

Tour Details

Call or email the Thirteen Threads' office to schedule your tour. Tours may be customized upon request to meet your groups' needs and interests. Maximum of 12 individuals.

Phone/Fax: (502) 7762-6245

Email: thirteenthreads@gmail.com

For more information, go to:

<http://www.thirteenthreads.org>

Costs: \$1695 + Airfare (Price is based on double occupancy hotel accommodation. Single occupancy is available for an additional \$180.)

Included: All meals, ground transportation, hotels and admission fees. Hotel accommodation will be 3 star hotels or better that cater to American and European standards example: www.hoteldosmundos.com

Not Included: Round trip airfare to Guatemala City, gratuities, personal expenses (shopping purchases, snacks, alcohol, etc.).

Payment: A deposit of \$700 is due at the time of booking. Deposits may be made by check, money order, wire transfer or Visa/Mastercard. The balance of the tour cost is due 30 days prior to departure. Balances may also be paid by check, money order, wire transfer, or Visa/Mastercard. With your authorization, we will automatically bill your credit card when the balance is due.

Cancellation and Refunds: Cancellation and no-show policy: No refund will be issued for no-shows and cancellations made less than five (5) days prior to tour date. A 50% refund will be issued for cancellations made six (6) to twenty-nine (29) days prior to tour date. A full refund minus an administration fee of 10% of the total cost will be issued for cancellations made thirty (30) days or more prior to tour date. We strongly recommend the purchase of travel insurance to all our customers.

Spanish Language: A bilingual guide accompanies the tour. We will often have additional translators to assist in translation from Spanish to one of the many local Maya languages.

Share knowledge and experiences with Maya women and participate in craft making during classes and demonstrations.

Understand how fair trade processes directly benefit women and communities.



About Oxlajuj B'atz' (Thirteen Threads): Thirteen Threads is a non-profit indigenous women's empowerment and non-formal education organization working throughout Guatemala since 2004. Thirteen Threads provides capacity-building skills training to 20 Maya women's cooperatives throughout rural Guatemala in four program areas: Artisan and Product Development; Democracy and Team Building; Health and Well-Being; and Small Business.

In December 2010, Thirteen Threads opened a Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade Store, located in a historical building in downtown Panajachel. The Center houses a cooperative Fair Trade store, resource library, community space for workshops and special events, and provides a departure point for tours to the women's communities.

For more reading:

www.thirteenthreads.org

www.atitlan.com

www.visitguatemala.com/en

Casa Kaqchikel

Calle 14 de febrero

Panajachel, Solola, Guatemala

Phone/Fax: (502) 7762-6245

thirteenthreads@gmail.com

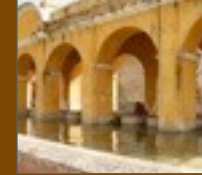
www.thirteenthreads.org

Empowering Women, Inspiring Change



MAYA WOMEN INSPIRE

A Hands-On Cultural Tour
through the Heart of Guatemala



Empowering Women

Inspiring Change



Join us on a 10- day tour of rural Guatemala to learn about women achieving economic independence through innovative and sustainable development projects.



Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Guatemala City. Ground transportation from the airport to Antigua, colonial city and former capitol of Guatemala. Welcome dinner with your tour hosts.



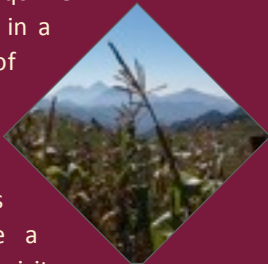
Be inspired by Guatemala's cultural heritage expressed through color, weaving and intricately embroidered designs.

Day 2: Explore the beautiful cobble-stoned streets of Antigua. Visit an artisan's market and textile museum in the morning, and then travel to Panajachel, the hub of the stunning Lake Atitlan region. Share a group dinner in "Pana" with your hosts.

Day 3: Take a lancha (small motor boat) to San Juan to visit a weaving cooperative that uses natural dye and traditional ikat dying techniques followed by a walking tour of a coffee cooperative's farm. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the farm grounds before returning to Panajachel.

Day 4: Meet Thirteen Threads staff and find out more about our women's empowerment work through a presentation at the Maya Women's Center in historic Casa Kaqchikel.

Travel across Lake Atitlan in a *lancha* to the town of Santiago Atitlan. Here, intricately embroidered textiles are commonly worn by the indigenous men and women. Take a guided tour of the town, visit a beading group whose elderly members are part of Thirteen Thread's sister organization Sharing the Dream. Stay overnight at the gorgeous Posada Santiago nestled in a cove on beautiful Lake Atitlan.



Enjoy the natural beauty of Guatemala's majestic Lake Atitlan, rural mountain villages, and the architectural splendor of an old colonial city.

Day 5: Learn about the colorful Sololá textiles. Visit weaving, jewelry making, medicinal plant garden and organic cotton-spinning cooperatives, who will share their skills and you will have a chance to practice the age-old craft of weaving.

Day 6: Today we head to Chichicastenango. Visit a rug-hooking and weaving cooperative from the rural mountain town of Quiejel and learn how to hook rugs from recycled cloth with cooperative members. In the afternoon, visit a Maya Healer's Circle and learn about Maya Cosmo Vision that touches on the philosophy and spirituality of the Maya people and the significance of the Maya calendar. Stay overnight in "Chichi".

Day 7: Wake up to the best and biggest craft market in Guatemala. Spend the morning exploring the Chichi market on your own. Head back to Panajachel in the afternoon to relax, visit museums and art galleries, or shop.



Day 8: Visit a rug hooking, embroidery and basket-making cooperative in a small community just above Panajachel, overlooking Lake Atitlan. Return to Pana to enjoy the rest of the day at the Nature Reserve, home to rare birds and monkeys; for those adventurous, take the zip-line that skims through the Reserve's treetops and past a waterfall. Enjoy dinner and marimba music with Thirteen Threads staff and special guests in Casa Kaqchikel's outdoor performance area.



Learn how Thirteen Threads is working to provide opportunities for economic self-sustainability through workshops to strengthen skills, build self-confidence and nurture creativity and expression.



Day 9: Head back to Antigua with a stopover at the Xeabaj pine needle basket weaving cooperative. Then visit the nearby Iximche ruins— a well-maintained Maya Kaqchikel ruin site with descriptive signs in three languages, and a ceremonial fire site still used today. Share group reflections during our final dinner together in Antigua.

Day 10: Tour ends. Ground transportation provided back to Guatemala City Airport to fly back to the U.S., or you

can extend your trip to spend more time in Antigua or visit the famous Tikal ruins in Petén on one of the tours offered through local Guatemalan travel and tour operators.



Immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of lively artisan markets and enjoy visits to women's weaving, embroidery, jewelry making and medicinal plant co-operatives.

*Itinerary subject to change without notice.