

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAM-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to the general travel risks outlined in the [Study Abroad Risk Advisory](#) this program “Ecological and Social Issues at Lake Atitlan, Guatemala” (hereinafter “Program”) has specific activities which may pose a heightened level of risk for participants. UC Davis Study Abroad provides this information so that students can make an informed decision about consenting to participate in the Program. Participants in the “Ecological and Social Issues at Lake Atitlan, Guatemala” program will be expected to participate in the activities below.

If participants do not want to participate in an activity, they must inform the Faculty Leader or Program Coordinator immediately and ask to opt out. In some cases, an activity may be a required in order to participate on the Program (e.g. travel to another site). In these instances, participants wishing to opt out may not be able to participate in the Program at all and may need to choose another program. Study Abroad will try to keep opt out decisions confidential, but due to the group nature of certain activities (such as group travel/tours), it may be impossible for the decision to be kept confidential.

By participating in in a UC Davis Study Abroad Program, participants voluntarily assume these additional associated risks, both known and unknown. If participants do not ask to opt out, UC Davis Study Abroad will assume they consent to the risks associated with participating in the activities.

- **This Program includes transportation or tours on boats or other marine vessels.** These vessels may be public conveyances or private charters, subject to oversight by marine regulatory bodies of Guatemala. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot certify pilot training or licensure, vessel integrity, or mechanical service. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot anticipate water conditions but where possible will postpone travel or change itineraries under inclement conditions (may not be possible for public conveyance). All travelers should ensure appropriate life-saving/personal floatation devices are available before boarding, review and understand all safety procedures, and ask questions about the use of safety devices.
- **This Program may include transportation by rudimentary or primitive marine vessels such as canoe (powered or unpowered) or raft.** These vessels may or may not be subject to oversight by marine regulatory bodies of Guatemala. At minimum, these vessels should have personal floatation devices but may not have additional forms of safety devices. Travel on these vessels may be subject to marine conditions (e.g. river currents, debris); participants may be expected to use paddles in some situations. Participants may need to enter the water in order to board the vessel. UC Davis Study Abroad does not certify pilot training or licensure, vessel integrity, or mechanical service. UC Davis Study Abroad cannot anticipate water conditions but where possible will postpone travel or change itineraries under inclement conditions (may not be possible for public conveyance). All travelers should ensure appropriate life-saving/personal

floatation devices are available before boarding, review and understand all safety procedures, and ask questions about the use of safety devices.

- **This Program includes non-traditional motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via:
 - Private car-for-hire (similar to taxis, but operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)
 - Private motorcoach or van-for-hire (similar to a small public bus but may be operated by regulated or unregulated private drivers)

This form of transportation is a common form of public transportation in the country abroad but may have limited or no governmental regulation. This means vehicles may or may not be inspected, drivers may or may not be licensed or certified, drivers may or may not have insurance, and safety standards (if they exist) may be significantly lower than those in the U.S.

- **This Program includes non-traditional non-motorized transportation** both during Program hours and/or as the primary means of transportation for students during free time via:
 - Extended walking or hiking
- **This Program may include water-based recreational activities such as snorkeling or swimming.** Water sports and activities include elevated risk of injury or death due to weather or water conditions (currents, riptides, storms, lightning, etc.), drowning, hypothermia, equipment failure, contact with a water-borne bacteria or virus, as well as other water-based injuries. Travelers who participate in these activities must be able to swim, even if floatation devices are provided. A lifeguard may not be present at the activity site. Travelers assume additional responsibility for assessing their own comfort and risk tolerance related to prevailing water conditions and equipment on site.
- **This Program includes hiking and/or camping.** Hiking and/or camping includes additional risk of injury or death related to physical exertion, accident, or exposure to insects/animals, the environment or weather. These activities are supervised, travelers will be provide with necessary equipment and will take place in relatively safe locations, but weather and environmental conditions are unpredictable and can change quickly. Travelers may be required to: hike/walk for distances of a few miles; hike/walk over uneven, slippery, inclining/declining, or rocky terrain (which increases risk of falls, accidents); carry or lift gear or supplies; shelter in tents/sleeping bags; share in group cooking/cleaning/camp preparation activities; and tolerate mild but possibly uncomfortable weather conditions (moderately hot or cold temperatures, rain, wind, very high or very low humidity, periods of sun without shade, etc.) While preventative measures are taken, travelers are nevertheless at elevated risk for physical injury, and exposure to water-borne illnesses, disease carrying insects, or poisonous plants or animals.

- **This Program include a stay in primitive or rudimentary accommodations.** Travelers will be staying for one or more nights in non-traditional accommodations such as tents, rural villages, and/or primitive huts. These accommodations may not have traditional amenities such as entirely enclosed rooms, close access to restroom facilities, air conditioning/heating, electricity, running water, phone access or cellular reception, traditional mattresses or bedding. Although these accommodations are not inherently dangerous, they require additional flexibility from travelers and may cause some degree of inconvenience or discomfort compared to a traditional hotel.
- **This Program includes a prolonged stay in a remote, rural environment.** Although the Program site is not inherently dangerous, travelers will be staying in a remote area for a prolonged period of time. There may be limited or no access to immediate medical facilities (major incidents would require evacuation), pharmacy and grocery stores may be limited or non-existent (travelers will need to bring their own personal supplies), transportation to and at the site may be limited and subject to weather or environmental conditions, and travelers may have limited or no access to phone/cellular/internet services or reliable electricity.
- **This program includes activities in the vicinity of dangerous and dynamic natural phenomena** This program includes low-risk activities such as walking which take place around higher-risk geologic activity or natural phenomena that may have fewer public safeguards or warnings as in the United States. There is an elevated risk of injury to travelers who are not aware of their surroundings. For example, travelers may hike near cliffs, crevasses, fissures, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, lagoons, active volcanoes, and hot geysers that have minimal or no public barriers to prevent injury and which could cause substantial risk of bodily injury or death to the individual who is not aware of their surroundings. Warning signs may be minimal or non-existent. The required activities are supervised and precautionary warnings will be provided but students must remain alert, exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Additionally, these geologic phenomena can undergo rapid and unexpected changes at any moment, such as earthquakes or eruptions, which are unpreventable.
- **This Program includes travel on rural and/or mountainous roads** both during Program hours and/or as the primary route to/from communities and program locations. This means roads may be in poor condition and/or poorly maintained; crash barriers and guardrails are rare even on steep mountainous roads; bus travel can be particularly dangerous, especially at night; and truck and bus traffic may be heavy.