

FYI Travel: A chance to see seldom-traveled Chiapas

by Tom_Roebuck

Austin-Lehman Adventures, which specializes in multisport vacations throughout the Americas, is offering a rare opportunity to accompany National Geographic Adventure magazine Contributing Editor Bob Howells on its inaugural trip in Chiapas, dubbed Mexico's last exotic frontier.

TASTY TREAT - An open storefront window along Main Street in Julian, Calif., tempts passers-by with a tray of green apples. This year's annual Fall Apple Harvest runs from Sept. 15-Nov. 15. CNS photo by Tom Roebuck. This eight-day, seven-night program runs from Sept. 23 to Sept. 30. Participants will boat, bike and hike through alpine forest and steamy lowland jungle. By boat they will traverse the Lacandon Rainforest to the remote Bonampak site, climb over the ruins of the ancient Mayan power center of Palenque, mountain bike through local villages, and meet the living highland Maya in their still-mystical, ancestral homeland.

Accommodations include a modern five-star hotel, a jungle eco-resort and a carefully restored 17th century hacienda.

The region explored is approximately the size of West Virginia and includes Chiapas and parts of Tabasco. Chiapas is bordered on the west by the Pacific and on the south by Guatemala. Guests will fly into Villahermosa, departing eight days later from Tuxtla Gutierrez.

The per-person rate based on double occupancy is \$2,998, not including airfare. The price includes all meals except for one dinner, accommodations, ground transportation, all sporting equipment, park entrance fees, expert guides and local historians and archeologists.

A single supplement is \$765. Single guests can avoid paying the customary lodging surcharge if they let ALA know at the time of booking that they want a roommate. If the company can't find one, the client still gets a private room but enjoys a 50 percent reduction off the usual single-supplement price. The trip is also available Oct. 28-Nov. 4 (Day of the Dead Festival trip) and Dec. 23-30.

FYI: For a copy of the 2007 ALA catalog, call 800-575-1540, e-mail info@austinlehman.com, or visit www.austinlehman.com.

For details of the Chiapas trip, visit [www.austinlehman.com/ALmain.php?Option\(equals\)Detail&TripID\(equals\)98](http://www.austinlehman.com/ALmain.php?Option(equals)Detail&TripID(equals)98).

ANNUAL APPLEFEST

A San Diego tradition "as American as apple pie" is the popular annual Julian Fall Apple Harvest, Sept. 15-Nov. 15. Each year, thousands of visitors venture to this historic East San Diego County mining town, nestled in the Cuyamaca Mountains, to sample fresh, crisp apples, homemade apple pies and ciders. Visitors can also enjoy acres of colorful fall foliage, charming bed and breakfast inns, art shows, quaint antique shops and live entertainment.

HIT IT ON THE GREEN

Sceptre Tours is inviting travelers to tee off at four legendary golf courses in the Irish countryside and experience warm Irish hospitality with a seven-day, air-inclusive Legends Southwest Golf Package starting at \$1,649 per person, based on double occupancy.

The package includes round-trip airfare from the U.S. to Ireland, six-night accommodations at pre-booked bed-and-breakfasts; four rounds of golf at legendary courses including Waterville, Ballybunion, Lahinch, Killeen in Killarney, and Dooks Golf Club; car rental; and full Irish breakfast daily.

Travelers can also choose to upgrade to a first-class or a deluxe hotel package. The first-class package upgrade features accommodations at Old Ground Hotel in Clare and Killarney Towers in Kerry. Rates start at \$1,739 per person, based on double occupancy. The deluxe-class package upgrade features accommodations at five-star Dromoland Castle in Clare and five-star Killarney Park in Kerry. Rates start at \$2,359 per person, based on double occupancy.

For more information, call Sceptre Tours at 800-221-0924 or visit www.sceptretours.com.

FYI: Visit www.julianca.com.

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