



# Explore

AMAZING PLACES



## EXPERIENCE GUATEMALA WITH CHRISTA DAVIS

July 7th - 17th, 2024

<b>Sun July 7</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	Fly to Guatemala City, and after clearing customs, please exit the terminal. Be sure to have a dollar or two handy if you need help getting your luggage to the bus. You will be met and taken to the beautiful Hotel Camino Real where we will spend the night.
Guatemala City		
Hotel Inter Continental		
Dinner	Open	Because travelers will be arriving at all different hours, dinner will be on your own tonight. The hotel has several restaurant options, as well as room service. Depending on arrival times, may wish to meet before dinner. We will chat about our goals for the trip and what to expect.
<b>Mon July 8</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	Rise and shine; have an early breakfast. Please have your bags outside your room before going to breakfast, and check out before going to breakfast. Our day will begin with a wonderful introduction to Guatemala and its culture by visiting the Ixchel (textile) Museum with its outstanding collection of native Maya costumes. Just next door we will explore the fascinating Popol Vuh Museum containing a number of Maya archaeological relics and serve as an introduction to Guatemala and its culture.
Breakfast	6:30am	
Departure	8:30am	
Museums		
Antigua		Next, we'll travel to Antigua and the Casa Santo Domingo, a Monastery built in the XVI century. Beautifully restored, the hotel offers a plethora of paintable subjects. Named by Conde Naste as one of the top 100 hotels in the world; you'll be captivated by its magic. Candlelight throughout, and the sound of running water will simply take your breath away.
Casa Santo Domingo		
Lunch	TBA	We will have lunch in the Dining Room of the Monks.
SPA		After settling in, one of the first things you'll want to do is make your reservation at the SPA Casa Santo Domingo for your free time.
Reservations		
Welcome	TBA	Meet up in the beautiful gardens where Christa will welcome you to our amazing painting location! We'll 'warm up' to get our gears primed for our painting adventures. We have painting time for the rest of the afternoon for those who wish. Or you may prefer to explore the ruins of this former Monastery. Explore Amazing Places staff have offered to do a short tour for anyone interested or you can wander on your own anytime. Beautifully restored, the hotel includes a Colonial Art Museum with an extensive collection of Guatemalan Colonial religious works of art, a private glass art collection, candle and ceramics factories are located within the area of the archeological site. Every corner has a special detail or treasure. This evening, gather on the terrace for a welcome drink, then a special dinner in the Dining Room of the Monks, prepared by award winning chef and author, Mario Campolo. (B/L/D)
Christa		
Tour ruins		
Social hour	6:00pm	
Dinner	7:00pm	

<b>Tue July 9</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	Awaken to the sounds of the Macaws chattering and the sights of bright bougainvillea, emerald volcanoes, and richly textured ruins.
Breakfast	7:00am	
Paint-Out	9:00am	Using demonstrations and individual assistance, Christa will ease your fears about painting. We'll talk about simplifying the scene, and why perfection is paralysis!
		Christa emphasizes individualism and the development of each artist's expressive style.
Lunch	TBA	Lunch, after which you may continue painting.
Paint		Next up...Christa will provide instruction. We may work on a project together or students can work individually while Christa gives one-on-one instruction. Personal attention will be given each student according to his/her current skill level and personal goals in art. (Some of you may wish to sneak away for a SPA visit).
Jades	5:00pm	We will visit Jades, to learn of the rediscovery of the ancient Maya Jade mines. This is the best place in Antigua to shop for Jade.
Dinner	OPEN	Dinner on your own tonight at one of the many exceptional restaurants in Antigua. We'll hand out a recommended list. (B/L)
<b>Wed July 10</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	After breakfast in a local café, we depart by foot through the cobbled <i>calles</i> and <i>avenidas</i> of Antigua. Surrounded by breath-taking views of volcanoes, the sights, the sounds, and texture of this remarkable city of Antigua has changed little in the last 300 years. We will visit the <i>Parque La Union</i> with its large central fountain and see many of the spectacular structures and ruins from the 1600s: the <i>Catedral de San José</i> and the <i>Captains General Palace</i> .
Breakfast	8:00am	
Walking Antigua		
Paint Convent Ruins		In this designated UNESCO World Heritage City, we'll enter and set up to paint in the ruins of <i>Convento Santa Clara</i> . The Colonial architecture surrounds us everywhere and will be the instruction of the day.
Lunch	12:00pm	We'll break for lunch at our "Bohemian" eatery, Café Sky, overlooking the <i>Iglesia de San Francisco</i> ; the only 3 story building in Antigua.
Free time	TBA	After lunch you will have time to explore Antigua; the shops, the market, and the ruins left sitting for almost 350 years. Or, this may be a good day for SPA treatments.
Dinner	6:45pm	Meet in lobby for dinner departure to one of the most charming restaurants in Antigua. (B/L/D)

<b>Thu July 11</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	Breakfast in the Dining Room of the Monks.
Paint	7:00am	
<i>Iglesia El Carmen</i>	8:30am	Yea!! Today we get to paint in the <i>calles</i> and <i>avenidas</i> of Antigua. No worries - before painting Christa will give you some instruction, then lead you through the painting process. One of the most spectacular ruins in this colonial city, an impressive Baroque-style Temple some refer to as “Towers of Columns” will be our subject this morning. <i>Iglesia El Carmen</i> ’s elaborate columns, fluted archways, and intricate relief carvings make this Church façade a colonial treasure.
Lunch Paint, <i>or</i> <i>Convento Capuchinas</i>	1:00pm	We’ll hand out a list of our top picks for lunch.  This afternoon you may choose to continue painting, shopping, OR meet up for a special tour of the <i>Convento Capuchinas</i> , the most unknown and misunderstood, but one of the best preserved, of all the colonial buildings in the new world.
Dinner	7:00pm	An amazing farewell dinner at the magical and beautiful Casa Santo Domingo on our last night in Antigua. (B/D)
<b>Fri July 12</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	Alas, today we must say "adios" to Antigua.
Depart	6:00am	
EARLY for Lake Atitlán	6:30am	We will travel through the magnificent Guatemalan highlands, stopping along the way for a quick breakfast at Katok, a local and well-patronized smokehouse restaurant, tucked away in the mountains. Our drive will present spectacular vistas and scenes of the Maya, in a world not too changed from hundreds of years ago.  We’re on our way to one of “the most beautiful lakes in the world”, Lake Atitlán, and the Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, and villages with beautiful lake views that dominate one’s field of vision from every angle.
Lunch Paint	11:30 TBA	Following lunch, we’ll gather in the gardens for some instruction from Christa. Non painters can continue to explore the grounds or maybe make a quick trip to nearby Panajachel for some light shopping.
Social Hour Dinner	6:00pm	Gather in the bar for a social libation before we dine on a meal especially prepared for us by the chefs of Hotel Atitlán. (B/L/D)

<b>Sat July 13</b>	<b>Day 7</b>	This day will be filled with cultural experiences and surprises!
Breakfast		
Travel by boat	7:00 8:05	After a sumptuous breakfast, we will depart for a boat trip around the lake, stopping first at the Maya village of San Juan La Laguna to visit a cooperative for demonstrations of weaving and dyeing techniques followed by an opportunity to purchase the completed textiles. You will see village life of the Maya, have an ethno-botanical garden medicinal plants tour, and visit chocolate shop to learn about cacao and sample their variety of flavors. Artesanias abound here; we'll visit the galleries of local painters, with their unique styles and local subject.
Lunch	11:00	Next, our boat will take us to the private lakeside home of Candis and son, Cameron Krummel, for both a cultural and an ecological experience. Their unique home, featured in Architectural Digest August 2002, is built in the traditional style of Maya Tz'utujil architecture. Our hosts will prepare a delicious traditional Tz'utujil gourmet festive lunch for us over an open wood fire. Have your sketchbooks and cameras handy. This will be an experience you will not soon forget.
Social Hour	6:00pm	This will be a free evening. Meet up for a fun time in the bar. As lunch will have been huge and late, dinner is not included tonight. If you feel the need for dinner you may, of course, have dinner on your own. (B/L)
<b>Sun July 14</b>	<b>Day 8</b>	Prepare yourself for an adventure! We're on our way to the famous Maya Market of Chichicastenango, where the traditions of the past encounter the present in a kaleidoscope of colors and a flurry of activity. Feel the energy of the sights and sounds of the open air Chichi market. Record your impressions with sketchbook and camera.
Breakfast	7:00am	
Travel to Chichi	8:00am	First, we will visit the Santo Tomas Church to witness the convergence of the Catholic religion with the ancient Maya rituals, then on to the market brimming with arts and crafts as well as everything imaginable for, of, and by the local Maya. Bargain for exquisite textiles, unique handicrafts and brightly painted, carved masks, all replicating designs and technique passed down through generations. Cameras are a must.
Lunch	1:00pm	Meet for lunch at <i>Restaurante Don Juan</i> .
Depart for Hotel Atitlan	TBA	Following our day of shopping we'll return to beautiful Lake Atitlán, and the Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, and villages with beautiful lake views that dominate one's field of vision from every angle.
Social Hour Dinner	6:00pm	Gather in the bar for a social libation before we dine on a meal especially prepared for us by the chefs of Hotel Atitlán. (B/L/D)

**Mon July 15 Day 9** This morning after breakfast, you may go into Panajachel (neighboring village) to Santander Street where you'll find shops and stalls full of everything imaginable (lots of good shopping for friends and family back home).  
Breakfast 7:00am  
Free morning

Or, you may choose to explore the hotel's renowned Botanical Gardens, hike the Atitlán Nature Reserve, or take a ride on *Cables X-tremos* (the zipline), have a massage, enjoy a cold beverage in the Jacuzzi, or just sit by the pool with a good book.

Lunch 12:00 Lunch on the terrace overlooking beautiful Lake Atitlán.

Paint with Christa TBA This afternoon you may continue painting with guidance available by Christa, and begin packing.

Art Show 5:00pm This evening we will enjoy a Churasco (Guatemalan Barbecue) on the Terrace with views of twinkling lights around the lake, and stars to match (weather permitting). (B/L/D)  
Churasco 7:00pm

**Tue July 16 Day 10** This morning you may enjoy the spirit of the place that has moved you the most; explore the hotel environs, hike the nature walk (highly recommended), visit the local town of Panajachel, sketch, photograph, or just sit by the pool with a good book.  
Breakfast 7:00am  
Free time

Check out 12:00 Have your bags picked up and be checked out by 12:00.

Lunch

Depart 1:30 After lunch we must say "adios" to Lake Atitlán and return to the beautiful Hotel Camino Real, in Guatemala City, where we will spend the night.

Dinner OPEN Tonight's final dinner will be at one of Explore's favorite Guatemala City Restaurants. (B/L)

**Wed July 17 Day 11** Breakfast this morning before departing for the airport for your flight home. (B)

• B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

**Included in your Art Workshop/Tour:** 11 days, 10 nights at unique and luxury lodging ▪ most meals per itinerary, including tips ▪ hotel baggage handling and driver gratuities ▪ deluxe motor coaches/private boat ▪ excursions/entrance fees per itinerary ▪ Workshop Tuition

**NOT Included:**

▪ Airfare from your hometown to Guatemala ▪ Art supplies ▪ Airport baggage handling tips (we recommend \$1 per bag) ▪ Alcohol or any personal room charges ▪ any newly implemented airport security or exit taxes ▪ any “optional” items listed in the itinerary

**COST: DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$3500**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$740**

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

To direct dial to Guatemala, dial 011 (international operator), then 502 (country code) and then the number you wish to call. Guatemala time is Central Standard Time – however, during Daylight Savings Time the time may be different. If you wish to direct dial from Guatemala you must dial 001 and then the area code + the number.

**U. S. Consulate and Embassy:**

Guatemala City, Guatemala  
Tel. 502-2331-1541  
or 502-2832-2628

**In Antigua: 7/10 – 7/14**

Casa Santo Domingo  
[www.casantodomingo.com.gt](http://www.casantodomingo.com.gt)  
Tel. 502-7820-1220

**Transportation Company:**

T & T Travel / Rolando  
Tel. 502-5703-1649

**In Panajachel: 7/14 – 7/18**

Hotel Atitlán [www.hotelatitlan.com](http://www.hotelatitlan.com)  
Tel. 7762-1429 or 7762-1441

**Explore Amazing Places cell phone**

**In Guatemala: (Anita or John)**

Tel. 502-5550-4386  
U.S. 210-807-4222

**In Guatemala City: 7/9 & 7/18**

Hotel InterContinental  
Tel: 502-2413-4444

**If, for any reason, the party traveling misses their flight to  
Guatemala, please contact:  
Our U.S. (SKYPE) phone 210-807-4222  
or Explore Amazing Places cell – 011-502-5550-4386**