



The Republic of Guatemala (GMT - 6 hours)

Geographic Overview: Located in Central America between the Caribbean sea and the Pacific ocean, Guatemala borders with Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico. Guatemala is one of the most beautiful countries in the region, with striking features and a strong indigenous culture.

Area: 108,889 square km

Capital City: Guatemala city

Language(s): Spanish, but 22 different Mayan languages principally (K'iche, Kakchiquel, K'ekchi and Mam) and Garifuna are also officially recognised. Many in the business community speak English.

People: Mayan descendents (approximately 66%) There is also a small community of 'Garifuna' (of Caribbean descent). The remainder are Guatemalans of Spanish and European descent.

Religion(s): Predominantly Roman Catholic (60%). The rest are mainly Protestants (Evangelical). There are a small number of Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities.

Currency: Quetzal (GTQ), US Dollar (USD), others allowed

Major political parties: Frente Republicano Guatemalteco (FRG) and Partido de Avanzada Nacional Guatemalteca (PAN) are the two major active political parties in Guatemala. Smaller parties, e.g. Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and Alianza Nueva Nacion (ANN) represent the former guerrilla movement.

Government: Guatemala has a unicameral Congress, comprising 158 seats. Members are elected every four years and are eligible for re-election. The President is elected by universal suffrage for a single term of four years.

International Direct Dialling Codes

Guatemala 00 502; Guatemala City 00 502 2

Fixed Date National Holidays

1 January, 6 January, 1 May, 30 June, 15 August, 15 September, 12 October, 20 October, 1 November, 24-25 December, 31 December

Variable Date National Holidays

Easter Week

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British Embassy (Guatemala)

Avenida La Reforma 16-00, Zona 10, Edificio Torre Internacional, Nivel 11, Guatemala City

Tel: 00 502 367 5425
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Email: embassy@infovia.com.gt

UK Trade & Investment - Country Manager (Central America)

Tel: 020 7215 4013
Fax: 020 7828 9856

Anglo-Central American Society

Tel: 0207 242 0082
Fax: 0207 731 6249

Guatemala Newspapers

<http://www.prensalibre.com> - Prensa Libre
<http://www.lahora.com.gt/v1/main.php> - La Hora
<http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/> - El Periodico
<http://www.sigloxxi.com/> Siglo XXI

Guatemala – Other Useful Contacts

<http://www.ine.gob.gt/> - National Institute of Statistics
<http://www.banguat.gob.gt/> - Banco de Guatemala
<http://www.mineco.gob.gt/> - Ministry of Economy