



Guatemalan Country Guide

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Passport and Visa Conditions Current DFAT Travel Advice

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling as tourists do not usually require a visa to enter Guatemala for a period of up to 90 days.

Passports are recommended to be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documents confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination or for return to their country of origin.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact the Embassy of Guatemala on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Guatemala without a visa. Persons travelling via the US are reminded of their need to comply with US entry and transit requirements.

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Guatemala because of serious violent crime and incidents of local unrest. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Guatemala has a high crime rate. Violent crime, often involving the use of firearms, is common throughout the country, including in tourist destinations. See [Safety and security](#). Armed robbery on passenger buses is common. Use alternative forms of transport. Avoid inter-city travel after dark - it is dangerous. See [Safety and security](#) and [Local travel](#).

If you plan to travel by bus from Guatemala to southern Mexico, including on tour buses, first read the travel advice for [Mexico](#) for information on recent attacks on buses in Chiapas state. See [Safety and security](#).

Be particularly vigilant in border regions with El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Belize due to organised crime and drug related violence. See [Safety and security](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the full advice, subscribe to updates to this information and register their presence in Guatemala at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Guatemala. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. There is a low risk of malaria in Guatemala; dengue fever and the zika virus also occur, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on a travellers itinerary. Guatemala is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/. Travellers are advised to drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes and raw/undercooked food.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Guatemala should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Guatemalan Representation in Australia and Abroad

Embassy of Guatemala, Canberra

Unit 9-11 National Circuit Engineering House
BARTON ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6189 1311



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Time Differences between Guatemala and Australia

Guatemala is Greenwich Mean Time -6 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Central Standard Time (CST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Guatemala, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in Guatemala, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Guatemala, 12 noon, June = Perth 2am; Adelaide, Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.

Guatemala, 12 noon, December = Perth 2am; Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane 4am; Adelaide 4:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Guatemala: +502

To Dial Australia Call:
00 - Default Carrier;
130 00 - Telefonica;
147 00 - Telgua;
followed by 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist: (1) 800 999 0115

MasterCard: (1) 800 999 1480

American Express Travellers Cheques:
(1) 800 288 0073

Tourist Police: 1500

Tourist Services Complaint: 2421 2800 Ext. 4146

Emergency Services:
Fire - 122 / 123
Police - 110 / 120
Red Cross - 2381 6565

The emergency services usually only have Spanish speaking staff. English speakers are encouraged to contact the Tourist Police instead.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Guatemala

Australian Embassy, Mexico

Ruben Dario 55
Col. Polanco
MEXICO CITY 11580

Tel: (+52 55) 1101 2200
Fax: (+52 55) 1101 2201

Web: www.mexico.embassy.gov.au

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in Guatemala. The Australian Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico is accredited to this country. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Guatemala are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Mexico, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Guatemala and Australia

Allowances when entering Guatemala:

Alcohol: 1.5 L or 2 bottles of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 80 cigarettes or 100g of tobacco.
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

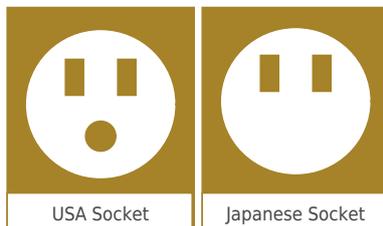
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Guatemala & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Guatemalan customs contact the Consulate of Guatemala, or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA and Japanese.

Voltage: 110-120 volts (different to Australia, travellers will need a voltage converter to use appliances designed for Australian voltage).

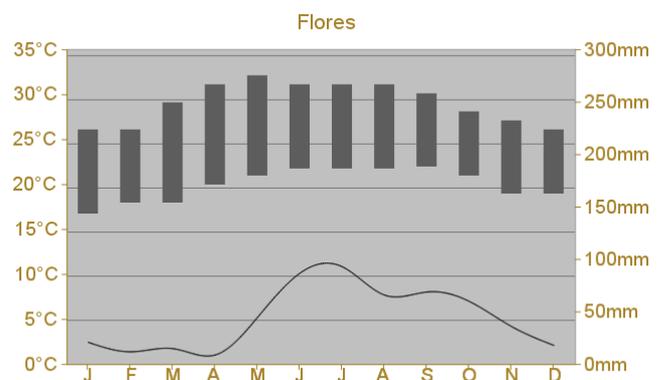
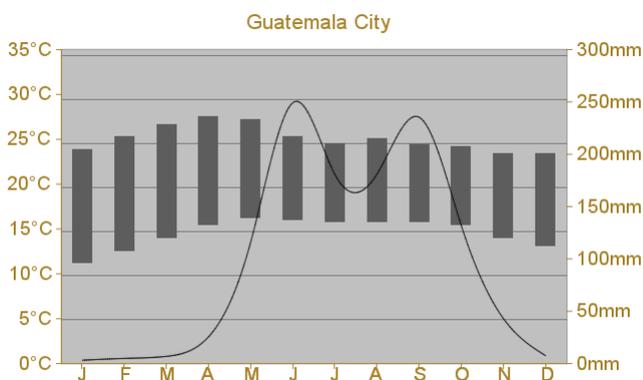
British and Australian electrical outlets may also be found in Guatemala. Travellers are urged to check the voltage of the outlet and their device before using such electrical outlets.



Guatemalan Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Years Day	15 Sep:	Independence Day
29 Mar:	Maundy Thursday	12 Oct:	Columbus Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	20 Oct:	Revolution Day
01 May:	Labour Day	01 Nov:	All Saints' Day
30 Jun:	Army Day	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
15 Aug:	Assumption	31 Dec:	New Year's Eve

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Guatemala



For local forecasts please go to www.insivumeh.gob.gt (Spanish) or www.bbc.com/weather.

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Page 4 of 5 Guatemalan Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with Guatemala

Interbank Rate
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 5.54 Guatemalan Quetzales
 10 Guatemalan Quetzales (GTQ) = 1.81 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 5.32 Guatemalan Quetzales
 10 Guatemalan Quetzales (GTQ) will cost 1.88 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

Q5 = \$0.94 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.			
Q10	= \$1.88 AUD	Q100	= \$18.78 AUD	Q1,000	= \$187.82 AUD
Q20	= \$3.76 AUD	Q200	= \$37.56 AUD	Q2,000	= \$375.64 AUD
Q30	= \$5.63 AUD	Q300	= \$56.35 AUD	Q3,000	= \$563.47 AUD
Q40	= \$7.51 AUD	Q400	= \$75.13 AUD	Q4,000	= \$751.29 AUD
Q50	= \$9.39 AUD	Q500	= \$93.91 AUD	Q5,000	= \$939.11 AUD
Q60	= \$11.27 AUD	Q600	= \$112.69 AUD	Q6,000	= \$1,126.93 AUD
Q70	= \$13.15 AUD	Q700	= \$131.48 AUD	Q7,000	= \$1,314.75 AUD
Q80	= \$15.03 AUD	Q800	= \$150.26 AUD	Q8,000	= \$1,502.58 AUD
Q90	= \$16.90 AUD	Q900	= \$169.04 AUD	Q9,000	= \$1,690.40 AUD
				Q10,000	= \$1,878.22 AUD

Guatemalan Currency

The currency of Guatemala is the Guatemalan quetzal (plural quetzals) which has the currency code "GTQ" and is abbreviated using the symbol "Q". The subunit of the Guatemalan quetzal is the centavos, but it is now obsolete for day to day transactions. The following banknotes are the most common in Guatemala however other versions and denominations are in circulation (including coins and a Q1 banknote). Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.





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About Guatemala

Full Name: Republica de Guatemala.

Independence: 1821 (from Spain).

Size: 108,889 sq km (approximately half the size of Victoria).

Population: 14.6 million.
 Guatemala City (capital) 1.2 million.

Ethnicity: Majority Mestizo (mixed Amerindian - Spanish) and European.

Language: Spanish is the official language. 23 Amerindian languages are also spoken.

Religion: Catholic 55%, Protestant 40%. Many combine Christian and indigenous beliefs.

GDP Per Capita: US\$5,300 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- 250 AD - The classic period of Maya civilization commences.
- 900 AD - Maya civilisation begins decline.
- 1518-24 - Conquistador Pedro de Alvarado defeats the Maya and founds a Spanish colony.
- 1821-38 - Guatemala gains independence, later joining the Federal Republic of Central America for a period.
- 1954 - Land redistribution by the far left government leads to a military coup backed by the CIA.
- 1960's - Many armed leftist guerrilla groups form and conflict with the government begins. Up to 200,000 die or are disappeared during the ensuing conflict.
- 1992 - Campaigner for Mayan rights Rigoberta Menchu wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1996 - A peace agreement ends the 36 year civil war.

