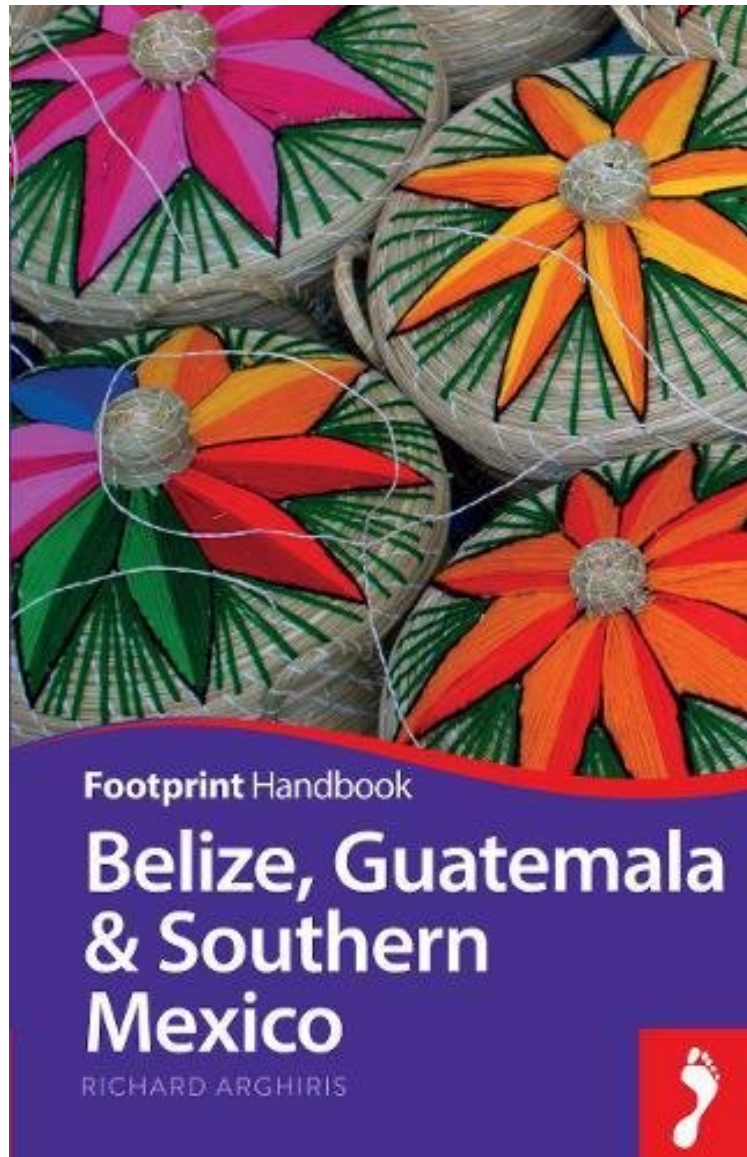


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Belize, Guatemala Southern Mexico Handbook (Footprint - Handbooks)

Richard Arghiris

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Richard Arghiris : Belize, Guatemala Southern Mexico Handbook (Footprint - Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Belize, Guatemala Southern Mexico Handbook (Footprint - Handbooks):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poorly organizedBy Thomas C AltmannPoorly organized, not very

informative on major sites or transportation.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. New Spain's most tenuous grip on the AmericasBy Jon L AlbeeI love these Footprint Guides. They've allowed themselves to slip behind other publishers in some parts of the world, but in central and South America, they're still the best. These books combine solid cultural and historical content with diverse listings and up-to-date practicals. If you're headed to this part of the world, this is the best book. In fact, these countries and regions blend together almost naturally, so it makes sense to do a book about the whole lot. True, the book is written from a European's point of view, but it only takes a little imagination and some intuition to make the jump to any original location. So you get a really nice selection of sites here. What's not to like? There's Oaxaca and San Cristobal for the colonials. There's pre-Colombian Mayan ruins for the archaeologists. And there's forests, beaches, oceans, mountains, volcanoes, waterfalls and rivers for the ecologists. But then there's something really, really special that deserves your attention, a sort of Siam Reap of the West, and that place is Antigua Guatemala. No guidebook is going to prepare you for this. Imagine trekking through the forests at the base of three massive volcanoes and stumbling across a colonial Spanish city, abandoned by its citizens in the late 18th century, left in a semi-ruinous state by a series of powerful earthquakes, left for you to explore and to imbibe, and even to help revive in your own way. Residents are slowly returning to Antigua. Structures are slowly being reclaimed from the earth. Very slowly. So if a Spanish colonial Machu Picchu sounds like your kind of thing, here's a place you'll love, and a book you must own. The book presents a nice blend of indigenous and inherited cultures, not always seeing eye-to-eye, of course, but with appropriate coverage of important and interesting sites, crafts and traditions. I always judge a guidebook by how authentic a portrait it creates for the reader, and Footprint is always top quality.

Blessed with a tropical climate, abundant wildlife and a varied landscape, it's easy to understand the appeal of this beguiling region. Footprints Belize, Guatemala Southern Mexico Handbook will guide you from monumental Mayan ruins, through hypnotic fiestas, to sparking submarine adventures. Great coverage of the top activities and sights in the region, including jungle-shrouded ruins, basking in crystal clear cays, historic churches, delicious cuisine, and exploring volcanic cones. Loaded with information and suggestions on how to get off the beaten track, from birding spots in Belize to forgotten cities of ancient civilizations. Includes comprehensive information on everything from transport and practicalities to history, culture landscape. Plus all the usual accommodation, eating and drinking listings for every budget. Full-color planning section to inspire travelers and help them find the best experiences. From idyllic Caribbean waters to awe-inspiring caves, Footprints fully updated 3rd edition will help you navigate this compelling destination.

From the Back Cover