

Join us for the grand opening of our high school during our March 2025 trip to Guatemala!



Limitless Horizons Ixil (LHI) is excited to invite you to visit the remote Maya Ixil village of Chajul, where we have worked for the past 20 years.

Our 2025 Community Engagement Trip from March 2-10 coincides with the grand opening of our high school and commemoration of our 20th anniversary, which you will celebrate alongside our growing school of 98 students, their families, and our staff!

Join us for this unforgettable experience that **combines learning, service, and exploration** and offers a unique opportunity to learn about Maya Ixil culture, history, and daily life.

"A once in a lifetime experience that could only be provided by a organization like LHI which is professional, entrusted, entrenched, and respected in the community."

– Prior Trip Participant

"I gained a new perspective on the generosity and strength of the human spirit....This entire journey is a beautiful testimony to hope, forgiveness, and resilience."

- Prior Trip Participant



March 2025 High School Grand Opening Trip Itinerary

For those joining us for an optional Day in Antigua: Arrive in Guatemala City Saturday, March 1st

- Fly into Guatemala City and travel to Antiqua via private transport.
- Enjoy your first meal at one of Antigua's many restaurants.

Day 1 - Sunday, March 2: Antiqua Day (optional) OR Arrival in Guatemala

- For those who arrived Saturday: Spend this day exploring the UNESCO world heritage town of Antigua on a private city tour. Participate in a salsa class (optional).
- Everyone else: Fly into Guatemala City. Private transfer to Antigua.
- Dine out at one of Antigua's many delicious restaurants (all).

Day 2 - Monday, March 3: Antigua to Chajul

- Beautiful 6-7 hour trip on private transport through winding mountains, cornfields, and rustic indigenous towns en route to Chajul in Guatemala's Maya Ixil region with rest stops for lunch and movement.

Day 3 - Tuesday, March 4: Chajul

- Guided tour of Chajul and Ixil language lesson.
- Visit Limitless Horizons Ixil's Community library and meet eager young readers.
- Learn to make tortillas and eat lunch with families of LHI students.
- Visit our school, Colegio Horizontes, and meet students, teachers, and staff.

Day 4 - Wednesday, March 5: Chajul

- Observe classes and join in activities at Colegio Horizontes.
- Learn about the impact of the 36-year civil war in the Ixil area from a community member who experienced it firsthand.
- Learn to make boxbol (the Ixil region's signature dish) with local families.
- Try your hand at the art of backstrap weaving with a lesson in a local home.
- Service project: Engage with 50+ young library users during a celebratory and educational event.

Day 5 - Thursday, March 6: Chajul

- High School Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony!
- Short Chajul culture lesson and chance to buy local textiles.
- Optional Zumba class.

Day 6 - Friday, March 7: Chajul to Lake Átitlan

- Private transport to Lake Atitlan, one of the most scenic lakes in the world.
- Sightseeing and artisan shopping at the lakeside town of Panajachel.

Day 7 - Saturday, March 8: Lake Átitlan

- Travel by private boat to culturally rich San Juan la Laguna to visit local cooperatives (natural dyeing and weaving, honey, chocolate making, & painting).
- Stay at a beautiful jungle ecolodge in the lakeside town of Santa Cruz la Laguna.
- Delicious 3 course dinner on the water.
- Optional: Shopping, massage.

Day 8 - Sunday, March 9: Lake to Antigua

- Enjoy a lovely morning kayaking, hiking, or relaxing.
- Return by private transport to Antigua for final sightseeing & shopping.

Day 9 - Monday, March 10: Travel Home

- Final breakfast & private shuttle to the Guatemala City airport.







Option 1: Full Trip (Days 1-9) - \$1,700 per person

*Optional Day in Antigua: for those interested, you can add an additional day in Antigua at the beginning of your trip. This day will be spent enjoying a tour of this historic, UNESCO World Heritage town. You will wander Antigua's cobblestone streets, visit ruins, churches, and markets, and you'll eat delicious local dishes all the while surrounded by three neighboring volcanoes (one of which is active!). Additionally, you'll have the option to participate in an optional salsa class before dinner at an open-air restaurant.

[You must arrive on Saturday March 1st. Additional Cost: \$225]

Please note that this trip cost is based on double occupancy rooms throughout your stay. If you prefer single occupancy for the Antigua and Lake Atitlan portions of the trip, please let us know and we can try to accommodate for an additional fee. Single occupancy in Chajul is limited and dependent on hotel availability.

FULL TRIP FEES INCLUDE	FULL TRIP FEES DO NOT INCLUDE
 - Accommodations for nine days - Three meals per day plus snacks - Ground transportation - Tour guide & translation services - All activity costs - Trip planning by experienced LHI Team - A tax-deductible donation to LHI - Inspiration and life-long memories! 	 - Airfare - Airport meals - Travel insurance - Medical expenses - Souvenirs & personal expenses

Option 2: Just join us in Chajul (Days 3-5) - \$550 per person

*Get yourself to Chajul by day 3 early morning. Leave group day 6.

*Optional private transport to and from Chajul: If you would like, we can coordinate your private transportation to and from Chajul from/to any major city or tourist location within Guatemala. For private transport pricing and coordination, please contact Elena at communications@limitlesshorizonsixil.org so that she can get you a personalized quote based on your itinerary and group size.

Please note that this trip cost is based on double occupancy rooms throughout your stay. If you prefer single occupancy, please let us know and we can try to accommodate for an additional fee; however, single occupancy in Chajul is limited and dependent on hotel availability.

CHAJUL TRIP FEES INCLUDE	CHAJUL TRIP FEES DO NOT INCLUDE
 - Accommodation for three days - Three meals per day plus snacks - Tour guide & translation services - All activity costs - Trip planning by experienced LHI Team - A tax-deductible donation to LHI - Inspiration and life-long memories! 	 - Airfare - Airport meals - Airport transport - Transportation services to Chajul or add-on travels - Travel insurance - Medical expenses - Souvenirs & personal expenses

LHI's earnings from this trip will directly support our programs in Chajul through our 501(c)(3) organization.

\$500 from full trip payments and \$150 from Chajul day payments qualify as charitable contributions and are eligible for a tax deduction based on current IRS regulations. Upon full payment, you will receive a charitable donation receipt.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Before February 2, 2025 (1 month before the trip): \$500 deposit retained as a tax-deductible donation.

After February 2, 2025: \$1,200 retained from full trip fees as a tax-deductible donation. \$500 deposit from Chajul trip fee retained as a tax-deductible donation.



Flights

- Please book your flights to Guatemala City with an arrival time preferably by 4:30pm (no later than 7:30pm) on Sunday, March 2 (Saturday, March 1 for those participating in the additional day in Antigua) and departure on Monday, March 10.
- For assistance with travel plans and transportation options, don't hesitate to reach out.

Accommodations & Meals

Please note that our trip cost is based on double occupancy rooms throughout your stay.

- Chajul: accommodations are basic but hygienic and comfortable (note: hot water supply and dependable electricity can be limited).
- Antigua and Lake Atitlán: accommodations are comfortable and tastefully decorated. Hot water is more reliable.
- While in Chajul, Limitless Horizons Ixil graduates prepare a buffet-style breakfast which we eat in the library or school cafeteria. Lunch is either served at our school or by local families in their homes. Dinner is at a local restaurant. Families have gone through extensive hygiene training to safely serve meals to our participants. Our visitors only drink bottled or filtered water. Any dietary needs can be accommodated and must be communicated to our staff upon registration.
- Travelers are encouraged to bring snacks (e.g. granola bars, trail mix, dark chocolate) or any specialty foods to supplement and add variety to their meals.

Activity Level & Weather

- Elevation levels range from 5,000-7,000 feet and most locations are somewhat hilly with some unpaved roads. Walking for 20 minutes at a time may be part of the day's schedule, and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Open air <u>tuk tuks</u> are readily available for anyone who isn't comfortable walking longer distances.
- In March, it ranges from temperate to hot (60-85°) in all locations we'll be visiting. Afternoon showers are fairly common. Rain jackets and shoes suitable for light mud are recommended.

Safety

- Our staff members have led service trips for the past 15+ years and have extensive training in risk management and emergency response. We have comprehensive emergency action plans which ensure the safety of our groups, and which ensure we can obtain medical care at any point during your stay if necessary.
- LHI is not responsible for lost or stolen goods. At orientation, we will provide suggestions on how to prevent theft. Participants are advised not to bring valuables.

Health, Immunizations, & Travel Insurance

- LHI requires you to have health insurance that will cover emergencies and health care when in Guatemala.
- If you do not currently have coverage when traveling internationally, you can purchase travel insurance and emergency evacuation coverage through <u>Seven Corners</u> or <u>World Nomads</u> for the duration of the trip.
- LHI recommends that participants have been immunized against **tetanus**, **diphtheria**, **hepatitis B** (all standard travel vaccines), and **COVID-19**.
- Additionally, we strongly advise that participants get vaccines specific to this area: **hepatitis A** (two-shot series, good for 20 years) and a **typhoid shot** (good for two years).
- The Centers for Disease Control reports that there is no malaria in any of the areas on the trip's itinerary.
- If you are concerned about digestive sickness, you can get a prescription of antibiotics from your physician; be sure to have 4 to 10 days worth of medication.
- Be sure to bring any prescription medications you need for the duration of the trip.

Register online here

or email Elena at communications@limitlesshorizonsixil.org for more information and/or help registering.