GUATEMALA: LAND OF ETERNAL SPRING
March 5-15, 2019

11 days from $3,284 total price from Houston, Miami
($2,995 air & land inclusive plus $289 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Smith Travel
Featuring Robert B. Merritt, Professor of Biological Sciences at Smith College
Dear Alumnae and Friends,

Join us on an exciting 11-day tour to Guatemala, a country that captivates travelers with its enigmatic ruins, vibrant culture, and abundant natural beauty. Joining us throughout the tour is Robert B. Merritt, Professor of Biological Sciences at Smith College.

We begin with sightseeing in the capital, Guatemala City. Then we travel deep into Guatemala’s northern rainforest to encounter the Mayan sites of Yaxhá and Topoxté. We explore Tikal’s impressive ruins, staying at a lakeside resort. Journeying on to Chichicastenango, we experience local life at Guatemala’s largest open-air market. Next, we stay for two nights on lovely Lake Atitlan, ringed by volcanoes and colorful villages; and board a motor launch for the picturesque indigenous Tzutuhil town of Santiago Atitlan. Our tour concludes with a three-night stay in the magnificent highlands city of Antigua. Visit the celebrated Maya site of Copan, Honduras, on an optional 4-day/3-night post-tour extension.

This air-inclusive journey is exclusive to Smith and limited to 24 travelers. Our small group size enables us to move flexibly, enjoy spontaneous encounters, and foster a sense of Smith camaraderie. Call today to secure your space on this exceptional tour!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel

SMITH TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM – GUATEMALA: LAND OF ETERNAL SPRING

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Guatemala: Land of Eternal Spring, departing March 5, 2019. We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. For trip and registration information, please contact Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. at (toll-free) 888-370-6765. If you need to contact Smith Travel, please call 800-225-2029 or e-mail alumtrav@smith.edu.

Full Passport Name ________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ________

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Address ______________________________________________________________ ____________________________

City _____________________________________________ State __________________ ZIP ______________________

Home Phone (______)______________________________ Cell Phone (______)________________________________

E-mail(s) _________________________________________ Badge Name(s) ___________________________________

I will share a room with _____________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ❑

Please book my/our air from _________________________________________________________________________

Post-Tour “Copan, Honduras” Extension: Please sign me/us up ❑

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Guatemala: Land of Eternal Spring, March 5-15, 2019, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) _________________________________________________________________ Date _________________

Method of Payment  ❑ Check      ❑ American Express      ❑ Discover      ❑ MasterCard      ❑ VISA

Account # ___________________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date ________________

Name of Cardholder ________________________________________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.
Day 1: Depart U.S. for Guatemala City, Guatemala After our arrival in the country’s capital city, this afternoon and evening are free to relax and have dinner on our own.

Day 2: Guatemala City Following a briefing with our tour director, a morning tour of Guatemala City includes the grandiose Palacio National, once home to presidential offices and now an art museum; and the Spanish colonial Catedral Metropolitana, constructed over a period of nearly a century and finally completed in 1871. The afternoon is free to explore on our own. Tonight’s welcome dinner is at Portal del Angel, a hilltop restaurant overlooking the city and offering magnificent views of the entire valley. B,D

Day 3: Guatemala City/Yaxhá/Topoxté Early this morning we fly north to Flores, and transfer by coach deep into Guatemala's northern rainforest. Here we call on two important but less visited Maya sites on opposite sides of Yaxhá Lake. First, we visit Yaxhá, Guatemala’s third largest ruin with 500 buildings linked by a series of causeways. Across the lake sits Topoxté, whose restored structures occupy five islands and give us a glimpse at how the Maya lived and defended themselves. Mid-afternoon we reach our resort hotel on the shores of Lake Petén Itza, a half hour from the ruins at Tikal and where we dine tonight. B,L,D

Day 4: Tikal Part of the vast Maya civilization that dominated the region a millennium ago, the celebrated archaeological site of Tikal (c. 200 BCE) once was the most important city in the Maya universe. Upon arrival this morning we explore a portion of the jungle-clad ruins of palaces, temples, ball courts, and ceremonial platforms: the “Q” Complex, the Great Plaza with the Pyramid of the Grand Jaguar and Pyramid of the Masks, the Palace of the Nobles, and Pyramid IV. We also visit the nearby museum housing priceless pre-Columbian artifacts excavated from Tikal. We return to our hotel late afternoon and dine there tonight. B,L,D

Small Group Tour Highlights

Maya archaeological sites of Tikal, Yaxhá, and Topoxté • Artesania market in Chichicastenango • Two days at Lake Atitlan • Indigenous Maya town of Santiago Atitlan • Opportunities to interact with local people • Pleasing mix of guided touring and free time • Colonial city of Antigua, UNESCO World Heritage site • Visits with local artisans • Excellent accommodations, including restored 17th-century monastery in Antigua

Tour membership limited to 24 alumnae and friends of Smith College

Cover photo: On Days 6 & 7, we tour the Lake Atitlan region of striking natural beauty.
Day 5: Tikal/Guatemala City
This morning is free for individual pursuits at our lakeside hotel which offers kayaking, sailing, and windsurfing along with an outdoor pool. Early this afternoon we transfer to the airport for the return flight to Guatemala City. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 6: Chichicastenango/Panajachel
Departing by coach early today, we reach the white-washed highland town of Chichicastenango mid-morning. It’s market day, so our first stop is at the colorful open-air artesanía market, Guatemala’s largest. Here locals sell such wares as woven baskets, woolen blankets and other textiles, carved wooden masks, and numerous traditional crafts in a whirl of commerce and socializing. Next we visit the Catholic church of Santo Tomás (c. 1540) to witness some of the ancient Maya ceremonies that, surprisingly, have long been practiced there. This afternoon we continue on to the village of Panajachel, with its dramatic setting on the shores of Lake Atitlan and surrounded by three volcanoes and numerous indigenous villages. Our lakeside hotel, a Spanish-style inn, boasts beautiful grounds and lovely sunset views. B,D

Day 7: Panajachel/Santiago
We cross the lake by motor launch this morning to the picturesque town of Santiago Atitlan, capital of the native Tzutuhil people known particularly for their colorful textile design, traditional clothing, and fierce independence. The Tzutuhil count as just one of Guatemala’s indigenous tribes that comprise some 44% of the population, speaking at least 21 different dialects. After time to explore here, we return to our hotel and an afternoon at leisure. We have time tonight to stroll through Panajachel’s market area before dinner at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 8: Panajachel/Antigua
En route to Antigua, Guatemala’s most important colonial city, we stop at the Maya archaeological site of Iximche, capital of the Kaqchikel people who were known for their skill at building fortified cities. Despite Iximche’s strong walls, the city was abandoned just 50 years

——— Post-Tour Extension ———
March 15-18, 2019
Copan, Honduras
4 days/3 nights for $795 total price
Single Supplement: $195

Experience a unique private excursion into Honduras and see the magnificence of Copan, which many consider to be the most artistic and well-preserved city in the Maya world.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Private car/van transportation Antigua/Copan (Honduras), returning to Guatemala City
• 3 nights’ accommodations: 2 nights in Copan at the Hotel Marina Copan (First Class); 1 night in Guatemala City at Westin Camino Real (Deluxe)
• 6 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing, including comprehensive tour of the Copan ruins (main site, plus El Bosque and Las Sepulturas); tour of Quirigua (Guatemala) Maya site en route back to Guatemala City; all entrance fees to included sites
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation
• Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Ruins at the renowned archaeological site of Tikal, which we visit on Day 4
after its founding, as the 1519 arrival of the Spanish in Central America brought disease and strain to the area. This afternoon we reach Antigua and our hotel, a restored 17th-century monastery, and take a tour of the property whose grounds cover an entire city block and which houses an open-air museum. Guatemala’s capital from 1543 until a devastating earthquake in 1776, Antigua is one of The Americas’ oldest and most beautiful cities, with pastel-colored buildings, wide cobblestone streets, and a lovely natural setting. This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

Day 9: Antigua

Our morning tour of this magnificent highlands city ringed by three volcanoes and known for its 16th-century Spanish colonial architecture includes lively Plaza Mayor flanked by the impressive Catedral de San José and Palace of the Capitanes Generales. We also see the ruins of churches and monasteries, some with hidden underground passages, destroyed by the earthquake of 1776; tour a jade factory; and visit artisans weaving textiles on primitive foot looms. The afternoon is free to explore this UNESCO site on our own.

Day 10: Antigua

We spend the morning discovering more of this lovely city, once home to some 30 monastic orders. Then we enjoy another afternoon at leisure for independent exploration. Potential activities include touring the Colonial Art Museum, with religious art dating from the 17th century; or admiring the local crafts for which Antigua is known at some of the many local galleries and artisans’ shops. Tonight we gather at a local restaurant for a farewell dinner.

Day 11: Depart for U.S.

After breakfast we transfer to the Guatemala City airport for our return flights to the U.S.
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a $500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odyssey’s Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odyssey’s Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Trip Insurance: For your protection, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement. Insurance information will be sent to you by Smith Travel once your registration has been confirmed by Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.

Responsibility: The liability of Smith College, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Smith College and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and Smith College assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments on airline tickets, other than those shown, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.