



Country Profile: Guatemala

Guatemala has a developing economy, characterized by wide income disparities. Hotels and other tourist facilities in the principal tourist sites most frequented by visitors from the United States are generally good to excellent. A peace accord, signed in 1996, ended a 36-year armed conflict. Violent crime, however, is a serious concern due to endemic poverty, an abundance of weapons, a legacy of societal violence, and dysfunctional law enforcement and judicial systems. Read [the Department of State Background Notes](#) on Guatemala for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Guatemala
Continent:	Central America
Capital City:	Guatemala
Boundary Countries:	
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Antigua: Hospital Privado Hermano Pedro, Hospital Reina de los Angeles Colonia Tecun Uman: Sanatorio Nuestra Señora del Pilar Guatemala City: Amedesgua Hospital, Hospital Angeles, Hospital Bella Aurora, Hospital Centro Medico, Hospital Herrera Llerandi, Hospital Maranatha, Hospital Santa Margarita, Sanatorio Nuestra Señora del Pilar Napoles: Hospital Privado Napoles
Main Cities:	Guatemala, Flores, Cobán, Puerto Barrios, Villa Nueva, Puerto Quetzal, Escuintla, Mixco, Mazatenango, Huehuetenango, Puerto Santo Tomas de Castilla, Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango
Country Size:	108,890 sq km
Population:	12,728,111

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40% (23 officially recognized Amerindian languages, including Quiche, Cakchiquel, Kekchi, Mam, Garifuna, and Xinca)
Currency:	Quetzal (GTQ), US dollar (USD), others allowed
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs
National Holidays:	Independence Dy, 15 September (1821)
Economic Status:	The distribution of income remains highly unequal with about 56% of the population below the poverty line. Remittances from a large expatriate community that moved to the United States during the war have become the primary source of foreign income, exceeding the total value of exports and tourism combined.
Security:	Army, NAVy, (includes MARines), Air Force

US Presence:	<u>U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City</u> Avenida Reforma 7-01, Zona 10 Guatemala Ciudad, Guatemala (502) 2326-4000
Major Airports:	Airports: 450, Airports w/paved runways: 11 Guatemala City – La Aurora International Airport (GUA/MGGT) Guatemala City Airport, Guatemala, Direccion General de Aeronautica Civil, Aeropuerto La Aurora, Zona 13, Guatemala CA 01013, GUTEMALA Tel: +502 (0)2 600311 Fax: +502 (0)2 600311

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