

## December 11-17, 2014: Knitting and Navidad in Cholula, Mexico with Cat Bordhi, Pecko, and Arturo



**We welcome travelers who are lively, curious, and independent,** and who value having time to explore on their own. Our careful daily organization is meant to stay in the background as much as possible so that you can steer your own experience. Every day we use our local personal relationships and knowledge to create a fresh menu of options for you to choose from, much like passionate chefs who seek the best and freshest ingredients in the *mercados*. Most mornings we will join together for a knitting session with Cat and to share the day's "menu," offering insights and suggestions, and then set you free to explore on your own or with your new friends, and to have

genuine experiences so you can really breathe and feel the essence of the culture and land and people...this is the very best part of the trip and what we value most. You do need to be physically fit and in good health, and happy to walk for a mile or two, sometimes over uneven surfaces, including stairs. If this makes your heart beat faster with joyful anticipation, we can offer you the possibility of a transformative experience filled with a kaleidoscope of moments that will resonate for the rest of your life.

**We are a cohesive, passionate team and love working together.** Cat Bordhi is a world-famous knitting teacher, designer, and story-teller; Jim Petkiewicz (Pecko) is a grass-roots philanthropist who has never been known to get cold and who has knitted, taught, and gifted *Felfitos* all over the Americas; and Arturo Ortega is an anthropologist and award-winning musician who learned to knit at an astonishingly rapid pace while leaning on an ancient Incan stone in Cusco, Perú. Altogether we are 247% bilingual, 300% funny, and have lived in Latin America, including Mexico, Bolivia, and Peru, for a combined 57 years.

**Fees for this trip help support Community Links International (CLI),** a nonprofit dedicated to sustainably changing communities through holistic engagement in central California, highland Peru and south-central Mexico.

We are jazzed by, and dedicated to, environmental sanity and healing, community-based education with kids and their families and right relationships. For more information on CLI, email Jim at [peckos@me.com](mailto:peckos@me.com).



### **About Navidad in Mexico:**

December is a magical time of traditional celebrations in Cholula, with the weather likely to be sunny and in the seventies during the day, and cooler at night. You'll experience everything from the singing, drama, food, and community of *Las Posadas* to the largest archaeological site of a pyramid in the New World, *La Gran Piramide de Cholula*, which is in walking distance from our hotel. We'll enjoy seasonal culinary delights like *ponche*, *rosca*, and *buñuelos*, see *papel picado* (intricately cut paper artwork) being made, admire *nacimiento* (nativity) scenes lit by *farolitos* (paper lanterns), and much more. And you can even take care of all your Christmas shopping while here!

### **About Cholula:**

With the magnificent backdrop of volcanos Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl, nearby archaeological sites, and hundreds of churches—many containing works of art—the ancient city of Cholula, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited village in the Americas, is a place you will want to return to again and again. We'll be staying in the *Hotel Real de Naturales* ([www.hotelrealdenaturales.com](http://www.hotelrealdenaturales.com)), one block from the *zocalo* (town square). Within three blocks there is enough to keep you happy for many more days than you will be here: the *mercado*, museums, pre-hispanic archives and library, shopping, many cafes and restaurants, and endless colorful arts and crafts.

### **How to get to Cholula:**

You can fly directly into Puebla, usually via Continental out of Houston, or American out of Dallas. We will have a representative at the Puebla Airport to pick you up.

**Thursday, December 11:** You will arrive in Cholula sometime in the afternoon, and we will gather for our welcome that night.

**Friday, December 12:** After breakfast together, Cat will introduce the special knitting project and give each of you a yarn kit and we will spend an hour or two knitting together. Then we'll take you for a walk to point out places you may want to explore, shop, and eat. Today is *El Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe* and you will come across many celebrations. You are on your own for the rest of the day.

**Saturday, December 13:** After breakfast and knitting time with Cat, we'll visit *Centro Enlaces* in nearby Tecuanipan and show you our projects in permaculture, agricultural practices, green technology, community education, international solidarity, and enjoy live music. The afternoon and evening are free for your own explorations.

**Sunday, December 14:** After breakfast and some knitting time together, you are on your own until about two, when we will leave for nearby Puebla, a cultural treasure for humanity (defined by UNESCO) that is considered a magical town due to its natural beauty, cultural riches, historical significance and proliferation of colonial buildings. Dinner is on your own in Puebla. A CLI team member will meet you to bring you back that evening.



**Monday, December 15:** Today we will cook *mole* together with a local chef, and knit during times of long simmering. *Mole* is the ultimate slow food, a centuries-old traditional stew that requires days of love, community, and commitment to bring to fruition. *Mole* represents the best of who we are as people: cherished local ingredients, the mixing and melding of those over time, and sharing the results among family, friends and neighbors. This is the community

of Community Links International, and we are thrilled to be able to share it with you. The evening will be free and we can point you in the direction of good live music if you like!

**Tuesday, December 16:**

Today is the first of eight days of day of traditional *Las Posadas* celebrations, and our last full day together. We will have breakfast together as usual, knit together for a while, and then give you the rest of the morning and afternoon to see everything you may have missed or hope to revisit; lunch is on your own today. We'll gather for our farewell dinner and then join the *Las Posadas* celebrations.

**Cost**

Inaugural pricing for our *Knitting and Navidad* program is \$1275

*This price covers:*

- knitting sessions with Cat, including an exclusive project and Frog Tree Yarn kit.
- airport transfers to and from the Puebla Airport
- 6 nights of a shared hotel room (\$300 for single supplement)
- all group activities
- all breakfasts and some dinners

*It does not cover:*

- some meals
- incidentals like personal taxi rides, bottled water and snacks, personal items,
- souvenirs, nor medical expenses.
- travel from your home to the Puebla Airport and back

**To reserve a spot or for more information,**  
email Cat Bordhi: [cat@catbordhi.com](mailto:cat@catbordhi.com)