



Guatemalan Weaving

with Deborah Chandler July 5-15, 2010

Harrisville Designs, Mayan Hands and Textile Indigo Artes are proud sponsors of a textile trip of a lifetime. Join us for a ten day tour that will include five days of instruction in a variety of traditional weaving techniques at Indigo Artes followed by four days of travel into the beautiful Guatemalan Highlands, visiting groups of Mayan weavers in their villages, as well as textile markets, textile museums, and more. Neither extensive weaving experience nor Spanish is required, as the weaving techniques will be new to most and there will be translators present at all times. Group size is limited to 12 participants, so look at your calendar now. Learn more, visit the following websites:

harrisville.com/classes.htm, mayanhands.org and indigoartestextiles.com

Monday, July 5 – Dinner together in Antigua, where you will be sleeping for the next 6 nights. Present for the week will be the students, Deborah Chandler, Director of Indigo Artes Olga Reiche, MH field workers Teresa Gomez and Juana Xiloj, 8 teachers, enough translators, and additional visitors.

Tuesday, July 6 – Backstrap weaving and brocade – brocade can and will be done on both backstrap and floor looms. This class will have four Mayan women teachers simultaneously, each teaching a different brocade technique, and students will take turns with each teacher. Students will take their backstrap looms home.

Wednesday & Thursday, July 7 & 8 – Ikat using natural dyes. The ikat section will last two days, taught by Roberto Chaclán, an ikat dyer/weaver from Totonicapán, and Olga Reiche, natural dye expert and Director of Indigo Artes. While dyes are drying, we will visit the market and/or stores and/or the textile museum Casa de Tejidos Antiguos in Antigua.

Friday, July 9 – A day of finishes and joins, including traditional pom poms, randas and other embroidery techniques both decorative and functional. We will also visit the Coffee and Music Museums on the same coffee farm as the school – La Azotea.

Saturday, July 10 – We will mount an exhibit of all work done, which will provide part of the basis of a day for review of and questions about everything: pieces done in class, bought in the market, brought in by anyone involved in the course, or on exhibit at the school. The school's gallery will have an exhibition of Guatemalan textiles showing other techniques, including leno, inlay, other brocades, wool tapestry woven blankets and rugs, pieces woven on draw-loom and jacquard looms, simple and complex jaspé/ikat, and more. One goal of the week is to have the students be able to go into the market and recognize how something was woven, and therefore have an idea what a fair price would be when compared to other pieces. We'll start the day with a lecture by Barbara Knoke, noted anthropologist and Guatemalan textile specialist and author, who worked at Museo Ixchel for many years, and finish the day and week with a celebration befitting the occasion!

Sunday, July 11 – Off to the market in Chichicastenango, world-famous for its array of textiles. Mid-afternoon we'll drive downhill to Lake Atitlán, where we will dine and wander and sleep in Panajachel.

Monday, July 12 – Take a boat across the lake early in the morning to visit the Mayan Hands group near Santiago Atitlán, in Panabaj – they weave on backstrap and small foot looms. Back across the lake for an afternoon presentation by Oxlajuj B'atz', the education project of Asociación Tejedoras Unidas (Komon Ajkem). Sleep in Panajachel.

Tuesday, July 13 – Visit to MH groups in Morales and/or Vasconcelos, above Sololá. Both weave on backstrap looms, doing different techniques, and make bracelets, also in a variety of techniques both traditional and new, on and off loom. Afternoon – drive back to the city, visit the Mayan Ruins at Iximche en route.

Wednesday, July 14 – Morning visit Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City. Ixchel was/is the goddess of weaving and fertility. Afternoon – visit the Mapa Relieve, Lin Canola, and more (or less), depending on time and energy. Sleep in Guatemala City.

Thursday, July 15 - Fly home or go on to other adventures on your own.



Cost: \$2050

includes all hotels, meals, instruction and in-country transportation. (International airfare and personal shopping are not included.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

HD Harrisville Designs + www.harrisville.com
Harrisville, NH 03450 + 603-827-3996