

# Guatemala Trip Report

Linda and Chuck on svJacaranda

February 25- March 11, 2013

Exchange rate: 7.8 Quetzals = \$1

## **TICA BUS from San Salvador to Guatemala City**

San Salvador, El Salvador

Hotel Meson de Maria - \$32 double executive room (with Tica bus discount). (private bath, TV, air conditioning)

Tica Bus station in San Benito

Took the early morning bus (5-6 hours) and arrived at Guate

Shuttle to Airport which was very close by

Guatemala City – Tica hotel is Santiago Hostel

[www.hotelsantiago.com.gt](http://www.hotelsantiago.com.gt)

Calzada Aguilar Batres 22-55 Zona 12

(502) 44602697

## **Tikal trip**

TACA Airlines

1 hour flight from Guate to Flores

Leave Guatemala City at 6:20 p.m., arrived Flores (Santa Elena) 7:30 p.m.

\$286 round trip per person

Returned to Guate on March 3, leaving at 8:05 a.m., arriving Guate 9:10 a.m.

Folklorica - Guatemalan handicrafts

Aeropuerto Internacional La Aurora Local 2A1-3

(502) 5016-0177

[folkloricasa@gmail.com](mailto:folkloricasa@gmail.com)

## Flores

Hotel Casa Amelia - Calle La Union, Flores 1

Two rooms on the top floor where the terrace is - great views of the Lake

Q227/night or \$30/night (Q680 bill for 3 nights)

La Luna Restaurant

7867-5443

Shopping: Tienda Tipica La Bendicion El Tucan - jade, wood, textiles, ceramics

Calle Centro America Flores

Owner: Santos; santosjulajuj@yahoo.es

Facebook: Bendicion Tucan

## **Antigua**

Hotel EuroMaya Suites – Room #3 - [www.euromayatour.com](http://www.euromayatour.com)

7 Calle Poniente #43

\$85 for triple (2 storey with 3 beds on upper floor; bathroom, lounge with flat screen TV, refrigerator on main floor) includes 3 breakfasts; no wifi in room but in common areas.

Casa Madeleine

Espiritu Santo #69

\$105/nite for double – (Q1680) Balcony Room #1- includes breakfast and wifi in room (stayed 2 nights March 1-March 3)

A bit far from the Parque Central in terms of walking distance

Aurora Hotel - recommended by friends

Hotel Santo Domingo - 3 Calle Oriente; very upscale

Hotel Camino Real

## **Shopping**

Colibrí – 4 Calle Oriente #3B – [www.colibriweavers.com](http://www.colibriweavers.com)

High quality hand-woven textiles for the home; hand crafted wooden bowls.

Casa de Artes – [www.casadeartes.com.gt](http://www.casadeartes.com.gt) – 4 Avenida Sur #11; High quality traditional folk art - textiles, masks, santos, majolica, jewelry. Expensive.

Nim Pot - Huge cavernous store like an aircraft hangar with Guatemalan crafts; displays of local dress (traje) are hung high on the walls.

Joyeria del Angel - High end jewelry from international artists

La Antigua Galeria de Arte - 4 Calle Oriente #15

Guatemala.ChocoMuseo.com

4 Calle Oriente #14

Museo del Tejido Antigua - 1 Calle Poniente #51 Museum of trajes, backstrap loom demonstration; extensive shops with high quality and antique textiles. Small entrance fee.

Tours: Elizabeth Bell - Antigua Tours

[www.antiguatours.net](http://www.antiguatours.net); (502) 7832-5821

\$115 for 3 of us to do an errand in Antigua, go to San Antonio Aguas Calientes, and then to Panajachel with a private van and driver.

Shuttle to Chichi - \$40 rt/person

Coffee plantation tour – Finca Filadelfia - \$20/person

Cultural Walking Tour - \$20/person; 9:30am – 12:30pm –(Tues.)

## Restaurants

KIDS Restaurant - [www.kidsrestaurant.org](http://www.kidsrestaurant.org)

\*\*\*\*\*A Hlghlight

Run by children under the supervision of T.E.S.S. Unlimited to teach kids english, social interaction, and teamwork, and restaurant skills. Twice a month they cook 3 course dinners for a limited number of people so reservations are necessary. There is a van pick-up at the Parque Central

Epicure- 3 Ave. Norte #11B – gourmet store (deli sandwiches) and some Trader Joe’s things. Good selection of cheeses and baked goods. Restaurant is excellent and lovely surroundings in the back garden – romantic with a lot of privacy.

Saborico - 6 Ave. Sur #7 - [www.saborico.com.gt](http://www.saborico.com.gt) - Delicious food in this garden setting (walk ALL the way to the back for little islands of seating). Great deli and don’t forget to try the chocolate truffles.

Hector’s - a very small place across from La Merced but excellent food. Try the duck!!!

Ocelot Bar - Shaun Paul Griffiths, owner

email: [ocelotjazz@gmail.com](mailto:ocelotjazz@gmail.com)

4 Ave. Norte #3; 5658-9028

Hotel Santo Domingo - 3a Calle Oriente #28; upscale dining in gorgeous surroundings of the hotel/museum/garden. Dinner for 3 with wine and drinks - Q775 or \$100.

Metiz - 4 Ave. Norte #4 - French delicatessen; [www.metiz.com.gt](http://www.metiz.com.gt)

Restaurante La Cueva de Los Urquitzu - 2 Calle Oriente #9D - Guatemalan typical food served in platters - Q80/platter or \$10/platter

Fusion Restaurant - 4 Calle Oriente #5B (Guatemalan/Mediterranean/Asian Cuisine)

Tartine - 4 Calle Oriente

## Transportation

From Guatemala City Airport to Antigua: \$10 for an airport shuttle; \$30 for a taxi; \$35 for an arranged pickup with the hotels. Make sure the public transportation have licenses on display.

Private shuttle from Antigua to TICA Bus/airport in Guatemala City: \$45 for 3 people

Shuttle to Chichi - \$20 rt/person from our hotel travel desk; Antigua Tours (Elizabeth Bell) charges \$40 rt/person

With Antigua Tours: \$115 for 3 of us to do an errand in Antigua, go to San Antonio Aguas Calientes, and then to Panajachel with a private van and driver.

## Lake Atitlan

### Jaibalito

La Casa del Mundo Hotel and Cafe

[www.lacasadelmundo.com](http://www.lacasadelmundo.com); 502-5218-5332

Triple was \$85/night

Only accessible by boat; Q15/person public boat from Panajachel

Beautifully sited Terraced rooms; we stayed in #11 (can sleep 3) - great view, long covered patio with hammock; fireplace (bit smoky though). Lonely Planet calls it "Guatemala's Most Magical Hotel".

Family style dinners- \$12 (Q90)

Shuttle from Panajachel to Antigua - Q95/person; about 2 1/2 hours (through the hotel reception)

### Santiago Atitlan

\$50 for private boat from Casa del Mundo (45 minutes)

Public boat takes about 1 1/2 hours - 2 hours changing in either Panajachel or San Pedro

Non-Profit Association of Mayan Women Weavers: Cojolya; [www.cojolya.org](http://www.cojolya.org) - located up from the dock on the main street; backstrap weaving modern design and accessories; can organize weaving tour and classes. Have an ONIL stove project.

Be sure to see Maximon - the effigy of smoking and drinking; It is looked after in a different private home each year; hire one of the kids that meet you at the dock to take you there for a tip. (There are two - make sure you see the original)

Restaurant: El Pescador

### Other Accommodations at Lake Atitlan:

Hotel Posada Santiago - a friend stayed here

Casa Palopo - very upscale according to their website

## **Chichicastenango**

One of Guatemala's largest indigenous markets (Thurs. and Sundays)

Shuttle - Antigua to ChiChi - \$20/person; about 3 hours

Iglesia de Santo Tomas

Restaurant - Los Cofrades - 6 Calle & 5Av. (enter from 6 Calle); upstairs restaurant with balcony;

Private shuttle \$10 each way/person from Antigua; Antigua Tours charges \$20.

2 1/2 hour each way.