



# GUATEMALA



## INTRODUCTION

The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence in 1821. Despite having both eastern and western coastlines (Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean respectively), there are no natural harbors on the west coast.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Alejandro GIAMMATTEI

### Head of Government

President Alejandro GIAMMATTEI

### Government Type

presidential republic

### Capital

Guatemala City

### Legislature

unicameral Congress of the Republic or Congreso de la Republica (160 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Alfonso Jose Quinonez LEMUS

### US Ambassador

Ambassador William W. POPP

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 108,889 sq km  
Land: 107,159 sq km  
Water: 1,730 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot, humid in lowlands; cooler in highlands

### Natural Resources

petroleum, nickel, rare woods, fish, chicle, hydropower

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

growing Central American economy; unique South Korean business relations; high poverty, inequality, and malnutrition; low government revenues impede educational, sanitation, and healthcare efforts; high migration, child labor, and remittances

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$152.7 billion (2021 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$8,900 (2021 est.)

**Industries** - sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism

**Agricultural products** - sugar cane, bananas, oil palm fruit, maize, melons, potatoes, milk, plantains, pineapples, rubber

**Exports** \$15.32 billion (2021 est.)

clothing, bananas, coffee, palm oil, cardamoms, raw sugar, iron alloys (2021)

**partners:** US 32%, El Salvador 12%, Honduras 10%, Nicaragua 6%, Mexico 4% (2021)

**Imports** \$27.39 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, cars, packaged medicines, delivery trucks, clothing and apparel, polymers (2021)

**partners:** US 33%, China 17%, Mexico 9%, El Salvador 5%, Costa Rica 3% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

18 million (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

1.54% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Mestizo (mixed Amerindian-Spanish - in local Spanish called Ladino) 56%, Maya 41.7%, Xinca (Indigenous, non-Maya) 1.8%, African descent 0.2%, Garifuna (mixed West and Central African, Island Carib, and Arawak) 0.1%, foreign 0.2% (2018 est.)

### Language

Spanish (official) 69.9%, Maya languages 29.7%, other 0.4% (includes Xinca and Garifuna) (2018 est.)

### Religion

Roman Catholic 41.7%, Evangelical 38.8%, other 2.7%, atheist 0.1%, none 13.8%, unspecified 2.9% (2018 est.)