(More of) What you need to know about trekking to El Mirador

29 February 2012

More insider tips on jungle trekking to northern Guatemala’s El Mirador, in one of the most spectacular—and most remote—Mayan archaeological sites in the Mundo Maya.

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We loved our jungle trek to El Mirador with Tikal Connections, but there were a few things we wish we’d known (or were glad we improvised) before we entered the Guatemalan jungle. Here are the rest of our tips, below. For the first 5 tips, and to find out more about the spectacular ruins of one of the greatest and most remote Mayan sites, read Part 1: What you need to know about trekking to El Mirador.

6. The last thing you want during your El Mirador hike is rain, which turns the trail into knee-deep goop. The rainy season in the region is roughly June through November. We had perfectly dry weather when we were there in March, but it was exhausting just to think about doing the hike through deep mud. **Plan with the weather in mind.**

7. The walk into and out of El Mirador is **almost entirely flat and much of the trail is shaded** under deep jungle cover. We are sun protection fanatics, but we rarely wore the caps and sun block we brought. We’re not saying don’t bring those things. We’re just saying the sun exposure is less harsh than you might fear.

8. The jungle cover does little to cool things off, however, so leave camp with **more water than you think you need** before hitting the trail. There are no refills along the way.

9. The camping areas are rudimentary, but comfortable enough except for the fact that there are precious few
In April of 2006, journalist Karen Catchpole and photographer Eric Mohl left their jobs and apartment in New York City and embarked on the Trans-Americas Journey, a 200,000-mile working road trip through all 23 countries in North, Central and South America. After many years on the road they are still nowhere near their goal of Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America where the road literally ends. Until then, their slow and steady overland exploration of The Americas continues.

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