

Explore Guatemala...



...with Marki Rowe; where the rich tapestry of ancient Maya cultures and traditions woven in with historical European influences and the evolution of western modernization has all come together; where extinct volcanoes and ancient earthquakes have created one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Enter into this provocative existence of ancient civilization blended with modern technology on a most incredible architectural /design tour.

Marki has traveled extensively throughout Mexico and Guatemala. Guatemala is her favorite as it is the most vibrant and exciting; where you can exist with people who still live and survive as they have for hundreds of years; where people are happy and at peace with the beauty they are able to weave into their textiles, with the produce they grow and sell at their markets, with a blend of pagan rituals and Christian beliefs, with simple lives not totally influenced by the need for modern technology. They are a very friendly people. Marki fell in love with the rich colors, the folk art, and the textiles that are still hand woven and worn by most of the Maya population today. The Spanish influence on architecture and design, blended with many other cultures offers up a landscape that she has found simply delightful.

Marki brought back many weavings and textiles she purchased directly from the Maya for her retail store in Rockport, Texas after her first trip to Guatemala. Her own home décor is predominately influenced by the vibrant colors seen throughout the country and the folk art and weavings she has collected. She now resides in Corpus Christi, Texas where she is employed by a non-profit organization working with at risk families to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Come join Marki Rowe as she takes you on cobblestone roads to explore ancient ruins, beautiful homes, architectural delights, shopping excursions, and exquisite gardens. You will experience a world of delights and treasure the memories for a lifetime.

Setting and Accommodations...

Guatemala City...Here you will stay at the **Quinta Real** (www.quintareal.com); a resplendent blend of Guatemalan and Mexican art and architecture overlooking Guatemala City and facing the colossal “Fuego” and “Agua” volcanoes.

Antigua...Step back into time almost five hundred years ago when the Spanish conquistadores invaded Guatemala. Draped in vibrant bougainvillea and surrounded by towering volcanoes, this picturesque, time trapped city of Antigua will capture your heart with its romantic ambiance of peaceful parks, cobblestone streets, ruined churches, monasteries, and colonial homes with courtyards. In Antigua you will stay at the Palacio de Doña Leonor, the former home of the daughter of the Conqueror of Guatemala (circa 1540’s) and at the **Casa Santo Domingo** (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.

Lake Atitlán and Villages... Lake Atitlán, known as “the most beautiful lake in the world” is surrounded by three towering volcanoes standing guard over the azure waters and the twelve Maya villages that rest on its shores. 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. You will stay at the **Hotel Atitlán** (www.hotelatitlan.com) on the water’s edge, engulfed by beautiful botanical gardens; a truly inspirational location.

Chichicastenango...This world famous Maya market is resplendent and 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 “Chichi” and the blazing colors of everyday dress will enthrall you.

Tikal Add-On: Feb 3 – 4, 2008

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 site.



To enroll...

Detach this 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.**

February 4 – 13, 2008

Explore Guatemala with Marki Rowe

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

e-mail: exploreguatemala@idworld.net

web site: 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.

_____ Tikal Add-On Feb 3 -4

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)

*Explore Guatemala with
Marki Rowe
February 4 – 13, 2008*



Tikal Option February 3 – 4, 2008

Sun 3rd: Arrive Guatemala City, 5PM flight to Flores. (D)

Mon 4th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Tikal. Return to Guatemala City. (B,L)

Itinerary...February 4 – 13, 2008

Mon 4th: Fly to Guatemala City, overnight at Hotel Quinta Real, on a mountainside overlooking the city and volcanoes. (L,D)

Tue 5th: Explore the architecture of this Capital city where it all began, Central Plaza (in 1778); where notable architecture began springing up in the form of the Cathedral, the National Palace and several other important edifices. Time for unique stores, workshops, and galleries, then depart for the Spanish colonial city of Antigua. (B,L)

Wed 6th: Today, a special presentation on this colonial treasure of a city, Antigua. We will delve into the past, the Spanish colonial heritage. On the cobblestone *calles* you'll find Baroque architecture, accessories, furniture, carpets, doors, art, and textiles offered in this wonderful crown jewel of a city. (B)

Thu 7th: Discover the handmade finery by artisans of this colonial city and the Maya from the surrounding villages. Later 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. (B,D)

Fri 8th: The day is free to enjoy the spirit of the place. Explore the hotel botanical gardens, hike the nature walk (highly recommended) and even do the zip line canopy tour, go into the local town of Panajachel where you may wander *Calle Santander* for shopping and visit the picturesque church, or sit by the pool with a good book. (B,L,D)

Sat 9th: Take a leisurely boat ride with a stop at the scenic village of Santiago and shopping in the artists' colony. We've been invited to lunch in a private home on the lake. (B,L,D)

Sun 10th: 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.

After lunch we travel back to colonial Antigua. Feel the romantic ambiance of its flower-filled courtyards, its narrow cobbled streets, and Spanish architecture. (B,L,D)

Mon 11th: In the ruins of the Monastery/Hotel Casa Santo Domingo we will explore this architectural delight, full of colonial artwork and antiques. It is an ongoing archeological excavation site with several "world class" museums. We will visit the Jade factory and shop, whose archeologist owners rediscovered the lost jade mines of the ancient Maya. Afterwards, exploring and shopping on your own. (B)

Tue 12th: Awaken to the raucous calls of the Macaws. Breakfast in a local café. and visit the market then we have the rest of the day free to explore or shop on your own. (B)

Wed 13th: Say goodbye to Antigua and Guatemala, for today we must leave for home taking memories to last a lifetime.

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 and the Palacio de Doña Leonor in Antigua. **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 other enthusiastic Architects/Designers.
- 10 days, 9 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 – Marki Rowe 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:

- **\$1995** Plus airfare (based on double occupancy)
- Single room supplement: **\$425**
- **Reservation Deposit: \$500**
- Tikal add-on: \$415 DBL \$465 SGL

RESERVE NOW - GROUP SIZE LIMITED

◆ **This trip requires a moderate amount of walking** ◆