Splendor in the Ruins

Once glorious in their gilded baroque finery, Antigua’s churches and monasteries have suffered indignities from both nature and humankind. A walk through town is therefore also a walk through time.

**Start** Cerro de la Cruz  
**Distance** 2.3km  
**Duration** 2½ hours

1. Take a taxi up Cerro de la Cruz for fine views looking south over town toward Volcán Agua.

2. Down the wooded slopes from the lookout point is a basketball court backed by the filigreed Iglesia de la Candelaria (1a Calle).

3. Twist and turn your way south-west to the ruins of the Convento de Capuchinas, with its unique tower.

4. Go right on 2a Calle Oriente. Passing 3a Av Norte, look down to your left to see the multicoloured facade of Iglesia El Carmen (3a Av Norte) and an adjacent handicrafts market.

5. Continue a block west and turn right to reach the old Convento de Santa Teresa (4a Av Norte), which until recently served as a men’s prison.

6. Head west, then south down 5a Av Norte, jam-packed with tourist-friendly locales, including a brilliant, sprawling handicrafts depot, *Nim Po’t*.

7. Continue to Parque Central. Ascend to the balcony of the Palacio del Ayuntamiento (4a Calle Poniente) for photo ops of the square and nearby Catedral de Santiago.

**Take a Break…**  
Hit Café Condesa (7832-0038: Portal del Comercio 4; cakes & pies Q20-26) for coffee and cake.