

# Maya Magic & Mystery in Guatemala

*With All Saints Day Festival*

October 27–November 4, 2010



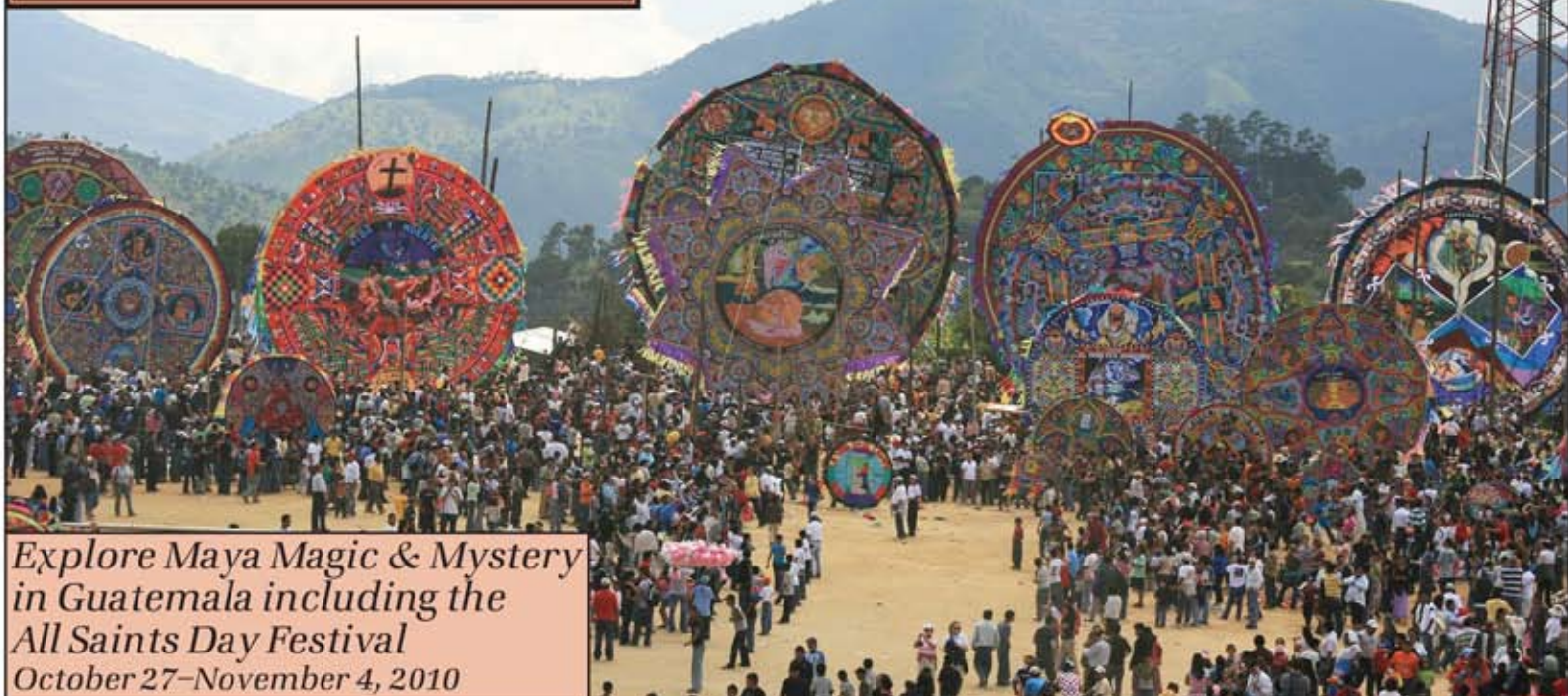
**BETCHART**  
EXPEDITIONS Inc.

**SigmaXi • Planetary Society**  
**AAAS Travels • ACS Expeditions**

*For Members & Friends of AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS & Planetary Society*  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

**With Air Fare  
from Houston  
Only \$99 each way + tax!**

**FIRST CLASS**



**Explore Maya Magic & Mystery  
in Guatemala including the  
All Saints Day Festival  
October 27–November 4, 2010**

**DISCOVER MAYA MAGIC & MYSTERY  
IN GUATEMALA!  
Including the All Saints Day Festival  
October 27 - November 4, 2010**

We invite you to join **anthropologist Grace Johnson**, as we explore the Meso American Maya wonderland of Guatemala! Certainly the most fascinating location in Central America, Guatemala possesses a living Maya cultural heritage, which can be seen to this day in the villages and celebrations in the scenic Highlands. In the tropical lowlands, the ancient Maya heritage prevails in the spectacular sites of Tikal, Yaxha, and others dotted throughout the rainforest. All told, the Maya magic in Guatemala is profound -- and just waiting to be savored by you!

Our adventure will begin with a flight from Houston to Guatemala City and transfer to the cherished colonial town of **Antigua**, the third capital of Guatemala and a **World Heritage Site**. The next morning, we will go to the famous market town of **Chichicastenango** where local Maya people sell fruits and vegetables, woolen goods, and ceramic craft items. At the **St. Tomas Church**, we may see the local Maya people performing rituals in the Catholic church.

We will continue to **Lake Atitlan**, the picture-perfect Highland lake edged by volcanoes and villages. At **San Juan La Laguna**, we will visit a local textile cooperative before boarding a boat for lunch in **Santiago**. Here we will find the house where the Maya God Maximon is living. You may also see the local shaman performing rituals for the local people, and see the distinctive textiles and primitive art for which this area is famous.

We will next visit the site of **Iximche**, the first capital of Guatemala, founded on the location of a Kakchikel-Maya city in 1524.

The three 12,000+ foot volcanoes which surround **Antigua --Volcan de Agua, Acatenango, and Volcan de Fuego --** have defined its heritage. On a walking tour we will learn more about the establishment, history, and architecture of this town of infinite colonial charm.

Near Antigua we will visit the village of **Santiago Sacatepequez** where the Maya people celebrate **All Saints Day, November 1**, with a festive **Kite Festival**. Huge kites are made and flown over the cemetery in celebration of their ancestors. This little known celebration is simply amazing, full of color, festivity, and the Maya people enjoying one of their beloved traditions!

A short flight will next take us to **Flores and Yaxha National Park**, nestled in the tropical rainforest of lowland Guatemala. Here, we'll enjoy the sights and sounds of the howler and spider monkeys, and many tropical birds and animals, as you explore this atmospheric ancient Maya site. More than 500 structures are found here, including stelae, altars, nine temple pyramids, and ballcourts. A twin pyramid complex offers insight into the political alliances that influenced the city at its peak.

We will explore the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tikal**, one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Maya. Here the architecture dates back to the 4th century BC. Tikal dominated the Maya region politically, economically, and militarily for hundreds of years. Today its huge temples rise above the jungle canopy, and monkeys swing through the treetops, to the delight of visitors. Our journey will conclude with a flight to Guatemala City and dinner in celebration of our visit!

We hope you will join us!

**FOR A DETAILED BROCHURE, PHONE RENEE, (800) 252-4910**  
**Email: [Renee@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:Renee@betchartexpeditions.com)**  
Betchart Expeditions Inc, 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

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IN GUATEMALA  
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**LEADERSHIP**

Leading the expedition will be **Grace Johnson**, former Curator of Latin American Collections at the San Diego Museum of Man and a Betchart trip leader. Grace has a long association with the people and customs of Latin America, and is currently curating a new Maya collection for the Museum of Man. She has organized many other museum exhibits on Mexican folk art and has overseen the largest collection of weavings from Oaxaca that is found in the United States. Grace leads trips for Betchart to Oaxaca, Mexico, and Guatemala, with a special emphasis on the Maya. She looks forward to sharing her love and knowledge of the Maya world with you.

**ITINERARY**

**DAY 1            HOUSTON TO GUATEMALA CITY & ANTIGUA**

Wed Oct 27

Check in at Houston International Airport on the morning of October 27th for our 9:30 am Continental Airlines flight to Guatemala City. Arrive at 11:25 am, and transfer to the colonial city of Antigua. Afternoon at leisure. Welcome social, dinner, and introduction to the expedition. *Hotel in Antigua (1 night). D*

**DAY 2            CHICHICASTENANGO & LAKE ATITLAN**

Thu Oct 28

This morning, we will drive to the renowned market town of Chichicastenango, crossing scenic mountain countryside en route. You will see the local Maya people in their traditional dress going about their daily lives, working in the fields, collecting firewood, traveling between markets, and selling their wares. Upon arrival in Chichicastenango ("Chichi"), we will explore this famous market and cultural location. There will be fruits and vegetables for sale, as well as everyday and craft items, an amazing variety of textiles, wooden and ceramic craft items. You may also visit the famous St. Tomas Church where local Maya people come to perform Maya rituals within the Catholic Church, demonstrating the interesting way in which the two faiths have combined over the last few hundred years. You may also hike up the hill to the Pascaul Abaj ritual site to see if any local shaman are performing rituals or walk to the cemetery on the outskirts of town. In the afternoon, transfer to Lake Atitlan and check in at our *Hotel (2 nights) B,L*

**DAY 3            SAN JUAN LA LAGUNA & SANTIAGO**

Fri Oct 29

This morning we will transfer to San Juan La Laguna Village to visit a local textile cooperative to see the backstrap loom in use and how they use natural dyes. You may also visit the home and workshop of local naif painters. Then board the boat on Lake Atitlan to go to Santiago village for lunch. In the afternoon, we will walk to find the house where the Maya God Maximon is living. Each year, a different "brotherhood" has the privilege of taking care of their God so his location changes. Once with Maximon, you may see local shaman performing rituals for local people. We will also visit the local church and learn about the history of this very traditional town. We'll visit the market and learn about the distinctive textiles and primitive art that is famous from this area. *B,L*

**DAY 4 IXIMCHE & ANTIGUA**

Sat Oct 30

This morning we will transfer from Lake Atitlan to the first Spanish capital city of Guatemala, Iximche. It was founded on a Kakchikel-Maya city site in 1524. Swiss-Guatemalan archaeologist Jorge Guillemin excavated the site from 1960-1972. It is bounded by ravines and includes several plazas, each with at least two temples. There are also palaces and two ballcourts, one 40 meters long. The site's name derives from the Mayan name for the breadnut tree. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and continue to our *Hotel in Antigua (3 nights)*. B,L

**DAY 5 COLONIAL ANTIGUA**

Sun Oct 31

We will enjoy a half-day walking tour of colonial Antigua today. Situated within site of three spectacular volcanoes -- Volcan de Agua, Acatenango, and Volcan de Fuego -- Antigua is in a spectacular setting and is among the most charming Spanish colonial cities in all of Latin America. This morning we will explore its architectural and historical highlights, with behind-the-scenes looks at some of the many churches, convents, and cathedrals. The afternoon will be at leisure for you to explore the city further on your own. B,L

**DAY 6 SANTIAGO SACATEPEGUEZ**

Mon Nov 1 ALL SAINTS DAY FESTIVAL

Today we will visit the village of Santiago Sacatepequez where the Maya people celebrate All Saints Day, November 1, with a festive Kite Festival. These enormous kites are made and flown over the cemetery in celebration of their ancestors. This little known celebration (outside of Guatemala) is delightful, full of colorful huge kites, and Maya people obviously enjoying one of their beloved traditions. Photographers get ready for the amazing opportunities for photography today! B,L

**DAY 7 YAXHA NATIONAL PARK**

Tues Nov 2

Morning transfer to the Guatemala City airport for a short flight to Flores, in the heart of the jungles and rainforest of lowland Guatemala. We will meet our driver and guide and transfer to Yaxha National Park for a visit to this atmospheric site. Howler and spider monkeys are found here, as well as many tropical birds and animals, plus scores of Mayan structures, from stelae to altars, temples, pyramids, and ballcourts. Enjoy sunset on top of the main temple with views over the surrounding rainforest and nearby Lake Yaxha. We will walk back through the jungle with flashlights -- perhaps spotting some nocturnal wildlife along the way. *Overnight in Flores*. B,L

**DAY 8 TIKAL NATIONAL PARK**

Wed Nov 3 &amp; WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Today, we will explore Tikal National Park, including a luxurious picnic in the park. We will see the famed temples of Tikal, which rise up through the jungle canopy, and a variety of tropical animals and birds. Certainly the most famous of the ancient Mayan archaeological sites, Tikal has an interesting history of political, economic, and military dominance of the region for hundreds of years. We'll return to Flores for our flight to Guatemala City and farewell dinner in celebration of our journey! *Hotel in Guatemala City*. B,L,D

**DAY 9 GUATEMALA CITY TO HOUSTON**

Thurs Nov 4

Transfer to Guatemala City's International Airport for our return flight to Houston. B

## COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Expedition Fee:** \$2,895 per person twin share (plus air \$99 each direction, Houston - Guatemala City + tax + ticketing fee). Air Fares Are Subject to Change until ticketed.

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Land transport; group airport transfers; in-tour air flights Guatemala City/Flores, RT; accommodations twin share; meals as indicated; entrance fees; baggage handling; tips to local guides and drivers; leadership, administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** International Air Fares (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; gratuities to expedition leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, snacks; personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the Maya heritage of Guatemala, including colonial and Maya sites in the Highlands and spectacular lowland sites like Yaxha and Tikal. A special highlight will be the All Saints Day Kite Festival. This is a rich experience with wonderful opportunities to meet Maya people and photograph the colonial and Maya sites. The group will travel from 2 to 4 hours by bus or van most days. Walks will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery, meeting local people, and enjoying the cultural heritage of the areas. It will be summer with midday temperatures in the 70's in the Highlands; 80's - 90's in the lowlands) with some rainshowers. The expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers who relish the opportunity to enjoy rich cultural experiences! You will also see monkeys and other wildlife in the rainforest. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals please.)

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## RESERVATIONS

#1142

**YES!** I/We want to join the **Maya Magic & Mystery Expedition, October 27 - November 4, 2010** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1: \_\_\_\_\_ #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (please circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_\_ Twin share \_\_\_\_\_ Single  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_\_\_ Smoker

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to:**

**Maya Magic & Mystery  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** Please phone **Renee at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 252-4910** for information about our special group air fare. All passengers must fly together in both directions. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

**Accommodations:** Are in a comfortable first class hotels. Limited single accommodations are available for a supplement of \$495.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form to: **Maya Magic, Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.** Balance of land fee is due 60 days before departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

**Questions:** Please call **Renee Apostolou, Betchart Expeditions Inc., (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910.**

**Responsibility:** *Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. Betchart can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.* c 2010 Betchart Expeditions Inc. All rights reserved. CST#2036304-40