

Explore Guatemala...

.....with Wyn Kalagian



Join **Wyn Kalagian**, on her sixth trip to Guatemala. A retired public health nurse from St Catharines, Canada, this hardy traveler/painter has participated in several painting workshops and tours in Guatemala and has fallen in love with the Maya, their culture and their character.

The beautiful, hard working women of Guatemala are Wyn's inspiration. She was impressed with how hard

these women work to keep their families functioning. In spite of the harsh realities of their daily routines, they continue to create vibrant and artful designs in their clothing, a tradition that has been carried on for hundreds of years.

One of the main tasks of these women is to prepare food for their families. For most, cooking takes place over open fires, which cause their homes to fill with toxic smoke. This smoke is not only an annoyance, but the cause of lung, eye and burn problems. Stoves vented to the outside are needed to prevent these health problems.

Wyn choose to help these women by donating the profits from the sale for her paintings to the Guatemala Stove Project, a Canadian charitable organization that builds vented masonry stoves in rural Guatemala. To date her sold paintings of Maya women have resulted in the installation of over 52 such stoves.

"Please join me this spring as I revisit my favorite locations in Guatemala. Highlights of the tour will be the historical colonial city of Antigua, the magic of Lake Atitlan, and the colourful market in Chichicastenango. This country has been a source of artistic, personal, and spiritual inspiration for me; I would like you to share this cultural tour with me."

...Wyn Kalagian

Tour Setting and Highlights...

Guatemala City...

Discover the beauty of the **Hotel Vista Real** (www.vistareal.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. Stay at the **Hotel Atitlán** (www.hotelatitlan.com) on the water's edge and surrounded by beautiful botanical gardens.

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 world famous Chichicastenango, and the blazing colors of everyday dress will enthral you. Here you will stroll the market and visit the churches of this unique Maya village.

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. Your stay in Antigua will be the beautiful Palacio de Doña Leonor, former site of the home of the daughter of Pedro Alvarado, conqueror of Guatemala. The Palacio is today an elegant mansion tastefully decorated to invoke 17th century luxury, and just a few steps away from the main plaza.

Copán Maya Ruins Add-On (pre-tour) February 5 - 7, 2011

One of the greatest treasures of art and architecture in the Americas, Copán is known for its beautiful temples, altars and stelae. Carved in extremely intricate high relief, they are portraits of the greatest rulers in the history of the city. Referred to as the most artistically advanced and elaborate of all the Maya cities, continuous study of the city by archaeologists for over a century make it the most studied city of the Maya.

To enroll...

Detach the registration form and send it with your deposit or full payment check (**group limited to 20**, 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 been notified by Explore Guatemala to do so.**

Wyn Kalagian's Guatemala Cultural Tour

February 7 - 16, 2011

Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

Tel/Fax 210-599-8468

e-mail: registrar@exploreguatemala.com

web site: www.exploreguatemala.com

P.O. BOX 17217, San Antonio, TX 78217

Registration Request

Name as it appears on your passport: _____

Name you go by: _____

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.

_____ **Copán Maya Ruins add-on (Feb 5-7, 2011)**

Enclosed is check/money order
payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

X _____

(indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions available on our website)



Wyn Kalagian's
Cultural Tour in
Guatemala
February 7 – 16, 2011
 Copán, Honduras Maya Ruins
 Add-on Tour: February 6 – 7, 2011

Copán Maya Ruins Option February 5 – 7, 2011

Sat 5th: Arrive in Guatemala City by 1 PM, depart for Copan and the beautiful Hacienda San Lucas. (S/D)

Sun 6th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Copan. Bird Refuge-Macaw Mountain (300 species) (B/L/D)

Mon 7th: Return to Guatemala City. (B/S)

Workshop/Tour February 7 – 16, 2011

Mon 7th: Fly into Guatemala City where you will be met at the airport and taken to the beautiful Hotel Vista Real in Guatemala City, overlooking volcanoes Agua and Fuego.

Tues 8th: Take a scenic drive to Comalapa, where it is market day. Enjoy the colors, the people, and let your senses run free. In this most colorful of Maya markets, photo opportunities abound. We will visit a local Maya art gallery here. Travel through the Guatemala highlands to beautiful Lake Atitlán. At Hotel Atitlán, you will be surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, and Maya villages. (B/L/D)

Wed 9th: After breakfast, take time to enjoy the Gardens of Atitlan, the most beautiful in all of Central America. In the afternoon there will be time for painting, sketching, photographing and enjoying the pool, hot tub, a short hike to the Nature Walk or an adventurous flight through the air on the zip line. (B/L/D)

Thurs 10th: Travel to the world famous Chichicastenango market where you will find colorful and exciting commerce and the best place in the country to buy textiles and handicrafts. Visit a local family who makes costumes for the Maya Dance Ceremonies, and an interesting visit to the colorful cemetery. (B/L/D)

Fri 11th: Today includes a boat trip on Lake Atitlán to visit the village of Santiago. Here you will have the opportunity to visit local weavers, as well as Cojolya, a Maya Women Weaver's co-op. For lunch you are invited to the home of Candis Krummel (featured in the Exotic Edition of Architectural Digest). (B/L/D)

Sat 12th: Take this morning to relax, visit the gardens, and prepare for departure. After lunch travel to Finca Los Tarrales, a private reserve with a coffee plantation, exotic flower growing operation, bird watching, and scenic trails. (B/L/D)

Sun 13th: At the finca this morning, you will have a tour of the coffee operation, birding tour, and/or a walk through the tropical growing areas of the plantation. Next, travel to the colonial city of Antigua and stay at the beautiful Palacio de Doña Leonor, former site of the home of the daughter of Pedro Alvarado, conqueror of Guatemala. One of the most exquisite boutique hotels in Antigua; an elegant mansion tastefully decorated to invoke 17th century luxury, and just a few steps from the main plaza. (B/L/D)

Mon 14th: This morning you will have a walking tour of Antigua. In the afternoon, visit the Jade Museum/Shop to hear of the "Lost Jade Mines of the Maya". (B/L)

Tues 15th: Colonial architecture in the cobbled and colorful streets of Antigua, or the Parque Central, offer more venues to explore. Today you will be treated to a visit to the mysterious and interesting ruins of the Capuchinas Convent and the Casa Santo Domingo (16th Century Convent/Monastery turned 5 Star Hotel)(B)

Wed 16th: Departure flights home. (B)

Explore Guatemala, your partners in travel:

The company founders: **Anita Rogers**, fluent in Spanish, lived in Guatemala for 25 years. Her family owns the beautiful Hotel Atitlán on Lake Atitlán. **John Korte** has traveled throughout Guatemala for over 20 years. Our Traveler's Assistant, **Roberto Uhlenbrock**, born in Lima, Peru, is fluent in Spanish, English and German. He was a guide for the biggest tour operation in Guatemala. His study and experience in arts gave him the background to understand and communicate the beauty of Guatemalan arts and life. Everybody at Explore Guatemala understands 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, providing a deeper understanding of the Guatemalan way of life, its culture, nature and society; in short, we will show you the real Guatemala in a way very few travelers experience.

Included in your Explore Guatemala Workshop:

- A superbly crafted travel experience to the most enchanting, magical land of the Maya...Guatemala.
- Travel and explore with artist Wyn Kalagian.
- 10 days, 9 nights at unique, luxury hotels with most meals included (per itinerary).
- Deluxe motor coaches and private boats viewing the most scenic and colorful venues...an artist's paradise!
- Hotel baggage handling, driver, and meal service tips, 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**, call travel coordinator Gretchen of G&G Travel at 877-809-8900. Tell her you are traveling with **Explore Guatemala – Wyn Kalagian Group**. She will find the best airfare and arrange for you to arrive by the appointed time. She'll even arrange Frequent Flyer tickets for you.

Obviously, the sooner you make your reservation, the better the price and availability. However, **do not make airline arrangements until you have been notified by Explore Guatemala to do so.**

Prices:

- **\$2150** Plus airfare (p/p based on double occupancy).
- Single room supplement: **\$385.**
- **Reservation Deposit: \$500**
- *Copán* add-on: DBL (p/p) \$550 (Doubles or triples only)

RESERVE NOW, GROUP SIZE LIMITED