

## **ABEL TOUR - ILOCOS NORTE AND ILOCOS SUR**

Abel Iloko, also called *inabel*, has a long tradition and history, and is justly famous for its quality and durability. Its patterns and colors are derived from the natural environment of Ilocos - the whirlpools in the water, the whirlwinds that bring much destruction, the leaves and flowers of local flora, the stars, indeed the Milky Way itself.

Checks and stripes in a variety of colors are a constant feature of this native weave, although the drab browns, and dramatic black and whites are best remembered. The stripes are perhaps an adaptation of the patterns common among the upland tribes.

During colonial times, abel fabrics were used as sailcloth for ships and boats - yet another proof of the high quality of Ilocos weaving. Blankets that are used by generations, handed down from mother to daughter, are likewise famous. So are the gossamer open weave mosquito netting that are also used for women's kimonas and men's shirts.

Records show that inabel was one of the major exports of colonial Philippines. In recent years, however, with the importation of cheap, machine woven fabrics and clothing, inabel was relegated to the background as a minor, perhaps quaint tradition.

**Join the Habi: The Philippine Textile Council, an affiliate of the Museum Foundation, on a visit from February 18 to 21, 2010 to the remaining abel weaving centers in Paoay and Sarrat in Ilocos Norte; and Vigan, Santa and Santiago in Ilocos Sur.** Observe first-hand the tedious and time consuming processes required to make the beautiful and unique patterns of this native weave.

HABI founding board member and Ilocos Norte tourism consultant Rene Guatlo will serve as guide on this familiarization tour. Participants will stay for three nights at the Sitio Remedios Heritage Village in Currimao, Ilocos Norte - a private get-away created by Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, Medical Director of St. Luke's Medical Center, and proud son of Ilocos Norte.

The group will also visit the Sta. Maria Church on the way to the weavers of Santiago. After a walkabout at the Vigan Heritage Village, a private tour of the Syquia Mansion will be conducted by Mr. Eddie Quirino, grandson of President Elpidio Quirino, followed by a merienda featuring the local specialty, the Vigan empanada. For Ilocos Norte, the tour will include visits to the Museo Ilocos Norte, the Laoag public Market, San Agustin and Sta. Monica churches in Paoay and Sarrat, respectively.

## **ABEL TOUR - ILOCOS NORTE AND ILOCOS SUR ITINERARY**

February 18 (Thursday)

1955 Depart Manila for Laoag via Cebu Pacific flight  
2100 Arrive Laoag  
2200 Check-in at Sitio Remedios  
2230 Dinner at poolside

February 19 (Friday)

0800 Breakfast  
0830 Leave Sitio Remedios for Ilocos Sur Tour  
1030 Stopover at Sta. Maria Church  
1100 Visit to Santiago weavers  
1200 Lunch at Santiago Cove  
  
1430 Visit to weavers in Santa, Ilocos Sur  
1600 Walking tour and shopping at Heritage Village, Vigan (Crisologo Street)  
1700 Syquia Mansion tour and merienda  
1730 Leave Vigan  
1830 Arrival at Sitio Remedios

February 20 (Saturday)

0800 Breakfast  
0900 Leave Sitio Remedios for Laoag  
1000 Visit Museo Ilocos Norte (weaving demonstration inside Museum shop)  
1100 Shopping at Laoag City Market  
1200 Lunch at La Preciosa  
1400 Visit Sta. Monica Church, Sarrat  
Observe weaving of binakol fabric  
1600 Visit Paoay Weavers Cooperative  
Observe weaving of insukit and other fabrics

(OPTION: Empanada at Batac Plaza)

1830 Arrival at Sitio Remedios  
2000 Dinner at Sitio Remedios Plaza

February 21 (Sunday)

0800 Breakfast

1000 FREE HOURS (arrangements for optional tours can be made for interested parties)

1655 Check-in for Manila flight

1855 Departure for Manila

**Package A:** Our package, inclusive of airfare on Cebu Pacific, transfers between airport, hotel and tours, 3 day-2 night accommodations at Sitio Remedios (**single-occupancy**), all meals and tours, is **P24,000**. (Airport terminal fees are to be taken care of participants)

**Package B:** Our package, inclusive of airfare on Cebu Pacific, transfers between airport, hotel and tours, 3 day-2 night accommodations at Sitio Remedios (**double-occupancy, sharing**), all meals and tours, is **P20,000**. (Airport terminal fees are to be taken care of participants)

**Package C:** Our package, inclusive of airfare on Cebu Pacific, transfers between airport, hotel and tours, 3 day-2 night accommodations at Sitio Remedios (**dormitory, sharing**), all meals and tours, is **P16,000**. (Airport terminal fees are to be taken care of participants)

Limited slots only. To reserve a space immediately, please fill-out form below and fax to 404-2685 or email to [inquiry@museumfoundationph.org](mailto:inquiry@museumfoundationph.org). To inquire further, please call Elvie or Mae at 404-2685, or on mobile number 0928-5039392 (Elvie) or 0927-8484680 (Mae).