ITINERARY \*

DAY OF THE DEAD MAYA GUATEMALA CULTURAL TOUR 2016

Friday OCT. 28

Arrive Antigua

Two night comfortable accomodations (double occupancy) in Antigua

First night evening gathering time determined by arrival times,

Night walk of Antigua

Sat. OCT. 29

8:30 Breakfast and orientation

10:00 History & walking tour

11:00 Museo Santo Domingo

1:00 Lunch of typical and delicious Guatemalan food

3:00 Chocolate Museum and Chocolate Making workshop

5:00 Gallery of Contemporary Art

Dinner on your own (cost not included, list of recommended restaurants and night life)

Optional steam bath, sauna, swimming pool use (approx. $10 at local 5 star hotel)

Sun. OCT. 30

8:00 Breakfast

9:00Artisan’s market and Mercado General de Antigua

1:00 Lunch

Free time Antigua

Mon. Oct. 31

Private transport to Sumpango

Arrive Sumpango

~Day of the Dead market

~Sumpango food market, snacks!

~Watch the kitemakers put the finishing touches on their kites!

5:00 Relax on the terrace of the homestay for sunset with Guatemalan beverages. Enjoy a delicious traditional meal made by our hosts and served by their family.

7:30 Parade and Shamanic Ceremony to Bless the Kites

9:00 Pre-festival fiesta on the kite grounds as the kitemakers begin the first stage of erecting the giant kites by positioning huge bamboo poles into the ground. Lots of excitement as hundreds of vendors begin what for them is the biggest event of the year. Offerings of regional handicrafts, food, beer and of course kites.

Tues. NOV. 1

7:30 or 8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Cemetery & Kite Festival! Orientation, seating. Set up of giant kites, kite flying competition for kites under 6 meters.

(Lunch on your own, on site vendors are certified for hygienic food service)

5:00 Group reconnects. Evening festival activities

6:30 Dinner with hosts

Evening presentation of video about Sumpango kite festival, sharing experiences and photos from the festival .

Wed. NOV 2

8:00 Breakfast (Bags packed for San Pedro la Laguna)

9:00 – 11: 30 Kite making workshop with Julio

11:30 – 2:30 Kite flying and Lunch in the cemetery with Julio and his family, in the traditional honoring of the dead in Sumpango on November 2nd. The cemetery has been cleaned and decorated with flowers and long pine needles and the people of Sumpango come to on this day to spend time with their dead and provide them with kites, beauty and food. We are invited to spend time with Julio and his family and also with our kites.

2:30 Private mini-van transport to San Pedro La Laguna – 4 hours

6:30 Check-in Comfortable Beautiful Locally owned Hotel with wifi in San Pedro.

5 nights.

Dinner on your own, great adjacent restaurant, Hummus Ya will deliver food to your room if you just want to lie on your hammock. Also many terrific, affordable nearby restaurants and easy walking for many evening sights.

Thurs. NOV 3

8:30 Breakfast

10:00 San Pedro art, heart and orientation walk

11:00 Free-time. Lunch on your own.

6:30 Group dinner and solar hot pool soak

Fri. NOV 4

7:45 Breakfast

8:30 Kayak –weather permitting (30 min) or Tuk Tuk (10 min) to San Juan la Laguna

~Visit natural dye weaving collectives – cotton spinning and dye demonstration

~Maya medicinal herb garden and natural medicine collective

~Walking tour of San Juan’s wall murals

~ Group lunch

~ Artisan wander time

~ San Juan Coffee grower’s Collective and coffee museum, coffee and chocolate drinks available

Return time flexible depending on mode of transport. Minimum 5 hours.

Free time on return to San Pedro. Evening dinner on your own.

Sat. NOV.5

8:00 Breakfast

7:45 Breakfast

9:15 boat to Santiago Atitlan

10:00 Santiago, Center of the Tzutujil Maya world,

~ Journey to Maximón, a revered and unusual Mayan diety

~ Visit the informative museum of textiles

~ Visit to one of the oldest Catholic churches in Guatemala and it’s history during the Guatemalan civil war

~ Group lunch

~ Shopping! Santiago offers one of the most extensive array of Guatemalan handicrafts in the country. From huipils to handbags to leather goods to embroidery and bedspreads, to original paintings, Santiago offers exceptionally reasonably priced handmade work.

5:00 Boat return to San Pedro

7:30 Group dinner, closing, dancing

Sun. NOV. 6

Breakfast dependant on transportation needs

Shuttle to airport from San Pedro (not included, $20-$35)

\*THE TIMES AND ORDER OF EVENTS MAY CHANGE