



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Guatemala - Antigua

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Guatemala City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish, 21 Maya languages, Xinca, Garifuna.
- ✓ **Population:** ± 35,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 495,700
- ✓ **Currency:** Quetzales
- ✓ **Country code:** +502
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 110 (police) / 123 (fire) / 120 (ambulance)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention



History Recap Over 1 Drink

[Maya culture](#). 1523-24: Spanish colonize Mayas. 1821: Independent → joins Mexican empire. '23: Part of United Provinces of Central America. '39: Fully independent. '44-65: Dictator Carrera. '73: Pres Rufino-1931: Ubico-'44: Arevalo-'51: Arbenz. '54: US backed coup: Castillo (because: Arbenz's nationalization of plantations of United Fruit Company). '60: Start Civil War: Genocide Mayas/violations human rights → 200,000 killed/disappeared. '63: Assassination Castillo → Peralta. '66: Pres Mendez-'70: Arena → eliminate left-wingers: 50,000+ deaths. '76: 27000 killed by earthquake. '81: 11000 killed by death squads & soldiers in response to growing anti-government guerrilla activity. '82: Military coup Rios Mont. '83: Coup Mejia Victores: Amnesty for guerrillas. '85: Pres Cerezo Arevalo-'91: Serrano Elias: Diplomatic relations restored with Belize (territorial claims) → '93: Pres Carpio. '94: Peace talks government & rebels. '95: Rebels ceasefire. Human rights abuses. '96: Pres Arzu → peace agreement with rebels, ending 36 years of civil war. 2000: Pres Portillo (corrupt). '03: Pres Berger. Free trade agreement with US (+ES/Nica/Hond). '04: Army cuts. Compensation paid to Civil War victims. '05: Stan tropical storm, hundreds killed. '07: Pres Colom. '10: Pacaya erupts. Drugs trafficking. '15: Pres Maldonado.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet/Hurricane												
Best (high)												
Budget												

Altitude: m. Climate: Warm during the day, (very) cold during the night.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Stroll around the (UNESCO) centre & market!
- ☺ Visit [Casa Santo Domingo](#). The most interesting things (courtyard/ruins) are free to visit and my Q42-Paso-de-los-museos-pass was checked nowhere
- ☺ Climb Cerro de la Cruz or San Cristobal El Alto.
- ☺ At night visit [Terrace Hostel](#)'s bar: Watch Volcán El Fuego spit out its lava every 10-15 minutes.
- ☺ Free art: Expositions at [Artsy Fartsy](#), [Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Espanola](#), [Panza Verde](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Climb a volcano: The overnight tour to Acatenango (Cold! Freezing point: Q250 max) or daytrip to Pacaya (Q60 max). As a guide is obliged for both excursions, a tour is in fact cheaper than going by yourself. Shop around in the 1001 tour agencies, they all offer the exact same tour.
 - 👉 Other: Iximche Ruins, Coffee plantation ([Finca Filadelfia](#)), [Chocomuseo](#), [Casa Popenoe](#), [Museo Casa del Tejido](#), [Casa de Los Gigantes](#).
- ... or visit 1 of the 30 churches.

Festivals

- ☼ Independence Day: 15-Sep.
 - ☼ Revolution 1944 Day: 20-Oct.
 - ☼ Festival de Antigua: Aug.
- Check [Que Pasa en Antigua](#) online.

Budget Bites

⌘ Antigua's market is the country's biggest. Nowhere else I found food that cheap.

⌘ Cheap supermarket: Dispensa Familiar or La Bodega.

⌘ Guatemala's streetfood & cheap *comedores*: Pepián (meat stew), pupusas (corn tortillas filled with cheese or meat), elote (corn), tacos, garnachas / tostadas (fried tortillas with meat and salad), rellenitos (plantains stuffed with beans), tamales (stuffed corn dough), bunuelos (sweet), salshichas (sausage), chicharones (pork), cheveres (hot dogs), hamburgers, chile releno, mango with lime, ceviche, kilos of fried chicken, enchilada and burrito. Everything served with beans and guacamole.

Best bread in Central America: Isopan, 3a Calle Poniente #35.

Next?

- ➔ In Guatemala: Rio Dulce, Semuc Champey (Lanquin), Guatemala City, Lago de Atitlán.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Belize, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Three Monkeys Hostel](#), +50279385049, 2a Avenida Sur #34.
- ❖ The Yellow House, +50278326646, 1a Calle Poniente #24.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) (on a boat) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Terrace Hostel, 3a Calle Poniente #24.
- ◆ Rainbow Café, 7a Avenida Sur #8.
- ◆ Las Palmas, 6a Avenida Norte #14.

Mama Said

- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables.
- ☠ Avoid walking around alone at night, it's NOT safe here.
- ☠ Narcotrafficking is big in Guatemala and most murders are related to drugs trade. In short: Don't get involved.
- ☠ Bring both a sweater (or 2) and sunscreen.

Free-Riding?

- Within the centre everything is walkable. Biking is possible with a rental bike, but it isn't very comfortable on the cobble-stone streets.
 - Taxi's are quite overpriced and unnecessary. The same goes for tuktuks, you really don't need them for the minimal distances here.
 - Chickenbuses leave on the left of the market, in the back. They run also on holidays and cost nothing, but are legendary uncomfortable in Guatemala. I learned from experience that shuttles are sometimes even cheaper (Atitlan for 50Q instead of 95 with 4 different chickenbuses). Shuttles can be booked in 1 of the 1000 tourist agencies in Antigua. Shop around: They all sell exactly the same as they work with the same transport company.
 - Hitch-hiking is common. However, there's always a risk.
- Tip: Download the Triposo Guatemala app for offline maps and landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.