

# SABER & SHIELD



## **Royal Scripture Tours & Saber and Shield Travel Present:**

### **14 Day Book of Mormon Tour with Michael King & Shelby Saberon**

**Monday July 29 – Sunday August 11, 2024**

Tour Directors: Michael King (361) 549-7860 | Shelby Saberon (830) 312-0496  
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Website Tour Page: TBA

#### **Tour Description**

Embark on a grand adventure, exploring deep green jungles and ancient Maya ruins (such as Tikal, Yaxha, Ceibal, Takalik Abaj and Kaminaljuyu). Here rulers were considered gods and were worshiped at temples on top of pyramids. But this is only 1/2 the story. Cutting-edge research and deep excavations have now revealed even earlier civilizations (B.C. times), often buried underneath later ruins. Come explore an area that was a cradle of ancient American high culture with great kings who controlled vast commerce networks and used their wealth to employ masterful architects and artisans to construct exquisite palaces, cement highways, and grand cities. Who warred with each other over control of lands, rivers, and mountains. But what really makes this tour special is that against this backdrop, you will be immersed in the Book of Mormon with Michael King, as we expound the scriptures together in settings that will help you visualize the Book of Mormon like you may never have before, settings that are strong candidates for Book of Mormon lands such as the Lands of Nephi, Zarahemla, and Bountiful. You will feel the deep and powerful spirit of these places as we travel through the wondrous landscapes of Guatemala.

## Reservation and Pricing

**Deposit:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to guarantee your spot on the tour. Deposit is non-refundable unless we cancel the tour. Deposits can be made by credit card, or checks made payable to “Saber and Shield Travel”. Place your deposit today by calling 830-312-0496.

## Tour Price: \$3799/person + international round-trip airfare

Price is based on 30 participants & two people sharing a room and is a cash discounted price. The deposit may be made by credit card, and the balance is due by check (\*we may offer the option to guarantee the tour with fewer participants at a higher price, accordingly). This tour is limited to 1 full bus, or about 45 participants. The balance is also payable by credit card at a non-cash discounted total price (including deposit) of \$3950/person + international round-trip airfare. Single Supplement price is an additional \$700 (one staying in a room). Triple pricing (Three sharing a room) gives a \$50 discount per person. Price includes all hotels, meals described in the itinerary below, all ground transportation, internal round-trip airfare, boat rides mentioned in the itinerary, all guide and security services, entry fees to all locations mentioned in the itinerary, and standard tips to all service providers.

## Your Tour Directors



### Michael L. King

Before retiring, Brother Michael King taught with the Church Educational System for 35 years. He taught seminary in Idaho for 16 years before becoming a coordinator for the Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. He also taught institute in St. George, UT before finishing his career as a Coordinator in Southern California. He received his bachelor's degree in Psychology from BYU, his master's in Administration from Idaho State, and did much of his doctoral work in Adult Education at the University of Idaho.

Brother King has presented at both the BYU-Provo and BYU-Idaho Education Weeks, the Sperry Symposium at BYU Provo, EFY, and was a presenter for the Know Your Religion Series. He is known for his love of the Lord and the scriptures, as well as his passionate and energetic style of teaching. Brother King loves the Lord, the students he teaches, and the scriptures. His engaging style and thought-provoking questions lead the learner to ponder and discover truths that are simple yet profound.

Brother King has published works through Brigham Young University on the book of Isaiah, the book of Alma, and the Atonement of Jesus Christ. He also developed and taught an Adult Education Course on the Atonement of Jesus Christ that has been enjoyed by hundreds of eager adults from Utah to California.

Using his love of the Savior and the New Testament, he recently published “The Unknown

Disciple,” a historical fiction covering the life of Christ from his birth to resurrection through the eyes of the unnamed disciples of the New Testament. The book was on the top five best seller list for Westbow Press Christian Book publishing for 6 weeks. He has also written a children’s book called, “The Tale of Two Donkeys,” recounting the Savior’s birth through surprising eyes. He has also written lyrics for several songs, including “The Burden” which was produced into a video and is available on the YouTube channel.

To Brother King, his greatest achievement, however, came when he married an angel named Michelle Jaworski. She has been the song in his heart, the bounce in his step, the twinkle in his eye, and the smile on his face for almost 39 years. They have four children, 3 boys and 1 girl, who are now grown and living in various parts of the western United States. Brother and Sister King also have six grandsons, and two adorable granddaughters. They have lived in New Braunfels Texas in their new home for more than 3 years and serve as ordinances workers in the San Antonio Temple.



### **Shelby H. Saberon**

Shelby Saberon is a seasoned tour director who has been setting up and guiding tours to Central and South America since 2000. Shelby received his bachelor’s degree from BYU in archaeology and worked in Mexico and Guatemala on three different projects in the Maya area.

Besides the scholarly side, Shelby has experience and excellence as a tour director. Shelby has put together and conducted over 80 tours to these areas, spanning over two decades. He constructs tours of the highest quality to ensure safety, comfort, and maximum learning opportunities for each participant. Shelby has been the organizer and tour director for several exclusive VIP scholar tours for BYU to Mexico and Guatemala, which involved many top BYU archaeologists, film crews, University Vice Presidents, as well as million-dollar donors. Following one such tour, BYU received the largest donations ever received to their prestigious Farms/Maxwell Institute at that point in time.

Shelby loves working with groups and directing tours. His passion for culture, history, and learning is infectious. He considers Guatemala and Southern Mexico his "second home". Shelby is the complete package, combining his knowledge and experience with his great love of the land, culture, and history of this area.

With his talent for teaching, Shelby can bring these civilizations to life for every traveler who wishes to experience the lands that reflect the topographical and geographical similarities to those reported in the Book of Mormon. At each site Shelby will give cutting-edge lectures that draw upon the most recent discoveries and publications from the world’s top experts on the archaeology of the Americas. These lectures will compliment Brother King's Book of Mormon lectures in a way that will provide a canvas upon which one can visualize life in the ancient Americas, bringing one to feel the spirit of the scriptures from the spirit of the land from which they came.





**Mike King at Adam Ondi-Ahman**



**Mike King Teaching at Ceibal Maya Ruins**



**Shelby Saberon at Becan Ruins**



**Mike King in front of an ancient pyramid**



# TOUR ITINERARY

## Day 1: FLIGHTS TO GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

**Monday, July 29, 2024** We leave today for a grand Book of Mormon adventure! Flights from our various points of origin take us to Guatemala City, Guatemala, the modern and ancient capital of Guatemala. Upon arrival, we pass through customs and then take our private bus to the hotel (or the hotel shuttle if your flight arrives at a different time than the majority of the group). In the evening, dinner will be provided at the hotel.



Satellite View of Guatemala



Guatemala, showing its Mountainous Southern Region and Jungled North

## Day 2: BLACK SAND BEACH AT MONTERICCO, ANTIGUA

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024** This tour is designed as best as possible to follow the chronology of the Book of Mormon, with stories from Lehi's Land of the First Inheritance, progressing through the Land of Nephi, Land of Zarahemla, and Land Bountiful. Our stop in the morning is at the Guatemala City LDS Temple. In the afternoon we head to the Pacific Coast, the west coastline of the Americas, and the black sand beaches at Monterrico. We know from Book of Mormon descriptions, that Lehi's first landing place was west of the Land of Nephi, therefore a west-coast landing (granted, the Pacific Coast of the Americas is a very long coastline!). Enjoy a stroll on the rich, dark, volcanic sand beach. In the evening we head to Antigua, the old colonial capital of Central America, just up a mountain pass from the coast. We stay at the 5-star colonial style Camino Real Antigua for the next 2 nights (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included).



Left: Guatemala City LDS Temple

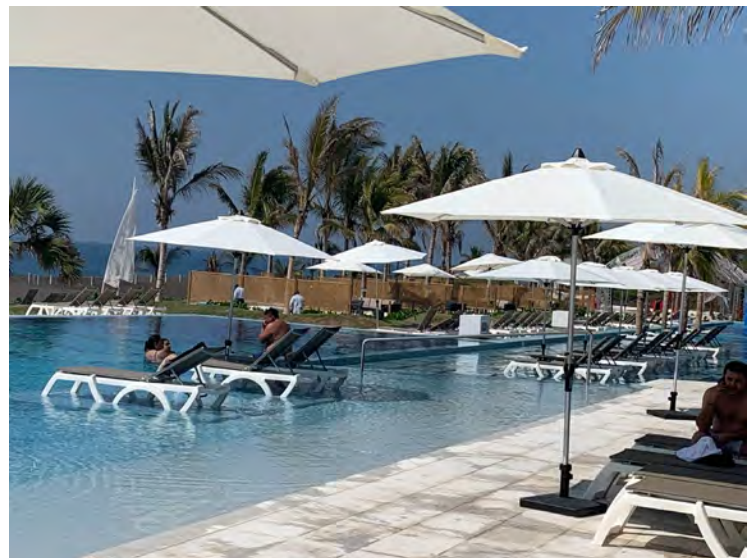


Traveling down from the Valley of Guatemala, we pass between massive volcanos to the narrow coastal planes, and the black sand beaches of the Pacific





**Above:** Take a stroll on the rich, dark, volcanic sand beach at Monterrico.



**Above:** Beach access and lunch is at Oceana Resort, Monterrico.



### Day 3: CONFERENCE DAY & ANTIGUA

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024** Welcome to our Book of Mormon conference day in Antigua Guatemala! Today will be a most special day. Antigua Guatemala, with its cobblestone streets and its colonial architecture, is the old colonial capital of Central America. This 5 century old town sits in a valley surrounded by stunning volcanoes, and is filled with colonial history and tradition. Our base here is the beautiful 5-star Camino Real Antigua hotel. After breakfast (included), we begin our Book of Mormon conference with Brother Mike King on the Jaredites, followed by a presentation by Shelby Saberon on the “Olmecs”, the first ancient American higher civilization to develop north of Panama. The Olmecs are called the “Mother Culture” of Central and North America. In the late morning and afternoon, you will have free time to explore Antigua. This town of arts has 16 catholic monasteries that lie in ruins (from the 1774 earthquake). People love to explore Antigua on foot, walking its cobblestone streets with numerous shops (clothing, jewelry, art), and the best restaurants in the country. You may want to visit the old Cathedral of Antigua (in ruins) and some of the monasteries and convents, such as Casa Santo Domingo with its many museums, The convent of Las Capuchinas with its beautiful archways, San Francisco with its murals, or La Recolecion, with its massive fallen blocks, destroyed in the earthquake of 1774. We will give you maps and detailed descriptions so that you have the best options. In the late afternoon, we resume our Book of Mormon conference. King turns his focus to Lehi, the father of Book of Mormon peoples. Saberon describes the civilizations of this coastal area, and what it would have been like had Lehi landed on these shores. Dinner tonight is intentionally on your own. You will want this, because there are so many delightful restaurants in Antigua to choose from, and flexibility for you as you continue exploring the streets. We will have a list of the best restaurants. For many, this has been a favorite day of the tour.



**Above Left:** View of Agua Volcano from our hotel entrance.

**Above Right:** The Santa Catalina Arch, with Agua Volcano behind.





Another view of the Santa Catalina Arch, with Agua Volcano behind



The Antigua Valley, nestled up in the mountains between 2 volcanoes, not far from the Pacific Coast





**Above Left:** The Antigua Guatemala Cathedral (in ruins). **Above Right:** Las Capuchinas Convent



**Left to Right:** Olmec monument at Casa Santo Domingo Museum. Antigua spring fed pool where Maya still wash laundry today. Mike & Michelle King with Maya woman & daughter, Antigua.



**Left:** La Recoleccion Convent, destroyed in the earthquake of 1774.

**Right:** Massive roof block from the earthquake-destroyed La Recoleccion convent.





## **Day 4: THE LAND OF THE FIRST INHERITANCE DAY (LEHI'S LANDING), TAKALIK ABAJ RUINS, ZUNIL MAYA MARKET, QUETZALTENANGO:**

**Thursday, August 1, 2024** Today we travel along the south coast of Guatemala, a narrow coastal strip of land with the Pacific Ocean on our left and a towering wall of mountains and volcanoes to our right. We are driving through lands that had thriving ancient kingdoms around the time Lehi and company arrived in the Americas. We stop at the ruins of Takalik Abaj, the capital city of one of the largest kingdoms on this coast, where we explore an ancient city built on 7 terraces in the foothills of a great volcano. This city was inhabited back to the times of the Olmecs, the mother culture (time of the Jaredites), and was thriving around 600-500 B.C. As we explore the ancient ruins of buildings on the main terraces of the city, we come to a large pyramid, shaped like the volcano behind the city, and the royal palace, where the tomb was found of a king that was contemporary with Lehi and Nephi.



**Left:** Santa Maria Volcano (Takalik Abaj lies in its foothills). **Right:** The giant Tajumulco volcano, on the border of Guatemala and Mexico. Both of these are just miles from the Pacific coast.



**Above Left:** Walking the jungle trails of Takalik Abaj. **Above Right:** Staircases, walls, pyramid foundations in ruins, and monuments at Takalik Abaj.





**Above Left:** Rows of stone monuments at the base of pyramid ruins.

**Left:** Mike King teaching at the ruins.

**Below:** The Palace of the king, and location of tomb discovery: 500-600 B.C.



We continue on in the late afternoon to Quetzaltenango, the 2nd largest mountain valley in Guatemala, up behind the wall of volcanoes. The towering mountains of southern Guatemala where weather is cool is called the “Land of Eternal Spring”. This area is stunningly scenic and is the breadbasket of Central America. Home to numerous traditional Maya communities, here you see markets, villages, clothing, and lifestyles that hearken back thousands of years. Although mostly poor, these peoples are generally of a cheerful disposition. A good portion, just under half of all Guatemalans, are native Maya. Many of these delightful peoples live in remote villages, and still dress in the traditional clothing styles of their ancestors. Today we have an opportunity to rub shoulders with some of them. On the way to Quetzaltenango, we stop by Zunil Maya Market, and Almalonga, where traditional Maya peoples dressed traditionally in beautiful hand woven blouses, shirts, skirts, and pantalones. Entering Quetzaltenango, the place of the Quetzal bird, we head to our lodgings, which has the best “views” of the LDS Quetzaltenango Temple. In the dedication of the Quetzaltenango Guatemala temple, Elder Uchtdorf referred to native Guatemalans as the “children of Lehi”. Breakfast is provided, along with dinner at our lodgings.





**Above Left:** Native Maya women dressed in traditional “huipils”, or blouses. **Above Right:** Vegetable market at Almalonga.



**Left to Right:** Zunil native market. Quetzaltenago temple. The Quetzal bird, national bird of Guatemala.  
**Below:** Sunset over the Pacific and Tacana Volcano, next in line after Santa Maria Volcano of Quetzalteango.





## **Day 5: QUETZALTENANGO LDS TEMPLE. OPTIONAL CHICABAL VOLCANO CRATER LAKE HIKE**

**Friday, August 2, 2024** Those who are interested can attend an early morning temple session at the Quetzaltenango LDS Temple, multiple sessions if available, and an optional visit to the city center. For a “high adventure” option, those who want will take an excursion to the Chicabal Volcano crater lake early in the morning. Here you will hike in and experience a truly stunning setting. Time permitting, in the afternoon, you may still be able to attend a temple session at the Quetzaltenango LDS Temple, (breakfast and dinner included).





## Day 6: THE ROUTE TO NEPHI, TOTONICAPAN, CHICHICASTENANGO, IXIMCHE, THE GUATEMALA HIGHLANDS (HIGH MOUNTAIN VALLEYS)

**Saturday, August 3, 2024** Our journey today follows in the possible footsteps of Nephi, as he fled from a coastal area into the mountain wilderness, and finally to a mountain valley where he settled. At least we can visualize such a journey as we travel through these lands. We drive by Totonicapan, where some of the oldest documents were written by living Maya at the time of the Spanish Conquest, recounting much of their old ways, “familiar” to us. Driving on through the mountains, we stop at Iximche Ruins where we see what an ancient high mountain valley city looked like. We continue on through the mountains to the Guatemala Valley, our main candidate for the Land of Nephi, where we tell stories of Nephi, and how he founded his city, and land, a prosperous sanctuary for the Nephites. Kaminaljuyu Park and the mounds there, and the Miraflores mounds we will visit give us the setting. We stay and dine again at our Guatemala City hotel where we enjoy dinner (breakfast and dinner included).



**Left:** The rugged way to Chichicastenango and the start of the Motagua River, pathway east through the mountain chain.

**Below:** Chichicastenango market, and the fertile valley systems of these regions.







**Left:** The rugged mountains of central Guatemala.

**Below:** Iximche, a later ruin, but a great setting for stories from



**Above:** Native Maya girls from Patzicia, location of 1<sup>st</sup> converts to The Church, and Maya girls of Santiago Atitlan.



## Day 7: MIRAFLORES MUSEUM, KAMINALJUJU PARK, GUATEMALA CITY: THE LAND OF NEPHI DAY, FLIGHT TO NORTHERN GUATEMALA

**Sunday, August 4, 2024** Today we explore the Valley of Guatemala, the largest high mountain valley in the mountains of Guatemala. This place has been inhabited since before 1000 BC, and possibly holds the longest continuously inhabited city in the Americas (3000+ years). It is a prime candidate for the Land of Nephi, with its many ruins that date from 600 BC to the time of Christ. The largest ruin in the valley, and the ancient capital city, are the ruins of Kaminaljuyu, or “KJ” for short. These ruins were largely intact up until the 1980s, when the expanding modern Guatemala City swallowed most of them up. Archaeology was done before then, so we know a good deal, and parts of the ruins remain. We will learn of this place at the Miraflores Museum, with a wonderful map model of the ancient city, as well as Kaminaljuyu Park, where a sector of the ancient city remains. Here, we tell stories of Nephi, and how he founded his city, and land, a prosperous sanctuary for the Nephites. In the late afternoon we fly north over the mountains and down to the jungle areas near sea level, to Flores, the capital of the northern “department” of Guatemala. We stay on the shores of Lake Peten Itza, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lake in Guatemala, which was ringed anciently by many cities. Our hotel is the 4 Star Camino Real Tikal, our base for the next 4 nights. (breakfast and dinner included).



**Above left:** Map model of ancient Kaminaljuyu.



**Above right:** Pyramid mound at Kaminaljuyu, surrounded by Guatemala City.

**Right:** Excavated buildings underneath grassy mounds like the one pictured above.





The Camino Real Tikal Hotel, nestled on the shores of Lake Peten Itza

## **Day 8: CEIBAL MAYA RUINS, RIVER RIDE ON THE PASSION RIVER: THE LAND OF ZARHEMLA DAY**

**Monday, August 5, 2024** Our experience continues today with an adventure on the greatest river system of the Maya, the Usumacinta and its tributaries. We drive back south towards the mountains, where rivers flow down out of the mountains in a northward direction, and we take a boat ride on the Pasion River, the largest tributary of the Usumacinta. This river system feeds into the mighty Usumacinta River, the “Nile of the Maya” and an excellent candidate for the River Sidon. Upon arrival at Ceibal ruins (candidate for a city in the Land Bountiful, or secondarily for Aaron, in the Land of Zarahemla), we climb up a ridge to the ruins on top. Much of the city here dates to B.C. times, including lower layers that date back into Olmec (& Jaredite) times. 3 cement roads on causeways (now covered in jungle) that connected the 3 sectors of the city. Our theme today centers around the Land of Zarahemla, its capital city of Zarahemla lying on the banks of the River Sidon. You’d be hard pressed to find a better setting for such stories as those of King Benjamin, Mosiah, and Alma the Younger, than you will see today. The acoustics here in the heart of the ancient city are amazing. The hike up to the ruins from the river is on a trail up to the ridge-top and requires moderate physical exertion. Some may not be able to make this climb but can enjoy the river boat ride and wait with our boat drivers if they choose. In the afternoon, we head back down river to our bus, and then north into the lowland jungles to our hotel, nestled on the shores of Lake Peten Itza.





**Top Left:** The Passion River, tributary of the Usumacinta, “Nile of the Maya”.

**Left:** Our ride to the ruins on long river boats.

**Top Right:** Hike up through the jungle to Ceibal Ruins.



Ceibal, river capital in a bountiful, prosperous region.





The Camino Real Tikal Hotel & Bungalows.



## Day 9: YAXHA MAYA RUINS: LAND BOUNTIFUL DAY

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024** Today our theme is the Land Bountiful. We visit Yaxha ruins, another massive city in these regions during BC and early AD times. At Yaxha (Yash-ha), we frequently are lucky in seeing howler and/or spider monkeys and other jungle wildlife. This ancient ruin boasts massive palaces, temples, pyramids, and cement highways. It is here that we see some of the best examples of Maya architecture on the trip, including the Preclassic (B.C. time period) temple formats such as the "E Group" and "Triad" temple forms (Triads temples focused on three instruction rooms, some of them with "creation" murals in them). Yaxha also has the best restored example of a sacbe, or Maya cement highway, that you can see. At the triad, we will tell the greatest story of the Book of Mormon, that of Christ's visit to the Nephites at Bountiful. Feel like Indiana Jones, exploring ruins deep in the jungles of northern Guatemala, but in the evening, find yourself in the comforts of your hotel. Yaxha is the third largest (known) ruin in Guatemala and was a massive city that dates into B.C. times. In the evening, time and interest permitting, we discuss an investigated, but "unrestored" site, Chaak Ak'al, a regional capital city of one of the more prosperous zones of these lands, near the same river we traveled on yesterday. This was the capital in BC times on that river, the largest city in one of the most prosperous, or "bountiful" regions of ancient Central America. This ruin is less known but is an excellent candidate for the city Bountiful. It has a stone wall around the city, same as Bountiful did, which we will see, and walk over, should we be able to visit. The temple here around the time of Christ was a towering accomplishment, with a little help of a natural hill as the core inside (breakfast and dinner provided).



**The Yaxha Park Area:** Aerial of the jungle at Yaxha and Lake Yaxha





Above: Triad pyramid complex at Yaxha, dating into B.C. times.



Above: Ancient Temple at Yaxha, one of the three “rooms of creation”



## Day 10: TIKAL MAYA RUINS: LAND OF DESOLATION DAY

**Wednesday, August 7, 2024** Your ancient America tour continues today at the ruins of Tikal (Tee-call), perhaps the greatest of all American ruins restored for tourists. In the morning after breakfast, we take a short drive to Tikal. Hands-down, these ruins are considered by most travelers as the most impressive anywhere in the Americas. At the ruins you will enjoy the day viewing towering pyramids with breathtaking temples set in the heart of the jungle. Those who feel up to it will climb Temple IV, and view Tikal's tallest pyramids poking out of the top of the jungle's canopy forest. Here you can view the towering tropical jungle in all its beauty, with toucans, parrots, monkeys, and other animals. Tikal dominated these lands, and adjacent lands, around 300-400 AD, the times of Mormon and Moroni. Were its Generals rivals to these Book of Mormon heroes? During this century, Tikal went on a campaign to conquer or bring under control much of these lands, including those we visited on the river, and was a "superpower" of these regions for much of the next 400 years (400-800 AD). At Tikal, we discuss the end of Book of Mormon civilization, rounding out the chronology of events we have discussed on this tour. We enjoy dinner and our stay again for a final night at the Camino Real Tikal Hotel (breakfast and dinner provided).



Temples Above the Forest Canopy



Arial of Temples 1 & 2



The Great Plaza



Temple 5



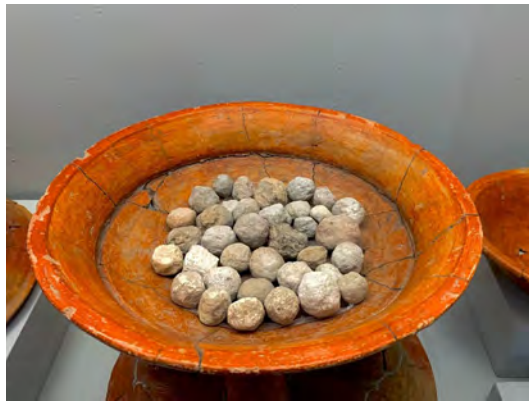


Temple 4, Towering above the Forest



**Day 11: NATIONAL MUSEUM, GIANT RELIEF MAP, DRIVE TO LAKE ATITLAN & PANAJACHEL MARKET, HOTEL ATITLAN AND GARDENS**

**Thursday, August 8, 2024** Switch gears from the hot jungles as we head south back up into the mountains, on a flight back to Guatemala City. Our first stop is the National Museum, where we see some of the greatest treasures of the ancient civilizations we have been examining. Excavated objects from Ceibal, Tikal, and Kaminaljuyu are highlights, along with ancient stone boxes that held books, and other treasures. We visit an outdoor 3D relief map model of Guatemala, where we can retrace our steps since we started our journey. Then, we head to a breathtaking setting at Lake Atitlan, where our hotel has acres of flower gardens, and the communities of colorful living Maya are places you will never forget. Here, villages surrounding the lake are named after the 12 apostles, and each village has its own dress style. The Quiche Maya considered this location their version of the Garden of Eden. Explore a native market at Panajachel and barter for numerous native handicrafts, and see the “Underwater Museum”, with pottery from sunken cities. These cities were sunk at various times, including the proto-classic, around the time of the death of Christ. The evening will be spent at Hotel Atitlan, a four-star colonial style hotel in a five-star setting, and another highlight of the trip. Explore acres of flower gardens for hours or relax to a spectacular view. Dinner is served after dark (breakfast and dinner included this day).



**Above:** Sling stones and a bark paper beater for making books, from Ceibal.



**Left:** Jade treasures from Tikal





**Far Left:** Ceramic pot from Rio Azul with a “hot” chocolate drink recipe, described in glyphs.

**Left:** Dancing Jaguar ceramic vase with a glyph for the “Unknown Capital”, on the river.



**Lake Atitlan and its' Terraced Slopes**



**Left:** Stela and altar from a sunken city in Lake Atitlan



**Day 12: BOAT RIDE ON LAKE ATITLAN AND LAKE ATITLAN. LACUSTRINE MUSEUM OF LAKE ATITLAN, HOTEL ATITLAN AND GARDENS**

**Friday, August 9, 2024** This morning join us for a boat ride on magnificent Lake Atitlan and enjoy a breakfast buffet on the boat. We also float over several sunken cities, whose pottery dates to around the time of Christ (see 3 Nephi 8 & 9 and references to Mocum, Onihah, and “American” Jerusalem). Recent underwater mapping expeditions have discovered at least five different sunken towns/cities, including houses and streets, and a palace with stela and altar (pictured above). Explore Santiago Atitlan, a town on the other side of the lake and seat of one of the most traditional Maya regions in existence. See the beautifully woven blouses of Maya women, embroidered with birds and flowers, or the colorful pantaloons of the local men. Shop for more art products, including "Atitlan Style" paintings that are now beginning to show up in the art galleries of New York. On the way back, enjoy a brief discussion on the Waters of Mormon. In the afternoon, we see pottery artifacts brought up from the sunken cities by scuba divers at the Lake Atitlan Lacustrine Museum, and then enjoy the wonderful gardens at the hotel. For the evening, enjoy another at the lovely Hotel Atitlan (breakfast and dinner included).



Hotel Atitlan and gardens





Above Left: The men of Santiago Atitlan. Above Right: Sunken city off the point.



Atitlan Art Style: Santiago Atitlan Market





Stunning Lake Atitlan volcanoes.

## Day 13: ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA

**Saturday, August 10, 2024** We enjoy a relaxing and leisurely final morning at Lake Atitlan and then bid farewell to beautiful lake Atitlan as we head back to Antigua for our afternoon and evening of the tour. Here you will have one more chance to shop and see anything you missed the first time around. We stay again at The Camino Real in Antigua. We could not end the tour at a better place (breakfast and dinner provided).







## **Day 14: FLIGHTS HOME**

**Sunday, August 11, 2024** A short transfer takes us to our flights home and the end of a trip of a lifetime. Breakfast will be provided (please note that if you have an early morning flight, breakfast will not be provided because of the early hour of checkout). Thanks for joining us in Guatemala, a land of many wonders!



## **IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS**

### **Passport Control**

Upon arrival in Guatemala, visitors are requested to present a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the dates of your tour and may undergo a security check and, as well as entry forms with passenger details that must be filled out accurately. If you are from the USA you do not need anything other than a current passport to enter the country. If you are from another country, check to see if any special requirements such as visas exist for your visit to Guatemala.

## **CLIMATE FOR YOUR TOUR LOCATION**

### **Climate**

Guatemala is north of the equator but exists securely in the subtropics (dry and wet seasons). It is a coastal country of the Pacific Ocean *and* Caribbean Sea. Jungle or cleared land for towns and ranches cover most of the countryside. Plan on hot, humid weather and dress accordingly. Rainfall ranges from 60-90 inches in the northern jungle areas to 120-200 inches on the south coast annually.

## **ELECTRICAL SPECIFICS OF THIS TOUR LOCATION**

### **Electrical Appliances**

Most, if not all of the hotels we use on this tour have outlets and voltage that work with US appliances and. Some outlets in some rooms may only have slots for two prongs (lacking the lower ground prong slot). Bring a three-prong to two prong adapter, which can be purchased for under a dollar at stores like Walmart and Target as well as most hardware stores.



## **READING LIST**

This reading list was created for those who would like to do additional preparation for the tour. These are by no means required reading, but simply provided for your enjoyment.

### **Academic Basic Reading List**

The Maya  
*by Michael D. Coe*

The Knopf Route of the Mayas  
*by Alfred A Knopf*

Chronicles of Maya Kings and Queens  
*by Simon Martin & Nikolai Grube*

The Popol Vuh (Maya version of the creation of the world)  
*by Allen Christenson*

Mexico (covers numerous civilizations of Mexico)  
*by Michael D. Coe & Rex Koontz*

The Olmecs : America's First Civilization (Jaredite candidates)  
*by Richard A. Diehl*

Dawn of the Maya (DVD)  
*by National Geographic*

### **Additional Academic (Advanced) Reading:**

The Ancient Maya  
*by Robert J. Sharer*

How to Read Maya Hieroglyphs  
*by John Montgomery*

Art and Society in a Highland Maya Community: The Altarpiece of Santiago Atitlan  
*by Allen Christenson*

The Aztecs  
*by Richard F. Townsend*

### **Recommended Book of Mormon Scholarly & Theme Books/Materials**

Journey of Faith: The New World DVD  
*by the Neal A Maxwell Institute/BYU*

Unpublished Tour book & Tour Book Appendix (Usumacinta River/Lowland Maya model)  
*by Shelby Saberon*

An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon (Grijalva River Mixed Model)



*by John Sorenson*

Visualizing the Book of Mormon

*by John Sorenson*

Journey of Faith DVD (Lehi's journey from Bountiful to Jerusalem along the Arabian Peninsula)

*by the Neal A Maxwell Institute/BYU*

Land of Promise: Images of Book of Mormon Lands

*by S. Michael Wilcox*

### **Where to Purchase Books/Media**

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