

Guatemala 2014

Guatemala, Heart of the Mundo Maya - BTCCT

Live and feel Guatemalans heartbeat; an explosion in magic, color and adventure. A country where history is being written day by day. Landscapes are like pictures, and works of art are found on the streets and outdoors.

It is an inspiration to painters, poets and writers. Country of culture, adventure and romance. Center of the American Continent. Heart of the Mayan World!!! It is located in Central America, bordering with Mexico to the North and West; Belize and the Caribbean Sea to the Northeast; Honduras and El Salvador to the Southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the South.

Because it is located in a tropical zone, its climate is exceptional. It is known as The Country of Eternal Spring. Its average temperature is 25 degrees C. It has two seasons: the rainy season or winter (from May to October) and the dry season or summer (from November to April).

Its territory is small, rich and diverse. There are 108,889 sq. Kms. of natural and cultural richness which fill with personal experiences your trips chronicle.

Our roots are the synthesis of two cultures: the ancestral and millenary Maya and the Spanish which makes us Guatemalan. The fusion of beliefs, traditions and artistic expressions summarizes this race mixture.

Mayan history dates from 2,000 BC to 1,500AD. A period in which the Mayans produced the richness which makes them famous as a great civilization. Today they constitute over 40% of the population. The diversity of Mayan groups, more than 23 ethnic groups, is part of the vitality, dynamism and richness of the country.

Your visit to Guatemala will be enriched step by step by the hospitality of our people, makers of culture and dreams, and will fill your trip with smiles.

Guatemala is located in an uncommon geographical position. It constitutes the second Tropical Forest in America: 14 different ecosystems of an extraordinary biological diversity; 1,600 vertebrate species, among which 258 are fresh water fish; 112 amphibian; 214 reptiles; 666 birds (resident and migratory) and 251 mammals. Many of these species do not inhabit any other region of the world.

It has a great part of the Mayan Biosphere, which is the largest protected area of the country, which 1,844,900 sq. kms. It is a refuge of unique species, and the settlement of the Classic Mayan Culture.

Another Guatemala awaits you and your passengers to be discovered and explored: colonial cities, Mayan Indian Markets, Mayan Archaeological sites, coffee estates' tours; sugar mills; industrial tours, golfing, and much more....

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Clothing:** In summer, light cotton clothes and a sweater for the evening are sufficient. From November through January, when the weather becomes somewhat cooler, light woolen clothes are suggested.
- Tipping:** In hotels, restaurants, bars, etc., 15% tip is customary wherever a service charge is not included in the bill. A \$5.00 per person, per day tip to guides and \$3.00 per person, per day for driver/assistant is suggested.
- National Holidays:** January 1st, Holy Wednesday through Easter Sunday, May 1st, June 30th, August 15th, September 15th, October 20th, November 1st, December 24th, 25th and 31st.
- On Season:** November 1st, 2014 – April 20th, July 1st – August 20th and November 1st – December 31st, 2014.
- Off Season:** April 21st – June 30th and August 21st – October 31st, 2014.
- Documentation:** Prior to arrival in Guatemala, every client must verify that his documents are in order and that he has obtained a tourist card or visa if required. Visas are available only at Guatemalan Consulates abroad. Tourist cards are available to citizens of some countries at airport ticket counters at point of embarkation to Guatemala.
- Local Currency:** The national currency is the Quetzal, but U.S. dollars are accepted everywhere, as are credit cards such as American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Diners Club.
- Electricity:** Guatemala uses 110 volts, both in the capital and the provinces. Visitors bringing electrical appliances without built-in voltage adapter should also bring a voltage converter.
- Flight Times:** Miami 2 hours and 10 minutes
Houston 2 hours and 20 minutes
Los Angeles 4 hours and 15 minutes
- Shopping:** Colorful textiles, ceramics, woodcraft, leather goods, jade jewelry and primitive art.

Responsibility: The responsibility of BTCCT as the operator is limited. It acts only as agent for the passenger in regard to travel whether by railroad, motor coach, private car, boat, aircraft or any other conveyance, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect, through acts of God, dangers incidents to the sea, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of governments or other authorities, de jure or de facto, wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, theft, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations or from any causes beyond BTCCT' control, or from any loss or damage resulting from improper passports, visas or other documents.

BTCCT can accept no responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delay or changes of schedule or other causes. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any passenger should such person's health or general deportment impede the operation of the services to the detriment of other passengers. BTCCT reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any itinerary as may deemed necessary for the carrying out of the tour either before departure or enroute, or withdraw any tour. Baggage is carried at owner's risk, and baggage insurance is recommended.