

Discover Ecuador

...and the Galapagos Islands



...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, having been invited to paint on Monday 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, for 'Explore Guatemala', and has taught eleven different watercolor workshops on historic Ghost Ranch, where the late Georgia O'Keeffe lived and painted. Artists from 36 different states, (including Alaska and Hawaii), the District of Columbia, Brazil, Canada and the Philippines have come to study with gail.

"I love teaching artists at all levels," says gail, 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."

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. In January, 2001, gail was invited to become an Honorary Member of the Winsor & Newton Creative Artists Network.

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."

gail adds "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 comes from their artistic growth".

Please visit gail's web-site: www.gailmcdanielart.com

Workshop Setting and Highlights...

Quito... Ecuador's capital city, second highest capital in the world, at 9,842 ft, has one of the most magnificent settings in a basin surrounded by Andean mountain peaks. Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Quito boasts one of Latin America's richest concentration of colonial churches, plazas, museums, and historic buildings... We will enjoy a visit to the Middle of the World Monument at latitude 0'0'0", where it is possible to stand in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres at the same time.

The renowned Hacienda Cusin and the Otavalo Inca Market

High among Ecuador's Andean peaks you will find incredible scenery with ice capped volcanoes and pastoral scenes of colorfully dressed indigenous herders watching sheep and llamas graze windswept fields of grass. At the world famous market of Otavalo, you'll find indigenous artisan crafts made in nearby small villages. We stay at the Hacienda Cusin a restored 17th century Andean estate, now a country inn with its fountains, courtyards, and several acres of perennial gardens. www.haciendacusin.com

Avenue of the Volcanoes and Hacienda Agustin De Callo...

We travel south through the Avenue of the Volcanoes along the Central Sierras to visit Cotopaxi National Park with 82,533 acres, where wild horses roam, and home to the highest active volcano in the world. Our destination is the historic Hacienda San Agustin de Callo, which is built on the site of an Inca Palace and is one of the two most important archeological Inca sites in Ecuador. www.incahacienda.com

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS! Add-on Feb 11-15, 2011

It's not too often you come across a place that is unique in the world, like the Galapagos Islands. Everyone has heard of this archipelago, far out in the Pacific Ocean, protecting a bubble of life like nowhere else on planet earth, where doe-eyed sea lions, birds with blue feet, and tortoises as big as armchairs roam free and fearless. The islands, strictly monitored by the National Park Service to insure that this unique ecosystem is minimally impacted, are one of the world's natural treasures. Only a lucky few actually get to swim with puppy-sized penguins and walk past nesting seabirds close enough to touch, and all are completely nonplussed by human presence. The feeling of looking at acres of wild animals that don't flee at your arrival - a place where you actually have to be careful not to step on any creatures as you walk down the trail - is nothing short of amazing. By the end of your stay, you will have gotten a taste of what the earth was like before the human race showed up. You'll go home understanding how a short visit to these islands over 170 years ago sparked one of the most controversial scientific theories. Come experience it while you can. **OPTIONAL**

To enroll...

Detach the registration form and send it with your deposit or full payment check (**class 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 been notified by Explore Guatemala to do so.***

gail McDaniel Ecuador Art Workshop/Tour

Feb 2 - 11, 2011

Galapagos Option - Feb 11 - 15

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.

Galapagos Island add-on (Feb 11-15)

Enclosed is check/money order

payable to Explore Guatemala, L.L.C.

Deposit: \$ _____ or Total Fee: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(indicates you have read our Terms and Conditions available on our website)



**Gail Mcdaniel Art Workshop/Tour
Experience Ecuador and the**

***Galapagos Islands**

February 2 - 10, 2011

***Galapagos Add-on Tour - Feb 11 - 15, 2011**

Workshop/Tour February 2 - 10, 2011

Wed 2nd: Fly into Quito where you will be met at the airport and taken to Hotel Sebastian.

Thu 3rd: Tour Quito's Old Town. Travel past patchwork covered mountains and Rose plantations to the oldest hacienda in the country, Hacienda Cusin. It will take your breath away. (B,D)

Fri 4th: Plein air painting, demo and tips from gail for working "on location". Visit Cotacachi, famous for its leather crafts. Tonight, in the cellar bar of the Hacienda Pinsaqui, enjoy the sounds of an Andean band, then dinner in their elegant dining room. (B,D)

Sat 5th: Are you ready for this...we are off to Otavalo and its famous Andean market finding treasures galore and enjoying the colorful people, food and produce. Photo ops abound! (B,D)

Sun 6th: Plein air painting demo adding figures to paintings. You may relax, read, take a train ride, horseback ride, visit the Condor Park, hike trails overlooking Otavalo. (B,D)

Mon 7th: Depart Hacienda Cusin today, stopping at the Equator (center of the earth) and beautiful gardens. Travel through dramatic scenery along the Avenue of the Volcanoes to Hacienda San Agustín de Callo built around an ancient Inca Palace. Plein air demo, painting flowers using fun underpainting techniques. (B,D)

Tue 8th: Wake up to roosters crowing and horses and llamas grazing under the views of Volcano Cotopaxi in this Ecuadorian hacienda. Explore Cotopaxi National Park with the highest and most beautiful active volcano in the world. Art critique. (B,D)

Wed 9th: Breakfast in a room of finely chiseled Inca stone walls. Plein air and demo: texturizing for Inca stone, roofs, lava, etc. Explore the hotel environs, hike, sketch, photograph, or sit by the fireplace in the library. Optional activities: trout fishing, horseback riding into the mountains, and off-site adventures. (B,D)

Thu 10th: Some time to explore before heading back to Quito. Exhibit of the paintings done on this trip. (B,D)

Fri 11th: Departure flights home or Galapagos Island Add-on. (B)

Galapagos Add-on February 11 - 15, 2011

Fri 11th: Fly to the Galapagos Islands; board M/V Santa Cruz. Visit Cerro Brujo's white coralline beach by dinghy with good views of Bluefooted Bobbies, frigate birds, and Galapagos sea lions. (B,L,D)

Sat 12th: An exciting walk on the lava terrain of Punta Suarez among waved albatross and many bird colonies, sea lions, and the red-green-black iguanas. Sail to Punta Cormorant where you'll see Greater Flamingos and many other amazing species of bird. Snorkel or glass bottom boat the crystal clear waters here. (B,L,D)

Sun 13th: On Fernandina you'll observe the highest density of marine iguanas with lots of sea lions, and Sally Light-foot crabs. Sail along Bolivar Channel with astonishing views of Galapagos' youngest volcanoes. Punta Isabela will offer the most incredible snorkel outing of your life along the cliffs of a partly sunken volcano where you may swim with penguins, green sea turtles, and sea lions. An amazing adventure not to be missed! (B,L,D)

Mon 14th: Visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station to see the Giant Galapagos Tortoise Rearing in Captivity program. Strolling amongst these giants is incredible. Fly back to Quito. (B)

Tue 15th: Departure flights home. (B)

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. She and **John Korte** have lived and traveled throughout Central and South America for the past 10 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 Discover Ecuador Workshop:

- A superbly crafted workshop/travel experience to amazing Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (add-on).
- Travel and learn with renowned artist gail Mcdaniel.
- 10 days, 9 nights (most at haciendas) with most meals included (per itinerary). (Galapagos 5 days, 4 nights)
- Deluxe motor coaches viewing the most scenic and colorful venues...an artist's paradise.
- Hotel baggage handling, driver, meal service tips, all entrance fees, and excursions included in the itinerary.

NOT included:

- Airfare from your hometown to Quito, Ecuador.
- 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 our travel coordinator Gretchen of G&G Travel at 877-809-8900. Tell her you are traveling with **Explore Guatemala - gail Mcdaniel Group**. She will find the best airfare and arrange for you to arrive by the appointed time, even arrange Frequent Flyer miles 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...**

Terms:

Prices:

- \$2595** Plus airfare (based on double occupancy).
- Single room supplement: **\$385**.
- Reservation Deposit: \$500**
- Galapagos add-on** DBL \$1995, SGL Supplement \$1155.

RESERVE NOW, GROUP SIZE LIMITED