



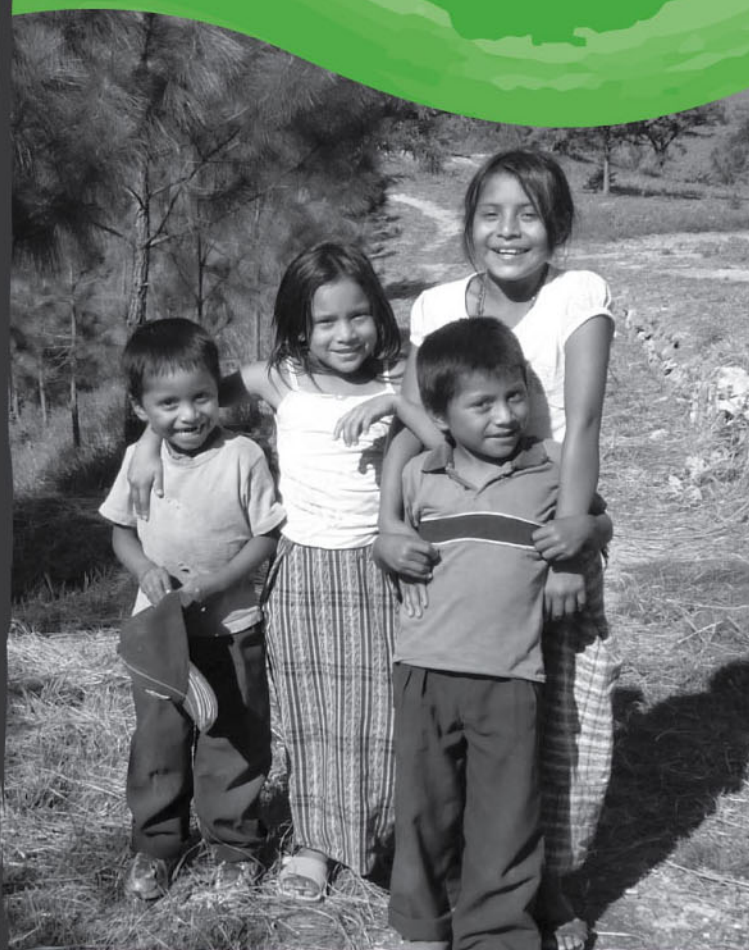
In Río Negro, where the brightest and darkest aspects of life come together, you can appreciate how the community of Río Negro has transformed suffering into new life.

The History and Education Center “Riij Ib’oooy” in Río Negro

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“We wanted to be the bearers of this news, because we do not want it to be buried under the grass, in the rivers, or in the cemetery of Rabinal. Because we think that memory needs to be kept alive in order to commit ourselves to a more just world.”

(Ocurrió así – “Masacres en Río Negro, 1982”)



Getting to Río Negro

At km 192 of the road between Guatemala City and Cobán (close to Tactic), at the crossroads known as “Cruce del CID”, you turn off onto the unpaved road that leads to the Pueblo Viejo Dam. From there it is a 30-minute boat ride (6 km) to Río Negro.

A permit from the National Electrification Institute (INDE) is required to gain access to the boat landing of the Pueblo Viejo Dam. The Pokomchi Community Education Center (CECEP) in San Cristóbal helps you with this administrative step.

More information and reservations

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The History and Education Center presents the events which took place in the community of Río Negro during the Civil War (1960-1996).



In 2007 the community built the History and Education Center to document the history and the culture of the region, and thus the Center combines two approaches: a pedagogical one and a touristic one. Its doors are open for groups of people who want to visit the community and for workshops and retreats.

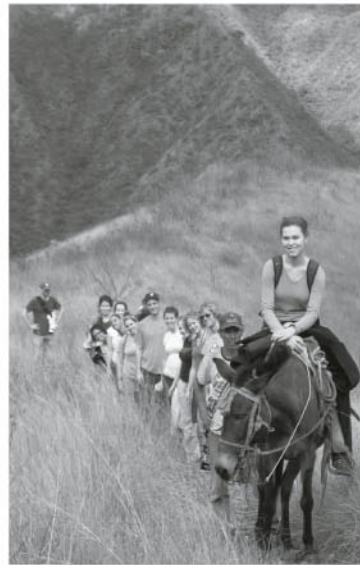
The Center consists of the House of Memory and the Traditional Community.

In the House of Memory, information is presented about historical events prior to the Spanish invasion and including the period of the armed conflict in the late 20th century. It also has a Room for Reflection in honor and in memory of the victims of the genocide.

The Traditional Community is a replica of typical dwellings of the Maya Achi people of Río Negro and shows different aspects of their daily life and that of their ancestors.

We offer

- **Accommodation and food for approx. 30 people.** It includes a kitchen, collective dorms and sanitary installations. One of its attractions is a large balcony from which one can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view of the valley and the river basin. There is also a pavilion where one can eat and work outside.
- **Memory Path** "The sun rises again in Pak'oxom". It provides information about Río Negro during the armed conflict.
- **Multimedia equipment** for workshops.



- **Displays of the Maya-Achi-Culture** and archaeological findings.
- **Library** with books and films about the history of the area.
- **Excursions by boat** to archeological sites.
- **Excursions on foot** or by mule to get to know the community and its surroundings (e.g. caves, places of refuge during the armed conflict).
- **Instruction** in making fishing nets, hammocks, servilletas (small woven cloths), bags, petates (palm mats), etc.
- **Swimming** and fishing in the river.



A place of immense historical importance

For more than 3000 years, Mayas have been living in the central river basin of the Río Chixoy/Río Negro. There were many religious ceremonial centers. The place not only conveys a sense of ancient culture, it also bears testimony to the atrocities that were committed in the more recent history of Guatemala. During the Civil War, the community was the scene of five massacres, in which approximately 440 people were murdered.



The survivors fled and hid in the hills. **At the beginning of the 90s, some of them decided to**

return and to recover the land of their ancestors and fill it with life again.