

# Explore Guatemala...



...with **Carol Koutnik**, award winning artist, author, instructor, and traveler. Inspired by her first trip to Guatemala in 2005, Carol promised to return to this stimulating and beautiful country.

Carol began teaching art in her kitchen amid pots, pans, and pasta. Residing for a time in Saudi Arabia Carol *“learned of living without material goods, in silence, and became increasingly reliant on the spiritual aspect of being - my faith. I came to understand, know, and reevaluate my feelings about freedom - from ambivalence to passion.”* Strongly influenced by her travels and experiences of other cultures, Carol’s art conveys not only what she sees but what she feels. Today she focuses on watercolor and plein air painting. Currently, Carol teaches art classes and shows at the Rockport Center for the Arts and The Gallery of Rockport.

Painters, textile and fiber artists, photographers, travelers, friends... all are invited to travel with Carol and share in this visual adventure in the country of the Maya. There will be lots of time to explore villages, bargain hunt in the markets, photograph, relax, and do art on this trip of a lifetime. Carol will spend some instruction time for the painters in the group and will inspire others with her fascination of the culture, the people, and the magic of this beautiful country.

You will encounter a world of color and spectacular scenery as you travel through the highlands of Guatemala with vistas of great mountain peaks, plateaus, and valleys, to **Lake Atitlán**, “the most beautiful lake in the world”, with its three towering volcanoes standing guard over azure waters and twelve Maya villages. 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. You will stay at the Hotel Atitlán ([www.hotelatitlan.com](http://www.hotelatitlan.com)), on the water’s edge and surrounded by beautiful botanical gardens; a truly inspirational experience.

Prepare yourself for the multitude of color and shopping, the likes of which you have never seen before, in the market of **Chichicastenango**.

In a verdant valley surrounded by lofty volcanoes, the picturesque, time trapped city of **Antigua** will capture your heart. Antigua is considered one of the most beautiful towns in Central America. This colonial jewel has romantic appeal and provides artistic inspiration with its richly textured ruins and architecture, peaceful parks, cobblestone streets, churches, monasteries, and colonial homes with courtyards draped in vibrant bougainvillea. You will stay at the most incredible Casa Santo Domingo, built from the ruins of a 16<sup>th</sup> century monastery. Recently named by travel magazine Condé Nast as one of the top 100 hotels in the entire world, the sounds of running water in stone-carved fountains, candlelight throughout the hallways, and fresh flowers everywhere, will simply take your breath away ( [www.casasantadomingo.com.gt](http://www.casasantadomingo.com.gt) ).



## To enroll...

Detach the registration form and send it with your deposit or full payment check (**group 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 8 – 18, 2007**

**Explore Guatemala with Carol Koutnik**

Tel 210-599-7098 Fax 210-655-1451

e-mail: [exploreguatemala@idworld.net](mailto:exploreguatemala@idworld.net)

web site: [www.exploreguatemala.com](http://www.exploreguatemala.com)

## Registration Request

Name appearing on your passport / passport number:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name you go by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Enclosed is check/money order

**Payable to: Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.**

**Mail to: P.O.BOX 17217, San Antonio, TX 78217**

Deposit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Total Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

(indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions)



*Carol Koutnik*  
*Art Workshop/Tour in Guatemala*  
*January 8 – 18, 2007*

### Itinerary.....January 8 – 18, 2007

**Mon 8th:** Fly to Guatemala City and begin your tour (as flight schedules permit) by visiting the Ixchel (textile) and Popol Vuh (archaeological) museums. Overnight at Hotel Quinta Real, overlooking the city and volcanoes Fuego and Agua.

**Tues 9th:** Travel to Comalapa. This village has become an important center of *naïf* painting largely due to Andrés Curruchich, whose paintings are in galleries the world over as is the work of living artist Oscar Perén who we will visit. Travel through the magnificent Guatemalan highlands with spectacular vistas and scenes of the Maya in a world not too changed from hundreds of years ago to Lake Atitlán “the most beautiful lake in the world”. (B,L,D)

**Wed 10th:** Awaken to the sounds of birds and magnificent views of the lake and volcanoes. Carol will do a demo and discussion on “travel journaling/writing/drawing/painting”. On-sight painting and drawing time. The afternoon is free for painting on your own, individual instruction with Carol, exploring the nearby nature walk, or the village of Panajachel where you may wander *Calle Santander* and shop. (B,L,D)

**Thu 11th:** Take a boat ride along the shore to the village of Santiago. Explore streets full of local art and artisans. We will visit the unique home (featured in Architectural Digest Aug 2002) of Candis Krummel, built in the traditional style of Tz’utujil architecture, where she will prepare a delicious traditional Tz’utujil gourmet festive feast for us. (B,L,D)

**Fri 12th:** Plein air painting within the garden area, or take a ride to the village of San Antonio Palopo for some great ceramic shopping. (B,L,D)

**Sat 13th:** A beautiful drive through the Guatemalan *Altiplano* to the colorful market of Almolonga, not a “tourist” market but a real Maya Indian market. Return through Quetzaltenango and the town of Salcajá where a lot of Guatemala’s *corte* (skirt) fabric is woven. (B,L,D)

**Sun 14th:** Enjoy the world famous Chichicastenango market; colorful, exciting; a maelstrom of furious commerce and the best place in the country to buy textiles and handicrafts. Then, travel to colonial Antigua and the 16<sup>th</sup> century Monastery/Hotel Casa Santo Domingo. (B,L,D)

**Mon 15th:** Explore the Casa Santo Domingo, an architectural delight, full of colonial artwork. It is an ongoing archeological excavation site with several “world class” museums. A visit to the Jade factory and shop, whose archeologist owners rediscovered the lost Jade mines of the ancient Maya. Exploring and shopping on your own. (B,L,D)

**Tues 16st:** Breakfast in a local café. A visit to the market then free time for lunch, art, exploring, or shopping. (B,L,D)

**Wed 17th:** Today is free for painting and/or exploring Antigua, its ruins, hidden courtyards, shops, or the market. A farewell dinner and share our work and experiences of Guatemala B,L,D)

**Thur 18th:** Departures for home.

### 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 Experience:

- A superbly crafted travel experience to the most enchanting, magical land of the Maya...Guatemala.
- Travel with artist Carol Koutnik.
- 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 Isaac at 1-800-655-4053 ext. 8507 or 0 if not available. Tell him you are traveling with **Explore Guatemala – Carol Koutnik Group**. Isaac 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.**

### Prices:

- \$1840 Plus airfare (based on double occupancy)
- Non-painting companion - \$1740
- Single room supplement: \$365

**Reservation Deposit: \$500** (reserve **now**, group size limited)

**FINAL BALANCE MUST BE RECEIVED BY**

**September 1, 2006**