Dear Bryn Mawr traveler,

On April 13, 2015 Bryn Mawr Alumni Travel will visit Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize, and delve into the legacies of the ancient Mayan civilizations. More than 3,000 years ago this sophisticated culture emerged from the humid rain forests, flourished for centuries, and then vanished. In that time, the Mayans created a complex writing system, devised a calendar equivalent to our own, introduced the concept of zero in mathematics, predicted lunar and solar eclipses, and built the tallest structures in the western hemisphere. Today, their ghostly remnants are scattered across Central America in an ancien, 1,500-mile trade ring known as La Ruta Maya.

From ruins to rituals to rural villages, we’ll trace the footprints of the enigmatic Mayan culture with Overseas Adventure Travel—which will provide the kind of immersive travel experience only made possible by small group sizes of no more than 24 travelers. Along the way, we’ll meet modern-day descendants preserving their Mayan heritage with jade carvings, colorful weavings, and warm hospitality. Join us as we travel back in time to explore the Ruta Maya.

Our Bryn Mawr faculty host for this adventure is Maria Luisa Crawford, Emerita Professor of Geology. Her research is focused on solving the history of mountain belts by looking at as many different aspects as possible of the kinds of rocks, the time the rocks formed, the location in which they formed, and the way the earth moved. Professor Crawford grew up in Guatemala, and so has a particular interest in the geography of northern Central America.

We hope you choose to join us on this enriching adventure. Space will fill up quickly, so reserve your stay by calling Overseas Adventure Travel toll-free at 1-800-353-6262 and pressing 2.

Be sure to say that you’re with Bryn Mawr Alumni Travel and mention our special Group Number: 25654.

Warm regards,

Wendy M. Greerfield
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Alumni Association
Day 1 Depart U.S. • Arrive San Salvador, El Salvador. Arrive today and transfer from airport to your prearranged hotel. Take some time to settle in, then meet your fellow travelers this evening at a special dinner on your own. 

Day 2 Discover Joya de Ceren • Explore San Salvador. Begin your tour of El Salvador today. First, visit Joya de Ceren, an archaeological site that preserves the remnants of a Mayan town. Enjoy a walking tour of the site, then stop at a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, visit the National Museum of El Salvador, which features exhibits on the country’s history and culture. 

Day 3 Explore Ceren ruins • Optional La Paloma village horseback ride. Spend another day exploring El Salvador. First, visit the ruins of Ceren, an ancient Maya town that was buried by a volcanic ash. After a walking tour, return to your hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, take an optional horseback ride through the countryside around Ceren. 

Day 4 In the Life of Suchitoto • The Flower Route. The town of Suchitoto is known as the “Flower Route” because of its vibrant flower festival. Today, visit the town’s market, and then spend the afternoon exploring the natural beauty of the area. 

Day 5 Explore Suchitoto • Walk to Managua. Today, visit the town of Suchitoto, then travel by bus to Nicaragua. After lunch, take a walking tour of the town before dinner and spending the night. 

Day 6 Day 6: Discover Granada • Relax in Granada. Today, explore Granada, a city known for its historical charm and beautiful colonial architecture. Enjoy a walking tour of the city, then spend the afternoon at leisure. 

Day 7 Explore Granada • Visit an agave farm. Today, visit an agave farm to learn about the process of making mezcal, a traditional spirit. Afternoon is at leisure. 

Day 8 Visit Masaya volcano • Explore Masaya volcano. Today, visit Masaya volcano, one of the most active volcanoes in Central America. After exploring the volcano, spend the afternoon at leisure. 

Day 9 Explore Yaxhá ruins • Explore Tikal ruins. Today, visit the ancient Mayan city of Yaxhá, then travel to Guatemala. After lunch, visit the Tikal ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. 

Day 10 Explore Tikal ruins. Today, explore the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. 

Day 11 Explore Tikal ruins. Today, explore the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. 

Day 12 Explore Tikal ruins. Today, explore the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. 

Day 13 Explore Tikal ruins. Today, explore the ancient Mayan city of Tikal. 

Day 14 Return to U.S. • Depart San Salvador. On the final day of your tour, return to San Salvador and transfer to the airport. 

Optional Tours:

- Visit an agave farm (Day 5 $55 per person) 
- Hike to the peaks of the Masaya volcano (Day 9 $50 per person) 
- Visit the Tikal ruins (Day 10 $50 per person) 
- Visit the Yaxhá ruins (Day 11 $50 per person) 
- Visit the Tikal ruins (Day 12 $50 per person) 
- Visit the Tikal ruins (Day 13 $50 per person) 
- Visit the Tikal ruins (Day 14 $50 per person) 

Please note:

- All tours are at your discretion. 
- Porterage for 1 bag per traveler