



REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA (Land of Many Trees)



Area: 42,000 sq. miles (105th)

Languages: Spanish (official 70%); Maya (30%)

Population: 17m (67th)

Religion: Catholic (45%); Protestant (42%); No religion (11%)

GDP (PPP): \$145b (75th) **GDP (PPP) per capita:** \$ 8,414 (118th)

Human Development Index: .663 (medium)

Life Expectancy: Male 71; Female 75

Government: Unitary Presidential Republic, Unicameral Congress, Independent Judiciary

President: Alejandro Giammattei (since January 2020)

Ethnic Groups: Ladino/Mestizo: 56%; Maya: 42%

Exports to US: 6.8b (Bananas, Coffee) **Imports from US:** \$4 b

Organizations: UN Organizations; Organization of American States; Int. Criminal Court; US-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement

Located in Central America just south of Mexico, Guatemala is home to volcanos, rainforests, beaches and ancient Mayan sites.

The Maya civilization flourished in Guatemala and surrounding regions during the first millennium A.D. In 800 A.D., Guatemala's population of 11 m. was twice that of medieval England. After almost three centuries as a Spanish colony, Guatemala won its independence from Spain in 1821. During the second half of the 20th century, it experienced a variety of military and civilian governments, as well as a 36-year guerrilla war. In 1996, the government signed a peace agreement formally ending the internal conflict. Since then, Guatemala has had both economic growth and successive democratic elections. Nevertheless the country has a high level of income and land inequality.

Bananas, coffee and chocolate are the largest exports with almost 31% of Guatemalans working in the agricultural industry. Tourism employs 15% but contributes about a quarter of the GDP. Remittances from Guatemalans in the US are equivalent to 2/3rd of the country's exports and about 1/10th of its GDP.

U.S. foreign assistance in Guatemala invests in citizen security, governance, and economic growth to discourage illegal immigration, improve government services, increase transparency, fight corruption, and support repatriation and reintegration efforts. As of June 2020, Guatemala is one of 14 nations which maintain full diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The Belizean–Guatemalan territorial dispute is unresolved. The territory of Belize has been claimed in whole or in part by Guatemala since 1821.

- Guatemala has been inhabited for 20,000 years.
- Guatemala is famous for its volcanoes
- Guatemala is the home of Chiquita Banana
- Guatemalan coffee is among the best in the world
- Chocolate was a form of currency in ancient Mayan civilization, and now it's a source of income for modern Guatemala. Guatemala invented the first chocolate bar.