

PRICES

Package Price: \$10490.00 Per person twin share ex Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide.

Land Only: \$9290.00 Per person twin share (ex Los Angeles)

Single Room Supplement: \$1485.00

Please note: due to flight schedules for Sydney and Adelaide, an overnight stop is needed in Singapore on the way to Mexico at additional cost.

Includes

- International return air fares with Singapore Airlines, economy class ex
 - Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide
 - Four star hotels or best available
- All meals as shown in the itinerary (B – Breakfast, L - Lunch, D – Dinner)
- Transfers and sightseeing by quality coaches with experienced drivers and English Speaking Guides
 - All entrance fees
 - Tips for drivers, guides
- All local flights as shown in the itinerary

Excludes

- Beverages of any kind
- Air taxes and airport charges (budget approx. \$600 - \$700 per person)
 - Personal expenses
- Travel Insurance (Strongly recommended)
 - Visa costs, payable at the borders

BOOKING CONDITIONS

General Price Conditions

All prices quoted are subject to change before final payment is made and are subject to confirmation of availability when booking. Prices are based on cash or cheque payment only – credit card fees apply.

Air taxes and charges will be added to invoices on booking and adjusted at ticket issue - revised invoices may apply.

Conditions apply. Price is subject to a minimum of 12 passengers

Making a Booking

To secure your booking we require a non-refundable deposit of \$330.00 per person and a completed InterAsia booking form for each person 7 days from booking.

Final Payment

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. If bookings are made inside 60 days, full payment is due immediately arrangements are confirmed.

Cancellation Fees

More than 60 days before departure – The deposit.

60 to 35 days before departure – deposit plus 30% land cost plus airline cancellation fees (if applicable)

34 to 14 days before departure – 100% land cost plus airline cancellation fee (if applicable)

Less than 14 days before departure – 100% of all monies paid.

No refund will be given for unused or cancelled services once travel has commenced

 **InterAsia**

Travel Exotic Asia With Us

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Licence No. 32572 IATA/TCF/AFTA

Join Gabriella Verstraeten on her

Guatemala & Mexico

Textile & Embroidery Tour

Departing 27 March 2010

Join Gabriella on her tour to Mexico & Guatemala and gain knowledge and experience, while observing the skills of the local peoples, in embroidery, and various weaving techniques.

In Mexico travel to Oaxaca state and visit Indian villages to see various styles of weaving and dyeing, and the Blue House, home of artist Frida Kahlo. In Guatemala visit busy markets, Mayan ruins in the jungle, museums with antiquities and historic textiles and stay by beautiful Lake Atiklan.

 **InterAsia**

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Ph 1300 133 001

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Lic No 32527 IATA/AFTA/TCF

Textile & Embroidery Tour

20 days – departing 27 March 2010

Join Gabriella on another of her popular textile exploration tours ~ this time to Mexico & Guatemala

Who is Gabriella Verstraeten?



Gabriella has escorted many textile study tours with InterAsia to varied destinations such as the old silk trading routes and southern regions of China, north and south India, Peru and also Vietnam – new destinations are being developed for future tours. Gabriella works closely with InterAsia to help formulate and escort these very specialised tours.

After completing B.ED studies at Melbourne State College in 1982, (majors in textile & metal) and studying textile design at RMIT University, Gabriella established a career as a textile designer and fibre artist. This has led to a varied career involving working with artists in school programmes and designing community based visual art projects, writing and designing articles for national and international magazines, presenting workshops and seminars for the Stitches and Craft shows, Bernina sewing machines and Maderia threads, including writing and presenting two videos for them.

For many years, Gabriella's professional studio practice was based at Melbourne's 'Meat Market & Craft Centre' until it closed in 1999. She held her first solo exhibition – 'Wrapture' – in 2001. In 2003, she was invited to exhibit at the annual Australian Craft & Design Showcase for the City of Glen Eira.

Gabriella is currently teaching Textiles at Thomas Carr College near Melbourne, having taught design theory and practice at Box Hill TAFE in the past. Recent career highlights include selection for the internationally renowned publication 'Fibrearts Design Book 7' (2005), highlighting her excellence and innovation in the contemporary fibre arts world. Gabriella was also one of 40 international fibre artists invited to exhibit work in 'Art Embroidery – a wide focus on New Territories' which toured several textile museums in Europe during 2005. These cap many international awards and recognition for Gabriella going back to 1996 and she continues to exhibit her current work bi-annually with the contemporary textile fibre based group 'Hurrah!'

For information contact InterAsia on 1300 133 001, or perhaps give Gabriella a call on 03 9563 4877.



FRI 26 MAR: AUSTRALIA

Be at the International airport late evening for the early flight Saturday.

SAT 27 MAR: AUSTRALIA ~ MEXICO CITY (D)

Depart Australian ports this morning and fly to Mexico City via Los Angeles. On arrival in Mexico City you will be transferred to the Hotel Casa Inn.

SUN 28 MAR: MEXICO CITY (B/D)

Visit the National Anthropology Museum for a display of clothing of various ethnic groups of Mexico, followed by a stop at the Museum de Arte Popular exhibiting contemporary and traditional folk art from all over Mexico. Also visit the FONART shop, a government incentive helping village craft people.

MON 29 MAR: MEXICO CITY (B/D)

This morning travel to the Pyramids of Teotihuacan and Shrine of Guadalupe and on the way visit the Plaza of Three Cultures and the Basilica. Once Teotihuacan, the City of the Gods, is reached you will tour the site and have time to climb the amazing pyramids, walk along the Avenue of the Dead and see the Palace of Quetzal-Butterfly. On your return journey stop at La Ciudadela Artisan Market, for a great selection of crafts from around Mexico.

TUE 30 MAR: MEXICO CITY (B/D)

Today's city tour includes Zocalo, the city square, the National Palace where the murals of Diego Rivera decorate the central staircase, the main market and walk through the historical city centre. Your evening dinner will be at Restaurant Focolare with colourful folkloric show.

WED 31 MAR: MEXICO CITY ~ OAXACA (B/D)

Tour the Museo of Frida Kahlo, the former home and studio of the artist, which she shared with Diego Rivera. Her clothes and personal items are on display. In the afternoon fly to Oaxaca, a charming colonial town. On arrival you will be transferred to Hostel de La Noria for three nights.

THU 01 APR: OAXACA (B/D)

This morning travel to the town of Teotitlan del Valle where most of the people have an active interest in weaving. You will see demonstrations of weaving and the dyeing of wool with many different colourful natural dyes.



Return to Oaxaca and visit the Museo Textiles de Oaxaca. This museum's mission is to document, rescue and promote the textiles of Oaxaca and now has a collection of 4000 pieces.

FRI 02 APR: OAXACA (B/D)

Travel to the impressive archaeological site of Monte Alban the ancient capital of the Zapotecs. The city was founded in 500BC and is located 1948 metres above sea level. Return to Oaxaca in the afternoon to tour the city and enjoy the Easter processions.

SAT 03 APR: OAXACA ~ SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast and transfer to the airport, for a flight Tuxtla and then via a boat ride through the Sumidero Canyon, to San Cristobal de las Casas, built at a height of 2100 metres and is rich in ancient and indigenous cultures and famous for the Mayan textiles that are woven there. Amber jewellery and pottery is also produced. Stay for 2 nights at Hotel Diego de Mazariegos.

SUN 04 APR: SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Visit Zinacantan and Tenejapa two of the many villages in this area in which the inhabitants wear their colourful outfits and specialise in traditional weaving and embroidery. During the afternoon visit the Textile Museum of Sergio Castro. There will also be Easter celebrations to see.

MON 05 APR: SAN CRISTOBAL ~ PALENQUE (B/D)

Meet the people of a weaving Cooperative producing indigo wrap skirts and overlapping belts. In the afternoon visit the magnificent archaeological site of Palenque a Mayan city set in the foothills of the Tumbala Mountains on a high ridge overlooking the plains that stretch to the Gulf Coast. Stay overnight at Hotel Ciudad Real.

TUE 06 APR: PALENQUE ~ COROZAL ~ BETHEL ~ FLORES (B/L/D)

Depart to the incredible site of Yaxchilan still used as a place of worship and ceremony by the Lacandon Maya. After exploring the city board a boat to travel on the Usumacinta River, part of the border between Mexico and Guatemala. On the banks of the river in the jungle live monkeys, various mammals, butterflies and macaws. Disembark at Bethel and travel through the forest to Flores. Stay overnight at Villa Maya.

WED 07 APR: TIKAL ~ GUATEMALA CITY (B/L/D)

After an early breakfast drive to Tikal National Park, famous for its Mayan ruins surrounded by lush jungle. Tikal was a Maya city of power and magnitude over 1000 years ago. Wander around the ancient city and visit the museum and after lunch transfer to the airport for the flight to Guatemala City. Overnight at the Westin hotel.

THU 08 APR: GUATEMALA CITY ~ LAKE ATITLAN (B/D)

Take a short tour of Guatemala City visiting the Ixchel Museum of Mayan Textiles with a textile specialist. Later in the day drive along the Pan American highway through beautiful scenery to Lake Atitlan, renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. On arrival check in at Villa Santa Catarina for a three night stay.

FRI 09 APR: LAKE ATITLAN (B/D)

After breakfast drive to the market town of Solola. Friday is market day so the town will be busy with Maya people dressed in traditional costume

from around the area coming to buy and sell their wares. There will also be visits to the textile Cooperatives of Solola and Chuacru, another small town near the lake.

SAT 10 APR: LAKE ATITLAN (B/D)

A morning boat ride across the lake will take you to San Juan La Laguna Village to see the back strap loom in use and the art of natural dyeing. Visit the workshops of local Naif painters before boarding a boat to Santiago Village where shamans still perform their old religious ceremonies and you can learn about the distinctive textiles and primitive art of this village.

SUN 11 APR: LAKE ATITLAN ~ CHICHICASTENANGO (B/D)

Make sure your cameras are fully charged because today is market day in Chichicastenango! Considered the most colourful market in the Americas you will see the people dressed in native costume selling handicrafts, dresses and 'rebozos' (shawls). Witness interesting religious ceremonies with the blending of Pre Hispanic and Catholic rituals performed by shamans. During the afternoon, travel to the colonial town of Antigua and stay three nights at Hotel Villa Colonial.

MON 12 APR: ANTIGUA (B/D)

Take a morning walking tour. The tour will take you to markets, museums and specialized shops to learn about the history, techniques, as well as the differences in colours, styles and symbolism from each area of Guatemala. In the afternoon enjoy demonstration by an expert weaver from San Antonio Aguas Calientes.

TUE 13 APR: ANTIGUA ~ GUATEMALA (B/D)

Inspect a private collection of textiles with Gio Rosalinni before driving to the villages of San Antonio Aguas Calientes, Santa Maria and Santa Catarina Barahona and meet the local families and weavers to find out about their textiles and traditions. Different styles include back strap loom weaving and the Macador technique.

WED 14 APR: GUATEMALA CITY ~ LOS ANGELES (B)

An early transfer to the airport for the flight to Los Angeles and onward flights to Australia.

THU 15 APR: IN FLIGHT

FRI 16 APR: SINGAPORE

You arrive in Singapore at early Friday morning and will be transferred to a hotel for a rest and free time before catching a late flight to Australia.

SAT 17 APR: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

