

REVIEW of one of our customers!

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We booked our Nebaj to Todos Santos hike in Guatemala with [Adrenaline Tours](#) and it was the highlight of our Guatemala trip. We enjoyed the hike not solely because of the incredible views of the continuously changing landscape, but moreover because of the lovely families that hosted us during the two nights. The people we've met spoke Ixil and/or Quiche (Mayan languages) as their first language. In the more remote village on the mountain, boys learn Spanish in school and sadly most girls do not. The landscapes almost changed every hour from flatlands to forests to mountains to villages.



We came from Xela, and went to Nebaj with public transportation (change buses in Quiche). We stayed one night in Nebaj before our tour started. The guide visited us in our hotel to get acquainted and to arrange the luggage transport. Our bags traveled without us to Todos Santos, where we picked them up at the main square after our last hike on the third day (for additional costs).

It is important to pack the following things in your bag pack: toiletries, clothes for three days, warm clothes for the nights because it is cold, good walking shoes, snacks, camera, 3-4-liter water. There is no drinking water in the places where you will sleep. We passed some shops during the hikes, but most of them did not have water. We encountered the first shop which had water in the late afternoon of the second day.

The first day we walked around 7 hours and ascended around 1500 meter. The second day is more levelled, but takes around 8 hours and the last day 3 hours. We only used a car (Microbus/colectivo) on the last day to get to Todos Santos.



The first day of the hike we left at 8:00 from our hotel in NEBAJ with the guide (breakfast is not included the first day). We started walking from our hotel in Nebaj, the first part is flat and we encountered different small villages. Most women were wearing beautiful and colorful traditional clothes. The children of one village found us most peculiar. They compared their own height with us -medium sized Europeans, but still much taller than the average Mayan- and asked what that white stuff was, we were putting on our arms and face (sunscreen). For lunch we stopped at the home of an acquaintance of the guide. They weren't prepared for us,

but made a warm meal anyway (spaghetti with tomato sauce and beans and tortillas on the side). The hardest part of the first day came after lunch. We had to ascend for 2.5 hours till an altitude of more than 3000 meters. The last part is a bit flatter and through a beautiful forest.



Just a few hours before dark we arrived to a small village of 40 families. The guide just asked a family if we (4 people + 1 guide) could spend a night at their place. They were surprised as well, but warm and welcoming. The house is very rustic. It did not have a floor and the beds did not have mattresses and were a bit too short. You do get 6 blankets, which you really need because it gets very cold at night! There was no shower and the toilet is a hole in the ground in a small hut outside. We ate dinner (tamales, tortillas and beans) around a fire and drank 'natural coffee'. Which tasted as very sweetened tea. Later during our trip to a coffee farm somewhere else in Guatemala, we learned that this coffee is made with the whole coffee berry/bean instead of only the bean inside the berry.



The guide spoke Spanish with the family because he spoke a different Mayan language than the family.



The next day we ate breakfast at 7:30 (pasta with canned tuna) and started walking again. The guide explained that he fought during the civil war around 1982 where we walked, and that the Ixil community and other native communities, suffered a lot.

The second day consisted of descending and ascending parts. We had beautiful views because of the altitude. We had lunch at a village with good views as well. Like our previous experiences our lunch host was not prepared and made a cup of noodles with tortillas and some avocado on the side. We could buy some very small water bottles at her place. The last 2 hours of the second day we walked lightly ascending. The last sleeping place was prepared for our visit. They cooked on a wood fired stove, making fresh tortillas. It was amazing to see them make those from scratch. We didn't see a shower as well. In the evening the guide said we had the choice between walking 3 hours or 6 hours on the last day. The latter option had better views, but was more difficult, we would wake up early and would skip breakfast because the family wouldn't be awake so early. We chose the first option. The last day the hike was flat which was welcoming for us. We could buy some water in the first shop we encountered and saw some amazing views. We took a microbus/colectivo from a village to Todos Santos. We had to wait an hour till our luggage came and after it we could go to our hotel we booked there. Our guide walked us all the way to our hotel, where we said our goodbyes.

The Nebaj - Todos Santos three-day hike was an amazing and unique experience because of the views and the people we've met. It felt good to go a bit out of the touristic trail. It is however a difficult hike due to the length, the altitudes and the sleeping conditions. The hike felt a bit rushed because we needed to walk a lot every day so we sometimes wanted a bit more time to enjoy the view. It was however worth it for us.

