



GUATEMALA: TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Exploring the Intersection of the Environment & Immigration ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY November 27-December 8, 2021

Saturday, November 27: USA to Guatemala City

- Arrive into *La Aurora* International Airport (GUA), exchange money for Guatemalan currency (*quetzales*)
- Transfer by bus to and check-in at [Casa Emaus](#) guesthouse (26 Calle 15-56, Zona 11, Colonia las Charcas; Tel. 2442-3500), a Mennonite-run guesthouse
- Introductions and in-country orientation, including health and safety information
- Presentation about the history of Guatemala and current events (*la coyuntura*)
- Dinner and lodging in Guatemala City
- Group reflection

Sunday, November 28: Guatemala City to Chichicastenango

- Breakfast and check out
- Depart and travel about 3 hours to Chichicastenango in the department of El Quiché
- Check-in at [Hotel Santo Tomás](#) (7a Avenida 5-32, Zona Única; Tel. 5865-6453) and lunch
- Free time to visit the church of Santo Tomás, built around 1545 atop a Mayan temple platform, and explore the open-air market in which vendors sell pottery, food, handicrafts, flowers, medicinal plants, etc.
- Discussion of syncretism and the complex relationship of Christianity and Mayan Spirituality
- Dinner and lodging in Chichicastenango
- Group reflection

Monday, November 29: Chichicastenango to San Lucas Tolimán

- Breakfast and check out
- Session on the *Popol Wuj*, the creation narrative of the K'iche people
- Depart and travel about 3 hours to San Lucas Tolimán on the shore of Lake Atitlán in the department of Sololá, stopping to eat lunch along the way
- Check-in at the guesthouse run by the Catholic parish of San Lucas Tolimán
- Introduction to the Catholic Church's Mission of San Lucas and the community
- Dinner and lodging in San Lucas Tolimán
- Group reflection

Tuesday, November 30: San Lucas Tolimán

- Breakfast
- Visit various initiatives of the Catholic parish of San Lucas Tolimán, including the parish school, the women's center, the hospital, and the coffee processing project
- Visit the home of Andrés Chagil. Hear his testimony about how he was liberated from a life of indentured servitude on a coffee plantation.
- Lunch at the [Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute \(IMAP, Instituto Mesoamericano de Permacultura\)](#)
- Tour IMAP and discuss the Mayan cosmovision, permaculture, and food sovereignty contrasted with current patterns of land tenure and agricultural practices in Guatemala
- Dinner and lodging in San Lucas Tolimán
- Group reflection

Wednesday, December 1: San Lucas Tolimán and Santiago Atitlán

- Breakfast
- Depart and travel about an hour to Santiago Atitlán
- Guided tour with Dolores Ratzan Pablo, including visits to an effigy of *Maximón* (Mayan deity), the Catholic Church, the room where Father Stanley Rother from Oklahoma was murdered, and the massacre site in Santiago Atitlán
- Lunch
- Presentation on Women's Role in Mayan Spirituality
- Return by bus to San Lucas Tolimán
- Dinner and lodging in San Lucas Tolimán
- Group reflection

Thursday, December 2: San Lucas Tolimán to Panajachel

- Breakfast
- Talk by a representative of a farmer's (*campesino*) organization about land issues, access to safe water, and current political realities
- Lunch and check out
- Leave by boat to travel across Lake Atitlán to Panajachel
- Check-in and dinner at [Hotel K'amol B'ey](#) (Final Calle Ramos, Playa Pública; Tels. 7762-0215, 7762-0219) in Panajachel

Thursday, December 2: continued ...

- Talk on Lake Atitlán conservation efforts and the environment by scientist [Juan Skinner](#)
- Lodging in Panajachel

Friday, December 3: Panajachel and San Antonio (or Santa Catarina) Palopó

- Breakfast
- Depart and travel to San Antonio (or Santa Catarina) Palopó on the shore of Lake Atitlán
- 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
- Lunch in the community
- Return to Panajachel
- Conversation with a professor and a former Catholic priest about social work and economic development projects carried out by the Catholic Church
- Dinner and lodging in Panajachel
- Group reflection

Saturday, December 4: Panajachel to Tecpán

- Breakfast
- Conversation about migration with a representative of [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 Mayan communities in Guatemala
- Lunch at the hotel and check out
- Depart and travel 2½ hours to Tecpán, where the Spaniards established their first permanent colonial military center in 1525
- Check-in at the [Albergues de Tecpán](#) Hotel (Km. 88.5, Carretera Interamericana; Tels. 7840-3863, 7840-3864)
- Opportunity to participate in or observe a Mayan ceremony
- Dinner and lodging in Tecpán
- Introduction to the Mayan Calendar

Sunday, December 5: Tecpán to Antigua

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the archeological site of Iximché, capital of the Kaqchikel Maya kingdom from 1470 until its abandonment in 1524, with its pyramid, temples, palaces, and Mesoamerican ball courts
- Lunch at the hotel and check out
- Depart and travel about 1½ hours to Antigua, a colonial city and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Check-in at [Hotel Posada San Vicente](#) (6a Avenida Sur #6; Tel. 7832-3311)
- Dinner and lodging in Antigua
- Group reflection

Monday, December 6: Antigua and Guatemala City

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart and travel about an hour to Guatemala City to visit the national offices of Guatemala's Chamber of Commerce ([CACIF](#), *Comité Coordinador de Asociaciones Agrícolas, Comerciales, Industriales y Financieras*) to hear the perspective of powerful Guatemalan business leaders on environmental sustainability, globalization, and labor rights
- Lunch
- Meet with representatives of Relatives of Detained-Disappeared Persons of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA, *Asociación Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos de Guatemala*) to discuss impunity and the human rights situation in Guatemala
- Return to Antigua
- Dinner and lodging in Antigua
- Group reflection

Tuesday, December 7: Antigua

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Guided tour of Antigua, including its Cathedral (*Catedral de San José*), built in 1541
- Lunch
- Afternoon free to explore Antigua on your own, rest, and pack
- Final group reflection and evaluation of CGEE programming
- Final dinner (*cena de despedida*) and lodging in Antigua

Wednesday, December 8: 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!