



TOURING FOR GOOD

The Guatemalan Experience

BFB Foundation is a **501(c)(3)** non-profit charitable organization established in 2010.

OUR MISSION: to strengthen developing communities by supporting education-focused initiatives for girls and women. **OUR VISION:** To break the cycle of poverty. **WHAT WE DO:** Raise money to promote girl's education by providing scholarships to high school & university students, and teachers in Guatemala and Charlotte, NC, USA.

The Foundation is pleased to introduce our newest program, a cultural and philanthropic travel experience, Touring for Good, that extends an opportunity for travelers to engage with and be a partner to the communities and programs committed to positive change in education for girls and women. We are offering tours in Guatemala to experience an incredibly beautiful country meanwhile allowing travelers to be a witness to the context and challenges indigenous communities face there – and how education can break a generation's-long cycle of poverty. The insight gleaned from the trip will provide a look into everyday life there and allow for more informed philanthropic decisions.

THE EXPERIENCE

Travelers will enjoy the beautiful and scenic Guatemalan landscape, history and culture including Lake Atitlán, Chichicastenango and the cityscape of Antigua, where modern life is juxtaposed among ruins. The rich volcanic soil gives way to some of the freshest fruits and vegetables which are served alongside varieties of seafood and meats. Locally grown coffee and chocolate are mainstays in the cuisine. Vegetarian options are numerous and delicious! Hiking, shopping, visits with the schools we serve, and tours of historic sites and Mayan relics are included in the trip. Even with all its beauty and natural resources, almost half of all people in Guatemala live in poverty. One of the poorest and most illiterate countries in Central America, the poverty rate in Guatemala is nearly 80% for indigenous people who make up more than 40% of the country's population.

OUR APPROACH

BFB Foundation works in regions that are largely indigenous, providing educational opportunities for girls and women. We work through schools in these communities that share our vision of creating a synergistic approach to empowering girls and women to end the cycle of poverty for their families and communities. Education builds the support they need for self-assurance and self-reliance. They realize their own worth and potential and become agents of positive and lasting change.

HOW YOU ARE HELPING

Your travel with our program helps us to raise money for indigenous high schools for girls in Guatemala. ***We believe our work to educate girls and women in Guatemala is more important now than ever.***

Our Tours are geared for the most enriching, cultural and personal experience we can pack into **8 days and 7 nights**. ***The first tour is May 28th through June 4th 2023. The cost is \$4,500 USD per person which includes all land transportation and tours, meals and accommodations. Our intention for the tour is to support the high schools we will visit; 50% of your fee is a tax deductible donation and will be presented to the school during our visit there.***

JOIN US

to experience a rich and beautiful culture, steeped in antiquity – and a bright future that we will help to create together!

TOURING FOR GOOD

TOUR GUATEMALA 8 DAYS, 7 NIGHTS

1 Day 1 - Antigua

Short city tour of Antigua & dinner.

Founded in the early 16th century, Antigua was once the most prominent seat of Spanish colonial government between Mexico and Peru. A jewel of a city, Antigua is awash with color, framed by volcanoes. The city boasts one of the most famous arches in the world, the canary-colored Santa Catalina Arch. Built in 1694 as a walkway for nuns, it is now the city's most iconic structures. In 1979, Antigua was designed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, ensuring the protection of its architectural and cultural legacy.

Stay at Antigua Good Hotel.
(2 nights)

Featuring minimalistic decor and locally crafted furnishings, The Good Hotel in Antigua is a chic hotel with a sustainable focus and is just footsteps away from city center.



GOOD  HOTEL
ANTIGUA



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2 Day 2 - Antigua

Morning visit to the Instituto Indigena Nuestra Señora del Socorro - Partner School.

The Socorro School was established in 1955 for underprivileged, indigenous girls from remote villages to earn a teaching degree. We are supporting school locations in Antigua, San Andres and Santa Cruz (approximately 320 students). After graduation, girls return to their villages to teach and empower others in their community through education. BFB Foundation is expanding this support each year by offering academic scholarships to qualified students who want to go to University or professional school. A tour of the school and spending time with the staff will showcase the impact of our philanthropic efforts.

Afternoon shop/coffee Co-Op Tour.

De la Gente works with small-holder coffee farmers and cooperatives in Guatemala to create economic opportunities that improve the quality of life for coffee-producing families. Through its coffee business, DLG delivers a high-quality product to roasters and consumers while offering better and more stable prices to farmers. A visit to the co-op is sure to be inspiring!

Dinner at Rancho or Ciero.



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Day 3 - Lake Atitlán

Visit and stay at Hotel Atitlán, Hotel & Gardens.

Lake Atitlán is a scenic body of water in a massive volcanic crater in the country's southwestern highlands. Cradled by steep, lush hills, the region is known for its Mayan villages and volcanoes with striking pointed cones.

This charming hacienda-style hotel is a former working coffee farm situated on the shores of Lake Atitlan, with a picture perfect view of volcanoes San Pedro, Toliman and Atitlan. All rooms have private balconies and breathtaking views of the lake. The swimming pool and Jacuzzi overlook the entire lake and the hotel's magnificent wedding, tropical and rose gardens. The Botanical Gardens of Hotel Atitlan are a true garden lover's paradise. Bird-watching is a popular pastime within its botanical gardens.



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Day 4 - Lake Atitlán

Visit San Andres. Lunch and afternoon nature reserve.

The Atitlan Nature Reserve is both a must for visitors of Lake Atitlan and a force in the environmental cause: Atitlán Azul. The Reserve's zip lines, the butterfly preserve, trails and hanging bridges bring you in close contact with nature. Fly above waterfalls, coffee groves, oak stands and the steep cliffs that guard the lake. At the Butterfly Geodome you enjoy the colors and forms of hundreds of butterflies surrounded by flowers and the sounds of water.

Visit another of our Socorro Schools, this time near the lake.



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Day 5 - Chi Chi

Drive to Chi Chi.

Chichicastenango is the second largest Mayan Market in Guatemala. It was and it is a market center for the Mayan people, serving villages in the neighbouring highlands. It is one of Guatemala's most-famous tourist spots. On Thursdays and Sundays, Mayan people market their products in the large central plaza. They worship, in a combination of Mayan and Christian elements, in the parish church of Santo Tomás and at El Calvario church, both located at the center of the town. Locally made textiles, handicrafts, pottery, candles, indigenous medicines and incense can all be found throughout the market. Built above ground and with the most vibrant of colours, the graves you pass on a walk through the Chichicastenango cemetery are as beautiful as they are fascinating.

Visit San Tomas Church, the market and graveyard.



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6 Day 6 - Lake Atitlán

Take boat across Lake Atitlán.
Visit organic weavers cooperative.

Famous for its quality and colors, Guatemalan woven goods are a marvel! Learn all about Mayan traditional weaving and textiles from local artisans.

Return to Hotel Atitlán in afternoon.

Stroll the botanical gardens, relax by the infinity pool or have a massage!



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7 Day 7 - Guatemala City

Depart Lake Atitlán to Guatemala City.

Guatemala City - known for its Mayan history, high-altitude location, and nearby volcanoes, Guatemala City is the country's capital - a perfect spot to wrap up our visit!

Visit Iximche Archaeological site and join a Mayan Ceremony.

Iximche' is a Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican archaeological site in the western highlands of Guatemala. It was the capital of the Late Postclassic Kaqchikel Maya kingdom from 1470 until its abandonment in 1524. The architecture of the site included a number of pyramid-temples, palaces and two Mesoamerican ballcourts. Join in a Mayan ceremony with a shaman or spiritual leader.

Stay at Good Hotel in Guatemala City.



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Day 8 - Departure

Depart Guatemala City
in the AM.

TOURING FOR GOOD GUATEMALAN EXPERIENCE

\$4,500 FOR 7 DAYS

50% OF YOUR FEE IS A TAX
DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

The Fee does not include airfare.

FEE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Ground transportation, hotels and tours
- ✓ Gratuities for local guides, drivers and hotels
- ✓ Meals, service charges and taxes

Information and all questions answered by filling out the form on our website at BFBFoundation.org or calling 704-904-8375.



We hope you enjoyed your trip!