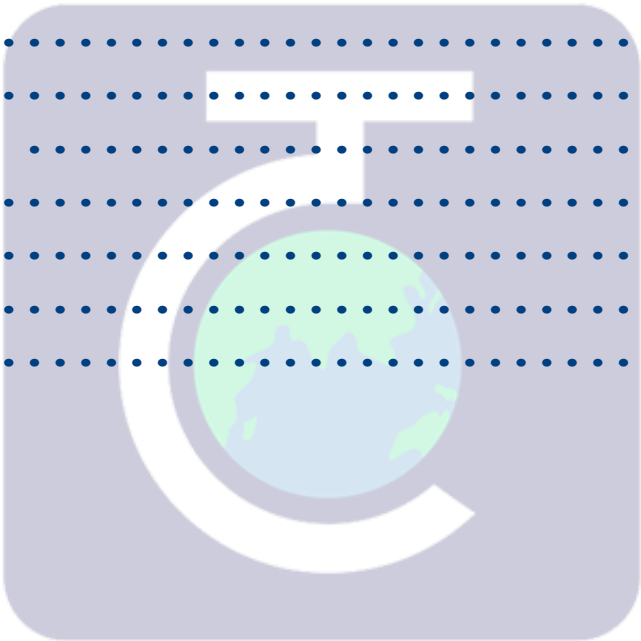


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## Index

### 1. Geographical location

The most populous city in Central America finds itself nestling in a mountain valley called Valle de Emrita and is situated in the south-central part of the country. Guatemala city sits on an elevation of 4,897ft above sea level and experiences a tropical savannah climate bordering on a subtropical highland climate with an annual temperature ranging from 22 to 28 °C during the day and 2 to 17 °C at night.



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### 2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Guatemala City Finds Itself Located 13kms Away From Mixco Followed By Villa Nueva At 17kms, Antigua At 39kms, Santa Tecla At 223kms And Soyapango 244kms. Nearest Countries Include – El Salvador, Mexico, Belize And Honduras.



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### 3. Significance

Central America's megalopolis has everything you'd expect from an urban area of 4 million people to the best selection of restaurants, nightlife, cafes, hotels and museums in the country. Fast paced and vibrant, Guate as it is locally called is an intriguing blend of old and new and possesses a unique Latin charm. This sprawling, colourful cosmopolitan that unrolls itself into a valley enclosed by volcanoes and forested mountains attracts people for its ancient ruins, colonial towns and exuberant markets. The city is surly pretty from above but don't doubt it for a non-chaotic or polluted. At times, it's chock-full of people and cars and seems architecturally uninspired but the city does have some redeeming features. Guatemala City divides itself into 21 zones all boasting some unique attractions and focusing on unique experiences. Once known as "the Jewel of Latin America" Splitting itself through Old (where narrow streets rule and chaos exists) and New city (where polished streets stand with fine restaurants and comfortable hotels), Guate is a much needed civilization after visiting the country's most remote sights.

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### 4. History

The first proof of human settlers in Guatemala dates back to 10,000 B.C.E., although there is some evidence that puts this date at 18,000 B.C.E., such as obsidian arrowheads found in various parts of the country. The region was dominated by the Maya civilization for nearly 2000 years before the Spanish invasion in the early 16th century. Kaminaljuyu, a site of the Maya civilization dating back to 1100 B.C.E., was located in the area that became Guatemala City. In Spanish colonial times, Guatemala City was a small town, with a monastery called "El Carmen," founded in 1629. The Captaincy-general of Guatemala officially proclaimed its independence from Spain and its incorporation into the Mexican Empire. The city was the scene of the declaration. Following which the Central American Federation was formed and Guatemala city still serving as the capital. Guatemala's "Liberal Revolution" came in 1871 and worked towards not only modernizing the city but also the country and also improve trade and introduce new crops and manufacturing. The city was further opened up to foreign investments and continued to flourish. Guatemala City has been rocked by earthquakes, the worst from 1917 to 1918, which shook the city for six weeks. The 1976 quake killed nearly 23, 000, injured another 75, 000 and left an estimated one million homeless. In the year 1980, Guatemala got worldwide attention when the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City was burnt down, resulting in 37 deaths and the terror attack in the same year by Ejército Guerrillero de los Pobres (EGP) took place right in front of the Guatemalan National Palace which was equally shocking. However despite all this the city started growing uncontrollably after the 1976 earthquake, which led to serious transit problems, especially at rush hour. The city has struggled through the 19th century however 20th century it got on its feet and the 21st century saw the city flourishing more than ever and standing where it is today.

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### 5. Cultural identity

Guatemalan culture and Guatemalan customs are largely influenced by the history of the country. Guatemalan people mostly constitutes of mestizo, a mixture of Spanish and Maya blood, while many villagers are direct Maya descendants. Guatemala City serves as the economic, governmental, and cultural epicentre of the nation of Guatemala and not only possesses a history and culture unique to the Central American region, but also furnishes all the modern amenities of a world class city. The City houses quite a number of libraries and museums, including the National Archives, the National Library, and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology that extensively talks about the Maya culture in the country. Guatemalan cuisine, varies depending on the region. However, many traditional Guatemalan foods are based on Maya cuisine, predominantly featuring ingredients like corn, chilies and beans. Other popular dishes in Guatemala include enchiladas, quesadillas and tamales, although these are not to be confused with their Mexican counterparts. Another important part of Guatemalan culture is its music and fashion. Guatemalan people are known for their percussion bands featuring the marimba, the national instrument. Guatemalan fashion is also well known for its use of brightly colored yarn-textiles, capes, shirts, blouses, skirts and dresses.



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### 6. Natural resources

The country is home to more than 20 National Parks, however the city is not home to any National Park but the department of Guatemala is home to Naciones Unidas National Park that is one of the last remaining nature reserves in the metropolitan area of Guatemala City. The land is bustling with natural resources like petroleum, as well as nickel, lead, zinc, iron, and small quantities of gold, silver, and jade.



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### 7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

#### 7.1. Paid

##### 7.1.1. Palacio Nacional De La Cultura

Finding itself on the north side of Parque Central, Palacio Nacional de la Cultura, built between the year 1936 and 1943 is one of the most historical landmarks of the city. Come here to gaze at the stunning symbol of architecture and take in some history lessons which narrate about the labors who were forced to work during the dictatorial government. The building has survived various earthquakes and today, displays a mix of styles ranging from Spanish Renaissance to Neoclassical. Take guided tours to know more about the place and observe the ornate decor, paintings and murals that beautify the interiors.

Address : 6A Calle, Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6424442, -90.5131475

Contact : +502 2232 8550

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/Palacio-Nacional-de-la-Cultura-Guatemala-189440947755472/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Mercado Central Subway Station and Transurbano Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 40, Children & Senior Citizens: GTQ20

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-12:00hrs & 14:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

##### 7.1.2. La Aurora Zoo

A large zoological park that was established in 1924 as a part of a major regeneration project, La Aurora Zoo has now become famous among the locals to escape the hustle of the city. Head to the African section and spot lions, zebras and buffalos that will grab your attention. However, the spotlight of the zoo are the 3 species of Asian monkeys, with howlers shouting at the overhead traffic from the nearby airport. Wander around through the landscaped gardens and relax under the trees or head straight to the on-site restaurants for some light

meal.

Address : Finca La Aurora, 5A Calle, Guatemala 01013, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01013

Location : 14.5976691, -90.52606700000001

Contact : +502 2463 0463

Website : <http://www.aurorazoo.org.gt/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Montúfar Subway Station

Entry Fee : Children 2-12 years: GTQ 12; Youth and Adults: GTQ 30; Elderly 60 years: GTQ 20

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.3. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena

Wake the explorer in you with an extensive display of native Guatemalan clothing and textiles at Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena. The museum is known for its remarkable collection of noteworthy hand-woven fabrics originating from 120 highland villages, out of which few date back to the 19th century. It also houses numerous sculptures, paintings and photographs that include the works by Andres Curruchich, a renowned folk painter from Guatemala. Wander around and learn more about fabric-making through various videos and weaving displays. Stop by at the on-site café and conclude your trip to the museum by visiting the souvenir store.

Address : 6A Calle 6, Guatemala City, 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6078528, -90.50590219999998

Contact : +502 2331 3622

Website : <http://www.museoixchel.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación 626 Subway Station, 6A Avenida Bus station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 35, Students: GTQ 15, Children: GTQ 10.

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs, Saturday 09:00hrs-13:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.1.4. National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

Serving the city since 1946, the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is a place to dive into the cultural and historical heritage of the city. Covering an area of 3,000 square meters, it houses around 20,000 archaeological relics and 5,000 ethnological pieces and is a place where you can explore a wealth of significant Mesoamerican history. Browse through an extensive collection of pre-classical, post-classical and Mayan art pieces, textiles and tools, that portray the previous and current indigenous Guatemalan culture.

Address : 7ta. Avenida 6a, Guatemala, 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.597427, -90.52973199999997

Contact : +502 2475 4010

Website : <http://munae.gob.gt/pages/museo.php?lang=ES>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Montúfar Subway Station

Entry Fee : National Visitors: GTQ 5; Children under 9 years accompanied by an adult: free; Foreign Visitors: GTQ 60; Schools and public Institutes: free.

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 09:00hrs-12:00hrs and 13:30hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.1.5. Museo Miraflores

The oldest museum of the city was once the ancient Maya city of Kaminaljuyu. A place that links the past to the present, wander around the building to explore the history of the place and set yourself on a journey to learn about the early inhabitants of the Valley of Guatemala. You will find fascinating objects that were discovered at Kaminaljuyú in the basement. There are also textiles and indigenous clothing displays separated by region from around the country upstairs.

Address : 7 Calle 21-55, Guatemala 01011, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01011

Location : 14.6203887, -90.55427980000002

Contact : +502 2208 0550

Website : <http://www.museomiraflores.org/#1>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación 626 Subway Station, Colonia Villas de San Juan Bus station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 25; Children: GTQ 10

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.6. Museo de los Niños

A place featuring both entertainment and learning, Museo de los Niños or Children's Museum is for all the little ones out there. The fun activities like solving a giant jigsaw map of Guatemala or an earthquake simulator to help them learn more about the geographical aspects whereas, a room full of engaging ball games keeps the environment lively. Get your kids here to spend some quality time while they also discover and learn about things like earthquakes and global warming through various games.

Address : 10-00, 5 Calle, Guatemala City 01013, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01013

Location : 14.5973219, -90.5278212

Contact : +502 2475 5076

Website : <http://www.depadresahijos.org/cultura/museoninos.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Acueducto Subway Station

Entry Fee : Children over 2years: GTQ 35

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:30hrs-12:00hrs & 13:00hrs-16:30hrs; Saturday-Sunday 09:30hrs-13:30hrs & 14:30hrs-18:00hrs.

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.7. Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno Carlos Mérida

Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno boasts about an exclusive selection of

Guatemalan art from the 20th-century that focuses on the modern look of the city. The exhibits include works made by famous artists from Guatemala such as Carlos Mérida, Humberto Gavarito and Carlos Valente giving you a glimpse of commercialization and industrialization in the city.

Address : Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01013

Location : 14.5974373, -90.52881009999999

Contact : +502 2471 1422

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Montúfar Subway Station

Entry Fee : Nationals: GTQ 5; Foreign: GTQ 50.

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Friday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 09:00hrs-12:00hrs & 14:00hrs-16:00hrs.

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.8. Casa MIMA

Sheltered in an 1800s mansion, Casa MIMA is set up like a functioning house bustling with interesting furniture spanning over centuries. The owners were interested in collecting various artefacts of universal flavors including Chinese, French neo-rococo, art deco and indigenous pieces. Gaze at the vintage masterpieces and learn about the former cultures by paying a visit here.

Address : 8a Avenida 14-12 Zona 1 Centro Historico, Guatemala.

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6344514, -90.51279599999998

Contact : +502 2253-4020

Website : <http://www.casamima.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Belén Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 20; Children, Students with Id, Adults above 60 years old: GTQ15

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.1.9. Jardín Botánico

Snuggled within the Universidad de San Carlos, Jardín Botánico surrounds itself with lush vegetation and showcases native as well as imported flora of the region. Wander around the park to gather more information about the plant life. You might also bump into some native wildlife while exploring this place, hence be a little cautious. Note: Do not forget to visit the University's Museo de Historia Natural at the site.

Address : Avenida La Reforma, 0-63, Guatemala 01000, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01000

Location : 14.6146833, -90.51293529999998

Contact : +502 2331 0904

Website : <http://sitios.usac.edu.gt/jardinbotanico/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Torre del Reformador Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ15; Children: GTQ5.

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Friday 08:30hrs-15:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.10. Museo del Ferrocarril

One of the city's most interesting museums, Museo del Ferrocarril is the place where you will find the former glory of the unsettled rail system in the country. It also comprises of eccentric artefacts including hand-drawn illustrations of derailments and a kitchen set up with items used in dining cars. You can also hop into the passenger carriages for photographs but not the locomotives.

Address : 9A Avenida 18-03, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6298958, -90.51138509999998

Contact : +502 2232 9270

Website : <http://www.museofegua.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Plaza Barrios Subway Station, Transportes Fuente del Norte Bus station, Fegua Train station.

Entry Fee : GTQ1

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-16:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday



10:00hrs-16:00hrs.

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.11. Mundo Petapa Irtra

Mundo Petapa Irtra is the place to be if you are looking for some fun and excitement. The activities and events at the park cater to visitors of all ages. The roller coasters and water slides will be a stop for all the adventurers whereas the arcade will grab the attention of any playful soul. Whether you buy a wristband for limitless rides or a card with a specified number of rides, do not forget to grab a bite from the on-site restaurant that is known to serve some lip-smacking food.

Address : Avenida Petapa 42-36 | Zona 12, Guatemala City 01009, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01009

Location : 14.5747178, -90.54971539999997

Contact : +502 4950 3493/ +502 24239000

Website : <http://irtra.org.gt/parques/?parque=petapa>

Nearest Public Transport : Transurbano Mundo Petapa Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 100; Children & Senior Citizens with ID: GTQ 50.

Open & Close Timing : Thursday-Saturday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs, Sunday 09:00hrs-18:00hrs.

Time Required : 6

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.12. Museo Popol Vuh

Wake the artist in you to discover one of the biggest assemblages of classic Mayan art in the world at Museo Popol Vuh. Housing an extensive collection of pre-Colombian and colonial art pieces from the native Maya people, the museum comprises of a particularly impressive display of funerary ceramic art. You will also find the best-preserved Mayan vases and bowls here. Get involved in the history lessons through the museum's many demonstrations dating as far as the Paleoindian era right up to the Baroque and Renaissance sculptures of the 19th century.

Address : Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 6A Calle 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001



Location : 14.6079032, -90.50529719999997

Contact : +502 2338 7896

Website : [http://popolvuh.ufm.edu/index.php/P%C3%A1gina\\_Principal](http://popolvuh.ufm.edu/index.php/P%C3%A1gina_Principal)

Nearest Public Transport : Estación 626 Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults: GTQ 35; Students with ID: GTQ 15; Children 2-12 years: GTQ 10.

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs, Saturday 09:00hrs-13:00hrs.

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

### 7.1.13. Parque Arqueológico Kaminaljuyú

Opened in the 1970s, Kaminaljuyu is the only relatively large point of the site that has been protected from rapid urban growth. Divided into 2 sections, you will find exposed archaeological areas, where you can see original prehispanic buildings. Explore the forerunners of the ancient Maya carving at the large-scale sculptures that can be found here as you wander around. It was the first place to be the home of the literate elite in the Maya world. However, today only a minor portion of the ancient city is left to be unraveled as most of the site has been covered by urban trails.

Address : 6-34 01001, 13 Calle 1, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6322787, -90.54852819999996

Contact : +502 2322 5571

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Don Bosco Subway Station

Entry Fee : Nationals: GTQ5; Foreigners: GTQ50.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : Yes

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### 7.2. Free

#### 7.2.1. Catedral Metropolitana

Built between 1782 and 1815, the Catedral Metropolitana proudly stands with its beautiful architecture and striking facade that will not fail to leave an impact on you. Surviving the earthquakes and massive fires, today the building serves as the main worship place of the city. It is a love-at-first-sight game with the Catedral for its exteriors boasts of baroque and neoclassical styles of architecture. The interiors are complemented by 12 pillars dedicated to the memory of the thousands of people who disappeared during the violence of the country's internal armed conflict, which lasted for around 36 years.

Address : 7A Avenida 6-73, Guatemala 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6416438, -90.51204949999999

Contact : +502 2232 7621

Website : <http://catedralbicentenaria.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Mercado Central Subway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

#### 7.2.2. Paseo Cayala

This recent establishment is a place for those who want a relaxed boutique shopping experience or eat at one of the high-end restaurants. The pedestrian community consists of a theater, a gym and many international and national retailers. Do take a canopy tour here that boasts of stunning landscapes of the city as you to spiral your way through the treetops.

Address : Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01016

Location : 14.610578, -90.48322680000001

Contact : +502 2493 9393

Website : <http://paseocayala.com.gt/>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Torre del Reformador Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-00:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.3. Avenida La Reforma

Wander around the marble boulevard of Avenida La Reforma where you can spot some of the most desirable zip codes in the city. The main boulevard connecting the northern areas of the city to the southern districts, the ornated 2-kilometer avenue offers pockets of greenery, statues, and eateries dotted along its path. Don't miss the beautiful Botanical Gardens located at the northern end of the strip.

Address : 1 Calle a 20 Calle de las Zonas 9 y 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.6050898, -90.51584379999997

Nearest Public Transport : Estación IGSS Zona Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.4. Zona Viva

One of the most happening zones of the city, whether you visit Zona Viva in the afternoon or at night, you will always find something to keep yourself entertained. Surrounding itself with various bars and hotels on every block along with large shopping malls, the zone is a perfect place to empty your wallets. Various restaurants find their way home here offering everything from traditional to international plates. Despite the development in this affluent area, you can still find lush parks tucked among the buildings.

Address : Zona 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.5970354, -90.50452059999998

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Plaza España Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.5. Mercado Central

Hiding behind the spectacular cathedral, Mercado Central spreads over 3 underground levels. You will be lost in exotic scents, bright colors, and the sprightly atmosphere as you wander through the market. Buy anything and everything from exotic fruits and vegetables or hunt for a bargain at the handicrafts section. There are also woven blouses, bracelets, shoes, purses, native huipiles, soft leather, jewelry, candles and many more trinkets that will grab your attention.

Address : 8 Calle and 8 Ave., Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6416457, -90.51116359999997

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Mercado Central Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 06:00hrs-18:00hrs, Sunday 06:00hrs-13:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.6. Relief Map

Evoke the geographer in you as you see this phenomenal coup of topographical research at Relief Map. Spread over 167 square meters, this 3-dimensional map made up of cement demonstrates the country's geography. Originally structured by Francisco Vela, who designed it after exploring the country between 1904-05 with only a few implements to measure the country. It is also decorated with landscape elements like roads, volcanoes, marine hubs, mountains, cities and towns. However, many rivers, especially the one with flowing water gives the concrete map a heady contrast and will definitely grab your attention. Note: To exhibit some of the recent developments over years, the map has been steadily updated.

Address : Av. Simeón Cañas, Guatemala 01002, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01002

Location : 14.6603642, -90.5087891

Contact : +502 5632 5708

Website : <http://www.mapaenrelieve.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Residenciales Villas de Alcala Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.7. Parroquia Nuestra Señora De La Merced

A Baroque-styled architecture complemented with a fascinating yellow facade, the church was built between 1780 and 1813. Often confused with its sister church in Antigua, it now features various artworks of its sister church due to damage that was done by an earthquake. La Merced, with its central altar, completely coated in gold and elaborately embellished statues of saints embossed in gold and silver will definitely pull your attention towards it. It is also known for its captivating interiors and a Catholic collection of art and relics.

Address : 11-73, 5A Calle, Guatemala 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6426558, -90.50739909999999

Contact : +502 2251 3119

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Mercado Central Subway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.8. Edificio de Correos

What was once used as a central post office, today is a cultural institution in the heart of the city. This 19th-century building is an example of the classic colonial structure supported by arches that can be seen throughout the building. Find an abundance of arch shaped windows along with a central bridge that is supported by an arch and connects two buildings. Edificio de Correos is home to art and musical classes as well as one of the best symphony orchestras in the country.

Address : 12 Calle, Guatemala 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6373617, -90.51256619999998

Contact : +502 2239 2000

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion de Transmetro Correos Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.9. Centro Cultural Metropolitano

Finding itself on the ground floor of the Palacio de Correos (post office), Centro Cultural Metropolitano is known to host art exhibitions, book launches, handicraft workshops and film nights. Come here to truly immerse yourself in the local culture and learn a thing or two about the former cultures, traditions and local life of Guatemala.

Address : 12 Calle 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6374707, -90.51261310000001

Nearest Public Transport : Estacion de Transmetro Correos Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 07:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturday 07:00hrs-16:00hrs.

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.10. Parque Minerva

Named after the Roman Goddess of wisdom, technical skills and invention, Parque Minerva was inaugurated by President Manuel Estrada Cabrera who seemed to take a liking to the goddess. This urban space emits a sense of tranquillity and is good for wandering among the paths shaded by eucalyptus trees or just enjoying the nature while sipping a refreshing drink. However, be careful of the pickpockets and purse-snatchers that roam around to target visitors.

Address : Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6622356, -90.5095397

Contact : +502 4451 7074

Nearest Public Transport : Estación San Agustín Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.11. Parque Central

The heart of the city lies in Parque Central or the central plaza, an excellent starting point for your adventures in Guatemala City. The plaza and its adjoining Parque Centenario is always abuzz, be it in daylight or nighttime, with shoeshine boys, ice-cream vendors, and sometimes open-air political meetings that add to the general bustle.

Address : Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6418237, -90.513083

Nearest Public Transport : Estación San Agustín Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.12. Torre del Reformador

The tower of the reformer or La Torre del Reformador was completed in 1935 to celebrate the centennial of the birth of President Justo Rufino Barrios who was known for his liberal reforms in Guatemala. Although only 75-meters tall, this landmark was designed after the Eiffel Tower in Paris and today it stands as a symbol of pride for the people of the city and country.

Address : Guatemala City 01000, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01000

Location : 14.613027, -90.51680099999999

Contact : +502 6540 7017

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Terminal Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.13. Iglesia de San Francisco

Iglesia de San Francisco is an attraction worth exploring when visiting the city. The marvelous exteriors of the place reflect the Spanish Colonial architecture whereas, the interiors of the church bustle with typical decoration, detailed paintings and an intricately carved wooden altar. The highlight of Iglesia de San Francisco, however, stands in the sculpture of Jesus Nazareno del Perdon that was



established between 1800 and 1851.

Address : 6-34 01001, 13 Calle 1, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.635719, -90.5140427

Contact : +502 2232 6325

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Gómez Carrillo Subway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.14. Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias

Centro Cultural Miguel Angel Asturias is your answer to learn more about the culture of the city and the country at the same time. Discover folkloric performances, operas, ballet performances, theatrical plays and more to truly experience the local life along with other international plays on display. A vast complex comprising of several artistic spaces like a chamber theater, the main theater and the Museum of the Old Fort of San José that houses a small military museum. The National School of Art and the National Cultural Radio also operate in the complex.

Address : 24 Calle 3-81, 01001 Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6268782, -90.5169219

Contact : +502 2208 7777

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Municipalidad de Guatemala Subway Station

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.15. Parroquia Rectoral San Sebastián

One of the most beautiful images of Guatemalan symbolism amidst the sculptures of painfulness is the Rectoral Church of San Sebastian. With the serene face, it shows a sense of deep agony, and his frown gives a dramatic appearance, whereas his beautiful blue eyes make it a singular image. Learn more about the history of this singular image and keep abreast of all activities carried out in the parish at this church.

Address : 6A Avenida, Guatemala 01001, Guatemal



Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6461513, -90.51260309999998

Contact : +502 2232 7023

Nearest Public Transport : Estación San Sebastián Subway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.16. Mezquita Aldawa Islamica de Guatemala

The Aldawa Mosque is a non-profit organization that brings together Muslims, Guatemalans, Arabs and other visitors. The purpose of this organization is the practice and teaching of the Islamic way of life. It is based on the holy book of Islam, The Qur'an, and Sunnah of Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah (God).

Address : 4A Calle, 01001 Guatemala

Zipcode : 01001

Location : 14.6104898, -90.51694220000002

Website : <http://mezquitaguatemala.es.tl/Mezquita-Aldawa.htm>

Nearest Public Transport : Estación 626Subway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.17. Centro Comercial Los Próceres

Find yourself at Centro Comercial Los Próceres and be surrounded by fashion boutiques, electronic goods and other first-world paraphernalia.

Address : Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.5947675, -90.5154877

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.18. Mercado De Artesanías

Located in the vicinity of a few museums and a zoo, the Mercado De Artesanías is known for its excellent collection of fabrics, fashionable attires and various other souvenirs crafted by artisans.

Address : Guatemala City, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01013

Location : 14.596805, -90.52652080000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.19. Plaza El Amate

Plaza El Amate features a collection of everyday items, clothes, CDs and DVDs along with some handicrafts and food stalls.

Address : 19 Calle, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01004

Location : 14.6305571, -90.51685629999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.20. Plaza Fontabella

If you're looking for a place to keep you occupied during the evening, visit the Plaza Fontabella where you will not only find a wide range of clothing stores and restaurants but also a couple of other options to entertain yourself.

Address : 01010, 4A Avenida 12-59, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.5997509, -90.51204949999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.21. SOPHOS

SOPHOS is a relaxed place to read while in the Zona Viva with a good selection of books in English on Guatemala and the Mayan civilization.

Address : 10. centro comercial Fontabella. 01010, 4A Avenida 12-59, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.600183, -90.512067

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.22. Oakland Mall

One of the fanciest malls of Guatemala, Oakland Mall is the place to go when you can't figure out an afternoon plan. Be it the upscale stores, movie theatres, restaurants or a carousel, the mall excels in all.

Address : Diagonal 6, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.5982324, -90.50766269999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

### 7.2.23. Arkadia Shopping

One of the modernized malls of the city, Arkadia is known for its great location along with a wide range of restaurants, national and international shops and a cinema hall.

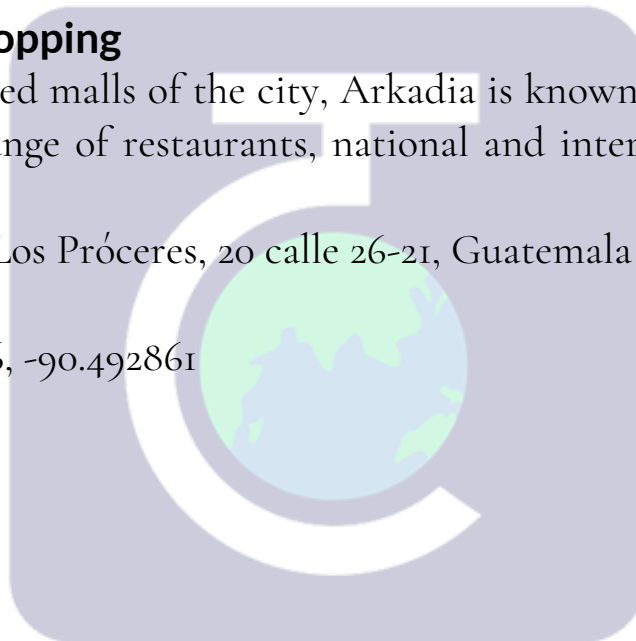
Address : Boulevard Los Próceres, 20 calle 26-21, Guatemala 01010, Guatemala

Zipcode : 01010

Location : 14.5804886, -90.492861

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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## 8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Guatemala City is known for its several sports grounds and is home to many sports clubs. Association football is the most popular sport, with CSD Municipal, Aurora FC and Comunicaciones being the main clubs. The city is home to many stadiums like Estadio Cementos Progreso, Estadio El Trébol, Estadio del Ejército and Estadio Mateo Flores being the largest stadium in the country. Some of the other popular sports includes baseball, kickboxing and basketball.

- **Estadio Nacional Doroteo Guamuch Flores:**

Address : 10A Avenida, Guatemala 01005, Guatemala

Location : 14.6258001,-90.51013019999999

Contact No : +502 2412 7500

Website : <http://cdag.com.gt/>

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## 9. Spas and relaxation

Following are some of the best recommended Spas in the city to rejuvenate your body and mind and pamper yourself with various recreational activities –

- **Relaxare - Urban Spa:**

Address : -98 Edificio La Gran Via, Avenida Petapa 28, Guatemala 01012, Guatemala

Location : 14.592216,-90.544936

Contact No : +502 2477 0167

Website : <http://www.relaxareurbanspa.com/>

- **SPA InterContinental:**

Address : 14 Calle 2-51, Guatemala City 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.5981269,-90.514389

Contact No : +502 24134444

Website: [https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/guatemala-city/guaha/hoteldetail?cm\\_mmc=GoogleMaps\\_-IC\\_-GTM\\_-GUAHA](https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/gb/en/guatemala-city/guaha/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-IC_-GTM_-GUAHA)

- **San Gregorio Hotel & Spa:**

Address : KM 30 Carretera a Santa Elena Barillas,Lote #53, Ruta a Santa Elena Barillas 01110, Guatemala

Location : 14.4441182,-90.50038619999998

Contact No : +502 6670 3535

Website : <http://www.sangregoriospa.com/spa>

- **Barceló Guatemala City:**

Address : 7A Avenida 15-45, Guatemala 01009, Guatemala

Location : 14.5972398,-90.51852930000001

Contact No : +502 2378 4000

Website : [https://www.barcelo.com/barcelohotels/en\\_us/hotels/guatemala/guatemala-city/hotel-barcelo-guatemala-city/general-description.aspx](https://www.barcelo.com/barcelohotels/en_us/hotels/guatemala/guatemala-city/hotel-barcelo-guatemala-city/general-description.aspx)

- **Hotel Vista Real Guatemala:**

Address : Km. 9 Carretera a El Salvador, Guatemala City 01015, Guatemala

Location : 14.5721708,-90.48492870000001

Contact No : +502 2427 0000

Website : <http://www.vistareal.com/default-en.html>



## 10. Events calendar

### Month

### Events

#### New Years Day

Guatemalans celebrate this national holiday the same way as they celebrate all of their holidays, with lively music, colourful costumes, plenty of local hooch (usually cane alcohol) and fireworks.

#### Mayan New Year

The Mayan calendar only consisted of 260 days so the date of New Years varies. During the gathering, you will celebrate Mayan life and renewal at many of the sacred sites around Guatemala. Dates unconfirmed (Because the Mayan calendar has 260 days, the date of their new year changes every year.)

#### Holy Week

Easter week is one of the most important in the Catholic calendar. Although processions take place in every town, the most colourful can be found in the capital as well as in Antigua Guatemala. The celebrations are

**a mix of Mayan and Christian traditions and include processions through the streets on rugs made of dyed sawdust especially for the occasion.**  
**Labour Day**

**Celebrated on May 1, Labour Day is a very big deal in the country. A national holiday, hence don't be surprised to see the streets and attractions crowded. The largest celebration is in Guatemala City, but there are many parties and parades all around the country.**  
**Assumption Day**

**Observed on August 15th, Assumption day in Guatemala is a public holiday and a time for family gatherings and sumptuous feasts. In some of the main cities, you'll see street parades and be invited to many parties.**  
**Independence Day**

**Guatemala's independence day is celebrated on September 15. This holiday is celebrated like others in Guatemala — with dancing, music, parades, food, and fireworks.**



## **Revolution Day**

**A public holiday in the Guatemalan calendar. It commemorates the democratic revolution of 1944 when unhappy university and military leaders overthrew the military dictator Jorge Ubico y Castaneda.**

**Observed on October 20th, one place to celebrate this event is Guatemala City where thousands take to the streets near Plaza Mayor. You'll find lots of music, dance, fireworks, and noise.**

## **Colombus Day**

**Observed on October 12, this holiday commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World**

**Día de los Todos Santos (All Saints' Day) and Día de los Muertos (All Souls' Day)**

**All Saints Day (Día de Todos los Santos) is celebrated on November 1st throughout Guatemala. The town of Todos Santos Cuchumatán has one of the best festivals, during which local men hold a wild (and drunken) horse race.**

## **Día de Los Muertos**

**The Day of the Dead (Día de Los Muertos) also takes place immediately after All Saints Day and is celebrated across Guatemala. On this day, families head to the local cemetery to mark the gravestones of departed relatives with candles and flowers. Observed on November 2nd.**

### **Burning of the Devil**

**Observed on December 7, all over the country Guatemalans take everything burnable, such as waste paper, old household items, etc., outside of their houses and set it afire to cleanse their households for the holy weeks to come.**

### **Christmas**

**Christmas is celebrated with very high spirits, the city is decorated with beautiful lights which attract the tourist to the city especially during the time of Christmas.**

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### 11. Key local guides and tours

Following are some of the guides who'll make your trip interesting and more educating. Be it classic tours or tailor made tours, if you want an awesome trip do book the following guides – Héctor Augusto Pineda Cifuentes: With an experience of 29 years, this 49 year old man will show you the city like no other. Fluent in the Spanish and English language along with basic knowledge of Italian, Hector is a specialist in Maya Archaeology, Colonial Cities, Local Markets and much more. From classic tours, Sightseeing tours to customised ones, there's everything at his doorstep. Pablo chumil: The 29 year old, with 9 years of guide experience is a professional when it comes to adventure tours, cultural tours and Archaeology. Fluent in the English and Spanish Language along with Mayan languages, Pablo is very helpful and also offers Religious tours, Ecotours, VIP tours and much more. The different tours are – Semuc Champey, Copán, Quiriguá & Río Dulce 4-day Tour: Take this 4 day tour and travel to the top natural and cultural attractions in the south-eastern portion of Guatemala where you'll visit Semuc Champey, the Lanquín Caves, Cobán, Copán, Quiriguá, Livingston, and the San Felipe Castle. Guatemala City Tour: Travel to this big and fascinating city and take this tour that'll take you to some of the most interesting attractions that includes various plazas, museums and markets etc. Short and Simple Guatemala: This multi day tour will wake the explorer within you for it takes you to explore the towns of Antigua, Chichicastenango, Sololá, and Santiago Atitlán. The tour lasts four days and four nights. The Mayan Express: The weeklong tour takes travelers to a variety of places in the country. During this tour you'll see the Mayan ruins of Tikal, the colonial buildings in Antigua, and the colorful market in Chichicastenango. Antigua City Tour from Guatemala City: Do not miss this one. Take a historic tour to one of the oldest cities in the Americas and visit the top attractions that include museums, churches and coffee plantation that's still in operation. Learn more about the country's former capital and immerse yourself into the chapters of history. Guatemala Weekend Highlands: This 2 day and 2 night tour takes tourists to give a short glimpse of the Guatemalan highlands. Guatemala Markets: For all the shopaholics out there, this tour is made for you. During this 6 day, 5-night tour

you will discover some of the best markets and cultural sites in Guatemala. In the process you'll explore Antigua, Panajachel, Santiago Atitlán, Quetzaltenango, Todos Santos Cuchumatanes, Huehuetenango, and Chichicastenango. Tikal Day Trip by Air from Guatemala City with Lunch: Come and explore the ancient ruins of Tikal and educate yourself about the Mayan culture and traditions on this Tikal day trip. The trip also includes visiting the UNESCO World Heritage-listed archaeological park. Wander around the jungle and hear about the stories of the ruins in this one day tour. Pacaya Volcano Day Trip from Guatemala City: Visit Volcano Pacaya and experience the beauty of the country's most active volcano. Gaze at the stunning views of Guatemala countryside. Don't forget the camera.



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### 12. Transportation hubs

**Airport:** La Aurora International Airport: The airport serving Guatemala City is La Aurora International Airport and finds itself 29kms away from the city. There are daily arrivals from the USA, México, El Salvador, Honduras (San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa), Costa Rica (San José), Nicaragua (Managua), Panamá.

**Bus Terminal:** The city is home to a few important Bus Terminals - Centra Norte (9kms), Transmetro (4kms), Maya de Oro Starbus (6.4kms) Transportes Fuente del Norte (1km) and Litegua Bus Station (600 meters).

**Train:** Fegua: The main train station is Fegua and finds itself 1.2kms away from the city.

**Transmetro:** Transmetro Estación Tipografía: The main transmetro/subway station in the city finding itself 1.5kms away from the city.

**Chicken Bus Terminal:** Centra Norte: One of the main bus terminals of Chicken Buses in Centra Norte and it finds itself 9kms away from the city.

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### 13. Transportation cost

The common way to get around in Guatemala City is by bus or taxi. Hardly anyone walks here. There are different types of buses that commute around the city. Find which one you want to go in and hop. Following are the costs incurred – Transmetro: These are green Volvo buses running on dedicated lanes separated from other traffic, on a fixed route basis, and only stop at a limited number of stations where passengers pay the fare while waiting. The cost of one ride is Q10. Trans urbano: These are the blue & white buses similar to the 'Transmetro' only they don't have dedicated lanes, have more stops, and use the same lanes as other traffic. However access is controlled by a prepaid SIGA card which can only be obtained at specific customer service centers upon showing passports (for foreigners) or cédulas (national ID card for all others). The card costs around Q30. Red city buses: Local buses running all over the city and will stop anywhere on request. However is very crime-friendly. One ride costs around Q1 (Q1.25 on Sundays). Taxis: There are two kinds of taxis: the ones with a meter and the ones on which you have to agree on a price before the trip. The minimum price for a metered cab ride is 25Q. Chicken Buses: They are used to carry everybody and everything including live chickens going to market and were once American school buses. It costs around Q10 per hour if you are a tourist. Tuk Tuk: One of Guatemala forms of transportation is called a tuk tuk or in Asian countries a rickshaw. Guatemala is loaded with these little three wheel vehicles running around taking people from place to place. One ride costs around Q10.

**Index****14. Baggage allowance**

One can certainly carry heavy amount of baggage if travelling by car, trains or public bus in the city, however when it comes to commuting through public transportation within the city, make sure not to carry heavy amount of luggage especially in chicken buses, Tuks Tuks, Transmetros, Trans Urbano and red buses since it can cause inconvenience to self and those around you. If you have chosen to walk or cycle around the city, make sure to carry only a backpack or a money belt while if travelling by taxis, train feel free to carry large suitcases and bags.



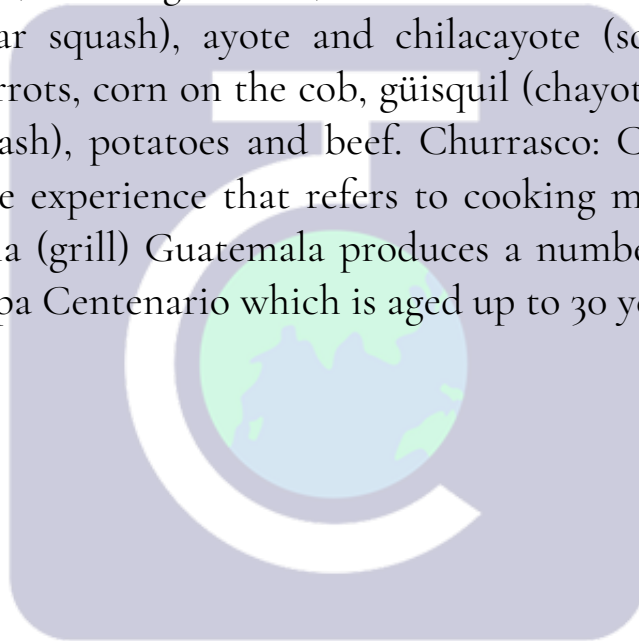
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### 15. Must try food and local savouries

Guatemala food and drink is primarily influenced by the country's Mayan and Spanish cultures. However, it also received influences from African and Caribbean cultures. Guatemalan food is largely based on corn, which has been a staple crop here for centuries. The corn is ground and then used to make the tortillas that most Guatemalans consume daily. The country does not have a standout national dish, but several foods feature in everyday diets. Black beans (frijoles), another Mayan staple, are eaten at almost every meal. They are usually refried (volteados), mashed, or simply eaten whole (parados). Rice, eggs, and cheese are also widely consumed. Some of the traditional dishes while visiting this country includes – Chiles rellenos: Chile peppers stuffed with rice, cheese, meat and vegetables. They are served with tortilla and tomato sauce. Guacamole: This is basically mashed avocados, mixed with lemon or lime juice and diced veggies like onion, tomato and garlic. Serves with chips, or as a topping to other Guatemalan food. Gauchitos: Gauchitos are good cart foods. They are basically a pattie with scrambled egg, "chimichurri" and some dressings on a bun. Jocón: The dish comprises of goosebumps Castile or Spanish , or Creole chicken- country with traditional sauces Frijoles negros: The strained black beans are very popular and commonly going to find wherever you go when you visit Guatemala. Consistency is similar to a thick soup. In Guatemala black beans are a meal no matter our economic status. Shucos: They are comparable to a super charged hot dog with guacamole, meats such as "longaniza", "chorizo", bacon etc Pepián : Pepián is one of the oldest dishes in Guatemalan food heritage, borne out of the fusion of the Spanish and Mayan cultures. It is also quite possibly the most famous Guatemalan stew, a recados as we say in Guatemala, or what I call a Mayan curry. Ceviche de Criadillas: Bull's testicles in ceviche are still common in most cevicherias in Guatemala City and in the Pacific coast. The bull's testicles are cut into small pieces and marinated and cooked in lime juice and then are mixed with tomato, onions, Worcestershire sauce and hot sauce Kak'ik: A traditional Mayan turkey soup, with spices like coriander, achiote, and chile peppers. A must-try. Tamales: Tamales are a traditional Guatemalan dish made from corn meal, turkey, pork, tomato sauce and olives, which are boiled and



wrapped up in a banana leaf. Paches are a potato-based alternative to tamales. Elotes: Roast ears of corn with cheese, lime, chili and butter or mayonnaise. Atole de Elote: A popular warm corn drink. This sweet concoction must be drunk while warm; when cold, it becomes much too dense. Quichom: This specialty has a spicy sauce made from tomatoes, garlic, 'chapa' pepper, seeds of the ayote, Coban chile peppers, achote and white bread crumbs. It is served with pork or home-grown hen rice and includes vegetables such as a salad. Caldo de res: Beef and vegetable soup is possibly the most popular soup in the region surrounding Guatemala City. Also known as cocido, meaning cooked, it comes with carrots, corn on the cob, güisquil (chayote/pear squash), ayote and chilacayote (squash), potatoes and beef. Churrasco: Churrasco is a special Guatemalan barbecue experience that refers to cooking meats and other foods outdoors on a parrilla (grill). Guatemala produces a number of rums, including the superb Ron Zacapa Centenario which is aged up to 30 years.



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### 16. Restaurant & Nightlife

The socializing hub of the country is known for its food scene throughout, for it offers desiring options ranging all the way from traditional Guatemalan cuisine to the exquisite flavors of Italy, Sophistication of France and spices of Asia. The culinary scene in Guatemala is as strong as it can get for the plates are nothing but delicious. 21 zones, endless restaurants, numerous cuisines, excellent plates - The large metropolitan city also has one of the best nightlife in the country. The late night offerings are everything from night clubs, bars, movie theatres to performing arts. Get ready to buck up those moves and feed that hungry stomach in the places listed below – Areas to look out for Zone 10 and Zone 1.

#### Food -

The socializing hub of the country is known for its food scene throughout, for it offers desiring options ranging all the way from traditional Guatemalan cuisine to the exquisite flavors of Italy, Sophistication of France and spices of Asia. The culinary scene in Guatemala is as strong as it can get for the plates are nothing but delicious. 21 zones, endless restaurants, numerous cuisines, excellent plates - The large metropolitan city also has one of the best nightlife in the country. The late night offerings are everything from night clubs, bars, movie theatres to performing arts. Get ready to buck up those moves and feed that hungry stomach in the places listed below – Areas to look out for Zone 10 and Zone 1.

- **Rincón del Steak:**

Address : Avenida 5ta, Guatemala City 01009, Guatemala

Location : 14.6034248,-90.52167359999999

Contact No : +502 2331 0749

Website : <http://www.rincondelsteak.com/>

Open / Close Time : Open 24Hours

- **Tamarindos:**

Address : Calle 2-19 11, Guatemala City 01011, Guatemala

Location : 14.6021478,-90.5137181

Contact No : +502 2360 2815

Website : <http://www.tamarindos.com.gt/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs & 19:00hrs-22:00hrs, Saturday 10:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Jean Francois:**

Address : Diagonal 6 13-63 Zona 10 | Centro Comercial El Porton, Guatemala City 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.5971015,-90.50713159999998

Contact No : +502 2333 4785

Website : <http://www.jeanfrancois-restaurant.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs & 19:00hrs-22:00hrs, Saturday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs

- **Kacao:**

Address : 1era Avenida 13-51 | Zona 10, Guatemala City 13-44 Z10, Guatemala 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.5991628,-90.51546159999998

Contact No : +502 2237 4188

Website : <http://www.kacao.com.gt/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:29hrs-23:00hrs

- **DEL GRIEGO:**

Address : 1 Avenida 12-16, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Guatemala 01010,

Guatemala

Location : 14.600482,-90.51550499999996

Contact No : +502 5519 0000

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/degriego>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 11:45hrs-22:00hrs Sunday 12:00hrs-17:00hrs

- **Café de Imeri:**

Address : 3A Calle, Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Location : 14.64269,-90.516122

Contact No : +502 2232 3722

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 07:00hrs-19:00hrs

- **Arbol de la Vida:**

Address : 17 calle A 19-60 zona 10, Guatemala 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.588661,-90.49891200000002

Contact No : +502 2368 2124

Website : <http://restaurantearboldelavida.com/main.asp?clc=268>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Tuesday 07:30hrs-18:00hrs, Wednesday-Friday 07:30hrs-20:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 07:30hrs-16:00hrs

- **La Cocina de la Señora Pu:**

Address : A, Diagonal 6 16-01, Guatemala 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.6387118,-90.5137315

Contact No : +502 5055 6480

Website : <http://www.senorapu.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-15:00hrs & 18:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Donde Joselito Steakhouse:**

Address : 4A Avenida 10-06, Guatemala 01009, Guatemala

Location : 14.6044274,-90.52252959999998

Contact No : +502 2334 2343

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Donde-Joselito/1222970937718274>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-22:00hrs

- **Jake's:**

Address : 17 Calle 10-40, Zona 10, Guatemala City 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.5923172,-90.50847240000002

Contact No : +502 2368 0351

Website : <http://www.restaurantejakes.com/>

Open / Close Time : Breakfast: Sunday 09:30hrs-12:00hrs; Lunch: Daily 12:00hrs-15:30hrs; Dinner: Monday-Saturday 19:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **Saúl L'Osteria:**

Address : 4 avenida, 10-41, zona 10, Guatemala 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.602936,-90.51183700000001

Contact No : +502 2278 9914

Website :

<http://www.saulemendez.com/site/es/gastronomia/losteria.html>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Friday 12:00hrs-23:00hrs, Saturday 09:00hrs-23:00hrs and Sunday 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

- **Altuna:**

Address : Avenida 5,Zona 1, 10 Calle Zona 10, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Location : 14.6038795,-90.51507179999999

Contact No : +502 2201 2323

Website : <http://restaurantealtuna.com/>

- **Ambia:**

Address : 10a Av. 5-49, Zona 14, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Location : 14.5856101,-90.5125165

Contact No : +502 2366 6890

Website : <http://fdg.com.gt/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 12:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **El Gran Hotel:**

Address : 9A Calle 01001, Guatemala

Location : 14.6400399,-90.51203909999998

Contact No : +502 2232 9478

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Sunday 18:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Black & White Lounge Bar:**

Address : 54, 11 Calle, Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Location : 14.6386213,-90.51778969999998

Contact No : +502 5904 1758

Open / Close Time : Thursday-Saturday 19:00hrs-02:00hrs

- **Shakespeare's Pub:**

Address : 13 Street 1-51 | Zona 10, Guatemala City 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.5970354,-90.50452059999998

Contact No : +502 2331 2641

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 11:00hrs-01:00hrs, Saturday-Sunday 14:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **SOMA Centro Cultural:**

Address : Calle 4-27 11, Guatemala City 01001, Guatemala

Location : 14.6385694,-90.51579370000002

Contact No : +502 2253 0406

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/SomaBarGt>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Saturday 17:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Cheers:**

Address : 13 Calle 0-40, Zona 10, Guatemala City, Departamento de Guatemala, 01010, Guatemala

Location : 14.59962,-90.51612849999998

Contact No : +502 2441 5791

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/cheersbar.guatemala>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 12:00hrs-01:00hrs, Sunday 11:00hrs-01:00hrs

**Index****17. Average meal cost**

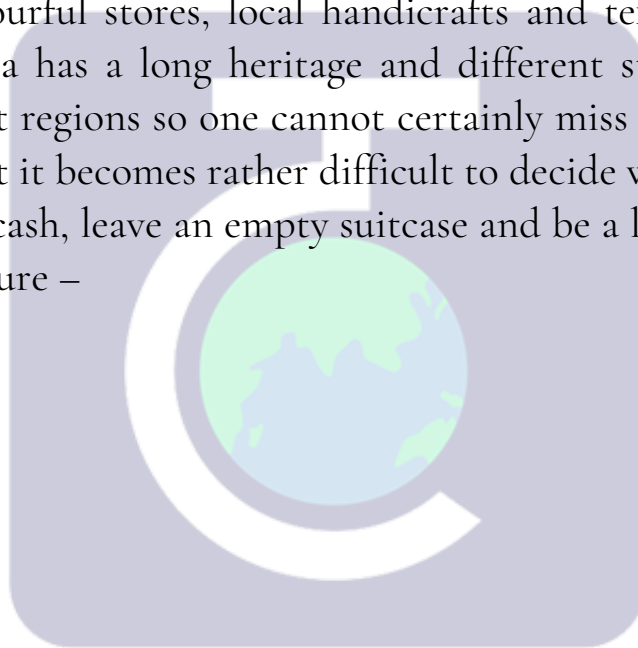
Economical Meal: GTQ 25-20 Mid – Segment Restaurant: GTQ 140-200 Luxury Dining: Above GTQ 300 Average cost of beer: GTQ 5 Average cost of water: GTQ 12





## 18. Shopping

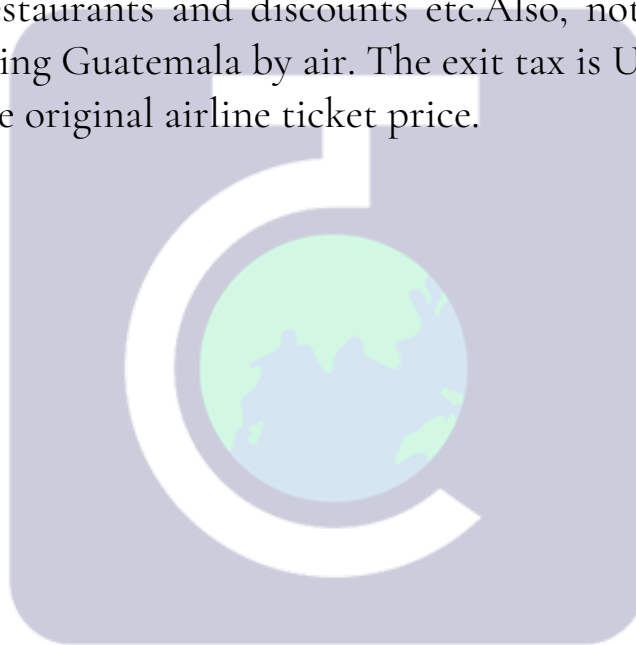
If you are looking to hunt down some local crafts and products, Guatemala City offers best shopping in all of Central America. Markets are best for local products and are as much a sightseeing experience as a shopping one. There's everything for everyone, Guate surly knows how to cater to all the masses with its endless boutiques, high-end shopping malls and traditional fancy shops. You will be attracted to the colourful stores, local handicrafts and textiles in a go. Craft-making in Guatemala has a long heritage and different styles and designs are produced in different regions so one cannot certainly miss those. The city offers so many so much that it becomes rather difficult to decide what to buy. Well, get ready to stock some cash, leave an empty suitcase and be a little indecisive in the following stores for sure –



## Index

### 19. Tourist benefits

The VAT charged in the country ranged between 12-15% which is decent compared to the other countries of the Americas. One will bump into a lot of duty free shops in Guatemala City, however the airport stands as the best option to buy anything and everything from Liquor, Jewellery, Clothing to Footwear, Electronics etc. One can also buy a tourist card from the airport and enjoy the major attractions, restaurants and discounts etc. Also, note that an exit tax is assessed when departing Guatemala by air. The exit tax is US\$30 and may or may not be included in the original airline ticket price.



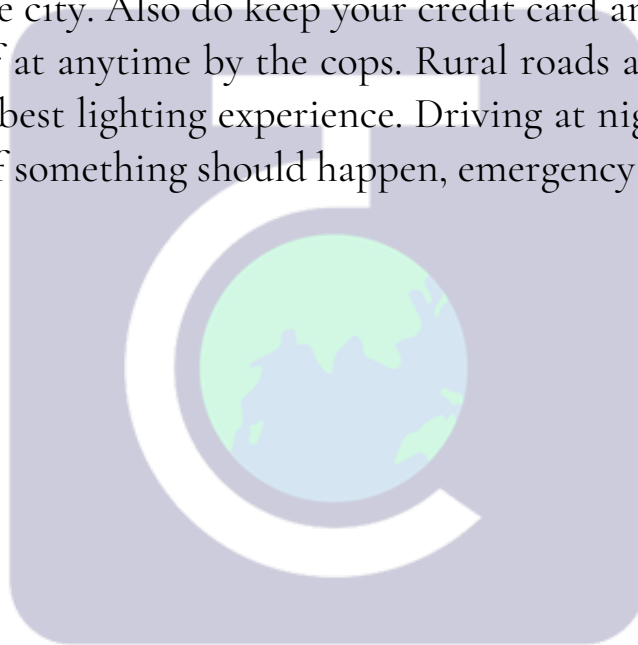
## 20. Essential local apps

Following are some of the applications that one should certainly download before travelling to the city – Radio Guatemala: This simple application allows you to listen to the channels of the country. Tune in and get ready to groove in. Guatemala News-Guatemalan: If you need to be always aware of what's happening in Guatemala City and other major cities in the country, looking for specific events in other states and Municipalities, you know where to come now. Download this application and sort your news out. Guatemergency: This App gives citizens of Guatemala City the option to communicate with emergency services by making a telephone call with the push of a button, making the process quick and simple. Save time, save your life. TransMetro Guatemala: Download this application and plan your trip to the BRT System Guatemala City which is administered by the municipality. Features include - Locating stations of the Transmetro system, Hours of service, Guide on how to get from one station to another. Rumbo Facil Guatemala: The application is dedicated to the Bus Rapid Transit System of the City of Guatemala, called Transmetro and allows you to read easily and quickly the route to follow to get from one station to another.

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### 21. Driving

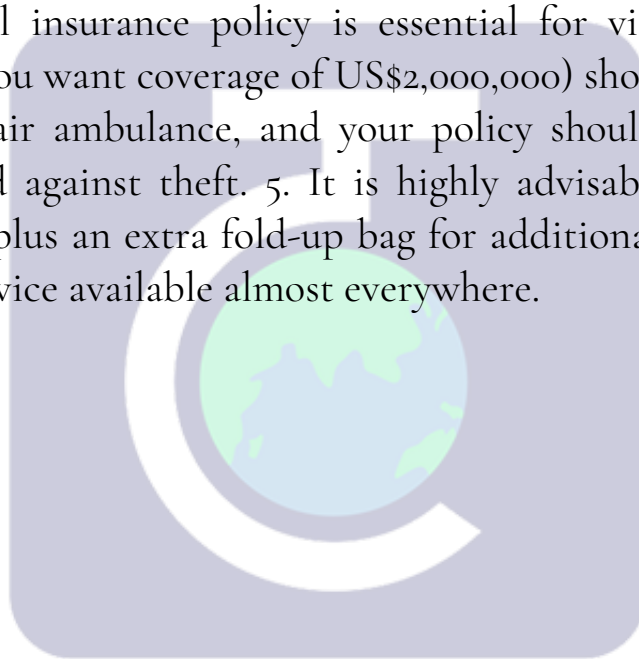
Driving in Guatemala is different despite the fact that cars drive on the right. Lack of signage coupled with unregulated driving styles make entering and exiting an unpleasant experience. Guatemala City in particular is bustling with heavy traffic, and suffers from a noticeable lack of signs, and bumpy roads even at the main centers. One needs their Driver's license, International Driving Permit to drive around in the city. Also do keep your credit card and passport handy for you can be pulled off at anytime by the cops. Rural roads are poorly maintained and do not offer the best lighting experience. Driving at night outside the city is cautioned against – if something should happen, emergency roadside assistance is limited.



**Index****22. Travel essentials**

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country –

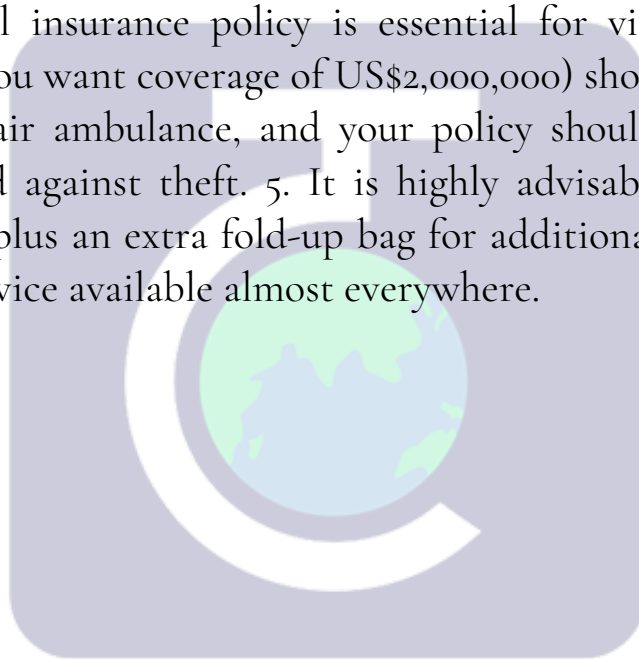
1. Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in the country is 110-120V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Power sockets: type A / B in Guatemala.
2. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs are not allowed.
3. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.
4. A comprehensive travel insurance policy is essential for visitors to Guatemala. Medical insurance (you want coverage of US\$2,000,000) should include provision for repatriation by air ambulance, and your policy should also cover you for illness or injury, and against theft.
5. It is highly advisable to bring only one suitcase per person, plus an extra fold-up bag for additional purchases. There is same day laundry service available almost everywhere.



**Index****23. Essential clothes**

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country –

1. Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in the country is 110-120V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Power sockets: type A / B in Guatemala.
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**Index****24. Local currency**

The currency of Guatemala is Guatemalan Quetzal. 1 USD =7.49249GTQ



## 25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

ATMs—known locally as cajeros automáticos. Cards on the Cirrus and Plus networks can be used in ATMs bearing these signs: "Credomatic", "Bancared", "Bi", and "5B". Major banks in Guatemala include BAM, BanRural, and Bantrab. The city is home to many ATMs. Most of the cards are accepted in the ATMs. Banks are likely to charge you with a foreign transaction fee in an ATM, hence make sure to confirm with your bank about the fee charges prior to your transaction. One can only take out a limited amount, so it is recommended to take out the maximum amount in one go. U.S. dollars are widely accepted in Guatemalan shops and restaurants that cater to tourists, though the conversion rate will not be quite as good as at banks. Street-side money changers abound, but you'll be safer from scams if you change your money at a bank. U.S. dollars can be changed at any bank and are accepted as payment at many businesses catering to tourists—large bills may prove difficult to change; leave all other currencies at home. One can exchange the currency at the airport or at many shops that are located in the city at a decent rate. The exchange commission charged might be around 6-9% hence make sure to confirm the price prior to buying the currency. One very convenient aspect of traveling in Guatemala is that credit cards are widely accepted. Many restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and tour operators accept credit cards so be sure to ask. American Express and Visa are accepted, whilst Diners Club and MasterCard have a more limited acceptance. Be sure to authorize your credit card for international use so that your bank doesn't flag your account for fraud when you use it. Also ask your bank about its fees for foreign transactions so that you don't have any surprises when you get back home. These charges typically range from 1-3% of the total transaction amount. Note: Do not expect to easily exchange travellers cheque in the country. You might find a few places that accept these will accept checks that are issued by American Express however other types are turned down generally. Even major Banks in the city do not accept VISA travellers cheques, hence avoiding them is recommended.



## 26. Staying connected

Major networks that dominate Guatemala are TIGO Guatemala, Claro & Movistar. All of these companies sell prepaid GSM chips that can be used in any unlocked tri-band GSM cell phone. However make sure to unlock your phone prior to your travel in order to use any SIM card in the country. If your stay is for a longer period of time, it is recommended that you buy a local SIM to stay connected. One can purchase a SIM card at the airport upon arrival. Buying a SIM card in the country is affordable and one is surly to get good network at almost all the areas. Most of the phone companies in Guatemala have stands all over the country. If you are flying, you will find booths at almost all the airports. It is very common to see local vendors offering you a SIM card at the border or customs. The only requirement you need is to present your passport or picture ID in order to fill out a short form. There are many cafes and restaurants with Wi-Fi in the area. Most hotels have it in the rooms or at least in their reception area. Internet here is relatively high speed and is very regular in service.

**Index****27. Time Zone**

Guatemala observes Central Standard Time Central Standard Time (CST) is 6 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC-6h)



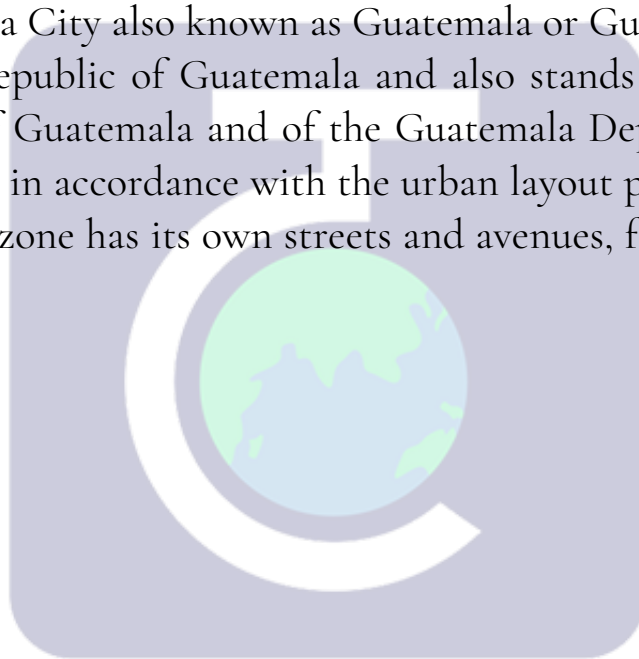
**Index****28. Languages**

Spanish is the official language in Guatemala. About 21 other languages, including Amerindian and Mayan, are spoken in the country. The Amerindian languages consist of 23 officially recognized languages including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mani, Garifuna and Xinca. Kanjobal.



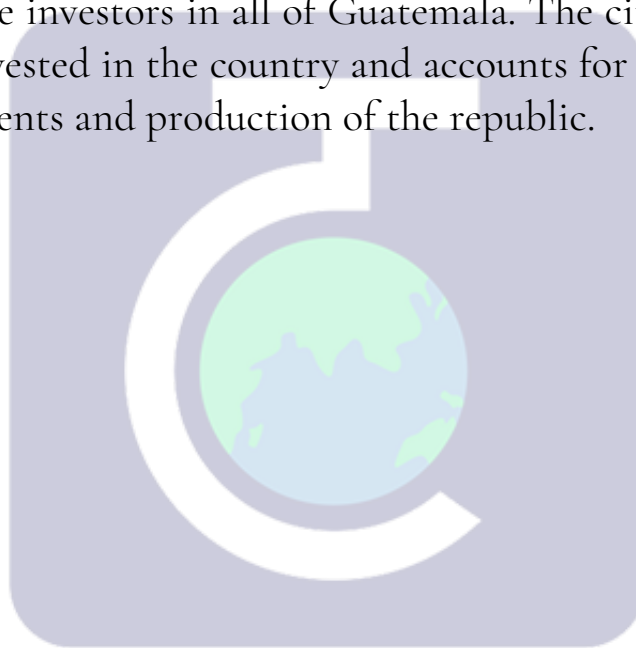
**Index****29. Political Scenario**

Politics of Guatemala takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, where by the President of Guatemala is both head of state, head of government, and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Congress of the Republic. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Guatemala City also known as Guatemala or Guate, is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Guatemala and also stands as the capital of the local Municipality of Guatemala and of the Guatemala Department. The city is divided into 22 zones in accordance with the urban layout plan designed by Raúl Aguilar Batres. Each zone has its own streets and avenues, facilitating navigation within the city.



**Index****30. Economic Scenario**

The capital city is home to Guatemala's central bank, from which Guatemala's monetary and fiscal policies are formulated and promulgated. The city also houses numerous regional private banks and by far is the richest and most powerful regional economy within the country for it is the largest market for goods and services that provides the greatest number of investment opportunities for public and private investors in all of Guatemala. The city also handles nearly half of the capital invested in the country and accounts for more than half of the industrial establishments and production of the republic.



**Index****31. Religious belief**

Catholicism remains by far the most populous and influential religious faith in Panama today. Roman Catholicism partly dominates the country with nearly 47% of the population being Catholic followed by a 40% of population who are Protestantism, Agnostic/Atheist/None at 9%. whereas other religions at 3%. Other religion includes Buddhism and Islam.



## 32. Visa requirements

Visa is not required for citizen from countries belonging to Schengen. Various countries like Unites States, United Kingdom, Australia and various other EU countries do not require a Visa to enter the country. To enter Guatemala, a passport valid for at least six months is required by all nationals. One can stay in the country for 90 days (one only extension possible for another 90 days applying at the Immigration Department, pill which has to be done before the first 90 days expires). Note: The passport must be valid for 6 months after leaving the country and upon request be able to present evidence to show that the traveller has sufficient funds to cover the costs during the stay in Guatemala. Entering without a visa does not automatically entitle the holder to enter Guatemala. A decision is made every time the traveller passes through a border control, as travellers must have proof of sufficient funds to support themselves for the duration of their stay and for their return. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application For more information follow the link below – <https://guatemala.visahq.com/>

**Index****33. Essential vaccination**

One needs to be disease-free before travelling in the country and during the visit in the country. Hence it is recommended that one should visit their General Doctor for a routine check-up. Also, when travelling to Guatemala, some basic vaccines are suggested – • Yellow Fever • Typhoid Fever • Dengue • Malaria • Rabies • Hepatitis A • Hepatitis B

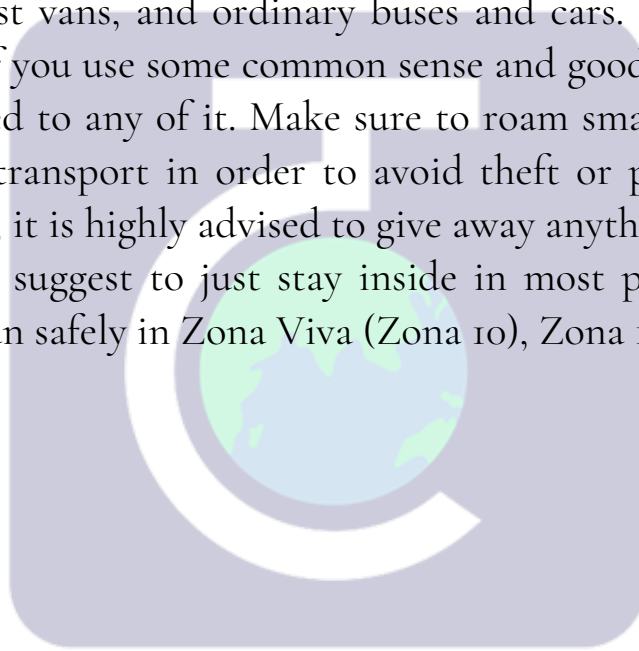




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### 34. Theft and Safety

Guatemala has one of the highest violent crime rates in Latin America. While most of the tourists visiting Guatemala are able to safely complete their tours, it is important that visitors observe basic precautions in order to avoid becoming a victim of crime. The city follows in the footsteps and has a high level of crime that includes everything from carjacking's on the road from the airport, robberies and assaults of tourist vans, and ordinary buses and cars. Even though it has a high level of crime, if you use some common sense and good travel practices, you should not be exposed to any of it. Make sure to roam smart on the streets and especially in public transport in order to avoid theft or pickpocketing. If you experience a robbery, it is highly advised to give away anything the robbers want. Though some would suggest to just stay inside in most places after sunset, at night you can have fun safely in Zona Viva (Zona 10), Zona 14, or 4 Grados Norte.



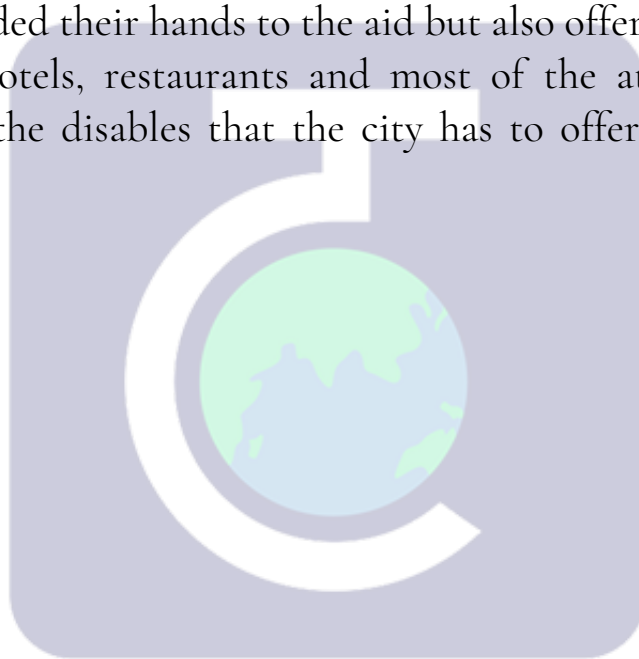
**Index****35. Embassy/Consulate**

Following is the link to be followed to spot various embassies and consulates across the country – <https://www.embassypages.com/guatemala>



## 36. Accessibility

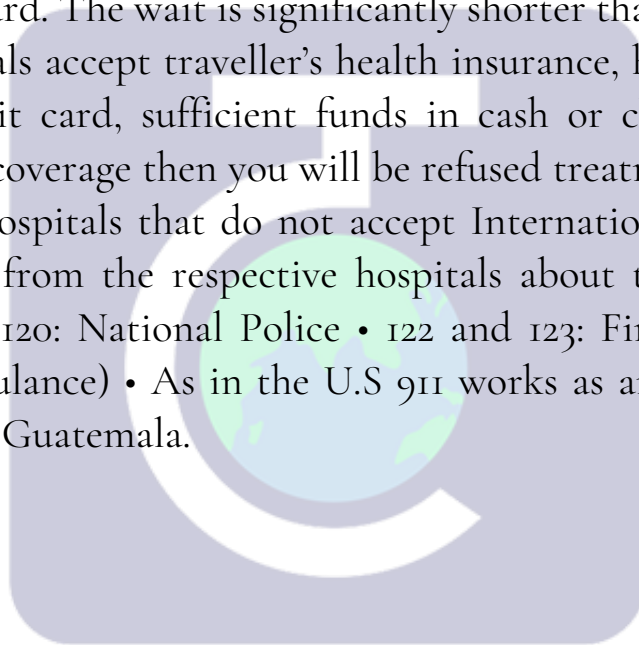
While in Guatemala, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they find in their home country. The law only mandates access to new or remodelled public buildings for persons with disabilities, which is being enforced for new construction. Guatemala city is one of the decent places for people with reduced mobility for not only all the public transport have extended their hands to the aid but also offers huge parking space, special services at hotels, restaurants and most of the attractions. There are attractive plans for the disables that the city has to offer, be it retirement or discounts.



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### 37. Emergencies

Following are some the best hospitals in case of any emergency – Hospital Herrera Llerandi Address: Guatemala City, Guatemala Phone: +502 2384 5959 Hospital Hermano Pedro Address: Guatemala City, Guatemala Phone: +502 2476 2485 Note: Guatemala, is the capital city in the country and thus has the largest hospitals, both public and private. Tourists can use the private hospitals, and pay with cash or credit card. The wait is significantly shorter than at public hospitals. All the above hospitals accept traveller's health insurance, however if you fail to present a valid credit card, sufficient funds in cash or check and a proof of traveller's insurance coverage then you will be refused treatment. There are some public and private hospitals that do not accept International health insurance, hence double check from the respective hospitals about the same. Emergency Numbers – • 110 or 120: National Police • 122 and 123: Firefighters • 128 IGSS (Social security ambulance) • As in the U.S 911 works as an emergency number from most phones in Guatemala.



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### 38. Do's and Don'ts

Do's: • Do keep your passport, return ticket, cash and documents in a safe place. • Do ask before photographing the Maya people- particularly children. Be courteous when taking pictures and aware of how many other volunteers are doing the same. • Do carry only small amounts of money that you need for the day. • Do drink only bottled water, and use for brushing teeth. • Do leave a tip if you stop to listen to a street performance on a marimba, which looks like a large xylophone. The national instrument of Guatemala can be played by as many as nine people. Tips are the musicians' livelihood. • Do watch your step while exploring Maya ruins. Staircases leading up to many of the sites often are missing a few steps. • Do be prepared for the heat, sand fleas and flies if you're headed into the jungle. Wear light-coloured clothing and go heavy on the insect repellent. • Do keep your eyes out for the resplendent quetzal, Guatemala's national bird, with its gaudy red and green plumage. You won't see it in zoos. This rare bird dies if held in captivity. • Shaking hands and saying "mucho gusto" is very proper. • Do arrange for sufficient medicines to meet your personal medical needs. Check with the embassy of the country you are visiting to ensure your medicine is legal in the countries you are travelling to. Obtain a doctor's letter stating who the medicines are for, what they are, the dosage, and leave medicines in their original packaging.

Don'ts: • Do not wear expensive jewellery of any kind. • Do not take out your money on the street. • Do not take photos of children who come asking if you want to take their photo. • Do not give money to people who approach you. We do not want to promote begging as a way of life. • Don't engage in loud and aggressive behaviour. Guatemalans tend to be polite and on the formal side. • Don't argue or offer resistance if you're stopped at a roadblock, whether military or otherwise. Vehicles that don't stop at roadblocks are often shot at. • Don't expect everyone to speak Spanish. In some valleys, Maya languages (including Quiche, Kekchi and Cakchiquel) predominate. • Don't give white flowers; they are reserved for funerals • If you are over 18 years of age, don't bring more than 500g of tobacco in any form, 5L of Alcoholic beverages and 2Kg confectioneries while travelling to Guatemala. • Goods not allowed to be exported from Guatemala include Fruits and Vegetables, Mayan Artefacts (Unless it has been

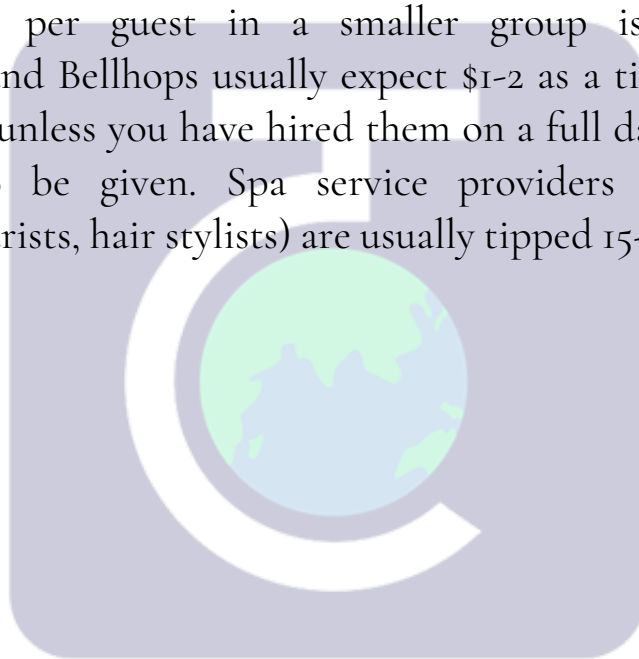
purchased from an authentic store with a certificate) and any product made out of endangered species.



## Index

### 39.Tipping basics

Tipping is never customary (except for the 10% already included in your restaurant tab) but if your instructor, guide, driver or service staff made your stay particularly enjoyable consider giving them a gratuity. As noted restaurant bills normally include service but it's normal to leave an extra 5-10% for really good service. If happy with the services of the tour guides, then \$2-5 per guest in a larger group, \$5-10 per guest in a smaller group is expected, whereas Housekeeping staff and Bellhops usually expect \$1-2 as a tip. Taxis drivers need not be given any tip unless you have hired them on a full day basis, then a tip of 10% is expected to be given. Spa service providers (massage therapists, aestheticians, manicurists, hair stylists) are usually tipped 15-20% of the cost of the spa treatment.



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### 40.Pet info

Guatemala does not quarantine healthy pets who meet the following requirements:

- Your dog or cat must be vaccinated for rabies between 30 days and 12 months of entry.
- Shortly before travel (check with your airline, can be between 10 and 30 days), a USDA or CFIA licensed veterinarian completes the Veterinary Certificate for Guatemala for endorsement by the USDA or CFIA if traveling from the United States or Canada. If you are not traveling from either of these countries, the Governing Authority of your country responsible for the import and export of animals should endorse the forms.
- A copy of the Rabies Certificate should also be included for endorsement.
- Inspection: All domestic dogs and cats must be free of evidence of disease communicable to humans when examined at the port of entry to Guatemala. If your dog or cat is not in apparent good health, further examination by a licensed veterinarian may be required at your expense.
- Pet Microchip: Although Guatemala does not require a pet microchip, we strongly recommend that you microchip your cat or dog prior to traveling.



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### Conclusion – Why to select this destination

*Ciudad de Guatemala or Gutemala is loaded with incredible natural, historical and cultural appeal and is the birth land of the ancient Maya. The largest and capital of the country is a one confounding place, you'll spend days figuring out whether the city is big, dangerous, dirty and utterly forgettable or fascinating. Guatemala City is a place where you will find skyscrapers trying to touch the sky, dilapidated red buses trying to find their way among all the Hummers and Mercedes and history trying to keep itself alive. Dividing itself into 21 zones, each with their own identity – Most of the city's historic sites are found within the Centro Histórico in Zona 1. This is the original center of Guatemala City. Zona Viva, in Zona 10, has trendy bars that typically serve the city's elite. If you want to go clubbing there are a few options, and there are several spots to see live music as well. The city is very much a synthesis of Maya and colonial traditions, fused with the omnipresent influences of 21st century Latin and North American culture. A base for Antigua - An old historical town, the bustling metropolis is choking on traffic, pollution and population but it still somehow manages to grab the attention of the tourists due to the Maya ruins and significant historical past. Guatemala is rather a surprising city for its friendly people, excellent culinary scene, wild nightlife and cultural capital. Who knows, if you stay in the city long enough, you just might start using the same affectionate name residents give to their city: "Guate."*

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