



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), it has no natural harbors on the west coast.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Bernardo ARÉVALO de León

Head of Government

President Bernardo ARÉVALO de León

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Guatemala City

Legislature

unicameral Congress of the Republic or Congreso de la Republica (160 seats)

Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires Viviana Raquel ARENAS AGUILAR

US Ambassador

Ambassador Tobin BRADLEY

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

developing Central American economy; steady economic growth fueled by remittances; high poverty and income inequality; limited government services, lack of employment opportunities, and frequent natural disasters impede human development efforts and drive emigration

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$159.0 billion (2022 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$9,200 (2022 est.)

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

Agricultural products - sugar cane, eggs, bananas, oil palm fruit, maize, melons, potatoes, milk, tomatoes, poultry

Exports \$18.1 billion (2022 est.)

textiles (knit and non-knit garments), coffee, bananas, palm oil, raw sugar (2022)

partners: US 32%, El Salvador 12%, Honduras 10%, Nicaragua 6%, Mexico 4% (2022)

Imports \$33.9 billion (2022 est.)

refined petroleum, video displays, cars, packaged medicines, delivery trucks (2022)

partners: US 34%, China 15%, Mexico 9%, El Salvador 4%, Costa Rica 3% (2022)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

18 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.54% (2023 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.)