

Theatre International **HOSTEL**

youth & party @ Guatemala City



8 avenida 14-17 Z. 1, Ciudad de Guatemala

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HOSTEL
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hostal@teatroabril.com // 42025112

GENERAL TIPS

Currency: Exchange rate: US\$1 for Q7.70 Quetzales (The name comes from our national bird). ATMs are all over the country (be careful taking out too much money alone at night). Credit cards accepted in any formal business (usually charges 7% extra). The best exchange rate you can find will be on banks. Bring your passport. Banks usually opens Mon-Fri 9AM-6PM and Sat 9 AM-1PM. Everyone will accept your dollars, just check they are in good shape (not rotten or inked). Don't change dollars at the airport. If you don't have Q pay your taxi in US\$.

Visa: Almost sure you will not need a visa to come into Gt, but check before coming in. You can stay up to three months in total between Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras & Nicaragua (all together). If you need to get another three months go to Mexico or Belize for 72 hours and then come back another three months. Some people do that for years.

Party: Politicians put a law establishing that all bars & night clubs close at 1AM. So the party usually starts between 8 & 9 PM.

Packing: Bring a light backpack. You can buy anything you will need in our markets (probably cheaper than in your country). Flores/Tikal and the beach are pretty hot (35 degrees Celsius), so bring shorts and swimsuits. Quetzaltenango is a bit cold (12-15 degrees Celsius), carry a light jacket.

Languages: Everyone speaks Spanish. You need to know basic words to manage. English speaking staff are in formal business but not overall the country.

Budget: Your daily budget should be around Q65-Q100 for accommodation, Q40-Q100 for food, Q40

for transport, Q50 others. So bring around Q210-Q250 per day (US\$30). If you party like a rock star bring your grandmother's credit card for backup.

Taxis: taxis from the airport are reliable. The fare to take you to zone 1 is Q80. Almost all the taxis of the city know where the hostel is. Just remember our address: 8 avenida 14-17 zona 1. And notice that we don't have any sign outside of the hostel. Look for 14-17 and our black door. Negotiate with them before you jump in. A metered taxi is Amarillo express. Sometimes they are cheaper: 1766.

Precautions: Don't walk in the street showing your new Nikon camera or all the Quetzales you just get out of the ATM. Nothing will happen to you if you are prudent. Guatemala City is not the safest city in the world. Don't walk alone at a lonely street at night, show confidence and don't stop in the corners feeling lost. Leave your valuables in the locker of the hostel. When go to party come back in a taxi. Never resist if you are getting robbed. The most popular kind of robbery now is pick pocket from chicken buses. They put inside as many people that are able to breath and you will not notice until you go down of the bus that something is missing. Be alert.

Toilets: Only what goes out of your body goes in the toilet. Dispatch everything else in the basket at your right.

Health: Some of travelers have stomach problems. Be careful with street food. If you get sick come back to our hostel. We will try take care of you.

GUATEMALA CITY

Getting around: 3,000,000 people city. 25 zones. Almost all zones are laid out in avenidas (north to south) and calles (east to west). Zone 1 is the historic center of the city, where all bus stations are. Zone 13 is the airport and the zoo. Zone 10 is the financial district. If you need to do something out of this zones ask advice to the staff.

What to do:

Sexta avenida (zone 1): Is the most famous avenue in Guatemala City. You can find restaurants, stores and people. Lots of people. Is pretty safe before 11PM. Walk north from the hostel and you will reach the National Palace, The Cathedral and the Central Park. Turn right one block and you will find the central market. Go downstairs. The perfect place to buy fruits and vegetables and to have lunch. Recommendation: chicken soup for Q25.

National Palace: 22530748. 6 avenue 6 street, zone 1. Admission Q30. 9-11AM, 2-4:45PM. Mon-Sat). Impressive murals inside.

Casa MIMA: Beautiful house/museum. Right in front of the hostel. You will be able to see how the life of Guatemalan people was at 100 years ago.

Railway Museum: 9 avenida 18-03 zona 1. 9AM-5PM Tue-Fri, 10AM-5PM Sat & Sun. Guatemala old railroad carriages. Front of Plaza Barrios (transmetro terminal).

Kaminaljuyu: 11 Calle 24 avenida zona 7. Q30. 8AM-430PM. One of the most important Mayan cities. A taxi will cost you around Q50 from the hostel.

Aurora Zoo: 24720507, 5 calle, zona 13. Q35. The best zoo ever. Very well maintained: you will see penguins, meerkats, snakes, monkeys, lions, elephants and plenty of birds. You can have lunch there after jumping from a gigantic slider.

Museo Ixchel & Museo Popol Vuh (Francisco Marroquin University). 6 calle final, zona 10. 23618081-23387896 Q35. Museum of textiles and of Mayan archeology inside of the most prestigious university of Guatemala.

Cinema Capitol: At the 6 avenue between 13 and 12 street. You can find new movies for just Q25. Almost all movies are in Spanish.

Malls:

1. Oakland Mall Diagonal 6, zona 10.
2. Miraflores 21A Avenida 4-32, zona 11.

Main post office: 7 avenida 11-67 zona 1.

Where to eat:

At Sixth Avenue you can find dozens of places to eat: from Chinese food to McDonalds. Ask staff for any special place.

Central Market for lunch (Chicken soup Q25)

Panadería Berna: chicken sandwich and “smoothie” for Q15. The most popular bakery in town. 10 calle 5-18 zona 1.

Canelones: 6 avenida A, 10-39 zona 1. Best steak in town Q80.

Puerto Escondido: The best ceviche in Guatemala Q80. 21A Calle A 21 C A 35-01 Z-5. Go by taxi.

The store in the corner of the hostel has almost anything you need. Eggs, bread, bananas, beans, tortillas, milk, soups, oil and so on. Some things are cheaper than in the supermarket. If you need a supermarket there are two options.

Paiz at 18 Calle 6-85, zona 1 at the corner.

La Despensa at 5 avenue between 14th and 15th calle zona 1.

Where to party:

La chula: the best party place in zone 1 on the weekends. 12 calle 6-50, Zona 1

Las cien puertas: 9 calle 6-45 zona 1. Plenty of small bars. People that loves rock & cumbia / beer & rum.

Bajo Fondo: 15 calle 2-55 zona 10. Good music and always crowded of young Guatemalans.

Rattle & hum: 4 avenida y 16 calle zona 10. Good vibe. Austrian owner.

Trova Jazz: Via 6 3-55 zona 4. Jazz, blues and trova. On Thursdays is very popular. They end the night singing “Cuba Socialista”.

Genetic: Ruta 3, 3-08, zona 4. Gay bar.

AROUND GUATEMALA

The best spots:

Antigua Guatemala:

The hub of backpackers. Plenty of spanish schools, salsa lessons, bars and tourists. Yes, tourists.

We recommend three options for hostels:

1. Tropicana (party hostel) Sexta Calle Poniente 2, Antigua, [7832 0462](tel:78320462).
2. Terrace (party hostel) 24-B 3rd Street West, 3a Calle Poniente #24-B, Antigua [7832 3463](tel:78323463)
3. El hostel (boutique hostel) 1a Avenida Sur, Antigua, [7832 0442](tel:78320442)

To hit Antigua from Guatemala City (45 minutes) you got two options.

1. Everyday shuttle bus at 2PM from Litegua 15 calle 10-40 zona 1. Two blocks from hostel. Q45
2. Chicken bus. Not recommended. Get into the Transmetro line 12 in Plaza Barrios and get down at Santa Cecilia station. Walk three streets to Cruz Verde Pharmacy, turn right two other blocks and see guys yelling Antigua, Antigua. Q15. Every half hour.

Flores & Tikal:

The Mayan ruins, hot weather and amazing landscapes.

We recommend Hostel Los Amigos, Calle Central, Flores. [7867 5075](tel:78675075)

To hit Flores from Guatemala City the best option is this:

1. ADN transports: 22510610 Everyday bus 10 PM (arrives at 6AM). From 8 avenida 16-41 zona 1. Two blocks from hostel. Q180.

Lago de Atitlán:

The most beautiful lake in the world. Surrounded by three volcanoes. Several towns around the lake you can visit. Move by boat.

We recommend these two options.

San Pedro: Zoola, Xetawal, Zona 2, San Pedro La Laguna, [5847 4857](tel:58474857)

Santa Cruz: La iguana perdida [5706 4117](tel:57064117)

To get here from Guatemala City the only way is to hit Antigua. And from there you find plenty of shuttles. Around three hours from Antigua.

Lanquin/Semuc Champey

The best spot in the whole world. Amazing nature.

We recommend two places:

Zephyr lodge at Lanquin: [5168 2441](tel:51682441)

El Retiro at Lanquin. [4513 6396](tel:45136396)

The internet there don't work efficiently. Calling is the best way to make a reservation.

To get to Semuc Champey the best way is getting first to Coban and from there you find plenty of shuttles going to Semuc/Lanquin. To get to Coban: Monja Blanca: 8 avenida 15-16 zona 1, one block from hostel. Almost every two hours a bus departs. Q75, around four hours.

Rio Dulce & Livingston

Beautiful river and Garifuna town. Nice beaches.

We cannot recommend any special hostel.

To get here go to Litegua: 15 calle 10-40 zona 1. Three blocks from hostel. Departs 6AM, 9AM, 11:35AM, 1:00PM and 4:30PM. Q80. Takes 5 hours.

Quetzaltenango (Xela)

Second biggest city in Guatemala. Cold weather. Best Spanish schools. Safe and nice town with bars. Good place to stay several months and live relaxed.

We cannot recommend any special hostel.

Fuentes del norte: 22383894, 17 calle 8-46 zona 1. 7 AM and 4PM. Q70. Takes 5 hours.

Monterrico / Hawaii:

The beautiful black sand beaches in the pacific coast. Hot weather.

We recommend two options:

Johnnys Place (Monterrico). [5812 0409](tel:58120409). Front beach hostel/hotel. Crowded place with Guatemalan people

Freedom Beach House (Hawaii). 57166988. Front beach hotel.

If you just want to relax in a hammock and chill this is the place. Nobody will be around. Solitary place.

The best way to get here is taking Don Quijote Shuttle bus from Antigua.

Transport companies:

ADN company: 22510610, 8 avenida 16-41 zona 1.

Fuentes del norte: 22383894, 17 calle 8-46 zona 1.

Línea dorada: 24158900, 10 avenida 16 calle zona 1

Litegua: 15 calle 10-40 zona 1.

Tica bus: 24733737, Calzada Aguilar Batres 22-55 zona 12.

Transportes Galgos: 7 avenida 19-44 zona 1.