



El Salvador

Culture, Coast & Volcanoes

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

ITINERARY	El Salvador • Culture, Coast & Volcanoes
10 DAYS • 9 NIGHTS	San Salvador – Cerro Verde – Ataco – Tazumal – Santa Ana – Joya De Ceren – Suchitoto – Golfo De Fonseca – Peruquin – Bahia De Jiquilisco

HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR ESSENTIALS											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cerro Verde National Park, a dormant volcano covered by a foliage of dense and bio-diverse cloud forest ■ Archeological site of Tazumal, El Salvador’s most important ceremonial Mayan Centre ■ Views of the Conchagua Volcano, Amapala Volcano and Cosiguina Volcano 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Tour Style</td> <td>Adventure</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tour Start / End</td> <td>San Salvador</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td> <td>Hotels</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Included Meals</td> <td>9 Breakfasts,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Size</td> <td>6-12 pax</td> </tr> </table>	Tour Style	Adventure	Tour Start / End	San Salvador	Accommodation	Hotels	Included Meals	9 Breakfasts,	Group Size	6-12 pax	
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CULTURE, COAST & VOLCANOES

We have explored all areas of this beautiful, small country and devised a trip that takes in the best El Salvador has to offer.

At Pioneer we love nothing better than trekking, visiting wild off the beaten path areas and sitting down for a chat with the locals.

Despite their warring history, El Salvadorians are generally peaceful, welcoming people and that will become evident very soon after you start your adventure. Colonial towns steeped in history with baroque churches and colourful towns surrounded by shade grown coffee plantations are great bases from which to explore surrounding areas. Trekking volcanoes with awe inspiring views or being led through the mountains of Peruquin by ex- guerrilla guides – who now want to show off the flora and fauna – of this now peaceful haven. The crashing waves of the Pacific draw surfers from all over the world while calmer bays and tributaries are perfect for swimming, turtle spotting and calmer water sports!

EL SALVADOR *an overview*

You can travel from the top to bottom of El Salvador in less than five hours such is its size and accessibility. Often overlooked as a destination it has sometimes struggled to shed the burden of its civil warring past but, for most part, El Salvador is a peaceful, warm and welcoming country where locals are only too keen to share the beauty of their country with visitors. From the historic centre to its volcano peppered spine El Salvador is growing as a tourist destination.

The dramatic Pacific coast has been the host to past world surf championships. Quieter bays are home to turtle marine reserves and much needed conservation work. At villages along the coast fresh catch is brought ashore and often ends up in small very affordable local seafood shacks and restaurants the same day. In addition to fishing farming and coffee growing are also major sources of income for the growing economy so fresh produce is never far away. The Ruta de Las Flores is the best place to try local food – a string of colourful market villages with their own cuisine.

Colonial towns such as Suchitoto are steeped in colonial history. A beautiful white church stands proudly behind a serene plaza where a stroll around the cobble streets or a stop at a 'pupusaria' will take you back in time. The lush hills of Perquin saw some of the worst fighting during the civil war but now it's a peaceful haven for nature lovers and walkers.

Some of the volcano treks are the best to be had in Central America. Santa Ana is the tallest at under 2500m and walkable in a day. The stunning flora that grows over two metres high makes you forget you're on a volcano whilst perfectly formed Izalco at just under 2,000 metres is changes colour with the light throughout the day.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to the unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

ITINERARY



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DAY 1: SAN SALVADOR

Arrival to San Salvador International airport(SAL), Central America's second largest city and the capital of El Salvador. Transfer to your hotel.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
n/a



Distance:
Airport Transfer



Activities:
Travel

DAY 2: SAN SALVADOR – CERRO VERDE - ATACO



After Breakfast, we head out to Cerro Verde National Park, a dormant volcano covered by a foliage of dense and bio-diverse cloudforest. During our visit, we explore its crater and admire the spectacular panoramic views of the Izalco Volcano, Llamatepec Volcano, and Lake Coatepeque. In the afternoon, we set out to explore the "Ruta de las Flores" (Flower Route), known for its explosion of blooms that appear every winter. We pass through quaint villages to finally arrive at the colonial gem of Ataco, set between mountains and coffee plantations. Two nights in Ataco.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Transfer / Relaxation

DAY 3: ATACO

Breakfast. Today we visit a coffee plantation and we will learn about the process of cultivation, harvest, and roasting. Our tour includes a visit to the ancient manor house, where we enjoy a fresh cup of coffee prepared with the ancient method of "Chorreador" (straining fresh brewed coffee to allow delicious aromas to develop). Rest of the day at leisure to explore on your own the cobblestone streets of Ataco and admire the colorful murals that cover the walls of the inhabitant's colonial houses, a tradition that makes you want to return to this beautiful town. We recommend you visit the craft shops so that you can take a souvenir with you.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Cycling / Trekking



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DAY 4: ATACO – TAZUMAL – SATAN ANA – JOYA DE CEREN - SUCHITOTO

Breakfast. We set out towards the archeological site of Tazumal, El Salvador's most important ceremonial Mayan Center. We then continue to Santa Ana, the second most important city of the country. We will explore its historic center, where we will visit places of interest like the National Theatre, the Main Plaza, and the gothic styled Cathedral. Afterwards, we will set off to explore Joya de Cerén, aptly known as the "Pompeii of the Americas". It is considered to be the most important archeological discovery in Latin America in recent years and declared World Heritage of Human Kind by UNESCO. After the visit, we continue to Suchitoto. Two nights in Suchitoto.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Trekking / Cycling

DAY 5: SUCHITOTO

Breakfast. We will dedicate the morning to visit El Salvador's most preserved colonial town, important for its indigo trade during the colonial period. Afternoon at leisure for optional activities like taking a walk through the cobblestone streets in between portals and ancient houses or enjoying a pleasant boat ride to watch the sunset by the shores of Lake Suchitlán.



Overnight:
Hotel



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Cycling

DAY 6 : SUCHITOTO – GULFO DE FONSECA



Breakfast. Early in the morning, we set off to the Gulf of Fonseca, 261 kms of Pacific Coast line shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. We begin our crossing by boat at port La Unión, to admire the fisherman villages, islands that seem as though they are floating in the water with spectacular views of the Conchagua Volcano, Amapala Volcano and Cosiguina Volcano. Furthermore, this region is a bird sanctuary and with a little luck, you may get to see dolphins. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the beach. We then head back to Port La Unión. Overnight La Union.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B



Distance:
26km



Activities:
Trekking / Cycling

DAY 7: GOLFO DE FONSECA - PERQUIN

Breakfast. After breakfast, we begin our overland journey to Perquin, located in the northern mountainous region of the country, surrounded by humid tropical forests. Upon our arrival, we visit the "Meseo de la Paz" (Peace Museum),



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founded by veterans of the civil war. In the afternoon, we also include a visit to the village of el Mozote, main scenario to some of the biggest affairs in El Salvador's recent history at the time of the armed conflict period. Overnight Perquin.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B



Distance:
26km



Activities:
Cycling / Rafting

DAY 8: GOLFO DE FONSECA – BAHIA DE JIQUILISCO

Breakfast. After breakfast, transfer to Jiquilisco Bay, the main marine ecosystem of El Salvador and principal region for spawning of hawksbill turtles in all of the country. This natural reserve possesses a system of natural canals, formed by islands and exotic mangrove forests which serve as a refuge to a vast diversity of birds and reptiles. Arrival to the hotel. Rest of day at leisure to enjoy the sun and the hotel's amenities. Two nights in Jiquilisco Bay.



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B



Distance:
26km



Activities:
Nature / Leisure

DAY 9: BAHIA SE JIQUILSCO

Breakfast. Day at leisure to enjoy the bay area. Great opportunity to get the chance to have a unique encounter with nature and enjoy some of the optional activities the hotel has to offer, like: a visit to the sanctuary of the monkeys or cocoa plantations, sail through the islands of the bay, engage in a program that releases and preserves marine turtles, enjoy kayak tours through the mangrove swamps or take a bicycle ride through the natural reserve.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
26km



Activities:
Cycling / Rafting

DAY 10: BAHIA DE JIQUILISCO – SAL AIRPORT

Breakfast. At the pre-arranged time, we depart to San Salvador's International airport to board your flight back home.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
26km



Activities:
Cycling / Kayaking



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ACCOMMODATION

Subject to availability:

DESTINATION	STANDARD	SUPERIOR
SAN SALVADOR	Hotel Villa Terra www.hotelvillaterra.com	Barcelo San Salvador
ATACO	Hotel Fleur de Lis www.fleurdelis.info	Hotel Boutique Casa Degraciela www.casadegraciela.com
SUCHITOTO	Posada Suchitlan http://www.laposada.com.sv/	Los Almendros de San Lorenzo http://www.losalmendrosdesanlorenzo.com/
PERQUIN	Perkin Lenca http://www.perkinlenca.com/	Perkin Lenca http://www.perkinlenca.com/
LA UNION	Confort Inn La Union http://www.realhotelsandresorts.com/sv/comfort_lunion/esp/inicio	Confort Inn La Union http://www.realhotelsandresorts.com/sv/comfort_lunion/esp/inicio
BAHIA DE JIQUILISCO	Puerto Barillas http://www.puertobarillas.com/welcome/	Puerto Barillas http://www.puertobarillas.com/welcome/

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All meals as described (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D=Dinner) ■ Accommodation ■ Airport transfers ■ All transfers ■ Tours mencionados ■ English speaking guide ■ Entrance fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International flights ➤ Activities not mentioned ➤ Meals not mentioned ➤ Additional services requested by guests on site ➤ Personal expenses ➤ Meals not included in the itinerary



THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

