

Explore Guatemala...



...with **Carol Koutnik**, an award winning artist, author, instructor, traveler. Respected and admired by her peers, her work is savored by students and patrons alike. Capable of producing 60 paintings for one show, she is prolific yet intentional in her pursuit of *“living life with the hope of sharing my visual adventures with others.”* Carol believes

that travel and experiencing other cultures, *“constantly alters my visual sense, and influences my thought patterns.”* Her art conveys not only what she sees but what she feels.

Carol regularly receives awards from international, national, state, and local competitions. She works in watercolor with a keen interest in plein air (outdoor/on location) painting. She exhibits at the Rockport Center for the Arts and The Gallery of Rockport, and teaches classes in drawing and plein air painting. Carol has studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois State University, the Art Institute of San Antonio, and the Blackhawk Mountain School of Art in Colorado.

For the third time in as many years Carol returns to this stimulating and beautiful country called Guatemala. 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.

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.

Finca Los Tarrales...Experience an authentic Guatemala Coffee Plantation and Private Reserve with its exotic flower operation exporting the world over. Sleeping and dining in screened-in plantation lodges will evoke visions of “Out of Africa”. Los Tarrales encompasses over 3000 acres of pristine forest ascending the south side of Volcano Atitlán.

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.

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 **Hotel Casa Santo Domingo** (built from the ruins of a 16th century monastery www.casasantodomingo.com.gt). The sounds of running water in the stone-carved fountains, candlelight throughout the hallways and fresh flowers everywhere will simply take your breath away.

Tikal Add-On (pre-workshop) Feb 17 - 18

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 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.**

February 18 – 27, 2008

Explore Guatemala with Carol Koutnik

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 17-18

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
Carol Koutnik
February 18 – 27, 2008*



Tikal Option February 17 – 18, 2008

Sun 4th: Arrive Guatemala City, 5PM flight to Flores. (D)

Mon 5th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Tikal. Return to Guatemala City. (B,L,D)

Itinerary...February 18 – 27, 2008

Mon 18th: Fly into Guatemala City, overnight at Hotel Quinta Real, on a mountainside overlooking the city and volcanoes.

Tue 19th: Travel to the village of Comalapa, an important center of *naïf* painting. A wonderful Maya market here. Travel through some of the most beautiful scenery in Guatemala to Finca Los Tarrales, a private reserve with a coffee plantation, exotic flower growing operation, bird watching, and scenic trails. (B,L,D)

Wed 20th: Up early for the birders and exploration of the finca. and sketching/photography. After lunch, travel to the most beautiful lake in the world, Lake Atitlán and the Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, villages and a beautiful lake view. (B,L,D)

Thu 21st: After breakfast there will be on-sight painting and drawing time with instruction for those who wish to have it in the gardens of the Hotel Atitlán. The afternoon will be free for individual instruction or exploring the botanical gardens or the nearby nature walk. We will go to the local village of Panajachel. (B,L,D)

Fri 22nd: Take leisurely boat ride with a stop at the scenic village of Santiago and a little shopping in the artists' colony. Today will be a day of photography involving discussions regarding what to look for. (B,L,D)

Sat 23rd: On-sight painting and sketching instruction in the botanical gardens of the Hotel Atitlán. The afternoon will be free for individual instruction, exploring the nearby villages garden walking, a canopy tour (zip line) or sitting by the pool and jacuzzi with a good book. (B,L,D)

Sun 24th: 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 to colonial Antigua. Feel the romantic ambiance of its flower-filled courtyards, its narrow cobbled streets, and Spanish architecture. (B,L,D)

Mon 25th: Carol will do a demo and guidance in the ruins of the Monastery. Then explore Casa Santo Domingo, an architectural delight, full of colonial artwork. 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,L)

Tue 26th: 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 paint, explore, or shop on your own. (B)

Wed 27th: 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. **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 award winning artist Carol Koutnik.
- 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 – 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:

- **\$1875** Plus airfare (based on double occupancy)
- Single room supplement: **\$365**
- **Reservation Deposit: \$500**
- Tikal add-on: \$415

RESERVE NOW - GROUP SIZE LIMITED

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