

A Cultural Tour of Guatemala & Semana Santa in Antigua with Jan Ledbetter NWS, March 29 – April 8, 2012

Optional add-on to Copan Honduras Maya ruins, March 27 – 29, 2012



You are invited to join artist **Jan Ledbetter** on her 6th trip to this amazing country! Pack your bags and bring an open mind to this creative, interactive experience. Whether an artist, photographer, or traveler, you will discover a country of rich Spanish Colonial heritage, of extraordinary natural beauty, and a place where the Maya dress and live much as they did centuries ago. This will be a cultural experience that you will never forget. Throughout the tour, artists will have the opportunity to study with Jan, drawing and painting plein air and from models.

A renowned watermedia artist, balancing painting and teaching, Jan's work reflects the joy and passion that she brings to every aspect of her life. She earned her MFA from Syracuse University and holds signature memberships in many important watercolor societies including the prestigious National Watercolor Society. Her series of paintings of the Maya have been juried into and won awards in the top national and international watercolor exhibitions. Jan's paintings are held in private collections around the world and have been reproduced on posters for charitable events and art festivals. They were featured in *American Artist Watercolor Magazine*, "The Joy of Paint and Paper," winter 2007 and in Mary Todd Beam's book *The Creative Edge*.

Workshop Setting and Highlights...

Guatemala City...

Discover the beauty of the luxury Hotel Vista Real (www.vistareal.com) overlooking the City and facing the massive Fuego and Agua volcanoes. The décor in this luxury hotel, offers a perfect blend of Guatemalan and Mexican art and architecture.

Lake Atitlán and Villages...

Drive through the highlands of Guatemala with its majestic mountains and lush valleys to Lake Atitlán. Surrounded by three towering volcanoes that stand guard over quaint Maya villages, the lake is considered by many to be "the most beautiful lake in the world". Feel suspended in time as you watch the Maya fishermen in their dugout cayucos, practicing

their trade just as their ancestors have done for centuries. This dramatic landscape, an area rich in Maya culture and traditions, will create memories to last a lifetime. At Spanish Colonial style Hotel Atitlan (www.hotelatitlan.com), our home base, discover botanical gardens displaying over 200 varieties of roses, an extensive orchid collection, a tropical heliconia garden, English style knot gardens, and a collection of exotic birds.

Chichicastenango...

Come ready to shop and bargain in this colorful 800 year old K'iche' market where Maya families come to buy and trade. Find fabulous buys on exquisite textiles, handicrafts, and brightly painted masks, all replicating designs and techniques passed down through many generations. One of the most memorable sights is of the Maya women wearing their colorful traditional clothing of hand woven Huipiles (blouses) and Cortes (skirts). In the 400-year-old Santo Tomas Church, which is built over a Pre-Columbian Maya temple, see a combination of Maya rituals and Catholic worship.

Antigua...

Located in a fertile valley that is surrounded by majestic volcanoes, this picturesque Spanish Colonial city is famous for its well-preserved, Cathedral, churches, and monasteries. The ornate architecture, plazas, fountains, bougainvillea draped houses, and old cobblestone streets provide extensive photographic opportunities and artistic inspiration. Stay at the prestigious boutique hotel Palacio de Doña Leonor (www.palaciodeleonor.com) which is built over the ruins of the home of the daughter of Pedro Alvarado, conqueror of Guatemala. Located just a few steps away from the main plaza, the Palacio is today an elegant hotel with each room uniquely decorated to invoke 17th century luxury.

Copán Maya Ruins Add-On (pre-tour) October 22 - 24, 2011

One of the great treasures of art and architecture in the Americas, Copán was the dominant Maya city in the south and is known for its classic Maya temples, altars, and stelae. Explore the ruins and learn about the great Maya civilization and culture. Referred to as the most artistically advanced and elaborate of all the Maya cities, the ruins have been under continuous study by archaeologists for over a century.

View Jans paintings and contact through her website at:
www.janledbetter.com or at 757-253-7831

TO ENROLL

Detach the registration form and send it along with your deposit or full payment check made **payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.** (Group size is limited; date of registration request determines priority of space.) 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.**

Jan Ledbetter Cultural Tour

March 29 – April 8, 2012

Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

Tel/Fax 210-599-8468

E-mail: registrar@exploreguatemala.com

Website: 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 (Mar 27-29, 2012)

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)

*Jan Ledbetter's
Semana Santa (Holy Week)
in Antigua, Guatemala
March 29 – April 8, 2012
Copán Maya Ruins Add-on Tour (March 27 – 29, 2012)*



Copán, Honduras Option

March 27 - 29, 2012

Tue 27th: Arrive in Guatemala City...1 PM departure to Copán. (D)
Wed 28th: Spend a day touring the Maya ruins of Copán, Honduras, later exploring the Macaw Mountain Bird Park. (B,L,D)
Thu 29th: Visit Copán town and return to Guatemala City. (B,L)

Cultural Tour

March 29 - April 8, 2012

Thu 29th: Fly into Guatemala City. Be met at the airport and taken to the beautiful Hotel Vista Real.

Fri 30th: Travel to the colorful Maya village market of Comalapa where Jan will draw on location. Journey through the Guatemala highlands to beautiful Lake Atitlán and Hotel Atitlán. (B/L/D)

Sat 31st: Ride by boat to the village of Santiago to visit local weavers and Cojolya, a Maya Women Weaver's co-op. Lunch at the extraordinary private home of Candis Krummel which was featured in one of Architectural Digest's Exotic Homes Edition. (B/L/D)

Sun 1st: Today is free to enjoy local activities: the hotel botanical gardens, the pool and Jacuzzi, the natural preserve, zip line, or the streets of nearby village Panajachel. Artists meet with Jan at the Ranchito for some painting time and instruction. (B/L/D)

Mon 2nd: Travel by boat to a lakeside village to see how the Maya process maguey (agave plant) into usable fibers for rope, weaving, and construction materials ... visit artisan cooperatives. (B/L/D)
Later, gather at poolside for social hour before savoring a traditional Guatemalan Churrasco (Barbeque). (B/L/D)

Tue 3rd: Enjoy a leisurely morning ... after lunch, leave for Chichicastenago to view the Maya setting up their traditional market. Record your impressions with sketchbook and camera. Lodge overnight at the historic Mayan Inn. (B/L/D)

Wed 4th: Awaken to the world famous Chichicastenango market. Discover colorful and exciting commerce and the best place in Guatemala to buy textiles and handicrafts. Witness the convergence of Maya spirituality and Catholicism, implanted by the Spanish Conquistadors. After lunch, travel to Antigua to stay at the Palacio de Dona Leonor, the former palace of the daughter of the conqueror of Guatemala. (B/L/D)

Thu 5th: This trip is planned around the solemn events of Semana Santa (holy week) where devoted followers, dressed in deep purple robes, carry venerated statues of Christ Jesus and saints throughout Antigua. Today view the highly decorated carpets made of flowers, pines, and fruit and created on the streets by the residents. Have front row seats for the beginning of the procession from San Francisco church. (B)

Fri 6th: The fervor of the crowds peaks on Good Friday, when the most solemn of processions depart from La Merced church. Before this begins, walk along the traveled route viewing these dramatic carpets, some up to a kilometer in length. Then skirt the procession locating the best places to view and photograph this world famous event. (B)

Sat 7th: Visit the Jade Museum-Shop to hear the history of the "Lost Jade Mines of the Maya". Later in the morning, enjoy free time to further explore the city and finish shopping. (B)

Sun 8th: Bid adios to Guatemala; 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 learn with renowned artist Jan Ledbetter.
- 11 days, 10 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 - Jan Ledbetter 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:

- \$2675** Plus airfare (p/p based on double occupancy)
- Single room supplement: **\$575**
- Copan add-on: (p/p) \$550** (No Single Rate)
- Reservation Deposit: \$500**

RESERVE NOW, GROUP SIZE LIMITED