

GUATEMALA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++502

Guatemala Tourist Commission: 7a Avenida 1-17 zona 4 Centro Civico Guatemala City Tel: 331 1333 Fax: 331 4416 E-mail: inguat@guate.net Website: www.guatemala.travel.org.gt

Capital: Guatemala City **Time:** GMT - 6

Background: Guatemala was freed of Spanish colonial rule in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the conflict, which had led to the death of more than 100,000 people and had created some 1 million refugees.

Location: Middle America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Honduras and Belize and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between El Salvador and Mexico

Map References: Central America and the Caribbean

Area: total: 108,890 sq km land: 108,430 sq km water: 460 sq km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow coastal plains and rolling limestone plateau (Petén)

Natural Resources: petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower

Population: 12,639,939 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Guatemalan(s) adjective: Guatemalan

Ethnic Groups: Mestizo (mixed Amerindian-Spanish or assimilated Amerindian - in local Spanish called Ladino), approximately 56%, Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian, approximately 44%

Religions: Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs

Languages: Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (more than 20 Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)

Economy: The agricultural sector accounts for one-fourth of GDP, two-thirds of exports, and half of the labor force. Coffee, sugar, and bananas are the main products. Manufacturing and construction account for one-fifth of GDP. Since assuming office in January 1996, former President ARZU worked to implement a program of economic liberalization and political modernization. The signing of the peace accords in December 1996, which ended 36 years of civil war, removed a major obstacle to foreign investment. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch caused relatively little damage to Guatemala compared to its neighbors. Remaining challenges include beefing up government revenues, negotiating further assistance from international donors, and increasing the efficiency and openness of both government and private financial operations. Growth should remain at the same level in 2000 provided world agricultural prices do not plunge.

Industries: sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism

Currency: 1 quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos

Railways: total: 884 km (102 km privately owned) narrow gauge: 884 km 0.914-m gauge (single track)

Highways: total: 13,100 km paved: 3,616 km (including 140 km of expressways) unpaved: 9,484 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: 260 km navigable year round; additional 730 km navigable during high-water season

Ports and Harbors: Champerico, Puerto Barrios, Puerto Quetzal, San Jose, Santo Tomas de Castilla

Airports: 477 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 11 2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 5 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 466 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 9 914 to 1,523 m: 124 under 914 m: 332 (1999 est.)

Visa: Entry requirements are complicated and are subject to frequent change.

Duty Free: goods permitted: 80 cigarettes or 100g of tobacco, 1.5 litres of alcoholic beverages and a reasonable quantity of perfume.

Health: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 1 year of age coming from infected areas. Malaria risk throughout the year. Typhoid and polio precautions. Bottled water is safe.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

GUATEMALA CITY

BARCELÓ GUATEMALA CITY, 7 Avenida, 15-45. Zona 9 ,01009 Guatemala City, T:502 2378 40 00, guatemalacity@barcelo.com, http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en_GB/hotels/Guatemala/Guatemala-City/hotel-barcelo-guatemala-city/general-description.aspx

BEST WESTERN HOTEL STOFELLA, 2 Avenida 12-28 Zona 10, Guatemala City, 01010, info@stofella.com, <http://www.stofella.com>

CLARION SUITES HOTEL 14 Calle 3-08 Zona 10 GUATEMALA CITY GUATEMALA TEL: 3 63-3333

DAI NONNI HOTEL, 15 av. A 5-30 zona 13, Guatemala, C.A, T:502 23625458 reservaciondainnonni@gmail.com, <http://www.dainnonnihotel.com>

GRAND TIKAL FUTURA HOTEL, Calzada Roosevelt, 22-43 Zone 11, Guatemala, Tel:502 24100-800, Guatemala City, 01011, Guatemala, Central America, <http://www.grandtikalfutura.com.gt>

GUATEMALA CITY MARRIOTT HOTEL 7 Avenida 15-45, Zona 9 Guatemala, Guatemala 01009 GUATEMALA TEL: (502) 331 7777 FAX: (502) 332 1877 dorado@net

HOLIDAY INN GUATEMALA, 1 avenida, 13-22 zona 10, 01010, Ciudad de Guatemala, Tel:502 24210000, www.holidayinn.com

HOTEL CLARION SUITES GUATEMALA, 14 Calle 3-08, Zona 10 Guatemala, Guatemala C.A. 01010, T:502 24213333, <http://www.clarionguatemala.com>

HOTEL PAN AMERICAN, Guatemala ciudad, Centro Historico, Guatemala, Centroamérica, 01001, P:502 22440850, info@hotelpanamerican.com.gt, www.hotelpanamerican.com

HOTEL PRINCESS, Tel:502 24230909, 13 calle 7-65, zona 9 Ciudad de Guatemala, reservaciones@hotelesprincess.com, <http://www.hotelesprincess.com/en/guatemala>

HOTEL SAN CARLOS, Av. La Reforma 7-89, P:502 22473000, hsancarlos@hsancarlos.com, <http://www.hsancarlos.com>

HOTEL VISTA REAL, Guatemala City, 01015 - Guatemala, Tel: 502 24270000, info@vistareal.com, <http://www.vistareal.com>

HOWARD JOHNSON INN GUATEMALA CITY, Ave. Reforma 4-22 Zona 9, Guatemala City, 01009 GT, hojoinn@intelnetti.com, <http://www.hojo.com/hotels/guatemala/guatemala-city/howard-johnson-inn-guatemala-city/hotel-overview>

LA CASA GRANDE, reservaciones@casagrande-gua.com, <http://www.casagrande-gua.com>

LA INMACULADA HOTEL, 14 calle 7-88, Zona 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Phone:502 23145100, info@inmaculadahotel.com, <http://www.inmaculadahotel.com>

MERCURE GUATEMALA CASA VERANDA, 01010 - GUATEMALA CITY, Tel: 502 24114100, casaveranda@accor.com, <http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-6304-mercure-guatemala-casa-veranda/index.shtml>

REAL GUATEMALA, 14 Calle 2-51, Zona 10, Guatemala City, 01010, Guatemala, T:50224134444, <http://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/guatemala-city/quaha/hoteldetail>

SAN GREGORIO HOTEL, SPA & CONFERENCE CENTER, 502 66343666, info@sangregoriospa.com, <http://www.sangregoriospa.com>

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

ANTILLAS AIR (GB), Guatemala City, Tel: +502 (0)362-4700, Fax: +502 (0)362-9727, Website: www.antillasair.com

GRUPO TACA/AVIATECA, Guatemala City, Tel: +502 (0)3 320613, +502 (0)3 327464, +502 (0)3 320394, Fax: +502 (0)3 605833, e-mail: emorales@taca.com, Website: www.grupotaca.com or www.flylatinamerica.com, SITA: GUADTGU, GUAMCGU, GUAFFGU

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