

GUATEMALA GETAWAY

January 2027

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Antigua Guatemala

Plus a sample of Belize

Step into a world of vibrant culture, ancient history, and breathtaking landscapes as you explore Guatemala, with a unique glimpse into Belize. You'll wander colourful highland markets, discover centuries-old traditions, and stand in awe of remarkable Maya sites, including Tikal National Park. From the colonial charm of Antigua Guatemala to the volcanic beauty of Lake Atitlán, you'll experience the country's rich contrasts, while connecting with local communities and artisans along the way. Travel through lush jungles, cruise along the scenic Rio Dulce, and encounter fascinating wildlife in diverse natural settings. Your journey also includes unforgettable moments like witnessing sunrise over ancient ruins, tasting locally grown coffee and chocolate, and exploring UNESCO-listed treasures such as Copán and Tikal. With immersive experiences, expert guidance, and thoughtfully included meals throughout, you can simply focus on taking it all in.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- I BC Interior:** January 10, 2027 - 20 days
- V Vancouver Island:** January 10, 2027 - 20 days
- L Lower Mainland:** January 11, 2027 - 19 days

► Fares per person

- L** from **\$12,410** double/twin, **\$14,530** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

► Early Booking Bonus

- \$250** discount on first 8 seats; **\$125** on next 4.

► Earn 235 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

I BC Interior: We drive to Vancouver for an overnight stay on Sunday, January 10. We fly to Guatemala the following day. We fly from Belize to Calgary on Thursday, January 28 and overnight at the airport. We fly to Kelowna the following day and travel home. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We travel to Vancouver for an overnight stay on Sunday, January 10. We fly to Guatemala the following day. We fly from Belize to Calgary on Thursday, January 28 for an overnight at the airport. We fly to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox the following day.

Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-Island: There is an additional cost for passengers who wish to fly from Nanaimo or Comox Airport to join this tour. Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We fly from Vancouver to Guatemala on Monday, January 11. We fly from Belize to Calgary on Thursday, January 28 for an overnight at the airport. We fly to Vancouver or Abbotsford the following day.

Departure from Vancouver: Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack: Pickup will be on Sunday, January 10 by the BC Interior coach for the overnight in Vancouver. Return flights will be from Calgary to Abbotsford Airport. No transportation is provided from Abbotsford Airport. Please refer to the BC Interior dates and pricing.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$12,595 double/twin \$14,895 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 0.2% GST.• There is an additional cost to join this tour from Nanaimo or Comox.
V	Vancouver Island	\$12,770 double/twin \$15,070 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$12,410 double/twin \$14,530 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

📍 **51 total:** 17 breakfasts, 18 lunches, 16 dinners

📍 **50 total:** 17 breakfasts, 17 lunches, 16 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfer to Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flights to Guatemala City
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- Transfer from Guatemala Airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Guatemala & Belize
- Flights from Belize City via Calgary to Kelowna, Victoria, Vancouver, or Abbotsford

▶ Accommodation

📍 **19 nights** accommodation & hotel taxes

📍 **18 nights** accommodation & hotel taxes

- Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Wells Gray tour director throughout tour

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Expert local guides & naturalists
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers & naturalists

▶ Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Guatemala City
- Iximché archeological site
- Chichicastenango Market
- Church of Santo Tomás
- San Andrés Xecul church
- Cruise across Lake Atitlán to San Juan La Laguna
- Visit to Santa Catarina Palopó
- Cultural walking tour of San Antonio Palopó
- San Antonio Palopó artisans
- Sololá Market
- Locally-guided tour of colonial Antigua
- Tour of Filadelfia Coffee Farm
- Choice of Semuc Champey OR Coffee and Orchid Experience
- Copán Archeological Site
- Rio Dulce National Park
- Wildlife and birdlife cruise on the Rio Dulce
- Yaxhá Archeological Site with Topoxté viewing
- Tour of Tikal UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Butterfly Farm Tour
- Ajaw Chocolate Cooperative tour & workshop
- Green Iguana Conservation Project

Attractions are subject to change. Please see [Tour Policies](#) for more information.



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go.

You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You

can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground, beaches or shorelines, or at higher elevations; and stand for prolonged periods. You can climb three flights of stairs easily and unassisted, can handle altitudes up to 7,600 feet (2,300 metres) with no health issue, and can handle your own luggage in airports or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available.

This tour is not appropriate for people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. Walking poles are recommended. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. The tour director, drivers and local guides have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance may not cover you.

Please note: Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to [sign a declaration](#) that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

ITINERARY

Sunday, January 10

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel to Vancouver Airport. We stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the airport. Meet your fellow travellers during a get-acquainted reception.

Meals included: Lunch (BC Interior)

Accommodation: Fairmont YVR Hotel (BC Interior & Vancouver Island)

Monday, January 11

Passengers from Vancouver meet us at the airport. We fly to Guatemala City, arriving in the evening. **Welcome to Guatemala!** – the “Land of Eternal Spring.” Our driver and bilingual guide meet us and we stay two nights here.

Accommodation: Barceló Hotel

Tuesday, January 12

After a relaxed morning, a panoramic city tour is provided. **Guatemala City**, founded in 1776 after Antigua’s last major earthquake, is today a vibrant blend of colonial influence and modern energy. We see the National Palace, Metropolitan Cathedral, and main civic squares, each reflecting chapters of Guatemala’s cultural and political history. The day concludes with a festive Welcome Dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Hotel

Wednesday, January 13

We travel into the highlands to **Iximché**, the 15th-century capital of the Kaqchikel Maya. Its plazas, temples, and ballcourts reveal the final flourishing of Maya civilization before the Spanish arrival. We continue to **Chichicastenango**, a mountain town renowned for its deeply rooted traditions and K’iche’ Maya heritage.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Mayan Inn

Thursday, January 14

Experience the famous **Chichicastenango Market**, the largest indigenous market in Central America, alive with textiles, masks, flowers, and ceremonial incense. Nearby stands the 400-year-old Church of Santo Tomás, uniquely blending Catholic and Maya spiritual practices. Next is the brilliantly-painted **San Andrés Xecul Church**, whose vivid yellow façade and saints make it one of Guatemala’s most photographed landmarks.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Latam Quetzaltenango

Friday, January 15

We visit the traditional town of **Zunil**, known for its embroidered clothing and veneration of Maximón, a syncretic Maya figure. We continue to Almolonga, “the Vegetable Garden of Guatemala,” where fertile volcanic soil produces gigantic carrots, cabbages, and onions. In the afternoon, we descend to breathtaking **Lake Atitlán**, formed in a volcanic caldera and flanked by three perfect cones—Tolimán, Atitlán, and San Pedro. We stay three nights in Panajachel at Porta Hotel del Lago, a splendid hotel overlooking Lake Atitlán.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Porta Hotel del Lago

Saturday, January 16

We cruise across Lake Atitlán to **San Juan La Laguna**, a Tz’utujil Maya community famed for its colourful weaving. Our coach meets us here and we drive to Santa Catarina Palopó, known for clothing created on a waist loom, and **San Antonio Palopó**, where artisans produce intricate maguey-fibre crafts. It’s a colourful celebration of Maya heritage at every stop.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Porta Hotel del Lago

Sunday, January 17

This is a day at leisure to enjoy the magnificent lakeside setting of the hotel, stroll Panajachel's artisan streets, or simply absorb the stillness of the surrounding volcanoes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Porta Hotel del Lago

Monday, January 18

We visit the **Sololá Market**, known for its vivid highland clothing and strictly traditional culture. Continue to **Antigua Guatemala**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site founded in 1543 and considered the most enchanting city of colonial Guatemala. Once the capital of the Spanish Kingdom of Guatemala, Antigua is admired for its beautiful blend of ruins, restored colonial buildings, and new buildings in colonial style, plus its Baroque architecture and cobbled streets. Our hotel for two nights is a collection of colonial homes, parts dating to 300 years ago.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Posada Don Rodrigo

Tuesday, January 19

During a walking and driving tour, discover Antigua's storied past through its churches, courtyards, and colonial monuments. Then tour the **Filadelfia Coffee Farm**, high in the Antigua valley, where award-winning Arabica beans grow in rich volcanic soil. Learn about cultivation, roasting, and the history of coffee in Guatemala.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Posada Don Rodrigo

Wednesday, January 20

We journey into the lush mountains of **Alta Verapaz**, homeland of the Q'eqchi' Maya, and stay two nights in Coban.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Park Hotel

Thursday, January 21

There is a choice of activities today. Please choose no later than at final payment.

Option 1: Semuc Champey

This 300-metre long natural limestone bridge is one of Guatemala's natural wonders. The Cahabón River flows underneath through a series of tiered turquoise pools. Bring a bathing suit to swim in the natural pools. Access to the pools requires walking on uneven, sometimes slippery natural terrain with steps and inclines. There is an optional hike of 45 minutes uphill with stairs to a viewing platform of the canyon (consider this [Activity Level 4](#)). The last few kilometres of the road access is very rough.

Option 2: Coffee + Orchid Tour

Explore a local coffee estate and continue to an orchid sanctuary preserving rare native species; Alta Verapaz is home to over 700 varieties.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Park Hotel

Friday, January 22

We cross the border into **Honduras** to visit the awesome archaeological site of **Copán**. As you walk into the dramatic expanse of the Great Plaza, you are witness to the cultural achievements of the ancient Maya people. Copán's main plaza contains the greatest collection of Maya sculptures in Central America. Take time to explore and marvel at the beautiful Maya stelae, majestic temples, and huge ball court. Copán was the capital city of the Maya from the 5th to the 9th century AD and was occupied for about 2,000 years. The Great Plaza and Acropolis showcase the Maya knowledge of advanced astronomy and mathematics.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Marina Copán Hotel

Saturday, January 23

We return to Guatemala and travel into the tropical Caribbean lowlands. Río Dulce is known for jungle-lined waterways, birdlife, Afro-Caribbean culture, and riverside villages.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Catamarán

Sunday, January 24

Río Dulce is one of Guatemala's most scenic waterways, connecting Lake Izabal to the Caribbean. We take a boat excursion on the river,

one of the country's most unique tourist attractions. Much of the river is protected by Rio Dulce National Park and offers a fascinating natural experience with abundant wildlife and birdlife. Listen for the sounds of the howler monkeys and watch aquatic birds feeding in large groups on the waters. One section of the river called El Golfete is several kilometres wide. Back on our coach, we drive to **Flores** and stay two nights at Camino Real Tikal Hotel. It's an isolated hotel with a peaceful jungle setting beside Petén Itzá Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camino Real Tikal Hotel

Monday, January 25

Today we explore the amazing archaeological site of **Yaxhá**, inhabited from about 350 BC to 900 AD. It was rediscovered in 1904, and excavations and mapping have been carried out over the past century. Over 1,400 monuments have been identified and the excavations have exposed some of Yaxhá's stunning architecture. We visit the ball courts, the residential and religious areas like the Maler Group, the recently restored North Acropolis and finally Temple 216 which is 30 metres high. We continue by boat on Lake Yaxhá to view **Topoxté** from the water, inhabited between 900 to 1200 AD.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Camino Real Tikal Hotel

Tuesday, January 26

We travel back in time more than 2,000 years during our visit to **Tikal National Park**. The city was inhabited for 14 centuries and reached its apogee between 200 and 900 AD. About 3,000 structures have been mapped and many excavated in this sprawling Maya city that once covered 16 square kilometres and had a population of about 90,000. Tikal National Park was established in 1955 and was the first protected area in Guatemala. Tikal was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Our tour with an expert guide visits the Twin Pyramid Complexes "Q" and "R", the Lost World Complex where the Great Pyramid and Temple 5C-49 are notable, Temple III and the Palace of the

Windows, the Great Plaza with its pyramids of Great Jaguar and Masks, and the Palace of the Nobles. Temple IV is the highest of the Maya pyramids at 70 metres and provides a panoramic view of Tikal and its surrounding jungle. In the afternoon, we cross the border into **Belize** and stay two nights at the San Ignacio Resort, an intimate hotel of only 26 rooms. It is nestled on a tropical hillside with a 10-minute walk to the bustling public market. It even hosted Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1994.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: San Ignacio Resort

Wednesday, January 27

At the **Belize Butterfly Farm**, we watch flocks of colourful butterflies flutter and feed in a tropical environment and learn about their remarkable lifecycle. Next, we go to the **Ajaw Chocolate Cooperative**. The scent of chocolate fills the air while we learn about the chocolate-making process, then roast and grind cacao beans to create our own chocolate drinks and candies. This workshop emphasizes traditional chocolate-making using minimal ingredients – pure cacao, honey, sugar, spices, but no milk to preserve the chocolate's true flavour. A farewell dinner is planned as our adventures in Guatemala (and a sample of Belize) come to an end.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: San Ignacio Resort

Thursday, January 28

We visit the **Green Iguana Conservation Project**, spearheaded by our hotel which has been at the forefront of conservation for the threatened Green Iguana. Learn how vital iguanas are to the ecological balance of the river habitat. After an early lunch, we drive to Belize City Airport for an afternoon flight non-stop to Calgary. Our hotel is conveniently located in the airport terminal.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Marriott YYC Hotel

Friday, January 29

Our flights continue back to BC and we return home.

GUATEMALA & BELIZE — A WINTER PARADISE

Guatemala is the third largest country in the Central American isthmus, bordering Mexico to the northwest, Belize to the northeast, and Honduras and El Salvador to the southeast. The Pacific Ocean lies to the south and the Caribbean Sea to the north. Guatemala City is the country's largest, and also the largest city in Central America with a metro population of 3.3 million. The country's physical geography divides it into three major zones: Pacific Lowlands, Central Highlands, and the Peten Lowlands in the north. Guatemala has 14 biologically significant and unique ecosystems. It counts 1,246 species of fauna and 8,700 species of flora. National parks, nature reserves, and biological reserves protect the most significant areas. Tourism is growing rapidly and is now Guatemala's #1 industry with over 2 million visitors annually.

There is lots of fascinating history on this tour. Several archeological sites are visited including Iximché, Copán, Yaxhá, and the grandest of all, Tikal which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Some were occupied hundreds of years BC and abandoned a thousand years ago, only to be rediscovered in the rainforest jungle in the last century. The enchanting colonial city of Antigua was founded in 1543. The tour also features two boat cruises, colourful indigenous markets, and wildlife or birdlife excursions.

Sharing a border and cultural connections to the magical Maya world, Guatemala and Belize are world-renowned biodiversity hotspots. Colourful markets, smoking volcanoes, an impressive colonial history, mysterious traditions, and warm hospitality describe the Guatemalan highlands and the discoveries you can enjoy during this tour. You will have the opportunity to experience the dramatic environments each country is known for while learning cultural traditions from the people whose lives unfold there. This is a unique journey for the culturally adventurous with numerous highlights!

Come and admire the natural and historic wonders of Guatemala with a sample of Belize, and get away from a Canadian winter for three relaxing weeks.



Lake Atitlán

TOUR NOTES

Documentation: A passport is required, valid for six months after return date, for Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. A visa is not required for Canadians.

Currency & Expenses: The currency in Guatemala is the Quetzal. As of April 2026, the exchange rate is about \$1 Canadian equals Q5.50. However, US dollars are widely accepted, and you probably don't need to buy or bring any Quetzals. The currency in Honduras is the Lempira, but for a one-night visit, US dollars are the most convenient to have on hand. The currency in Belize is the Belize dollar which is officially tied to the US dollar at a rate of 1 US\$ = 2 BZD. It is recommended that you use US dollars for the two-day visit. You cannot use Canadian dollars in any country. Credit cards are accepted in many shops, but cash is needed for the markets. Gratuities have been included for all group meals and for local guides, naturalists, and drivers. As this tour has been planned and priced nine months before departure, it is possible that exchange fluctuations could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. Three meals are included every day from January 12 to 27.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airlines will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction (amount available in May 2026) and book your own flight which allows seat selection. Note that these flights are on different airlines. Please refer to our [Terms & Conditions](#) for more information on taking the "No Flight" option.

Flight upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights to Guatemala City and return from Belize City. Premium economy and business class may be available.

Flight delays or cancellations: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for weather delays.

Explanation of flights: Maybe you are wondering why we have booked two different airlines instead of a round-trip on one. It is difficult to fly to Guatemala City as it is, and almost impossible to do so conveniently without making a connection in the US. Air Canada only flies twice a week from Montreal to Guatemala City, but it is not possible to get from BC to Montreal and connect to that flight. Further, WestJet does not fly to Guatemala at all. Therefore, we do have to make a connection in the US for our southbound journey. On the return, we have prioritized the convenient non-stop flight with WestJet from Belize City to Calgary.

Health Clinic: Visit a travel health clinic two months before departure to discuss possible inoculations for this tour. Bring this itinerary. There are currently no required inoculations, but you may want to discuss Hepatitis A/B and tetanus.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants probably cannot satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Triples are not available on this tour.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 1, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 3 [Declaration](#), and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$250 discount on the first 8 seats and \$125 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after October 1, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 1, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 2 to October 1, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From October 2 to November 2, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 3 to December 1, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 1, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage. Please do not travel outside of Canada without medical insurance as a minimum.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Antigua Guatemala, Lake Atitlán) and Wikimedia (Tikal National Park).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 235 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until October 1, 2026.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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