



## Guatemala : The heart of the Maya world



**Directed by Jacques Vichet**

*French version*  
*English version*

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A documentary of 52'

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

Born from a combination of Mayan culture and Spanish conquistadors, Guatemala has kept all its charm and beauty.

Tikal is the ancient capital of the powerful and conquering kingdom of the ancient Mayas.

It is one of the most well-known Mayan cities, holding the transcription of a long list of kings, most of whose tombs have been uncovered, along with their monumental sculptures, palaces and temples.

The site takes us through the Maya's rich past. The Gran Plaza, the great pyramid of the lost world and the 7 temple square are the opportunity for a trip through time.

Reaching Livingston is a good excuse for a boat trip on the Rio Dulce. Its fauna is impressive: great pelicans, white and gray egrets, Aras parrots, eagles, tortoises, even iguanas...

Livingston shines with its diverse population. Mayas, Indians, Latinos and Garifunas share the streets. Different atmospheres coexist: from the quiet, almost secret streets to the city's dynamic and bustling central arteries.

Copán. Away from Reggae music and the sound of engines, Copán was the first modern archaeological Mayan digsite, starting in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The archaeologist John Lloyd Stephens and draughtsman Frederick Catherwood were mainly responsible for sparking interest for Mesoamerican antiquity.

Lake Atitlan, of volcanic origin, offers a superb view of the scenery.

The surrounding villages are still imbued in traditional Mayan culture. The eponymous village is mainly occupied by Indians. Visitors are very fond of San Pedro and San Juan, two hamlets neighbouring the lake, for their atmosphere, which are festive but also peaceful.