Trip Organizers

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(CBS 2018)
Guatemala, the Fact Book

- **Capital:** Guatemala City
- **Currency:** Guatemalan quetzal
- **Capital and largest city:** Guatemala City
- **Population:** 16.58 million
- **Official language:** Spanish
- **Flight time from NY:** 4.5h

- The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala.
- After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821.
- During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war.
- In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the internal conflict.
5 things you need to know about Guatemala
#1. The **currency of Guatemala**—Guatemalan Quetzal—is named after the **beautiful Quetzal bird**. In ancient Mayan times, the feathers of this bird were used as currency.
#2. There are 23 Mayan languages (a language family spoken in Mesoamerica and northern Central America by at least 6 million Maya peoples) spoken in Guatemala. However, Spanish is their official language.
#3. Approximately 50% of the Guatemalans living today are descendants of the ancient Mayans.
There are more than 30 volcanoes in Guatemala, out of which three are active.
#5. The Happy Meal was invented in Guatemala by Yolanda de Cofiño, owner of McDonald’s in the country.
Where will you travel?

Lake Atitlan

Antigua

Tikal

Guatemala City
Who will truly enjoy this study tour?

- All those fans of stunningly beautiful landscapes and world-class food and coffee
- Volcanoes and infinite-lakes lovers; wannabe explorers and Mayan ruins addicts
- Those who are open to discovering an exciting country that is changing every day
- Students willing to have fun while learning about Social Enterprise and Change in a new country
Tentative Itinerary and Planned Visits
**Tentative Itinerary**

January 6th (Saturday) - Arrival in Guatemala City and **welcome dinner + night party**

January 7th (Sunday) - Visit to **Tikal** Mayan ruins and potential speakers on site. We will fly from Guatemala City.

January 8th (Monday) - Company visits in **Guatemala City** + night events.

January 9th (Tuesday) - Company visits in **Sanarate + Guatemala City**

January 10th (Wednesday) - Travel to **Atitlán Lake**. Cultural visits + boat party.

January 11th (Thursday) - Visits around the lake focused on **Social Enterprise and change**.

January 12th (Friday) - Travel to **Antigua** + Company visits.

January 13th (Saturday) - Day in Antigua + Company visits + **Farewell party**

January 14th (Sunday) - Checkout and **individual departures** (transfer available to Guatemala City airport). Opportunity to travel on your own to other countries in the region!
We plan to have varied visits that will cover multiple aspects of Guatemala...

**Alvaro Arzu**: Former *President of Guatemala* and current mayor of Guatemala City, responsible for the signing of the Peace in 1996 effectively ending a 36-year long civil war.

**Guillermo Castillo**: Former Ambassador for Guatemala in the US and current *CEO of Cerveceria Centroamericana*.

**Harris Whitbeck**: CNN's *International Correspondent* covering key events in Latin America.

**Steve Miller**: Founder of Helps; *changing the lives of millions* by breaking the cycle of poverty.

**Pomona Fund**: *Impact investing* focused on Central America, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia.
**Logistics**

**When?**
- Arrive by Saturday (1/6) and return by Sunday (1/14)
- You must attend the entire tour

**What are they like?**
- Intense! A mix of business and cultural visits.
- ALL company visits are mandatory
- Expect approximately 8 visits throughout the week
- Great way to meet other people

**Safety and Security**
- Please note that Zika, earthquakes and petty crime are possible risks -- we will take every possible precaution to ensure the safety and security of all participants.

**What is included?**
- Hotels 5*(double occupancy), local transport, cultural activities and most meals are included.
- Cost: ≈$1900-$2200
- Not included: Flight to Guatemala ≈$500 + Personal Expenses ≈$200

**Who goes?**
- 36 student participants + 4 organizers and 1 Professor
- Only full-time Business School students (no significant others)
- Will include a faculty member (TBD) and maybe also a staff member
- Students with balances on their accounts are unable to participate in Chazen Study Tours.
Signing Up

- Bidding (separate from BOSS) starts today, Tuesday, September 19 at 9am and ends on Tuesday, September 26 at 4:00pm: 
  https://chazentours.gsb.columbia.edu

- Results will be released on Wednesday, September 27 by noon (check the bidding site)

- Successful bidders will have 48 hours to pay a non-refundable* deposit in order to secure their spot

- Unsuccessful bidders will be placed on a waitlist (based on bid amount - highest to lowest). If a student gets a spot on the tour, he will be charged this bid amount

- Students who have no bid points or who do not wish to bid can sign up for the “zero bid-point” waitlist: 
  https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/chazen/secure/students/study_tours/zerobidpointwaitlist (opens September 19 at 9am; first-come, first-serve)

- No swapping

- **DO NOT ASK TO SHADOW THIS STUDY TOUR**

* Note: withdrawal policy (https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/chazen/students/study_tours/participating)