

GUATEMALA



AREA
42042 Sq Mi



CURRENCY
Quetzal



LANGUAGE
Spanish

Mayan ruins, Spanish colonial architecture, indigenous art, old world culture, and welcoming locals are ready to greet you as you visit Guatemala with Central Holidays. Come get snap-happy exploring Antigua's many amazing sights. Antigua is famous for its natural setting, colonial city charm, Spanish Baroque-influenced architecture and a number of ruins. Look for the popular landmark of the city, the marigold-colored Arco de Santa Catalina, the only piece remaining of the original Convent of St. Catalina, much of which was destroyed in a 1773 earthquake. Beyond its towns and city splendors, Guatemala offers superb natural scenery with less than two percent of its landmass urbanized. See all that Guatemala has in store for you this year with Central Holidays.



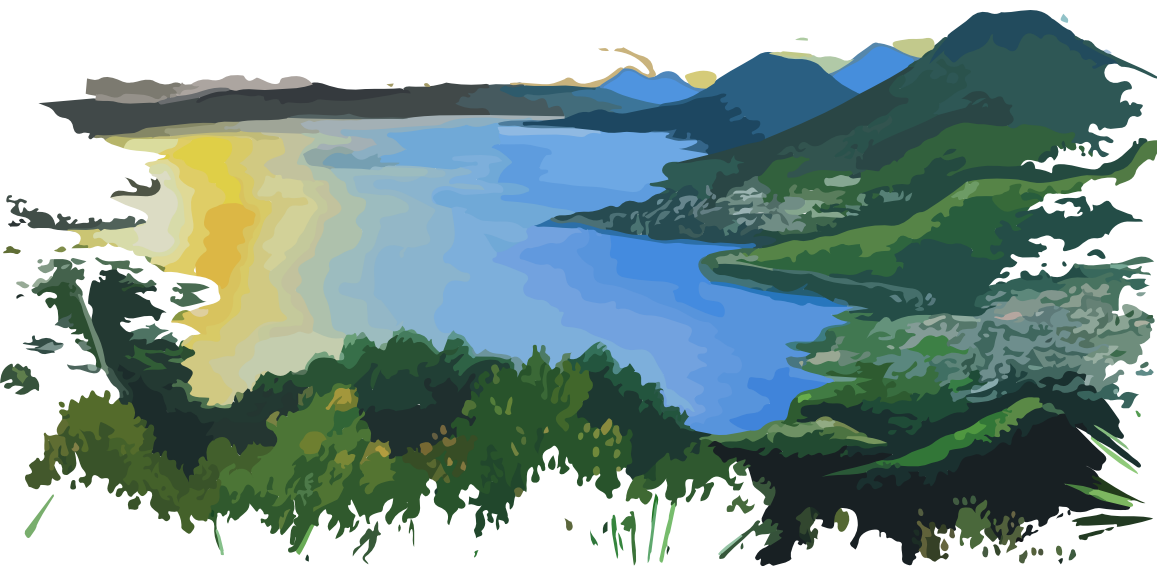
THE BEST TIME TO VISIT GUATEMALA

The best time to visit Guatemala" to: While the dry season runs from November to April, bringing sunny, warm days and minimal rainfall ideal for visiting volcanoes and exploring historic sites like Antigua; the destination offers rewarding travel experiences year-round, with each season showcasing its own unique landscapes, cultural events, and outdoor adventures.



GUATEMALAN CUISINE

Characterized by its regional diversity, with mountainous western regions favoring spices, grains, and hearty stews, while the lowlands incorporate more tropical ingredients like fruits, vegetables, fish, and yuca. Key staples include corn, potatoes, and quinoa, with common dishes featuring beef, chicken, and eggs, often served with spicy pepper sauce.



LAKE ATITLAN

Lake Atitlán is a body of water in a massive volcanic crater in Guatemala's southwestern highlands. Ringed by steep, verdant hills, it's known for its Mayan villages and volcanoes with striking pointed cones.

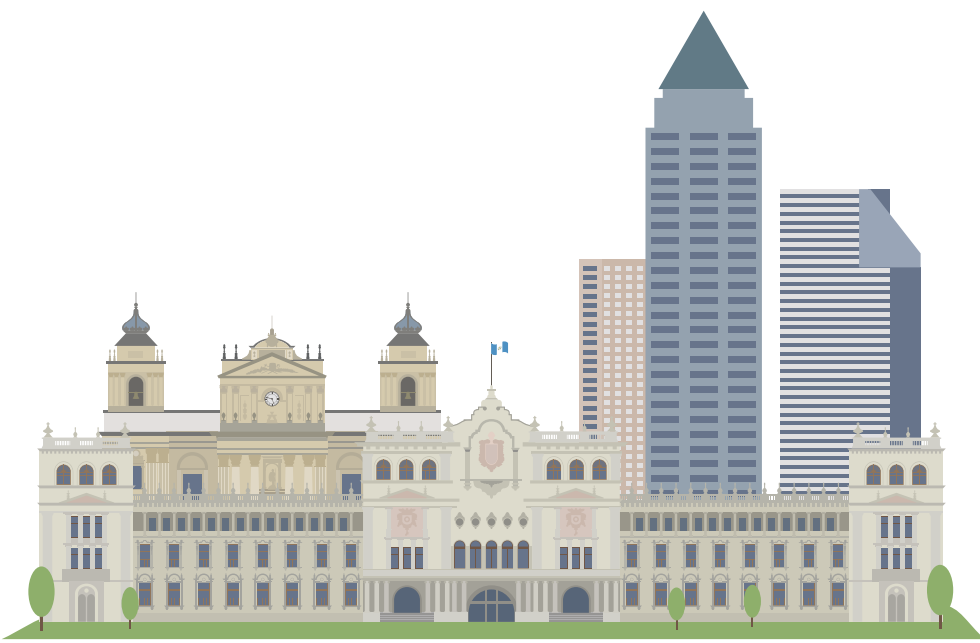
TRADITIONAL DRESS

The traditional dress of Guatemala, known as traje, is a vibrant expression of the country's indigenous culture and identity. For women, it typically includes a huipil (embroidered blouse), a corte (woven skirt), and a faja (belt), often featuring intricate patterns and colors that indicate the wearer's village or community. Men traditionally wear shirts and pants with woven sashes or scarves, sometimes accompanied by a hat. Each design, color, and motif carries cultural significance, representing local history, beliefs, and social status, making Guatemalan clothing a living reflection of its rich Mayan heritage.



GUATEMALAN COFFEE

It's renowned for its world-class quality, full body, bright acidity, and complex flavors, which can range from chocolatey and nutty to fruity and floral depending on the region of origin.



CAPITAL OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City blends rich history with modern urban life, offering highlights such as the Historic Center with the National Palace of Culture and Metropolitan Cathedral, renowned museums like the Ixchel Museum and the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and green spaces including the Relief Map and city parks. Modern areas like Zona Viva feature vibrant dining, shopping, and entertainment, while the city also serves as Guatemala's main travel hub and gateway to popular destinations such as Antigua, Lake Atitlán, and the Mayan ruins of Tikal.



TIKAL TEMPLE I

Tikal Temple I, also known as the Temple of the Great Jaguar, is one of the most iconic Mayan structures in Guatemala, rising prominently above the jungle canopy. Built in the 8th century, it served as the funerary temple of the powerful ruler Jasaw Chan K'awiil I and symbolizes the political, religious, and architectural strength of the ancient Maya civilization at Tikal.



CASTILLO DE SAN FELIPE

It's a historic Spanish colonial fort in Guatemala, located on the Río Dulce at its connection to Lake Izabal, built to defend against pirates. Today, it is a restored cultural heritage site very a popular with tourists.



LA MERCED CHURCH

It's a striking example of Guatemalan Baroque architecture, famous for its bright yellow facade, intricate stucco designs, and earthquake-resistant construction.

THE QUETZAL

The quetzal is Guatemala's national bird and a powerful cultural symbol. Revered for by the ancient Maya, it represents freedom, wealth, and beauty, as the bird was believed to be sacred and never allowed to live in captivity. Today, the quetzal appears on Guatemala's flag and currency, symbolizing national pride, independence, and the enduring connection to the country's indigenous heritage.



VOLCAN DE FUEGO

Is one of Guatemala's most active and famous volcanoes, standing at 3,763 meters (12,346 feet). Located near Antigua Guatemala, it frequently erupts, producing lava flows, ash plumes, and glowing night-time eruptions that can be seen from nearby towns. Fuego holds both geological and cultural significance, as it is part of the volcanic chain that shapes the region and has historically influenced local agriculture, settlements, and Mayan mythology. It's a popular destination for adventurous travelers seeking volcano trekking and dramatic natural landscapes.

