

¡Viajando a Guatemala!

Traveling to Guatemala!



Welcome to *Viajando a Guatemala*, or, *Traveling to Guatemala*! This is a guide that will help you navigate and survive within Guatemala, and hopefully make a few friends along the way! With insight on local dialogue, you eventually will be able to navigate this colorful and culturally rich society with ease.

Guatemala is home to the Maya people, known for their friendliness and easygoing nature in all aspects of life. It will be easy to find someone who can give you detailed directions to the nearest town or recommend a good place to try some of the local fare! The language contains a significantly smaller selection of slang in comparison to many of the countries surrounding Guatemala, such as Costa Rica. Therefore, any sort of knowledge in Spanish will be extremely useful in this country, even more so than in other countries due to the straight-forward nature of the local language.

Guatemala is a country steeped in the traditions and folklore of its ancestors, the Maya people. The temples of Tikal are a great example of the preservation of this heritage. However, if you crave the more urban flavors of this country, Antigua may be the place for you! As in any country, there is a possibility of theft, which is why it is recommended you travel lightly and choose clothing with subtlety in mind. You won't want to be too dressed up anyway though, if you're stepping deeper into the jungle or scaling an active volcano! This guide will steer you through multiple scenarios in order to better prepare you for the adventure ahead of you.

¡Buen, viaje!

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Traveling Within Guatemala

Important Vocab:

Una visa- A visa

Un pasaporte- a passport

El avión- the plane

La camioneta- the bus

El taxi- the taxi

La lancha- the boat

La tarifa- the fare

El mercado- the market

La ciudad de- the city of

La calle- the street

Quetzales- monetary unit implemented in Guatemala, written as Q. The current exchange ratio is about 8 Quetzales to the dollar

Useful Phrases

¿Cuándo sale el vuelo?

When does the flight depart?

¿Cuándo llega el vuelo?

When does the flight arrive?

¿Puedo ver su pasaporte?

May I see your passport?

¿Me puede ayudar a encontrar _____?

Can you help me find _____?

¿Puedo comprar un boleto aquí?

Common Responses

El vuelo sale a las/la _____.

The flight departs at _____.

El vuelo llega a las/la _____.

The flight departs at _____.

Sí.

Yes

Sí No

Yes No

Sí No, compre un boleto allá, por favor

Can I buy a ticket here?

Yes No, buy a ticket over there please.

¡Ten Cuidado!

The red bus system of Guatemala City are often riddled with crime and are therefore inadvisable methods of transportation. In other areas though, the bus systems are actually quite safe! Taxis; hotel and tourist shuttles; private transportation; and tuk tuks are both the safest and quickest methods of transportation if you are traveling any distance within Guatemala.

If you do find yourself in a situation of distress, here are a few words to know:

Auxilio- help

Váyase- get away

Me robaron- I was robbed

Llame una ambulancia- call an ambulance

Es una emergencia- it's an emergency

Sample Conversation: Taxi

El Conductor: ¿Quiere ir a su hotel?

The driver: Would you like to go to your hotel?

La Tourista: Si, por favor.

The tourist: Yes, please.

El Conductor: Muy bien. ¿A dónde va?

The driver: Very good. Where are you going?

La Tourista: Voy al Camino Real Hotel en Antigua

The tourist: I'm going to the Camino Real Hotel in Antigua.

El Conductor: Conozco este hotel. Sígueme al carro.

The driver: I know that hotel. Follow me to the car.

La Tourista: ¡Gracias! ¿Cuánto es la tarifa?

The tourist: thank you! How much is the fare?

El Conductor: Doscientos quetzales, más o menos. Puede pagarme **al** llegar al hotel.

The driver: Q200, more or less. You can pay me once we reach the hotel.

La Tourista: Gracias.

The tourist: Thank you.

Accommodations: The Hotel

Important Vocab:

El hotel- the hotel

Una reservación- a reservation

Una habitación- a room

El conserje- the concierge

El bell boy*- the bellhop

Registrarse- check in

La salida- check out

Una llave- a key (for a room)

Un baño privado- A private bathroom

Un baño compartido- a shared bathroom

*In Guatemala, it is common to use English words pronounced in a Spanish accent!

¿Cuánto cuesta por noche/semana/persona?	Cuesta Q_____ por noche/semana/persona
How much does it cost per night/week/person?	It costs Q_____ per night/week/person
¿Se acepta tarjeta de crédito?	Sí No
Do you accept credit cards?	Yes No
¿Dónde está/está _____?	Está(n) aquí/allí/allá. No sé.
Where is/are _____?	It's here/there/over there I don't know
¿Puedo hacer una reservación?	Si, puede No, no puede
Can I make a reservation?	Yes you can No you can't
¿Puedo ver la habitación?	Si, puede No, no puede
Can I see the room?	Yes you can No you can't

Importante:

Something to be considered while you're planning your trip is the difference in seasons. In Guatemala, there are two main seasons: The dry season, which is often called summer, and the rainy season, which is often called winter. The rainy season typically extends from mid-May to October or November. There is often a short window of time as well in which there is a dry period, usually occurring in July or August. **Semana Santa**

Sample conversation: Hotel

El conserje: Bienvenido al Camino Real Hotel. ¿Tiene una reservación?

The concierge: Welcome to the Camino Real Hotel. Do you have a reservation?

La Tourista: Sí, mi nombre es Jones. Tengo una reservación por tres días.

The tourist: Yes, my name is Jones. I have a reservation for three days.

El conserje: Sí. ¿Puedo ver su identificación?

The concierge: Yes. May I see your ID?

La Tourista: Este es mi identificación.

The Tourist: Here is my ID

El conserje: Muy bien. ¿Quiere una habitación con aire?

The concierge: Very good. Do you want a room with air conditioning?

La Tourista: Sí, y con un baño privado, por favor.

The tourist: Yes, and a private bathroom please.

El conserje: Este es su llave. El desayuno se sirve de las siete a las diez de la mañana. Gracias por venir y tenga un buen día.

The concierge: Here is your key. Breakfast is served from seven to ten in the morning. Thank you for coming and have a good day.

Guatemalan Food

Important Vocab:

El desayuno- breakfast

El almuerzo- lunch

La cena- dinner

Una bebida- a drink

El restaurant- the restaurant

El plátano- the plantain/banana

Los frijoles- the beans

El arroz- the rice

El café- the coffee

El maíz- the corn

La tortilla- the tortilla

El pollo- the chicken

La carne de res- the beef

Useful Phrases

¿Qué tiene este plato?

What is in this dish?

Me gustaría _____ por favor

I would like _____ please

¿Cuál es su recomendación?

What is your recommendation?

¿Es este plato caliente o frío?

Is this dish hot or cold?

¿Cómo puedo servirle?

How may I serve you?

Common Responses

Este plato tiene _____.

This dish contains _____.

Sí. ¿Quiere algo más?

Alright. Is there anything else you'd like?

Yo recomiendo _____.

I recommend _____.

Este plato es (un poco) caliente/frío

This dish is (a little) hot/cold

¿Puede ayudarme _____?

Could you help me _____?

¿Sabía Usted?

One of Guatemala's most well-known exports is its coffee, and that coffee is considered by many to be among some of the best found in Central America. The climate and weather conditions are superb for growing coffee, so try some while you're there!

Sample Conversation: Dinner

El Mesero: ¡Buena noche! ¿Cómo puedo servirle? ¿Quiere agua pura*?

The waiter: Good evening! How can I help you? Would you like water?

La Tourista: Buena noche. Si, sin hielo, por favor**.

The tourist: Good evening. Yes, without ice please.

El Mesero: Muy bien. ¿Algo más?

The waiter: Very well. Anything else?

La Tourista: Sí. ¿Cómo viene el plato?

The tourist: Yes. What is in this plate?

El Mesero: Este plato es pepián. Tiene el pollo, los vegetales, las especias, y los panes franceses. ¿Le gustaría?

The waiter: That dish is pepian. It has chicken, vegetables, spices, and baguettes. Would you like some?

La Tourista: Si, me gustaría.

The tourist: Yes, I'd like that.

*In most Spanish speaking countries, the term “agua” is used to refer to water. In Guatemala, however, agua actually means soda. To say water, you must use the term “pura,” or pure, to convey that it is water you would like.

** While most of the water you will be served in restaurants will be filtered, however, if you aren't in upscale places in Antigua or Guatemala City the water used for ice may not be. You may want to consider this carefully and order agua pura sin hielo, or water without ice, rather than jump at the chance of a cold drink. Something to look out for is whether or not the water is in uniform cubes. If it is, it's likely purified. If it looks like it was chipped off of a block of ice, it may not be. Lettuce and cabbage are also tricky. If the menu does not state that their lettuce or cabbage was grown to exportation standards, it would be best to leave them alone.

Greetings and Leave-Takings

Useful Phrases

Buenos días/ Buenas noches

Good day/good night

Hola

Hello

¿Cómo está usted?

How are you? (formal)

Estoy feliz/bien/así-así. ¿Y usted?

I'm happy/good/so-so. And you?

¿Qué hay de nuevo?

What's new?

¿Dónde está usted?

Where are you? (formal)

¿A dónde va?

Where are you going?

¿Por qué?

Why?

Hasta pronto/luego/mañana

See you soon/later/tomorrow

Adiós

Common Responses

Buenos días/Buenas noches

Good day/good night

Hola

Hello

Estoy bien. ¿Y usted?

I'm good. And you? (also formal)

Estoy feliz/bien/así-así.

I'm happy/good/so-so.

(Mixed replies)

Nada mucho

Not much

Estoy a/en _____.

I am at/in _____.

Voy a _____.

I'm going to _____.

Porque _____.

Because _____.

Hasta pronto/luego/mañana

See you soon/later/tomorrow

Chau

Goodbye

Bye

¿Sabía Usted?

Guatemala, just like any other country, has its own slang and local terms which are important to review especially when you're aiming to fit in as best as you can.

Useful terms native to Guatemala:

fijese que- Fijar basically means listen up or pay attention. This expression is generally used before bad news is given, such as if a meeting time won't work

ex. "Fijese que tengo una cita a la una y ya no puedo venir." *Listen, I have a meeting at one so I can't come.*

Seño- Seño is a term used for a young woman, a shortened version of the word señorita. This is not to be mistaken for señor, which means Mr.

ex. ¿"Quiere algo más, seño? *Would you like anything else, Miss?*

Don/Doña- Very respectful and reserved term best used for people you don't know well who are older than you.

Canche/Canchita- Light skinned person (not derogatory)

Chapin/chapina- A Guatemalan person (not derogatory)

Confianza- A term used often, referring to trust. Guatemalans are very formal until you have "confianza," at which point they may become very informal, using vos rather than usted.

Sample Conversation: Leaving the house

El vecino: Buenos días.

The neighbor: Good day.

La Tourista: Buenos días. ¿Cómo está usted?

The tourist: Good day. How are you?

El vecino: Estoy bien, gracias. ¿Y usted?

The neighbor: I'm good, thank you. And you?

La Tourista: Estoy bien, pero hace calor.

The tourist: I'm good, but it's hot.

El vecino: Si, hace mucho calor. ¿A dónde va?

The neighbor: Yes, it's very hot. Where are you going?

La Tourista: Voy a Tikal hoy.

The tourist: I'm going to Tikal today.

El vecino: ¿Tikal? ¡Qué divertido!

The neighbor: Tikal? How fun!

La Tourista: Sí, estoy muy emocionada.

The tourist: Yes, I'm very excited.

El vecino: ¡Hasta luego!

The neighbor: See you later!

La Tourista: Hasta luego.

The tourist: See you later.

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