

**Day 14 Thursday 17 Jan**

#### Panajachel to Antigua

Today you travel to Chichicastenango, an indigenous town perched on several mountain crests, where colourful markets sell traditional handicrafts such as pottery, decorated wooden boxes, textiles, masks, flowers and medicinal plants. In the afternoon you arrive in Antigua.

**Overnight Antigua**  
**Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 15 Friday 18 Jan**

#### Antigua to Mexico City

Transfer to Guatemala City from where you fly to Mexico City. On arrival you transfer to your hotel for dinner.

**Overnight Mexico City**  
**Breakfast • Dinner**

**Day 16 Saturday 19 Jan**

#### Mexico City

Embark on a morning walking tour of Mexico City with your local guide today. Sights include the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace where famous Diego Rivera murals are painted and the Fine Arts Palace. You also tour the Anthropological Museum which provides a wonderful introduction and understanding of the Teotihuacan archaeological site which you visit later this week.

**Overnight Mexico City**  
**Breakfast • Dinner**

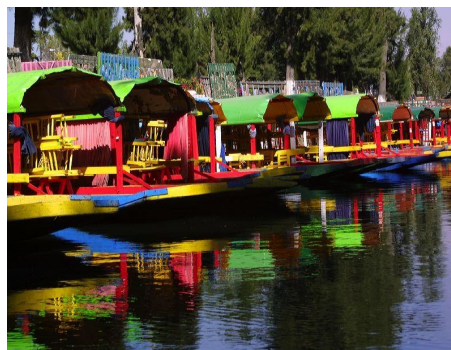


**Day 17 Sunday 20 Jan**

#### Mexico City

Today you visit the south of the city to explore the charms of the Coyoacan neighbourhood where the former home of Frida Kahlo is located. Here you tour the museum and learn of her story. You also take a trajinera ride on the old canals of the city at Xochimilco. This UNESCO recognised Cultural and Natural Heritage site takes you back centuries with traditions dating back to the Aztecs.

**Overnight Mexico City**  
**Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 18 Monday 21 Jan**

#### Teotihuacan

Explore one of the major pre-Hispanic cities of Mesoamerica today- the majestic archaeological site of Teotihuacan, home of the Aztec civilization. Meaning 'Where humans turn into Gods' Teotihuacan is home to some of the largest ancient pyramids in the world. Dating from 100BC, its peak was around 600AD when it was home to up to two hundred thousand people. Sights include the massive Sun Pyramid which you can choose to climb and the Calle de los Muertos which is flanked by many fine temples and palaces. Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight.

**Overnight Mexico City**  
**Breakfast • Farewell Dinner**

**Day 19 Tuesday 22 Jan**

#### Mexico City to LA & Melbourne

Transfer to the airport this morning and return to Australia via Los Angeles. As you cross the international date line you 'lose' a day and will arrive in Melbourne two days later.

**Overnight in flight**  
**Breakfast • Meals in flight**

**Day 20 Wednesday 23 Jan**

Cross the International Date Line

**Day 21 Thursday 24 Jan**

#### Melbourne to Adelaide

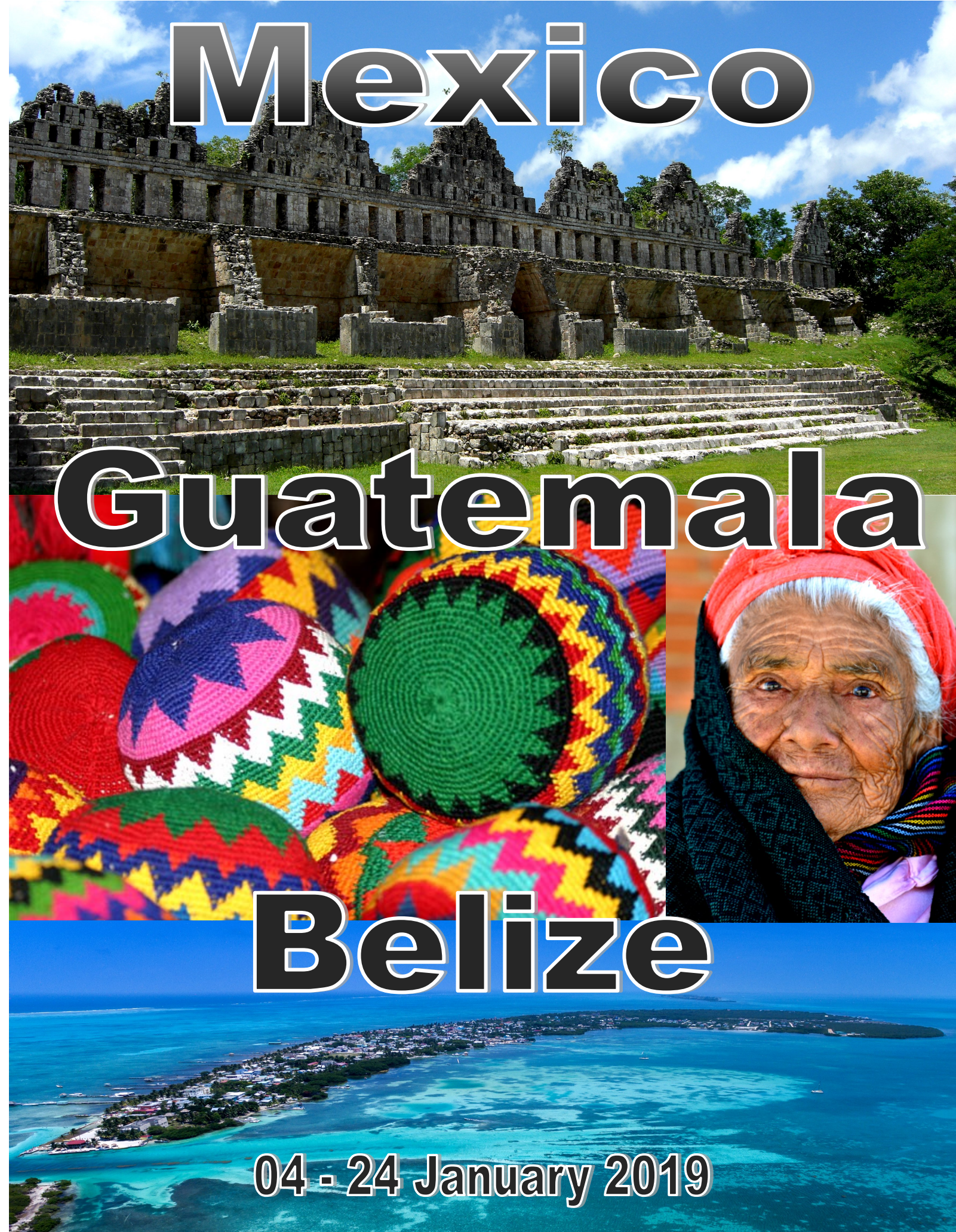
Arrive in Melbourne this morning and connect with your domestic flight to Adelaide which arrives around midday.



# Mexico

# Guatemala

# Belize



E&OE



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**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Cecilia Schubert; David Dennis; Dronepic Belize; Gildardo Sanchez; Graeme Churchard; Olivier Bruchez; Lin Mei; James Willamor; Alejandro Linares Garcia; Adalbert O. H. Vega; Einalem; Flores-wiki; Frank \_am \_Main; Fran001@yahoo1; Archer10; Diego Riveras-Joaquin Martinez; Georgia.kral; Kyle Simourd; Wolfgang Manousek; att-Alaskan Dude; Chensiyuan; Manfredwinslow



.....enriching lives through cultural exchange



**Cancun • Yucatan • Valladolid • Merida • Uxmal • Bacalar  
Caye Caulker • Tikal • Flores • Antigua • Panajachel  
Chichicastenango • Mexico City • Teotihuacan**

Marvel at the cultural gems of Central America on this exhilarating journey to Mexico, Guatemala and Belize. Stand in awe at the might and mystery of the Aztec and Mayan archaeological sites of Teotihuacan, Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Tikal. Explore the diverse cultures, art and architecture of these colourful countries steeped in ancient, indigenous and Spanish colonial history. All offer an enigmatic and charming mix of vibrant communities, traditional indigenous lifestyles, fabulous markets, traditional arts and crafts and breathtaking Caribbean, mountain and lush jungle landscapes. Be delighted by this cultural feast for the senses.

**Tour Leader:** Vic Costi Has led numerous tours to the region for WEA Travel. He shares a great enthusiasm for historical places, peoples and cross cultural experiences and is a thoughtful and caring leader.

**Tour Includes:** All airfares international and domestic; Full escort; All local guides, All entrance fees & sightseeing as per itinerary; All accommodation (3 & 4 star ); All meals as per itinerary; All transport; Pre and Post tour get togethers; Study notes



**21 Days \$8990 Twin Share**

**Not Included: Airline Taxes \$340 (at Jan 2018)**

**Single Supplement \$1115 • Balance Due 30 October 2018**

**Day 1 Friday 04 Jan**

**Adelaide to Cancun**

Depart Adelaide this morning with Qantas via Sydney to Los Angeles and Cancun in Mexico, the gateway to the Mayan world. On arrival you are transferred to your comfortable hotel.

**Overnight Cancun  
Meals in Flight • Light Supper**

**Day 2 Saturday 05 Jan**

**Tulum**

This morning after a relaxed start you visit the Mayan Fortress of Tulum. Perched above a tropical beach with the turquoise Caribbean as a backdrop, Tulum was one of the earliest places of worship for the Mayan kings and the only Mayan city to be built on the coast. One of the best viewing aspects is from the sea, so take your bathers and enjoy a swim before returning to a welcome dinner in a Mexican restaurant.

**Overnight Cancun  
Breakfast • Welcome Dinner**



**Day 3 Sunday 06 Jan**

**Cancun to Merida**

After breakfast you depart Cancun and visit one of the Yucatan Peninsula's most alluring towns Valladolid which is known for its wonderful architecture. You then visit the world renowned UNESCO World Heritage site of Chichen Itza. Here the Mayan and Toltec vision of the universe is at its best in the amazing stone monuments and artistic carvings. Wonder at the Great Ball Court, the Temple of Kukulkan and the Temple of Warriors, each one a testament to the incredible skills of these ancient people. Stop for a refreshing dip at the beautiful cenote at Yokdzonot before arriving in Yucatan's principal city Merida, an architectural jewel with pastel coloured mansions, fine plazas and promenades.

**Overnight Merida  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 4 Monday 07 Jan**



**Celestun**

Today you have a guided tour to the Celestun Nature Reserve where you take a boat ride to view the flora and fauna. Pink Flamingos are one of the main species in the reserve. There is an opportunity to swim in natural pools amongst the lush vegetation.

**Overnight Merida  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 5 Tuesday 08 Jan**

**Uxmal**

Visit the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage site of Uxmal (pronounced oosh-mahl) today. The Mayans built their city here in 700AD but as there are no rivers or water sources in its vicinity it remains a mystery as to why the location was chosen. Continue on to Campeche a fine fortress town on the Gulf of Mexico before returning to Merida to overnight.

**Overnight Merida  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 6 Wednesday 09 Jan**

**Merida to Bacalar**

After breakfast you continue through the Yucatan to Bacalar which is close to the border with Belize. Here you spend the night in a beautiful fishing village on the shores of Lake Bacalar which is known as the Lake of the Seven Colours due to its gorgeous blue and turquoise hues. The village is known as one of Mexico's Pueblos Magicos or magical villages as it is relatively unspoilt by tourism and has retained its traditional Mexican feel.

**Overnight Bacalar  
Breakfast • Dinner**

**Day 7 Thursday 10 Jan**

**Bacalar to Caye Caulker**

This morning you travel from Bacalar across the border to Belize City. Belize was formerly known as British Honduras and is the only officially English speaking country in Central and South America. Here you take a water taxi across to picturesque Caye Caulker.

**Overnight Caye Caulker  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 8 Friday 11 Jan**

**Caye Caulker**

Today is a day at leisure on the island where the most popular forms of transport are foot or bicycle and life takes place to the rhythm of the swaying palms. Enjoy relaxing and soaking up the local ambience as a midway break on your feature packed tour.

**Overnight Caye Caulker  
Breakfast**



**Day 9 Saturday 12 Jan**

**Caye Caulker to Flores**

Take a water taxi after breakfast to Belize City and drive to San Ignacio a colourful town with a bustling market. Still in Belize you then visit the important and most impressive Xunantunich Mayan archaeological site. It is comparatively uncrowded and the natural landscape is pristine and beautiful. Continue across the border into Guatemala and arrive in Flores on the shores of Lake Itza by causeway. Narrow cobbled lanes, red rooved colonial buildings, historic churches and pretty plazas make Flores a delightful place to stroll.

**Overnight Flores  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 10 Sunday 13 Jan**

**Flores to Tikal & Antigua**

Travel back in time more than two thousand years to the National Park and UNESCO World Heritage protected site of Tikal, the capital of a conquest state which became one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Mayans. Archaeologists tell us that Tikal was inhabited from 6000BC until 890AD. What sets it apart however is its dense jungle setting. Stroll through the Great Pyramid and Temple, the Palace of the Windows and the Pyramids of the Grand Jaguar marvelling at what is regarded as the largest

and most impressive Mayan pyramid site in Central America. You then board your flight from the 'International Airport of the Mayan World' and fly to Guatemala City then transfer to Antigua for dinner.

**Overnight Antigua  
Breakfast • Dinner**



**Day 11 Monday 14 Jan**

**Antigua**

Today is a free day to relax and explore historic Antigua at your own pace. A finely preserved World Heritage town you can stroll through the cobbled streets to the splendid Central Plaza with its Cathedral and the Palace of the Captains General. There are colonial churches, monasteries, gardens and a lovely ambience to enjoy.

**Overnight Antigua  
Breakfast**



**Day 12 Tuesday 15 Jan**

**Antigua to Panajachel**

Today you transfer to Panajachel in the Guatemalan Highlands. On the shores of Lake Atitlan and surrounded by volcanic mountains Panajachel has a colonial old town and main street bustling with cafes and stalls selling handicrafts and textiles.

**Overnight Panajachel  
Breakfast • Dinner**

**Day 13 Wednesday 16 Jan**

**Lake Atitlan**

Take a picturesque boat ride across Lake Atitlan today to the Mayan village of Santiago Atitlan where many of the local inhabitants still cling to a traditional Mayan lifestyle. Here the women continue to weave and wear 'huipiles' which are local tunics decorated with brightly coloured birds and flowers. The crystal blue lake is the deepest in Central America and its volcanic setting is magnificent.

**Overnight Panajachel  
Breakfast • Dinner**