

FOOTPRINTS *to* 
Happiness

Pocket Guide

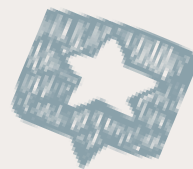
GUATEMALA





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Country Overview



- Located in central america & surrounded by 4 counries (Mexico, Belize, Honduras & El Salvador)
- The capital of Guatemala is Guatemala City
- Known for its rich flora and fauna, the ancient Mayan sites and the scenic volcanic landscape
- Guatemala has 37 volcanoes. 3 of them are permanently active. They are called Fuego, Pacaya & Sanitaguito
- Guatemala has three climate zones which are called Tierra Caliente (hot & tropical climate), Tierra Templada (moderate climate) & Tierre Friar (cold climate)
- The national bird is called "Quetzal" which is also the name of the currency
- the most visited place by tourists in Guatemala is the ancient maya city called Tikal
- Lake Atitlan is the second largest lake in Guatemala and is also one of the prettiest lakes in the whole world

General Information



**INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT:**
LA AURORA



BEST TIME TO VISIT:
NOVEMBER - APRIL



RECOMMENDED TIME:
7 - 14 DAYS



CURRENCY:
QUETZAL



SAFETY:
HIGH CRIME RATE



LANGUAGE:
SPANISH & INDIGENOUS
LANGUAGES



GREAT FOR:
BACKPACKERS, ADVENTURE
SEEKERS, HIKERS, CULTURE

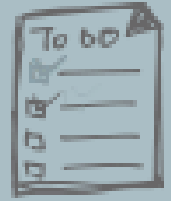


TRAVEL BUDGET:
LOW BUDGET



ACCOMMODATION:
HOSTELS, HOTELS,
CAMPING
(CAMPING ONLY ON TREKKING TOURS)

Guatemala



TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

- ☐ stroll around the streets of Antigua and try the fancy ice cream flavors at "La Tienda Dona Gavi"
- ☐ eat lunch in the restaurant on top of Cerro San Cristobal and enjoy the view over the volcanic valley - they also have a vegetable and fruit garden
- ☐ go on an overnight trekking tour on top of the volcano Acatenango to watch the spectacular eruptions of the Fuego volcano
- ☐ roast Marshmallows on a half day hike to Palcaya volcano
- ☐ watch the sunrise on the viewing platform Indian Nose at Lake Atitlan
- ☐ visit the ancient maya site Tikal and go for a sunrise mission
- ☐ swim in the crystal clear water of Semuc Champey in the middle of the jungle
- ☐ go river tubing in Semuc Champey
- ☐ embrace your inner hippie in San Marcos, a small village at Lake Atitlan
- ☐ attend a chocolate making workshop and learn about the process of making chocolate

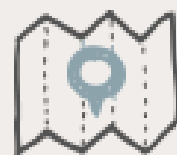
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How to get around?



Recommendation: take a bus service - if you want to visit Rio Dulce, Semuc Champey and Lake Atitlan we recommend you to book a bus service. Those tickets can be booked in almost every accommodation in the country

Alternatives:

- flights with in the country (main connections in Guatemala: Guatemala City - Flores (Tikal))

Please note: There are different type of bus services within the country. The cheapest option is taking a Chicken Bus, which are old, discarded school busses. Those are the busses the locals usually take (no seat reservation, no reliable bus schedule, very uncomfortable)



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Good to know!

- Guatemala has a really bad road system - the streets are very curvy and bumpy. Driving from A to B can take many hours and are not as comfortable as you might think
- when going out for dinner expect to tip with 10%. Sometimes it is already added to the bill
- be careful with taking pictures of locals. It is expected to ask before taking a picture
- Never drink tap water in Guatemala (we also recommend you avoiding ice cubes in our drinks)
- when traveling in the country, try to travel at daylight and never at night. The country has a high crime rate and pickpocketing is widely spread in the country. We also recommend you to take all valuables always with you. When boarding a bus make sure to put all your valuables in a small backpack for taking inside the bus. All other luggage will mostly go on top of the bus
- Traveling through Guatemala is pretty easy and transportation, activities & accommodations can be booked on site. It is not necessary to book anything in advance!



NEED MORE TRAVEL INSPIRATIONS?

www.footprints2happiness.de

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