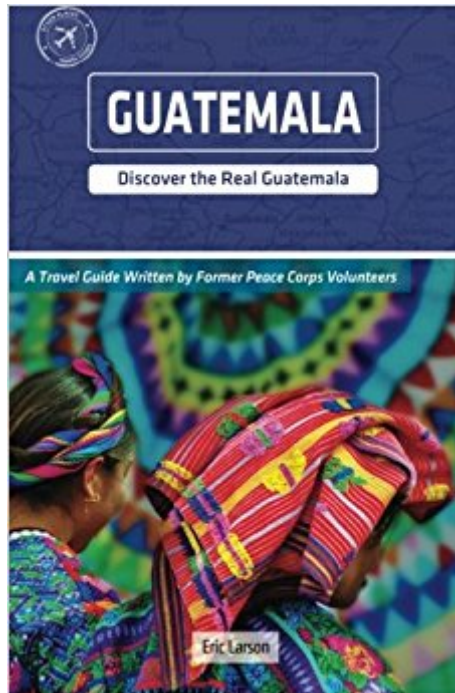




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Guatemala (Other Places Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Written and researched by former Guatemala Peace Corps Volunteers offering insight found nowhere else. A focus on responsible travel while highlighting local initiatives. 38 detailed maps and directions for getting around like a local. The writer of this guidebook spent three years in Guatemala as a Peace Corps Volunteer, where he had the unforgettable opportunity to work, live, and form friendships in the country's most rural regions. Gained from firsthand experiences, this comprehensive travel guide provides you with local knowledge and insight into the very best that this enchanting country has to offer. With this book in tow, you're sure to get off the beaten path and discover the real Guatemala. Explore Antigua, one of Latin America's most lively and well-preserved colonial cities. Experience Mayan culture at an indigenous ceremony or market day in the Highlands. Transport yourself back in time through a visit to the grand Mayan temples of Tikal, El Mirador, or any of Guatemala's famous historical sites. Dive into the waters of Lake Atitlán, bask in the crystalline pools of Semuc Champey, or lounge on the rolling beaches of the Pacific Coast. Mingle with locals at one of Guatemala's numerous radiant, colorful festivals. Share a traditional meal with welcoming locals to appreciate genuine Guatemalan hospitality. What are people saying about the book? "The book included helpful cultural information, and I could definitely relate to some of the Peace Corps stories from a previous visit to Guatemala." — Paige, .com reviewer "Excellent information about Guatemala, the authors put a lot of effort into compiling information for the entire country. Ideal for tourists on a budget." — Elizabeth Bell, .com reviewer "This is a great guide for those looking to see Guatemala beyond the beaten path. Thoughtful and insightful." — Heather Graham, .com reviewer "[The guide] is particularly helpful in leading travelers off the beaten path—but not too far. As for destinations on the beaten path, (like Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Tikal), there is helpful advice to get the most out of these stops." — Benjamin Compaine, .com reviewer

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book primarily because, out of the major travel books written about Guatemala, it was the most recently published. I wanted current information for when I traveled to Guatemala. Based on the description of the book, I didn't expect a large quantity of recommended hostels, hotels, or restaurants, and I found my expectation to be accurate. (Although still somewhat disappointing, because I prefer more choices) Still, there were an adequate amount of choices, and the few places I actually went to were current, and the reviews were accurate. The book included helpful cultural information, and I could definitely relate to some of the Peace Corps stories from a previous visit to Guatemala. My only real complaint about the book was that it was lacking in some very practical and necessary information for those entering Guatemala for the first (or second?) time. Things the "Let's Go" series always included. Like, specifically where the best places to exchange money are. It was extremely easy to exchange money at the Guatemala City Airport, but the exchange rate was horrible. I found in Quetzaltenango that exchanging just \$100 (American) at a major bank in the Central Park required two different bank employees, and about 15-20 minutes of tapping on the computer, frowning at the screen, checking with a supervisor, numerous stamping and signing of different papers, threading them through a machine several times, and finally counting the 753 Quetzales about eight times! Not including the 20 minutes in line. And the ATM's...sigh... So, yes, some specific help about what to expect and where to go would have been extremely helpful. Information on best places to make international (for when the ATM didn't like your card) and local calls would have also been helpful. In conclusion, it's a good book, but could use some improvement.

I traveled with a group so did not need hotel and restaurant information. I liked the great detail and background this book had of areas that I visited. Good advice also for inexpensive touring off the beaten paths.

It is clear that this was written by someone who not only is enchanted by Guatemala but has spent extended time living in the country as a Peace Corps volunteer. Drawing on my own, far shorter visit to that country, I found Mr. Larson's descriptions and suggestions that touched on places I

went and activities I did right on. He is particularly helpful in leading travelers off the beaten path—but not too far. As for destination —on the beaten path,— (like Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Tikal), there is helpful advice to get the most out of these stops. His early chapter provides sufficient historical and cultural context for the first time visitor without being overwhelming. One small but important warning: Early on Mr. Larson enthusiastically urges visitors to “Eat local food—with your hands.” I agree. But that doesn’t mean eat any food. Despite some wonderful smells of street food, resist the temptation. Don’t overlook his warning in the next chapter about the real risk of intestinal sickness that will almost inevitably result. Even the luscious-looking tomato slice that garnished my meal in a respectable restaurant needed to be pushed aside. This is especially critical if your stay will be a relatively short one. Guatemala (Other Places Travel Guide) There are many useful travel books that include guidance on Guatemala. If “Discover the Real Guatemala” had been available when I visited, it would be the one in my carry-on.

This is a very thorough guide aimed mostly at budget travelers. Very few mid- to upscale hotels or restaurants are mentioned or are described as “overpriced”. Peace Corp workers, like the authors, are notoriously underpaid so this approach is certainly understandable. The great restaurants of Guatemala City and Antigua are inadequately covered. Guatemala has a vigorous and growing middle and upper-middle class that supports numerous, high-quality, interesting and even luxurious restaurants for those who enjoy fine dining from time to time. I certainly like the book but must point out what is to me one grievous error: The author states that Guatemala’s rums are “not great”. Ron Zacapa is highly-rated internationally and is an excellent tipple to be enjoyed neat or on ice. Botran makes several great rums.

This is great guide for those looking to see Guatemala beyond the beaten path. Thoughtful and insightful, the author’s personal ties to Guatemala and the people shine through in the detailed posts from every region. A must read for any would-be traveller looking to experience this beautiful country!

Excellent information about Guatemala, the authors put a lot of effort into compiling information for the entire country. Ideal for tourists on a budget. Congratulations on a new publication on Guatemala.

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