water bottle and rehydration sachets.
- Non-DEET insect repellent: Lots of it! Please note: DEET is harmful to amphibians, reptiles and the environment.

MEDICAL KIT

- Please bring a basic first aid travel kit. Please note although Indigo Expeditions has medical kits, we can not provide any medication to participants.

OTHER ITEMS

- Camera and/or binoculars: Optional but highly recommended!
- Snacks: While you will receive three meals a day on your expedition, please feel free to bring extra treats!
- Prescription medicines: Enough to last the expedition.

WASH BAG

- Toiletries: To include travel towel, talcum powder, sun block, wet wipes, and ear plugs!



TESTIMONIAL



Nigel Marven

Wildlife Presenter, Animal Planet

nigelmarven.com

“

I've just spent a wonderful week shooting and herping with Rowland from Indigo Expeditions.

If you want to come on an adventure that will help with science and conservation, and you'll see some brilliant reptiles and amphibians at the same time, come on an expedition with Indigo Expeditions.

~ NIGEL MARVEN

TESTIMONIAL



Rob & Tara Cahill

Community Cloud Forest Conservation

cloudforestconservation.org

“

Thank you for demonstrating your profound appreciation for nature and every living creature and the vast complexities of our inter connectedness. We appreciate your professionalism and skilful handling of all the animals, with great care.

We are impressed by your serious, patient and generous teaching of others, your wealth of knowledge, expertise and skill for working with and understanding reptiles and amphibians.

We are pleased to count you as our friends and part of our conservation team.

~ ROB & TARA CAHILL

TESTIMONIAL



Daniel Gygax

Guatemalan Researcher

Universidad de Valle

“

Thank you very much for letting me share another wonderful adventure with Indigo.

I consider it a privilege, not only being able to experience so many great moments, but also having the opportunity to learn from such a great human being in a herpetological and personal way.

Thank you for teaching me so much and for all your effort put in protecting Guatemalan flora and fauna.

~ DANIEL GYGAX

iNDiGo
EXPEDITIONS 

