

## Jim & Karl's Testimonials 2008 (Partial List)

*"Joan and I felt that we got way more than we expected from the tour and Karl. We were deeply indebted to all the work you and Karl did to make that trip (and every other trip) as satisfying as possible." George and Joan Saba, Ellicott City, MD*

*"The trip - in case you couldn't tell - went so far beyond my expectations, that I am still reeling! Every aspect of it was wonderful in every way, and I wouldn't change a thing. You are a superb leader in a very unobtrusive way, and handled the groups needs very effectively. You have a challenging job, and I appreciated your attention to all the details. I can't wait to see everyone's photos on [www.chickenbus.org](http://www.chickenbus.org) ! Thanks for everything!" Mary Lawyer O'Connor, Pompey, NY*

*"and THANK YOU for the CD's of photos and music and the group shot - what a lovely surprise! You didn't have to do that - however I really enjoyed the photos of everyone taking photos! So much fun! Thanks for the wonderful trip and this gift! Much appreciated!" Mary Lawyer O'Connor*

*"I had a great time on the trip, and I really learned a lot from you, so thanks again". Steven Philips, Haverford, Pennsylvania*

*"I had a wonderful time, enjoyed the group and the instructor. I look forward to joining you for another trip. The trip lived up to all my expectations and I feel I got some good images and made some new friends. Thanks Jim for everything!!!!" I truly did enjoy the trip and I WILL travel with you again. I loved your pace, the group was excellent! and the focus was on photography so I really got my \$\$\$s worth. Going on phototrips right now is about the only way I get to travel.....and just plain tourist trips don't interest me. If I can't find someone to travel with me, from now on I certainly would feel comfortable going with you. I will watch your site." Gini Pringle, Carefree, Arizona*

*"It WAS a great trip!!! Thanks so much for making the CD. those photographs are hilarious and bring back great memories. I wasn't aware that you were taking them. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES !!!! Gini Pringle, Carefree, AZ*

*"What a lovely surprise, Jim! Thank you so much for the great group photo and the disk of individual ones as well. (I never noticed you busily taking photos of us.) The pictures bring back memories of a really good time. Thanks so much, that whole trip was so much fun. I hope I get to go on another photo tour with you (they all sound great). Take care." Pat Flanigan, San Diego, CA*

*"Hi Jim, thanks again for such an excellent trip to Baja to see the Whales. What an incredible and memorable experience. The trip was so outstanding on multiple levels. It's been fun going over the images and reliving the moments. We were well cared for and supported. The activities were well laid out and we just had to show up with our cameras and go. It made traveling in Mexico seem like a breeze. The trip was a good value, and I would highly recommend it. Would love to go again and I am looking at other trips that you have offered when I have the means to travel again. It was very nice all around - the people, the traveling, the hotel rooms and the whales. Thanks for a great trip and great experience." Stephanie Hanchett, Los Angeles, CA*

*"Thanks, the trip was extremely wonderful." Janet Sears, San Diego, CA*

*"I thought all the restaurants were really good and the food throughout the trip was surprising good! A couple of my favorite places were Guajimbo's in Pana, and the place we went for dinner in Chichi. I tried several of the lunch places you recommended - the bookstore café in Antigua and the little place in Chichi (went there twice!) - and they were great!*

*I've been on a couple photo tours where the trip leader was a first-time traveler to the country we were visiting. As a result, he was unable to share insights about the location with his clients. By comparison, your love for Guatemala, it's people, traditions and culture is obvious and I appreciated how you shared your experiences – both good and bad – with us. I came away with not only great images, but a genuine appreciation for Guatemala and the people.*

*Absolutely, and yes, I've already recommended to a fellow traveler from another photo tour I did. I think your tours are fairly priced. I know too that you've built long-term relationships with the people in many of the villages we visited. Those connections allowed us to briefly cross over into and experience their world – I know that wouldn't have without your leadership. Many, many thanks!*

*I had a wonderful time and came home with wonderful images, life-long memories and a newfound interest in Guatemalan culture/history.*

*Thank you for everything! I look forward to joining you on a future trip!" Barbara Colbert, Boling Brook, Illinois*

*"I was very impressed with the organization and management of logistics on the trip. It is not easy at all getting a group to all those locations - on time - in Mexico!! I thought the time at locations was just right, great food, hotels were certainly best available in that part of Mexico. I just wanted the photo ops which you certainly teed up for us in a great way. Thanks again for all your efforts Jim - - you should be getting my deposit & form on the 2009 Guatemala trip by now." Tom Fraser, Portland, Oregon*

*"What a great trip!! I always have a fun time and try to make the most of every minute. Thanks to your expertise and Karl's in photography, I also learn so much with the "hands-on" approach. The wildflowers and the whales were incredible and makes one really appreciate nature.*

*Thank you for your long hours of attending to our comfort and needs. We had such a nice group and it seemed that everyone was very similar in personalities and ready to do everything. I always come home refreshed and ready to hit the road again with the animals after each trip.*

*Thank you for the CD! It is almost like an "out of the body" experience looking at the pictures and reliving actually touching the whales. What a thrill! I know I mentioned it before but words just don't explain the feeling of "shock and awe" when they are at a distance and especially close to the boat. The pictures are all great. Thanks again for a memorable trip with many "memorable moments," especially with the whales." Robbie Hamper, Columbus, Ohio*

*"Jim, this was a fantastic trip, we really, really enjoyed it! The trip was not only a good value, it was unique, really one of a kind – you did an excellent job!" Jay DeMaria & Colleen Santosuosso, Boston, MA*

*"I also wanted to thank you very much for all the work you and Karl did - the trip was really wonderful! I had a great time - and Karl was an excellent guide. I've never been on a tour before, but I was extremely impressed with the organization, knowledge, and thoughtful attention to detail throughout the trip. I will most definitely look forward to taking another tour with you again - it was a terrific experience!"*

*"I suspect that there are very few tour leaders better than Karl. The photo discussions and the sharing of Karl's work were enormously helpful. It was essentially an immersion course in photography, which is the best kind of learning experience - He was very knowledgeable about the places we visited, a superb photographer, very good with people, and he had excellent organizational and problem-solving skills. Karl was very generous with his time, knowledge, and patience. I appreciated that he made sure to spend time with each person on the tour. He was very helpful if you needed it, and non-intrusive to those who preferred to shoot by themselves. All in all, he was exceptional."*

*"I thought that you guys did a very good job with the pace of the trip. Organized, busy, but not too overwhelming or exhausting. I think this was an excellent value – worth every penny. And I already have recommended it to my friends! I hope to do another trip with you someday. Thanks again for all your help in planning this truly memorable trip!" Michelle Badash, Wakefield, MA*

*"We really enjoyed the whole experience. It was our first time in Southeast Asia and appreciated learning more about the people and their culture. We thought that the trip was well-paced and never really felt rushed. We loved the variety of places that we got to experience. Eating in some of the local places and having fresh fish off the grill was fun. We knew we were in good hands because Karl and the guides always inspected the kitchens if they had any concerns at all.*

*Karl was great! He made a lot of useful suggestions and reminded us about helpful techniques. One of our goals was to learn more about taking people pictures, and he was very helpful. He is a great teacher and has loads of patience! It was very helpful seeing his images and listening to his explanations of what he had done to capture the moment. It was a unique experience and the size of the group allowed for individual instruction."* Ned & Sara Badertscher, Carlsbad, CA

*"Jim, I loved the trip and enjoyed the itinerary completely. Even as a beginning photographer the stops and shoots were great. The wildflowers were awesome, the whales visits and encounters were beyond my expectations. I felt glad to be in their presence. Just being there and interacting with them was better than I had anticipated. I think because of your thorough planning and preparation the trip went so well. We also had great wildflowers, whales, weather and great photo opportunities. Wow, I can't say enough Jim, about your leadership, enthusiasm, guidance. You were quite accommodating to each of us and to the group as a whole. Thanks again."* Janet Sears, San Diego, CA

*"Hi Jim, I had a fabulous time, and hope to do more in the future. Karl was a great tour leader. I learned a lot from him, and enjoyed shooting with him. I enjoyed the trip very much, both the photo opportunities and the company of the whole group. I hope that I will join you on some other tour in the future."* Judy Fabian, Salt Lake City, Utah

*"Karl was a great leader, he loves his work and it shows. He knows Peru well and was always available for questions, suggestions, critiques. I found that his tips for us when visiting new places were extremely helpful and prevented us from making uneducated guesses. Things like, when to tip people for photos and when not to. Stressing the importance of keeping Willoq pure and not paying the kids we photographed even though some asked. Leading by example of how to approach people, his personal connections to the people there. I liked the idea that he returned with photos he had taken on the last trip to give to the people he had photographed as well as taking up a collection for the school, our way of giving back. Enjoyed the slideshow he put together of our trip and how he had it ready before we left Peru!*

*I would recommend this trip to other photographers as well as other tours you offer. I felt the description of the trip on the web site was accurate, questions/concerns prior to the trip were answered in a timely manner, very detail oriented from airport pick-up on arrival to departure, I felt I rec'd excellent value for what I paid. I also felt that your single supplement charge was very fair."* Cathy Allinder, Crumpler, NC

*"Karl was definitely a great trip leader. He was attentive to my photographic needs as he assisted me in a few camera "how-to's" that I was not familiar with. I believe he helped me improve my photography by just going on this trip. His stories and his work was an inspiration, too.*

*I would highly recommend this trip to my friends, too. I found that for the places we were going combined with the hotels, meals, and transportation that was covered, PLUS the photographic instruction that was offered, I couldn't compare. After going, I am still satisfied with the cost value of the trip, so I definitely would recommend it."* Jennifer Andrade, Chula Vista, CA

*"The value was in the preparation of the trip. I recognized the time and effort needed to prepare such a trip and you and Karl need to be compensated for those efforts. I have forwarded your name to several family and clients. We could not have had a better guide. Karl was able to relate and enjoy everyone on the tour. Thanks for a fantastic trip."* Robert Rento, Montclair, New Jersey

*"Jim, this was the best and most productive photo trip I have ever taken! I set out in what I wanted to do in that was to improve my people photography. Now I need to download and sort through tons of RAW photos! I have been*

telling my friends and family about your tours since I came back. Although, they are not photo enthusiasts I told them to take the 3-day trip I took to experience a side of Baja they wouldn't experience on their own. Looking forward to the next photo trip!" Sam Antonio, Chula Vista, CA

"I more than received my money's worth on this trip and have already recommended this trip to my family and friends. Jim's knowledge of the shooting locations and people provided me with photo opportunities I would have never imagined. I came on this trip to improve my people photography and I did. Jim's guiding really showed me a slice of Baja that I have never known. The accommodations and the meals were great! My favorite part was the pottery factory. My creative juices were at their peak while photographing these locals at work. Forget Antelope Canyon, I loved the light beams in the factory! Too bad we couldn't stay longer in Tecate to celebrate the holiday with the locals. Thanks Jim for a great trip!" Sam Antonio, Chula Vista, CA

"Jim, I had a fabulous 3 day trip with you and everyone else!" Nancy McCluggage, San Diego, CA

"Hi Jim, outstanding trip and beautifully organized! I have no complaints and have new areas to work on...low-light and early morning gray skies. Take care, amigo", Mary Larsson, Huntington Beach, CA

"Hi Jim, just a quick note that the Burma trip was absolutely fantastic. Big thumbs up for the location, clientele, Karl, and Santa Maria travel (particularly MM)! I know this will be a super success moving forward. Cheers, Julia Knoke, Del Mar, CA

"I loved every minute of the (Myanmar) trip. As I mentioned before, I have always gotten more than the money I paid for the trip. MM was so wonderful and I know everyone enjoyed his knowledge and friendliness and great dedication to organizing the trip schedule. Even when we incurred the traffic jam, he came through as Director of the Highway Traffic Jam. I'm sure this was frustrating for him and the schedule but Pete and I got a great shot of a Monk in a beautiful doorway. I have seen worse traffic jams on the freeways here with no one doing a thing. Thank you, Karl, for adjusting my camera settings after a lot of the pictures were not coming out in focus. I would seriously consider doing this trip again as I believe there were so many opportunities to not only do photography but to learn about the hill tribe people, the Monks, and the kindness and gentleness of the people." Robbie Hamper, Columbus, Ohio

"Hi Jim: Thank you for creating one of the most interesting and worthwhile tours I have participated. Every aspect of the trip exceeded my expectations that include itinerary, accommodation, food/restaurants and availability of creative skills. I certainly did not anticipate such a high level of expertise of the members of our group not to mention such amazing artistic skills of Karl Grobl. I understood the importance of lighting and composition before the trip but being able to go through same places and review some of the images other colleagues have taken on a daily basis was a very valuable experience to me. I was so many times amazed by the images extracted by Karl and others out of such chaotic market scenes or crowded temples. I learned creative photography requires trained eye that can recognize what can be extracted out of seemingly ordinary situations. And among other things, I enjoyed very much the company of our group, every one of whom helped me one way or the other in our common pursuit of improving photographic skills. I will be on your other tours as opportunity arises." Hun Kim, Newport Beach, CA

"It was absolutely fabulous. Myanmar is an undiscovered gem. Very well planned itinerary. Can't say enough about the wonderful way in which Karl led the group and attended to everyone's needs and concerns. He really helped me with many aspects of my photography including new ways of seeing and treating subjects. I came away a better photographer. He is an exceptional human being. His photo talks were absolutely helpful and we were dealing with equipment, settings, workflow and many other aspects of photography. There was of course constant chatter among the participants, which made this a huge learning experience. I would absolutely recommend this trip. It exceeded my wildest expectations." Peter Fay, Solana Beach, CA

*"Karl again came through as a superb leader. He provided us with many helpful hints. His expertise in Photo journalistic photography is unequalled. He was always there when someone needed his advice. Karl is a great human being, I hope to travel with him again in the future." Frans Alkemade, Carlsbad, CA*

*"Absolutely Karl was (attentive to our needs). He was always available, always willing to help, without being overbearing..... which can be a very fine line to walk. Our local guide was excellent as well – very organized, efficient, professional. The local guide was willing to take the time and the energy to share his culture, his spirituality with us..... that greatly enriches an experience for me and helps me to understand the culture, the people, and the end result for me anyways, is always better photographs.*

*I expected a few snags, as this was a "first"; however, everything was flawless, seamless. I credit the local guide, the tour operator, Karl, and the group dynamics. It is always invigorating for me to travel with people who are equally passionate about photography, as well as travel. Myanmar is one of the least westernized countries in Asia, maybe even in the world. A nation of contradictions, with much to teach all of us." Bettie Conklin, Bedford, TX*

*"Hi Jim, Got back in the cold New York after this wonderful trip. I just wanted to thank you for this trip (Chiapas) and to put me in the books for the Vietnam trip and the Burma one next year. Is just an intention but I would definitely want to go in both of them. I will try as well for Guatemala but the chances are very slim with my work schedule. If you want me to write a testimonial for the trip I would gladly do it. Best regards and hope to see you soon", Mihail Milea, New York, NY*

*"Thank you" seems so little for what you helped me experience....." Steve Pool, New York, NY*

*"I had only been home for about a day and the trip took on a dreamlike quality. What a wonderful time and how fortunate I feel to have been there." Leann Paul, Hinsdale, IL*

*"Oaxaca was the best - you do terrific trips and the chance to do/see local events/people are the best! Everything we did was wonderful and the special times of being with and photographing non-tourist events – school plays, art school preparations, small town celebrations made the trip that much richer – also your interactions with locals – their delight in seeing their photos and you again – a real treat! Jim – you are a really great leader – low key, thorough, flexible, trip subject is varied and rich in content. The richness, the variety of experiences and subject matter, size of the group was perfect, accessibility of you as leader. Oaxaca is an amazing place!" Mary Ellen Kaschub, Los Gatos, CA*

*"Thanks for putting together another amazing trip - I am just blown away by the entire thing. I think that what makes it overall, is the group, your facilitation of the group and of the trip. Fortunately what you put together attracts terrific, interesting, diverse people and the "package" you organized for us was awesome! I enjoyed talking with you on the bus about the indigenous people. I am learning more about the different groups, reading and via Carlotta Duarte, the friend of a friend." Mary Lawyer O'Connor, Pompey, NY*

*"I would recommend the trip to anyone. The organization of the trip was outstanding; and the logistics went smoothly. Also, I learned a lot and got good images. I thought the opportunities for shooting were outstanding. Also, I appreciated the excellent organization and the smoothly running logistics for getting the group to and from different locations. The supplemental guides on the different sites were excellent as well. Finally, I liked the idea of eating in different places each evening around San Cristobal." Jim House, Encinitas, CA*

*"I think the pre-trip preparation was excellent. In addition to providing all of the necessary info for packing and planning your emails were a nice build up to a trip that met expectations. I had a great time and finally made it to Mexico after way, way too long. I love Chiapas and Mexico and will go there again soon. You were really fun and easy going and exceptionally patient." Terri Huizinga, Chicago, IL*

*"Thanks Jim! We LOVED the trip. Not only was everything terrific, it was a great experience to have with my daughter, before she goes off to college! The amount of time at each place was just about right. I wouldn't add any more, and the number of places was perfect. I especially like the towns and artisans, but then the natural wonders (canyon, waterfalls) were terrific, and so were the ruins.*

*I love the images I got – and Kelsey's are beautiful. I always felt that you were very sensitive to the needs of the group, and always careful to check in often with everyone. The group that you gathered (the people attracted to your trips) are great, fun to be with and interesting. And you facilitated the entire trip very nicely. I don't have any changes to suggest – just right! I think that the trip was very affordable and appropriately priced. The "buzz" in the group was that you are very well priced and not as expensive as similar trips. It's hard to pin down my favorite thing! The places we go to are fantastic. I love studying about the Mayans, then seeing all the things I have read about – I want to make the most of every aspect of the trip! The places and people we see are wonderful to photograph. I really enjoyed making images, and playing with them, and then sharing them with friends/family.*

*You already know that I LOVE textiles, and seeing people wearing, making their clothing is an amazing experience. Learning about the different indigenous people and how they cope with change, ...I enjoyed traveling in and of itself – being somewhere completely different, and moving from one town to the next. And I really like having you being in charge of the details, as I would not enjoy the trip, and would not have the time to do everything if I was in charge of all that. The people in our group, the people we met, the people we observed.... that is probably the best part – the part that I remember the most. I liked everything!*

*Thanks Jim! The trip was a resounding success, and you are awesome!" Mary and Kelsey O'Connor*

*"Jim; It was a good trip, and I'm glad that I was able to make it. I think I got a lot of good stuff (at least it's good to me, Ha!). Thanks again for a good trip." Malcolm Rodgers, Monticello, Mississippi*

*"I have nothing but praise for the way the entire trip was organized and Karl was wonderful. Thank you for a job well done and I hope to be on another tour with you soon. Our group was also a very nice group. All the pre-trip information was excellent, you prepared us well for the trip. All the hotels were excellent. No complaints at all. Nice and clean and great service. Well done! Karl was wonderful! Kush, our local guide, was also truly excellent!" Sheila Gardner, Thornwood, NY*

*"Jim, I had a great time and would like to attend another of your tours in the future. You were able to handle a diverse set of personalities well and keep your sense of humor. If we had any questions or concerns, you dealt with them well, your help with the slow synch flash and existing light photography really helped. I felt the trip was a great value for what we experienced, I would recommend the trip to my serious photographic friends. We had a great group and the people photography in town and in the villages was great." Michael Edminster, Aptos, CA*

*"Jim, what can I say about you – a gentle, caring photographer who finds opportunities for all and strives to meet the needs of the group. Your style is very accommodating. The value was great – enjoyed the pick-up and drop-off at the airport and the fact that breakfast and dinner was included. I would definitely recommend this tour to friends and colleagues interested in the cultural aspects of a country. The wonderful relations that you had with the local Mayan people enabled the group to get priceless photographs that would have been impossible on our own." Karin Leperi, Rockville, Maryland*

*"Just got back from a photographic cultural tour of Chiapas, Mexico (Jim Cline Photography) and want to tell you that this was really over the tops! Not only does Jim Cline have a rapport with the local Mayan people, he has a class and sincerity about him that exudes trust - people let him take their photos! I was so impressed with him and he tries so hard to let people capture their cultural essence! The schedule was relaxed, but, nevertheless - I found I came back with more photos of the culture and the people. Check out my gallery. Jim Cline - he is one of my favorites!" Karin Leperi, Rockville, Maryland*

*"You should know that Karl did a fabulous job leading our group." Henry Greene, Durham, NC*

*"You made the trip thoroughly enjoyable. Great guide, instructor, and photographer. The trip was a value and I would not only recommend the trip but would like to go on another trip myself. The trip was great for me due to small size of group, low key approach to instruction and very well researched sites and accommodations. I loved Yaxchilan, Chamula, crocodiles and spider monkeys. I was quite happy with all dimensions of the trip. Let me know when you get the Cuba trip scheduled. I would love to go!!" Leann Paul, Hinsdale, Illinois*

*"It was exciting, an adventure. It is an unpredictable mixture of old & new, foreign & familiar, rich & spectacularly poor, a rich history and a very different culture. If you can look past the obvious dirt, disrepair and pollution, it is a stunning feast for the eyes. We were struck by the vibrancy of the society and the willingness of the people to be photographed.*

*This was not the first photo trip that I have taken, but by far Karl was the best leader and instructor that I have ever encountered. He obviously did everything he could to ensure that we would be successful in our photo shooting. He communicated both technical and logistical information very successfully. The fact that he is a photojournalist, as opposed to a fine art photographer, gave me a very different perspective and ultimately, a fresh view of India and its people. Our discussions and mini-lectures were very helpful and productive. When I looked at my images I was surprised at the difference between the ones taken in the beginning in Delhi and those from Veranasi. Karl is a gem. Kush and Karl appeared to work together extremely well to keep the local arrangements sorted out. Kush was always attentive to our needs and requests. I can't imagine a better pair of individuals to lead a group.*

*This was a memorable trip to an unforgettable country. Once we got past the 'third world' aspects of India, we found ourselves in an exotic place. For a serious photographer, such as myself, and an artist but not as serious a photographer, my wife, it was an extraordinary itinerary. We are both very pleased that we participated in this trip and are seriously considering joining Karl again." Joel Leeb, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*