

PUERTO QUETZAL, GUATEMALA

The port of Puerto Quetzal is a small port market, with road access to Antigua Guatemala. Most cruise visitors either stay in the port area and enjoy the local market or take transportation to Antigua Guatemala, which is a beautiful colonial era city, about 2-hours drive from the port

KEY INFO

Currency: Guatemalan Quetzal (1 USD = 7.8 GTQ)	Languages: Spanish
Population: 46,000 (Antigua)	Drive on the: Right
Emergency #: 110 (Police), 122 (Medical/Fire)	Pharmacy: In Antigua
Drinking water: Tap water is not drinkable	Protection: SPF 30+
Time Zone: GMT-6	Wi-Fi: Port
ID Requirements: Government-issued photo ID	Post Office: In Antigua

PORT LOCATION

Cruise ships dock at Puerto Quetzal Cruise Port (occasionally at the commercial pier, in which case shuttle buses operate between the pier and the cruise port).

Getting Around: The terminal area is a purpose-built craft market, open exclusively to cruise ship visitors. Beyond the gates of the port, there is nothing for miles on end. So, to get to Antigua, the easiest way is to take a ship tour. Otherwise, engage the services of a private taxi driver.

In Antigua, a combination of 'Chicken Buses' and slightly nicer 'Transmetro' Buses are the only public transport options. Pay in cash. And, unless you're looking for an adventure, stick to the Green Transmetro line... or walk.

Taxis: Taxis are available from the port area. Prices are negotiated with the driver.

Tourist Bus: There is no hop-on hop-off bus in Puerto Quetzal

Smartphone App: There is no tourist smartphone app for Puerto Quetzal

Port Facilities: 3rd Party Tour Operators, Taxis, Tourist Information, Market, Live Music

Port Address: W6F4+H9J, Unnamed Road, Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala 

PUERTO QUETZAL PORT VILLAGE


The port area is a purpose-built 'village' in the middle of the commercial port zone (Guatemala's biggest commercial port on the Pacific coast). In the village you'll find a couple of restaurants and bars, a craft market, Jade Museum (which is really a shop), and fresh coconuts and mangos for sale. Local marimba bands play at the bandstand, and tourist information is available in the main tipi-hut as you enter the village from the pier. There are also toilets. Members of the public do not have access to the port village.


A NOTE ON SAFETY

Guatemala's Safety Index score is 53 out of 100, making it (statistically, at least) one of the less safe countries of Latin America. With this in mind, it is advisable to leave expensive jewelry items onboard and only carry an amount of cash that you intend to spend. If you have an alternative photo ID, it's advisable to leave your passport onboard.

For more: www.okantigua.com

 card payment accepted

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 link to map

FOOD & DRINK

Corn, coffee, and cacao grow in abundance in Guatemala. For a traditional lunch, go for Casados (beans and rice) with meat or fish, salad, fried plantain, and white cheese in a corn tortilla. For something sweet and local, look for pozol, which is a corn soup, or chorreadas (corn pancakes).

Pepian: perhaps the most traditional dish you can try here is this Guatemalan stew. This thick, spiced soup is served with fresh steamed vegetables and a generous helping of meat.

La Cueva de Los Urquizú: A traditional restaurant in the heart of the old city of Antigua. 8a-8p | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

ANTIGUA GUATEMALA HIGHLIGHTS

About 50 miles/80km north of Puerto Quetzal (2-hour drive) is the UNESCO World Heritage Listed town of Antigua. Located 4,500ft above sea level, Antigua is the main draw for visitors to this region of Guatemala.

The three main attractions of Antigua are (1) the beautiful Spanish-style architecture and cobblestone streets, built in the 16th Century and protected by law; (2) the many ruined churches and monasteries, destroyed in a 1773 earthquake; and (3) the majestic volcanoes circling the town.

Parque Central: relax in the public park, with noteworthy views of architectural landmarks and the three volcanoes that tower over the city. Don't forget to take a picture standing in front of the Fuente de Las Sirenas (Fountain of the Sirens - not mermaids). 24 Hours | Free

La Merced Church: of the many churches, this is probably the most beautiful and also one of the truest examples of colonial era baroque architecture in the town. The intricately patterned stucco walls are reminiscent of Arabic architecture - a nod to the Moorish influence in Spain at the time of colonization. Hours unknown | Free

Caso Santo Domingo: this former convent was home to the Order of Santo Domingo de Guzman. Today, the convent's ruins give away some of the secrets of its past, as well as being a beautiful and peaceful site to explore. Hours unknown | Free

Real Palacio de los Capitanes Generales: this attractive museum previously housed the government of the entire Central America region, until 1773. Now the site of two museums - one is free to enter. Hours unknown | Free | [🌐](#)


El Mercado: if you're looking for handicrafts or traditional local-style clothing, this is the place to go. The bright and colorful market is popular with locals, and (as with any busy destination) it's a good idea to keep a close watch on your personal possessions. 7a-6p | Free | [🌐](#)


FUN FACT

Guatemala's currency - the Guatemalan Quetzal - takes its name from the national bird, the quetzal. The modern currency pays homage to ancient Mayan times, when the tail feathers of the resplendent quetzal bird were exchanged as currency. US Dollars are widely accepted in Guatemala, but it's always a good idea to have some local currency on hand.

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