

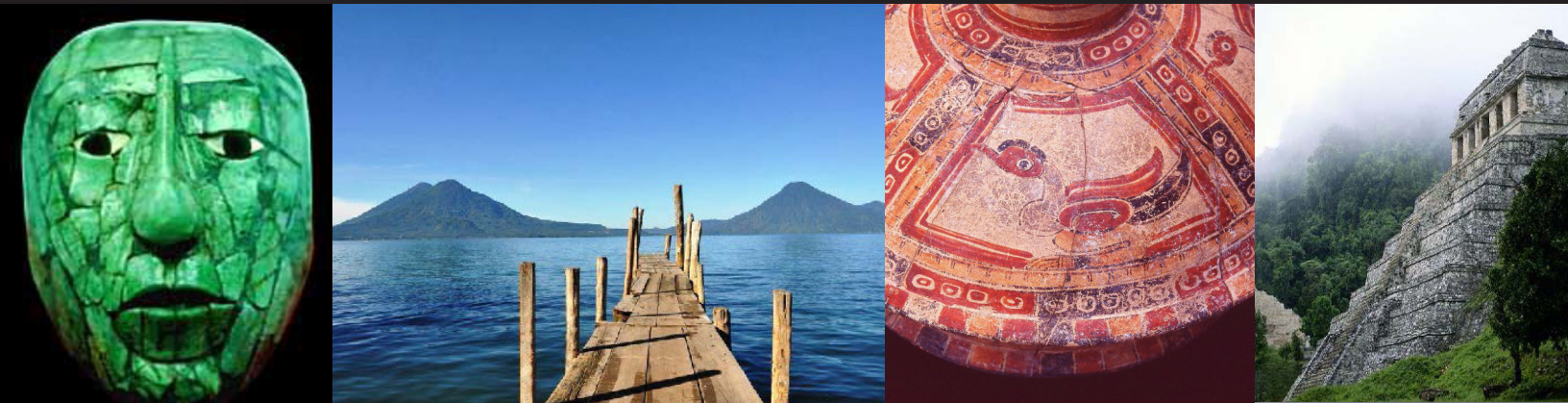
A MAYA Research Program and Friends of the University of Texas at Tyler event:



Maya Highlands

New Year's Eve Tour

December 28, 2014 to January 9, 2015



maya

RESEARCH PROGRAM

For more information call 817-831-9011 or email mrpinquiries@gmail.com | www.mayaresearchprogram.org

Join MRP as we explore the breathtaking world of the ancient and modern Maya. From Mexico's stunning sites of Palenque and Tonina to the Guatemalan Highland's vibrant markets – we invite you to join us as we take a memorable 13 day journey through Mexico and Guatemala, culminating in Colonial Antigua – one of Central America's most enchanting cities.

It is only a short flight, but a world away. Join us as we explore ancient Maya sites in the spectacular highlands of Mexico and Guatemala. We will visit the World Heritage site of Palenque and remote Tonina, explore the colonial cities of San Cristobal and Antigua, and meet traditional Maya people who live our contemporary world.



Sunday, December 28, 2014: Arrive at Villahermosa where, if traveling on the suggested group flight, you will be met upon arrival at the airport and transferred to our hotel. For those arriving independently, a taxi can be hired for the short drive into town. Overnight at the Hyatt Villahermosa. (Dinner included)

Monday, December 29: Visit La Venta Park to see a magnificent outdoor collection of stone sculpture that originally came from the Olmec site of La Venta. The Olmec were one of the earliest cultures developed in Mesoamerica, preceding the Maya by centuries. Their monumental stone carvings and mythological beings puzzle archaeologists to this day. After lunch, drive to Palenque, a World Heritage site and one of the great western capitals of classic Maya civilization that some have called “the Paris of the Maya.” We will check into our charming hotel and have time for relaxation, exploring the surrounding lush forest, and swimming in the unusual pool. Overnight at Chan Kah Resort Village for two nights. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Tuesday, December 30: Explore Palenque’s many exquisite examples of 7th- and 8th-century Maya architecture, including the Temple of the Inscriptions, Palace, the Cross Temples, recently uncovered Temples XIX and XXI. We finish the morning walking a beautiful downhill jungle trail, across waterfalls and hidden ruins, to get a true sense of the rainforest and all its beauty. After lunch at an outdoor, palm thatch restaurant, visit the Palenque site museum, with many world famous pieces of Maya ceramics and stone carving. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Wednesday, December 31: We cross the selva mountains and visit the gorgeous site of Tonina carved into the highland hillsides and then the colonial city of San Cristobal de las Casas –where dynamics between Latinos and Indios are still complicated--before ending our day at the Casa Mexicana in Tapachula, the pearl of the state of Soconusco. Happy New Year’s Eve! Don’t forget to ask Tom about that time he was in San Cristobal on Good Friday! *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Thursday, January 1, 2015: What a great day to spend visiting the highland Maya cities of Zinacatan and San Juan Chamula where we will see traditional people, their markets and churches. If you thought you understood the Catholic church, you may end up changing your mind! *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Friday, January 2: We spend our day visiting the traditional highland Chiapas communities of Chicuntik and Amatenango and end our day at the Hotel Lagos de Montebello at one of Mexico’s greatest natural wonders. Montebello is a national park close to the border with Guatemala, comprising 59 multi-colored lakes in a pine forest and two Maya ruins. It was the first national park in Chiapas when created in 1959 and in 2009 the park was designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Itinerary week 2

Saturday, January 3: We visit La Mesilla en route to Chichicastenango, famous for its markets and the Church of San Tomas, next to the market. The 400-year old church is built atop a Pre-Columbian temple platform, and the steps originally leading to a temple of the pre-Hispanic Maya civilization remain venerated. K'iche' Maya priests still use the church for their rituals, burning incense and candles. In special cases, they burn a chicken for the gods. Each of the 18 stairs that lead up to the church stands for one month of the Maya calendar year. We spend the night at the Hotel Museo Mayan Inn, a restored colonial building located next to Chichicastenango's Calvario Chapel. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Sunday, January 4: We visit the famous Sunday market at Chichicastenango. Don't let Grace and Colleen buy ALL of the textiles! Then we are off to Lake Atitlan, which the great German explorer Alexander von Humboldt called "the most beautiful lake in the world." We spend the first of two nights at Hotel Atitlan in the shadow of volcanoes and a Guatemalan national park. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Monday, January 5: We take a boat tour through the traditional Maya villages of Lake Atitlan and return to our lakeside Hotel Atitlan *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Tuesday, January 6: We leave Atitlan to the colonial city of Antigua in the central highlands of Guatemala, famous for its well-preserved Spanish Baroque influenced architecture as well as a number of spectacular ruins of colonial churches. It has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is the first of two nights at the Hotel Camino Real Antigua. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Wednesday, January 7: We tour some of the historic and great coffee plantations in the area.....Tom is bringing an extra suitcase just for samples! After a stop at a jade museum, we return to the Camino Real Antigua. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Thursday, January 8: Our final day is spent in Antigua then a short drive to Guatemala City to see some of their wonderful museums of ancient Maya artifacts and enjoy a city tour. We celebrate the end of our adventure at the Camino Real Guatemala. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)*

Friday, January 9: Transfer to the airport in Guatemala City for flights home. *(Breakfast included)*

Maya Highlands New Year's Eve Tour December 28, 2014- January 9, 2015

Name _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

I/We have am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Double (1 bed) Twin (2 beds) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a Non-smoker Smoker

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: Maya Research Program

I will pay via credit card on the MRP website: www.mayaresearchprogram.org
(please let us know if you need assistance)

Cost: \$3,600 USD per person.

(\$500 deposit required, full payment by October 15, 2014)

Single Supplement: \$800

This tour is limited to 24 participants so please tell us soon if you want to join us!

Complete and sign BOTH sides of this form and mail to:

MAYA Research Program, 1910 East SE Loop 323 #296, Tyler, Texas 75701
or register online at www.mayaresearchprogram.org

Registration Form

Terms and Conditions

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Maya Research Program, the University of Texas at Tyler and Ecoturismo Yucatan (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter "Operator") assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such re-scheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that the HMSC bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

RELEASE: Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour.

The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____



Dr. Thomas Guderjan is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Tyler and president of Maya Research Program. He directs the Blue Creek Archaeological Project in Belize.



Dr. Grace Lloyd Bascope is affiliated with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and Maya Research Program. She has directed ethnographic research and development and field schools at Yaxunah, Mexico for more than twenty years.



Colleen Hanratty is a doctoral candidate at Southern Methodist University and co-director of the MRP's archaeological project in Belize.



Alfonso Escobedo is the owner of Ecoturismo Yucatan in Merida and a member of the board of directors of Mayas for Ancient Mayas



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MAYA Research Program is a 501 (C)3 nonprofit corporation and donations are tax-deductible

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