



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)

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) \$141.5 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$8,400 (2020 est.)

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

Agricultural products - sugarcane, bananas, oil palm fruit, maize, melons, potatoes, milk, plantains, pineapples, rubber

Exports \$13.12 billion (2020 est.)

bananas, raw sugar, coffee, cardamom, palm oil (2019)
partners: US 33%, El Salvador 12%, Honduras 8%, Mexico 5%, Nicaragua 5% (2019)

Imports \$19.3 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment, packaged medicines, cars, delivery trucks (2019)

partners: US 36%, China 12%, Mexico 11%, El Salvador 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

17.4 million (2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.62% (2021 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.)

