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

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.)

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)

as of October 2021