

Explore Guatemala...



...with **gail McDaniel**. "Her sensitivity creates art, her empathy creates artists" sums up how her students feel about this highly respected artist/instructor who has taught emerging and professional watercolorists from around the world. gail has traveled to Giverny, France to paint in Monet's Garden. She was invited by the Art in Provence program to conduct a workshop in Dieulefit, France and recently completed teaching stints and/or tours in England, Spain, Canada,

and at historic Ghost Ranch, a landmark made famous by the late Georgia O'Keeffe.

"I love teaching artists at all levels," says McDaniel, a traditional watercolorist who is best known for her vibrant use of colors when depicting images from nature and real life. "I demonstrate the techniques, shortcuts, and concepts that I have developed or learned by doing, reading, or studying with others. I show my students everything I know, holding nothing back. My goal is to inspire them without making them feel overwhelmed."

McDaniel's breathtaking paintings are on exhibition in Middle Tennessee. In October 2006, she unveiled a new collection of watercolor paintings at the newly opened Elm Tree Gallery in Franklin. The luminous, reflective light of gail's transparent watercolors has elevated her to the status of an award-winning artist and instructor. gail has won awards in fourteen juried exhibitions and is featured in permanent displays and private collections. Through world travel and training, she has become internationally recognized and is in constant demand for commission work.

One of gail's students said "an intuitive painter of shadow and light, gail does things you may have never seen before! She encourages you to use these techniques YOUR way to expand YOUR style."

I am happiest when my students become recognized artists in their own right. By taking what they want from me and adding to their own talents, abilities, work ethic and attitude, they can become more than I am. When that happens, I know I have succeeded. My joy and reward for what I do come from their artistic growth.

Please visit gail's web-site: <http://www.gailmcdanielart.com>

Setting and Accommodations...

Guatemala City: 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. 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 3 - 4

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 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 4 - 13, 2008

Explore Guatemala with gail McDaniel

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 3 -4

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: _____



(indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions)

*Paint Guatemala with
gail Mcdaniel
February 4 – 13, 2008*



Tikal Option February 3 – 4, 2008

Sun 3rd: Arrive Guatemala City, 5PM flight to Flores. (D)

Mon 4th: Spend a day of awe and fascination in the Maya ruins of Tikal. Return to Guatemala City. (B,L,D)

Itinerary...February 4 – 13, 2008

Mon 4th: Fly into Guatemala City, overnight at Hotel Quinta Real, on a mountainside overlooking the city and volcanoes.

Tue 5th: Travel to the village of Comalapa, an important center of *naïf* painting and a wonderful Maya market. Travel through some of the most beautiful scenery in Guatemala to Finca Los Tarrales. gail will introduce her style of color glazing, for clean, clear, glowing transparent veils of color, which have a vibrancy of special energy. It is her purpose for the group to be able to capture all the brilliance of Guatemala's distinctive colors. (B,L,D)

Wed 6th: Up early for the birders; exploration of the finca. and sketching/photography. After lunch, travel to the most beautiful lake in the world, Lake Atitlán and Hotel Atitlán, surrounded by botanical gardens, towering volcanoes, terraced mountainsides, villages and a beautiful lake view. gail will present a demonstration in the afternoon while discussing light and shadows and how to best interpret them in your paintings. (B,L,D)

Thu 7th: After breakfast gail will demo incorporating figures into your paintings. The afternoon will be free for individual instruction from gail as you paint en plein air in the botanical gardens. (B,L,D)

Fri 8th: 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 9th: Demo by gail, the subject will be determined by the needs of the group. The afternoon will be free for individual instruction by gail and en plein air painting. (B,L,D)

Sun 10th: 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 11th: Part of the morning will be devoted to answering your questions raised by the Workshop. This day we will paint en plein air in the area of Parque La Union and the Santa Clara ruins. gail will be available for individual instruction and one on one tips. We will visit the Jade factory and shop, whose archeologist owners rediscovered the lost jade mines of the ancient Maya. Then explore Casa Santo Domingo, an architectural delight, full of colonial artwork. It is an ongoing archeological excavation site with several "world class" museums. (B,L)

Tue 12th: Breakfast in a local café. excellent painting opportunities en plein air on picturesque streets of Antigua. (B)

Wed 13th: Individual departure, taking home memories and impressions 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 acclaimed artist gail Mcdaniel.
- 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 – gail Mcdaniel 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:

- **\$1995** 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** ◆