

## EL SALVADOR - LAND OF COLOURS 8D/7N



*Enjoy the green, blue, and red colours of authentic El Salvador. The green of its forests, the blue of its coasts and lakes, and the red of its traditions and Mayan heritage. From volcanoes, cloud forests, coffee plantations, to archaeological sites and charming towns, El Salvador will capture your heart*

TOURCAN VACATIONS  
5799 Yonge St suite 1001  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M2M 3V3  
TEL: (416) 391-0334 / 1-800-263-2995 FAX: (416) 391-0986

### **DAY 1: CANADA/ SAN SALVADOR**

Arrival to El Salvador International Airport. Clear customs and immigration and then you are met by your guide who will help you with your luggage and then transfer you to San Salvador hotel.

### **Overnight at Hotel Intercontinental or Hilton Princess**

### **DAY 2: VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK- COFFEE TOUR - FLOWER ROUTE**

Breakfast is served at the hotel.

Today we will visit Volcanoes National Park, where three amazing volcanoes (Izalco Volcano, Santa Ana Volcano and Cerro Verde) embrace beautiful Coatepeque Lake which fills a crater of another volcano. Izalco Volcano is one of the youngest volcanoes in America since it was born in the 1700's, whereas Santa Ana Volcano is thousands of years old. Izalco Volcano was known as the "Lighthouse of the Pacific" since its lava guided the ships on the Pacific Ocean Coast. No lava is currently flowing, but both volcanoes are still active since constant fumaroles are present. In Cerro Verde, located in the middle of the other two volcanoes, we will walk around its extinct crater providing breathtaking views of Izalco, Santa Ana and Coatepeque Lake.



After this we will continue to Flower Route. The Flower Route is a coffee plantation area in the Western side of El Salvador. We will enjoy lunch (own account) in a charming restaurant in the area, and later we will visit a coffee plantation. If the tour is done within coffee season (DEC-MAR), travelers will be able to collect coffee themselves along with the locals. After this experience, a guided tour will explain each step of the coffee process. Travelers will be able to buy coffee products and crafts as souvenirs.

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**Overnight at Casa de Graciela or Mision de Angeles**  
**Meal: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**



### **DAY 3: FREE DAY AT FLOWER ROUTE**

Breakfast is served at the hotel.

The Flower Route contains 4 main towns and it has a comfortable weather due to the altitude. The towns are Nahuizalco, Juayua, Apaneca, and Ataco. The region offers amazing views of mountains and volcanoes, also offers crafts, coffee tours, charming towns, markets, and adventure options.

You will be able to have the day for yourself, to explore and enjoy the authenticity of these charming little towns.

**Enjoy Optional activities like Zip Line, Horseback riding, ATV**

**Overnight at Casa de Graciela or Mision de Angeles**  
**Meal: Breakfast**



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#### **DAY 4: JOYA DE CERÉN – SUCHITOTO COLONIAL TOWN**

Breakfast is served at the hotel.

El Salvador is part of the Maya World, and we will visit its main archaeological site. Joya de Cerén was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993. This agricultural community was buried by the ashes of Volcano Caldera back in 600 AD for which it is also known as the “Pompeii of the Americas”, even though no bodies were found, there are signs that its inhabitants received prompt warning of the eruption. Thanks to the excellent preservation, this site allows us to witness the everyday lives of the Mesoamerican agricultures of such time period; we can witness their homes, beds, crop fields and even saunas. This makes it a unique place within the Maya World. There is also a comprehensive museum on site.

After lunch (own account) we will continue to Suchitoto.

Suchitoto is one of El Salvador’s colonial towns. Its name means the place of the Flower Bird. Suchitoto is home to Santa Lucia Church, built in 1853, majestically situated in the town’s central square. We will walk along the charming cobblestone streets surrounded by lovely old colonial homes.

**INDIGO WORKSHOP** – Today we will learn **about Indigo**. Indigo is a natural colorant extracted from the Xiquilite plant. It was a very important element for the Mayans since they used it for magical/religious rituals, as a medical plant, for pottery, and for painting. When the Spanish “Conquistadores” arrived to El Salvador in 1524, Indigo became the new source of wealth in the region. Pedro de Alvarado noticed how the Indians used several shades of blue in their clothes. In 1558, the Habsburg King Charles I ordered the territories of Guatemala and Cuscatlán (El Salvador), to produce indigo for Spain. The commercial route was through Granada, then to Cartagena de Indias from where it travelled to Spain. In the XVII century the ounce of indigo was as valuable as gold. El Salvador indigo, has always been recognized as top quality worldwide. We will learn the process of indigo as well as art techniques used on clothing as we experiment in designing our own scarf.

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**Overnight at Los Almendros de San Lorenzo**  
**Meal: Breakfast and Dinner**



## **DAY 5: SUCHITOTO drive to COSTA DEL SOL**

This morning drive to Costa Del Sol. Here enjoy the most dramatic sunsets and enjoy the beach. Tortuga Village is a fusion between rustic and modern bungalows, well equipped to make your stay very comfortable

**Overnight at Tortuga Village**  
**Meal: Breakfast**



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## DAY 6: COSTA DEL SOL

**Relax on the beach or enjoy an Optional Tour 1 and 2, both tours can be booked separately or combined, they are in the same area.**

### **MONKEY TOUR - CACAO TOUR - JIQUILISCO BAY**

Transfer to Jiquilisco Bay. Jiquilisco Bay is a UNESCO Biosphere reserve (one of 14 in all Central America). It is El Salvador's largest and most important wetland and the largest mangrove estuarine system in Northern Mesoamerica. It contains mangrove forests, estuaries, sand bars, beaches, 27 islands of varying size, fresh water lagoons and seasonally flooded forests. Its 637 square kilometers, represent a transit point to at least 87 species of migratory birds.

Later, we will visit a Monkey Community, we will walk through a forest until we reach their home, after calling their names; the monkeys come down the trees and interact with the visitors. We will also learn about Cacao within the plantation. El Salvador produces Criollo Cacao, which is known to be top quality worldwide. We will learn about its production and the process it undergoes until it becomes delicious chocolate!

**Optional Tour 2 *Hawksbill Sea Turtle tour.*** This morning we will enjoy a Sea Turtle Boat tour. Four species of sea turtles nest in El Salvador: Baule (leatherback turtle), Carey (hawksbill turtle), Golfina (olive ridley turtle) and Prieta (green turtle); all of them considered endangered species. The tour in Jiquilisco Bay will focus on the Hawksbill, one of the most endangered species in the world. For the Hawksbill, Jiquilisco Bay is the main nesting point on all the Eastern Pacific.

For the tour, we will get in a boat to the waters of Jiquilisco Bay. Local administrators will provide a general presentation on sea turtles and will explain the process on how they are protecting them at Jiquilisco. This tour consist of capturing a turtle, observe how the biologist studies and measures it while the visitors are given an explanation, and then release the turtle into the water again.

Later return to Costa Del Sol

### **Overnight at Tortuga Village**

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**Meal: Breakfast**



**DAY 7: COSTA DEL SOL**

Day free.

**Overnight at Tortuga Village**

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Day 8: BEACH – DEPART EL SALVADOR/ CANADA**

Breakfast served at the hotel.

Morning transfer to El Salvador airport to board your international flight back home.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**END OF SERVICES**

**Notes:**

- Joya de Cerén is closed on Mondays.
- Coffee picking season: December to March. Coffee mill tour may be done all year: from December to May you will be able to see it operating.
- Indigo process is seasonal: June to November. But Indigo workshop (dye) can be done all year.
- We reserve the right to cancel boat tour due to weather conditions.
- Cacao tour is available only from Monday to Friday before noon.
- Sea Turtle program is not guaranteed since it depends on nature (For optional tour)

**Included in the tour cost:**

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- Private vehicle and driver for all transfers and tours, except on Day 3.
- Private English speaking guide for all tours, except on Day 3.
- Hotel accommodation as per itinerary or similar including all taxes add service charges
- Daily breakfast.
- Lunch on Da 2 and Dinners on Day 2 and Day 4
- Volcanoes National Park tour
- Coffee tour
- Flower route towns
- Joya de Cerén archaeological site
- Suchitoto city tour
- Indigo workshop
- Bottled water in vehicle.
- All local taxes and fees are included.

**Not included in the tour cost:**

- Flights and related taxes and fees
- Travel and medical insurance
- Tips and gratuities
- Early check-in and late check-out
- Optional services
- Extra meals
- Beverages
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls, laundry, etc
- Any services not specifically mentioned under inclusions.
- Optional Tour 1 \$ 390 per person. Optional Tour 2 \$ 240 per person

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