



Explore Guatemala with Bess Ramsey...

Award-winning artist, Bess Ramsey visited Guatemala last year and found an "Artist's Paradise". She vowed to return. Bess is a multi-talented woman who wears

many "hats". She was a successful interior designer in Savannah, for many years, owning her own design business. The skills learned as a designer are evident in her work today. Having studied under many well known artists, in the summer of 2002, Bess decided to concentrate on her first love, painting. With an art background, this former Savannah College of Art and Design student has become a fulltime artist, showing and selling paintings in her own Studio One in The City Market Art Center of Savannah, Georgia. Her paintings hang in offices, homes, and private collections of patrons throughout the United States and abroad.

At the coaxing of a friend and painter who was doing a workshop in Guatemala, Bess joined a group of other local artists and headed off to a country she had hardly heard of. Knowing not what to expect, she was absolutely astounded at the beauty of this country and its people. The art she created and the stimulation she experienced has her itching to return.

Join Bess on a trip of a lifetime as she leads a group through the "Soul of the Earth"... Guatemala. Step back to over 300 years ago as you enter the "time-locked" colonial town of Antigua where you will stay in a 16th Century Monastery. You will explore the highlands and the deep magic of Lake Atitlán, surrounded by three beautiful volcanoes and twelve Maya Indian villages. Revel in the splendor of Hotel Atitlán and its world renowned botanical gardens. In the quaint mountain village of Chichicastenango, you will experience the colors, traditions, and the Maya people selling their goods as they have done for hundreds of years in the most fascinating market in all the Americas.

Painters, weavers, photographers, artists in any medium, folk art collectors, shoppers, travelers, and friends... all are invited to come and experience five star hotels, sumptuous cuisine, and touring with a creative and cultural accent. You will be inspired with the culture, the people, and the magic of this beautiful country. There will be lots of time to explore, shop, relax, and do art on this unique Guatemala experience.

Guatemala City...

Languish in the beauty of the **Quinta Real** (www.quintareal.com) overlooking the City and facing the colossal "Fuego" and "Agua" volcanoes. Its feel and look is a resplendent blend of Guatemalan and Mexican art and architecture.

Lake Atitlán and Villages...

Travel through the highlands of Guatemala with vistas of great mountain peaks, plateaus, and valleys. Lake Atitlán, "the most beautiful lake in the world", with its three towering volcanoes standing guard over azure waters and twelve Maya villages is truly inspirational. You will feel suspended in time as you watch a Maya fisherman in his dugout *cayuco*, plying his trade as his ancestors have done for centuries. The color, the dramatic landscapes, the deeply entrenched Maya culture will create memories to last a lifetime. At the water's edge **Hotel Atitlán** (www.hotelatitlan.com), sits surrounded by beautiful botanical gardens.

Antigua...

In a verdant valley, surrounded by lofty volcanoes, the picturesque, time trapped city of Antigua will capture your heart. The romantic ambiance of its richly textured ruins, draped in vibrant bougainvillea, its peaceful parks, cobblestone streets, churches, monasteries, and colonial homes with courtyards provide artistic inspiration. You will stay at the **Hotel Casa Santo Domingo** (www.casasantodomingo.com.gt), built from the ruins of a 16th century monastery. The sounds of running water in the stone-carved fountains, candlelight throughout the hallways and fresh flowers everywhere will simply take your breath away.

Chichicastenango...

The markets are the "crown jewel" of Guatemala, brimming with beautiful hand woven textiles and splendid works of art and crafts in designs and techniques passed on from generation to generation. The Maya/Catholic rituals and open-air market of the world famous Chichicastenango, and the blazing colors of everyday dress will enthrall you. Here you will stroll the market and visit the churches of this unique Maya village.

Tikal Option June 11 - 13, 2004

Discover Tikal, the lost world once inhabited by the ancient Maya more than two thousand years ago, a legacy to one of the most refined civilizations in the history of the world. Mammoth pyramids with temples on top attest to the skill, intelligence, and high civilization of these ancient peoples. Who were they? Why did they disappear? Their voices speak from the dust through the ruins they left behind, ruins that rival any Egyptian sites. You do not want to miss this experience of a lifetime.



To enroll...

Detach the registration form and send it with your deposit or full payment check (**class size limited**, date of registration request determines priority of space) made **payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.** Upon enrollment, additional information will be provided to assist you in planning your trip. *Do not make airline arrangements until you have received confirmation of your reservation from Explore Guatemala.*

January 6 - 16, 2006
Cultural, Market, Village, & Art Experience
With Bess Ramsey

Tel 210-599-7098 Fax 210-655-1451
e-mail: exploreguatemala@idworld.net
web site: www.exploreguatemala.com

Registration Request

Name as it appears on your passport:

Passport Number – (**Current passport required**):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Home phone:

Other phone:

E-mail:

Sex: M/F

Date of Birth:

Occupation:

Emergency Contact Name:

Phone:

Medical/dietary considerations:

I am on my own but wish to share a room.

I am a smoker.

I prefer the single supplement charge.

I wish to add the *Tikal Option* (**Jan 5 – 6**)

Enclosed is check/money order

Payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

Deposit: \$ _____ or Total Fee: \$ _____

Signature:

Date:



(indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions)

*Travel with Bess Ramsey
To Guatemala
January 6 - 16, 2006*



Tikal Option January 5 - 6, 2006

Thur 5th: Arrive Guatemala City, 5PM flight to Flores. (D)

Fri 6th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Tikal. Return to Guatemala City to meet up with the group. (B,L,D)

Tour Itinerary January 6 -16, 2006

Fri 6th: Fly into Guatemala City, overnight at Hotel Quinta Real, on a mountainside overlooking the city and volcanoes.

Sat 7th: Visit the Ixchel (textile) and Popol Vuh (archaeological) museums. Then travel by coach to the colonial city of Antigua. (B,L,D)

Sun 8th: Morning tour of the museums and hotel, full of opportunity for inspiration with its architecture, colonial artwork (magnificent treasures) and special details in every corner. It is an ongoing archeological excavation site of a 16th century Monastery with several “world class” museums. Next we will visit the jade factory/museum shop whose archeologist owners rediscovered the lost jade mines of ancient the Maya. Shopping time. (B,L,D)

Mon 9th: After breakfast at a local café, explore the cobblestone streets, Spanish architecture, and ruins of this romantic colonial jewel of a city. Draped in bright bougainvillea with breath-taking views of emerald volcanoes in the background, the richly textured ruins of Antigua’s buildings and streets have changed little over the last 300 years. (B,L,D)

Tues 10th: Visit the coffee plantation of Finca Philadelphia, where Antigua’s finest coffee is grown at an altitude of between 5000-6500 feet. We will see coffee being sun-dried on the drying patios, processing, roasting and packaging, and finally, coffee tasting. We will travel to Katok, a local well-patronized smoke-house restaurant tucked away in the mountains, for a light lunch. Then continue on to the most beautiful lake in the world, Lake Atitlán. Here we will be staying at the Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, villages, and a beautiful lake view. (B,L,D)

Wed 11th: Boat across Lake Atitlán, viewing beautifully terraced mountainsides and volcanoes, to the village of Santiago for an incredible cultural experience and a little shopping in the artists’ colony. A Tz’utujil lunch at a private home (featured in Architectural Digest, Aug, 2002), built in the traditional style of Tz’utujil architecture will thrill you. (B,L,D)

Thurs 12th: Travel to Chichicastenango and its world famous market. Colorful, exciting; a maelstrom of furious commerce and the best place in the country to buy textiles and handicrafts. The magic of the Maya and their religion is everywhere. (B,L,D)

Fri 13th: For those who do not wish to “village hop”, today is also a day for painting or relaxing around the hotel. This morning we will visit the lake villages of San Antonio Palopo, mostly noted for its mercerized fabric and hand painted ceramics and Santa Catarina Palopo, noted for both the men and women *traje* (native costume). Spend the afternoon doing art or explore the hotel’s botanical gardens and the nearby nature walk. (B,L,D)

Sat 14th: A beautiful drive through Guatemala’s *Altiplano* to Almolonga, a fascinating, colorful village, and Indian produce market (not tourist). Stop in Quetzaltenango for lunch and Salcajá to buy hand woven *corte* (skirt) fabric. Wine and cheese party to show off your work or your new found treasures, then dinner in the main dining room. (B,L,D)

Sun 15th: Visit the local village of Panajachel in the morning or relax around the hotel. Afternoon departure for Guatemala City and the Hotel Quinta Real. (B,L,D)

Mon 16th: Departures for home. (B)

Accompanying your Workshop/Tour

Anita Rogers lived in Guatemala for 25 years, speaks Spanish, and was a collector of Maya weavings and Spanish Colonial antiques. She has been around the travel industry most of her life, as her family owns the beautiful Hotel Atitlán on Lake Atitlán in the Guatemala highlands. **John Korte** has traveled to Guatemala for the past 20 years. They understand local customs and business practices. They stay in the hotels, eat in the restaurants, and ride the transportation, personally experiencing every aspect of their workshop/tours. They know the “hidden treasures” as well as the little bits of information only the locals know. Their experience, relationships, and knowledge of the country allow them to provide a worry-free, life enriching travel adventure.

Included in your Explore Guatemala Workshop:

- A superbly crafted travel experience to the most enchanting, magical land of the Maya...Guatemala.
- Travel with renowned artist Bess Ramsey.
- 11 days, 10 nights at unique, luxury hotels with meals and meal service tips included (per itinerary).
- Deluxe motor coaches and private boats viewing the most scenic and colorful venues...an artists paradise.
- Hotel baggage handling, driver tips, as well as all entrance fees and excursions included in itinerary.

NOT included:

- Airfare from your hometown to Guatemala City.
Our flexible plan allows you to:

1. use your Frequent Flyer miles to obtain your own tickets
2. **or**, purchase your tickets through your own sources
3. **or**, go through our **discount ticketing** resource, eXito, a company specializing in low-cost airfare to Latin America. Call Emma at 1-800-655-4053 ext. 8502 or 0 if not available. Tell her you are traveling with **Explore Guatemala - Bess Ramsey Group**. Emma will arrange for everyone to arrive in Guatemala City by the appointed time.

Obviously, the sooner you make your reservation, the better the price and availability. Do not make airline arrangements until you have received confirmation of your reservation from Explore Guatemala.

Terms:

Prices:

- **\$1825** Plus airfare (based on double occupancy).
- Single room supplement: **\$345**.
- Tikal Option: **\$265**.
- **Reservation Deposit: \$500** (reserve **now**, group size limited).

**BALANCE MUST BE RECEIVED BY
DECEMBER 1, 2005**