

Guatemala

Information for applicants

Guatemala

Guatemala is the northernmost country in Central America and, with a territory of almost 109,000 km², the third largest. The nation is bordered to the north by Mexico, to the south-west by the Pacific Ocean, to the south by El Salvador and Honduras, and to the east by Belize and the Caribbean Sea. Around three million of Guatemala's roughly 15.2 million inhabitants live in the metropolitan area around the capital Guatemala City. Central America and, by extension, the region around Guatemala are considered to be the cradle of Mayan civilisation, something which is reflected to this day in Guatemalan culture.

Climate and sights

Guatemala City and the nearby tourist centre of Antigua have a mild climate all year round, though temperatures can be somewhat cooler in the evenings and at night. Climate zones in the rest of the country vary greatly, ranging from the tropical hot and humid lowlands and the hot and dry areas on the border with Honduras to extremely cold zones in the mountains, where snowfall is not a completely unfamiliar sight. The rainy season lasts from May to November, when tropical storms and hurricanes develop. Owing to its location in a seismically active zone, Guatemala can experience earthquakes.

The Mayans once lived on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, in the central highlands and the north of Guatemala, and along the Caribbean coastline of what is now Honduras. They were exceptional architects whose influence is still visible in modern-day Guatemala. Antigua is the country's cultural centre. Around an hour's drive from Guatemala City, it is a weekend meeting-point for people looking to party, stroll around, shop or relax.

Medical care

Guatemala's urban centres offer a good standard of health care, with an extensive network of doctor's surgeries and chemists. Well-equipped private hospitals are staffed primarily by doctors with overseas training.

Accommodation and quality of life

Guatemala has a good residential market and it is usually straightforward to find an apartment meeting European expectations. You can anticipate paying monthly rents of between USD 1,000 and USD 2,600 depending on location, size and features. When choosing an apartment or a house, you should be sure to pay attention to security aspects (door and window grilles and surveillance).

Shops and services

Guatemala offers a good range of shops and services, with daily essentials available throughout the country. A wide selection of consumer goods is available in the capital and the provincial capitals. Guatemala City has many large supermarkets and shopping centres matching European standards.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can obtain a work permit for positions with international employers (GIZ, UN, etc.). Employment contracts can also be concluded with Guatemalan employers, though this requires accompanying partners to waive their official status and the employer must justify their decision to hire a foreign national.

Schools and childcare: The German School in Guatemala operates a dual education system, with students taking the German Abitur and the Guatemalan high school leaving certificate. It is attended by some 950 children (including kindergarten, primary school and lower and upper secondary levels), some 450 of whom are German-speaking. The children are picked up from home by school bus and brought straight to the school.

Find out more

[https://www.auswaertiges-
amt.de/en/ausserpolitik/laenderinformationen/guate
mala-node](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/ausserpolitik/laenderinformationen/guatemala-node)

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/395.html>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Street address
Postcode, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Eschborn 2017

Responsible/Editor, etc.
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

URL links:
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content. GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.