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Guatemala: A Journey Through The Land Of The Maya



Synopsis

This book invites you to jump on one of the country's brightly painted 'chicken buses' and visit its bustling marketplaces, Mayan monuments, colonial town squares, and whitewashed churches, where baroque Catholic rituals meld with ancient Mayan beliefs to create a unique style of worship. From the incense-shrouded devotional processions of Antigua to raucous festivals in remote highland villages, you are taken on a illuminating ride through the world of an exuberant people and their country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Shapiro's lyrical text paints a vivid picture of Guatemala and when combined with Kraig Lieb's evocative photography the result is a stunning portrait of this Central American country. This book makes me want to jump on the next plane to Antigua. --Robert Holmes, National Geographic Photographer and three-time Travel Photographer of the Year. This hauntingly beautiful book has brilliantly captured the current-day life and culture of the Maya in Guatemala. Michael Shapiro's text and Kraig Lieb's photos will cement their reputations as among our leading travel writers and photographers. --Arthur Frommer, founder, Frommer's Guides This hauntingly beautiful book has brilliantly captured the current-day life and culture of the Maya in Guatemala. Michael Shapiro's text and Kraig Lieb's photos will cement their reputations as among our leading travel writers and photographers. --Arthur Frommer, founder, Frommer's Guides

Kraig Lieb, a photographer for Lonely Planet Publications, first travelled to Guatemala in 1990 and

was captivated by its vibrant people, Mayan culture, monumental history, and architecture from the pyramids of Tikal to the colonial treasures of the highlands. His Guatemala photos have appeared in numerous Lonely Planet books, including the cover of Lonely Planet's Central America on a Shoestring. Lieb's photos appear in more than 80 Lonely Planet books, and his images have been featured on Lonely Planet covers including Southeast Asia on a Shoestring, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and Bangkok. His photographs have been published by the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, TIME Magazine, National Geographic, the BBC, Amnesty International, UNESCO, Oxford University, USA Today, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Brisbane Times, Art.com, and Yahoo, and used in advertising by Marriott, Hilton, Kodak, Forbes, Dior and Vietnam Airlines. Since graduating from Penn State University in 1984, Lieb has worked, lived and travelled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, North America, and Central America. For 4 years in the mid-1990s, Lieb was based in Vietnam, working with Image Design / Visionary Vietnam, a leading postcard & book publishing company. From 2002 - 2006 he was based in Antigua, Guatemala. Lieb's work can be found on art prints, postcards, greeting cards, calendars, magazines and books throughout Asia, North America, Central America and Europe. Lieb runs Purple Moon Publications which publishes postcards, books, calendars and art prints in Guatemala, Cambodia, and Northern California. Michael Shapiro, a writer whose work has appeared in National Geographic Traveler, first visited Guatemala in 1989. During six journeys to Guatemala over the past two decades, Shapiro has developed a deep affection for the land and its effervescent Mayan people. Shapiro's 2004 book, *A Sense of Place: Great Travel Writers Talk About Their Craft, lives, and Inspiration* includes interviews with Bill Bryson, Frances Mayes, Paul Theroux, and Pico Iyer. His essay, *The Longest Day*, was selected for *The Best Travel Writing 2005*. Shapiro has bicycled through Cuba for the Washington Post, celebrated Holy Week in Guatemala for the Dallas Morning News, and floated down the Mekong River on a Laotian cargo barge for an online travel magazine. His stories and photographs also appear in the San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times and New York Times. In 2006, Shapiro won the Bedford Pace award for his National Geographic Traveler cover story on author Jan Morris's corner of Wales. The Society of American Travel Writers recognized Shapiro with a 1998 Lowell Thomas award. Shapiro has appeared on U.S. national television networks including CNN and PBS.

This book is stunning and catches the curiosity of anyone who lays eyes on it. This is my 2nd copy (I bought the first copy for my family awhile ago, and bought this 2nd copy to give as a gift to a family who adopted from Guatemala). I feel so fortunate to have this book; it has been put together

so thoughtfully and brilliantly.

Beautiful book. Wonderful photography.

I absolutely love the photography in this book. Wonderful pictures which really bring you into the moment. Text is one step down, but still helpful. Definitely recommend for anyone thinking about traveling to this area (or afraid to do so).

Excellent pictures of Guatemala, but not of the people.

That a book subtitled "A Journey Through the Land of the Maya" lacks even the most rudimentary map to orient the reader geographically dooms the book from the outset. This major deficiency is further compounded by incompetent editing of photo captions, particularly in the later chapters, where many captions are confusingly given incorrect pagination references. The volume is picture-heavy...mostly of people...and the text is generally inadequate to impart more than the most basic of impressions of various festivals and anthropological suppositions about places and cultural origins. It reads like the effort of someone who had access to someone else's vacation photos and couldn't quite make sense of what to do with them! One caring to really LEARN about Guatemala, it's people, and it's cultural origins would be far better served by foregoing this book and purchasing instead a good travel guidebook to the country.

The cover of this book is an incredible photo that in a single image captures the historical and modern-day essence of Guatemala. It is a book to be amazed by, a book that will remind you of or compel you to visit this beautiful country with its wonderful people. And it is not just the cover! Each and every image in this book is absolutely stunning. Each and every page tells a tale, highlights details or looks from afar. And all combined it is a gorgeous book that you will never regret buying. I've given mine a prominent place on my book-shelf, showing the full front cover instead of just sliding it in with the masses. And I've ordered another one for a friend. Do it right, and get the hardcover.

I purchased this book as I have other books that Kraig Leib has photographed. In my opinion, this is his best work. He captures the essence of the people of Guatemala through his lens. He is able to do this as people are going about their everyday life, you feel you are 'with' them during each photo;

but it is natural and never posed. The photography captures the expressions of the individuals and you feel as if you know exactly what they are thinking and feeling. The colors are stunning and well balanced. The cover captures a large vista of a city--that as you 'enter' the book, you feel you have descended that vista and are now into the lives of the people photographed. This is a stunning piece of artwork to match the fabulous writing of Michael Shapiro. I'd highly recommend.

It is obvious that that Michael Shapiro and Kraig Lieb have a deep respect and affection for the people, land, and customs of Guatemala. The photographs provide a personal and intimate view of life in Guatemala. Great photography does not occur without an intimate knowledge of the subject matter, and the pictures in this fine book are as breathtaking as they are revealing. Mr. Lieb's work is a joy to behold. The book takes the reader across Guatemala, and Mr. Shapiro's writing is well informed and fascinating. Both men are veterans of travel books and guides, and this fine entry in their respective catalogs is a great primer for a trip to the land of the Maya, or at least the next best thing to being there.

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