



2026

**LAC
REGIONAL
MEETING**

WELCOME TO GUATEMALA!

When it was founded, Antigua Guatemala was named **“Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala.”** King Philip II of Spain conferred upon it the title of **“Most Noble and Most Loyal City of Santiago de los Caballeros de Goathemala”** (Goathemala being its former spelling) by a royal decree signed on March 10, 1566.





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¡BIENVENIDOS! WELCOME! WILLKOMMEN! BIENVENUE!

Welcome to Antigua Guatemala, a beating heart and cultural fabric of our country's history.

It is an honor to welcome you, leaders of WWF Latin America, Country Offices, Network Representatives and Council and Board Members, to a city that is an open book of centuries past and a living bridge to tomorrow. As you embark on this journey of exchange and shared vision, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the magic of the city's cobbled streets, which whisper tales of the civilization that once traversed them.

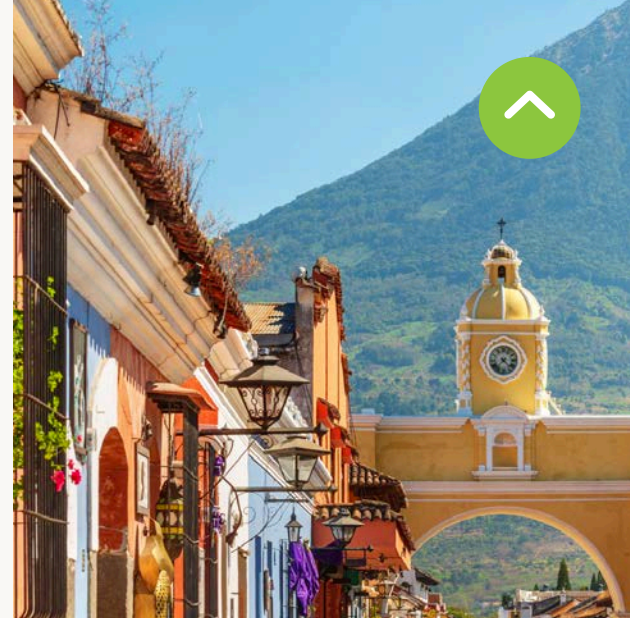
Antigua is not just a city; it is an open-air museum where every corner tells a story. As you walk through the Plaza Mayor, picture the 16th century bells that once marked the rhythm of a city which was the capital of Central America during the colonial era. The warm-hued facades shelter the secrets of convents and squares that witnessed the transition between empires and cultures. Its avenues remind us of the resilience of a community that has learned to reinvent itself over the years without losing its essence.





Walking among the ruins of the Cathedral and the imposing Santa Catalina Arch, we are invited to reflect on integrity and long-term vision. Opportunity was forged in loss; renewal was sown in ruin. As you gaze at the surrounding landscape with the Agua volcano on the horizon, you will sense a lesson from nature as a catalyst for change: steadfast, rugged and quietly powerful.

During your time here, you will have the opportunity to connect with both the complexities of our global context and a community that has learned to intertwine tradition and innovation. Antigua offers encounters that transcend the everyday: conversations born in colonial courtyards; workplaces surrounded by history; and moments when architecture speaks to remind us that every important project begins with a clear vision and a well-nurtured legacy.



We extend a wholehearted welcome to each of you, certain that this gathering will be a crucible where ideas, cultures and experiences fuse to create enduring strategies. May this journey strengthen bonds, broaden horizons and forge new collaborations that will help us to achieve our global goals. May it be as warm and resilient as the volcanic stone that surrounds this city.

Welcome to Antigua Guatemala, a city with a rich history, a platform for the future and, above all, a place where innovation is grounded in shared values.

Let's raise our Antigua coffee cups and toast to a great week!



ABOUT OUR WWF OFFICE

Our regional WWF Mesoamerica office is located in Guatemala City and is responsible for our operations in the countries of the Central American region: **Belize, Honduras, Guatemala** (where we also have field offices) and projects in the rest of the countries: **Costa Rica, Panamá and El Salvador**. We work closely with the WWF Mexico office, especially in shared ecoregions: the Mesoamerican Reef System and in the Maya Forest.

This year, as WWF Mesoamerica we have reached four decades of working along the region with multiple stakeholders, partners and communities.

We celebrate what has been achieved with pride and gratitude for all the people and partners who have been part of this journey, while recognizing that much remains to be done. What has been built so far is only the beginning of an urgent mission: to continue working toward a region where people and nature can thrive together, because nature cannot wait.



ARRIVING IN GUATEMALA

The staff of TRANS HOTELS will wait for you at the La Aurora International Airport exit. The driver will be displaying the Panda Logo, and then they will take you on the shuttle to Antigua Guatemala. Depending on traffic conditions, this route may take up to 1.5 hours.

Cost for individual ride: USD 60 (with charge to the Hotel)

Cost for shared ride (2-3 people): USD 30 per person

Important Note: If your arrival time is between 11.00PM and 5.00AM there is an additional fee of USD 15.

Important Note: Find the shuttle close to Baretto Café, next to the bluesky wing (exit). Upon arrival please kindly identify Trans Hoteles in case you cannot identify the Panda Logo.





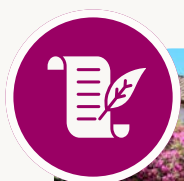
ABOUT ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

Antigua Guatemala, founded in 1543, is a Spanish colonial city and UNESCO World Heritage Site (1979) famous for its cobblestone streets, baroque architecture, and church ruins. Surrounded by volcanoes, it offers a rich blend of history, cuisine, crafts, and boutique hotels, in a setting that seems frozen in time.





HIGHLIGHTS OF ANTIGUA GUATEMALA:



History and Heritage: It was Guatemala's third capital, known as Santiago de los Caballeros, and endured the Santa Marta earthquakes of 1773, after which the capital was moved to Guatemala City



Tourism and Activities: It offers a vibrant culture of cafes, fine dining restaurants, jade museums, and visits to nearby coffee farms.



Iconic Sites: Highlights include the Arch of Santa Catalina, the Plaza Mayor, the Palace of the Captain-Generals, and the Convent of San Francisco.



Natural Setting: It is located in a valley, flanked by the Agua, Fuego, and Acatenango volcanoes.



TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

- **Location:** 5 calle Oriente No. 11, unidades 1 y 2
La Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez
- **Phone:** (502) 2290-2800 Exts. 6010 / 6011 / 6146
- **Emergency phones:** (502) 2290-2810 or 1500
- **Email:** info-antigua@inguat.gob.gt

Hours of Operation:

- Monday to Friday: 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM
(unless another activity is taking place,
it is attended until 04:00 PM)
- Saturday and Sunday: 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM
- Holidays: Special Hours

* Please contact Brenda Laugerud if you need
more information or assistance with travel options

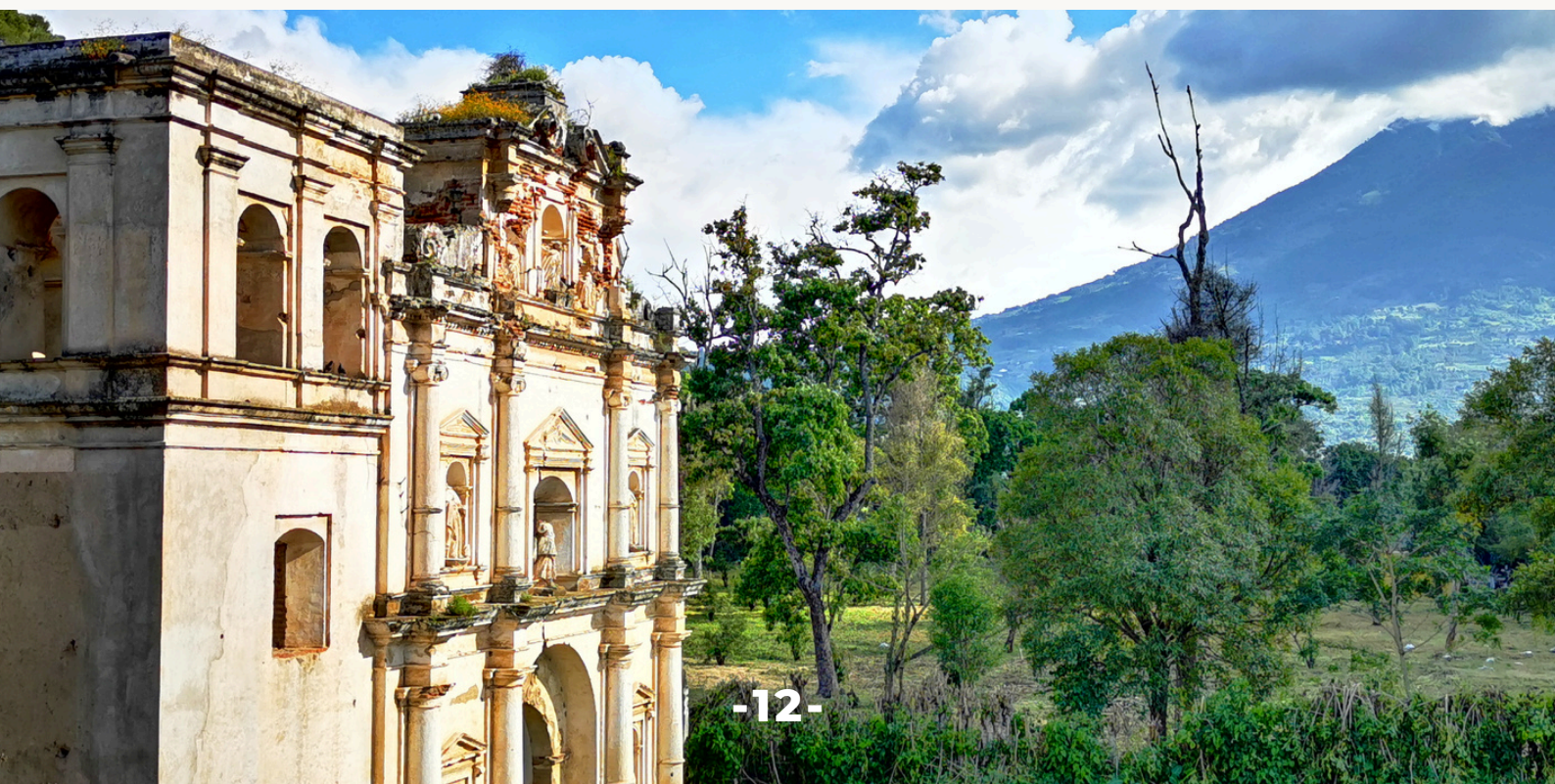




IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ANTIGUA GUATEMALA



- **Altitude:** approximately 1,530 to 1,545 meters (5,020 to 5,069 feet) above sea level in the central highlands, surrounded by three volcanoes.
- **Surface area:** 74.1 - 78 km²
- **Population:** Approximately 55,000 - 60,608 (2023).
- **Location:** Situated in the Sacatepéquez Department, approximately 45 kilometers west of Guatemala City
- **Time zone:** GTM – 6
- **Sunrise and sunset:** During the end of September – beginning of October: Sunrise should take place around 5:50 AM to 5:55 AM and sunset around 5:50 PM to 6:00 PM





Electricity: power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type A and type B are used. The standard voltage is 120 V at a frequency of 60 Hz



Language: The official and most widely spoken language in Antigua Guatemala is **Spanish**, which is used in education, commerce, and government. Kaqchikel is the predominant Mayan language in the surrounding area. English is widely spoken in tourist areas, hotels, and restaurants.



Tips: Restaurants usually include a 10% service charge, which is the standard tip, so no extra is needed. Tipping is a gesture of gratitude, not an obligation. If you pick the right spots, service can be amazing, and sometimes that 10% feels short. Street food? No tip expected.



Phone dialing:

- Country code: 502

Emergency phone numbers: In case of emergency, you can call the following numbers:



- Fire Department: 122
- Police: 110
- Antigua City Fire Department: +502 4144-2323
- Tourism information and assistance: +502 1500

WWF Mesoamerica:

- +502 2366-5856 (office)
- +502 5951-9671 (Brenda Laugerud)

Hotel Casa Santo Domingo:

+502 7820-1220





VISA & IMMIGRATION

You can validate the requirements to enter Guatemala

[HERE](#) →

The countries classified as Category A do not require a visa to enter Guatemala. You just need to show your valid passport at the port of entry, as well as your travel arrangements, and financial resources to cover your expenses while in Guatemala. The **countries classified as Category C should fill out the enclosed forms. (Annex 1 and 2)**



CUSTOMS

Guatemalan Customs requires you to fill the E-Traveller's Declaration Form prior of your arrival to or departure from Guatemala. You can fill it

[HERE](#) →

After completing the form, the system will show you a QR Code. You must keep it and show it to the Customs authority upon arrival/departure. Complete your form up to 3 days in advance.



\$ CURRENCY EXCHANGE

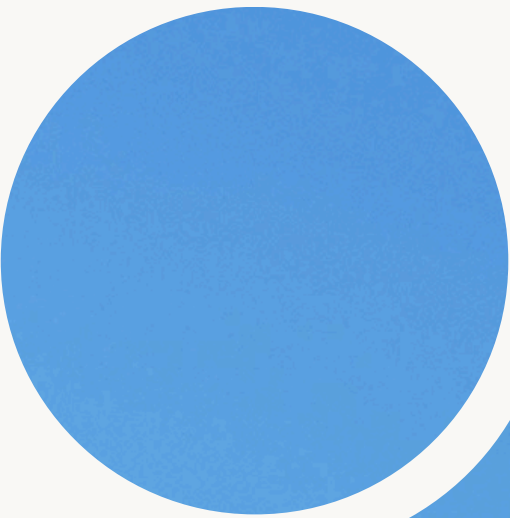
Local currency is the Guatemalan Quetzal. **Official exchange rate is Q7.63 per US\$1.** Some variations are acceptable, from Q7.50 and up to Q8.00 per US\$1. The majority of large stores and businesses take US dollars, but the exchange rate can be unfavorable. Major credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted.



WEATHER

Because it is located in a valley surrounded by the Sierra Madre mountain range, the city of Antigua Guatemala is classified as a transition zone between the sub-humid subtropical highland climate and the sub-humid temperate mountain climate, falling within the sub-humid temperate category according to the Köppen climate classification. As a result, temperatures are mild and remain relatively consistent throughout the day.

The rainy season occurs between May and October, with an average annual rainfall of 1,057 to 1,600 mm. This is the period when 90% of the total annual precipitation falls.





KEY DETAILS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

- **Rainfall:** September is very wet, while October is moderate as the rainy season ends. Expect afternoon or evening showers, with mornings often sunny.
- **Temperatures:** Comfortable, with average daily highs of 76-78°F (24-26 °C) and overnight lows near 59-60 °F (15-16 °C)
- **Packing:** Pack waterproof gear, rain boots, and layers for cool evenings.
- **Visitor Experience:** October is great for photography with vibrant, lush scenery. Both months offer fewer tourists. The rainy season often brings sunny mornings followed by afternoon downpours, so it is rarely rainy all day.

LAYERS ARE KEY LAYERS ARE KEY



CLOTHING

Warmth & Comfort:

Long pants (jeans, casual pants) and sweaters or a light fleece for cool mornings and evenings when temperatures drop into the 60s F (16–20°C).

Daytime:

Short-sleeve shirts, casual blouses, and light pants or longer shorts are appropriate.

Rain Gear:

A waterproof jacket or quality poncho is essential, as rain is expected.

Footwear:

Wear comfortable shoes for uneven, cobblestone streets.





WIFI

Our event has free WiFi (WLAN). Connect your device to the hotel's network or use your phone in roaming mode.

Guatemala has 4G and 5G connectivity provided by Tigo and Claro carriers. If you wish to buy a SIM card, you can buy one at the identified shops. You must present an ID and the average price isn't higher than Q50. (fifty quetzales) US\$6.25



GETTING AROUND

Feel free to walk in Antigua Guatemala, since it's one of the safest cities of the country. To move further distances, you can use Uber. Local Tuc Tuc (small motortaxis) can take you to different points of the city. The average rate is between Q20 to Q50. They only take cash. In Guatemala City you can ask for Uber or a Yellow Cab (+502 2470 1515).



SAFETY



! Avoid walking in the street with your cellphone, computer, jewelry, important amounts of cash or any valuable item on sight.

! Do not share personal information with people outside the event.

! Always leave information of your itinerary, telephones, etc. to your WWF office and family members. It's important that someone knows your whereabouts in case of an emergency.

! It's recommended to keep a low profile as business traveler and as a tourist. Avoid wearing accessories that draw unnecessary attention to you.





SAFETY



In terms of medical emergencies, it can be lifesaving to have your medical history written down both in English and Spanish, more importantly if you have any medical condition such as allergies.



You are requested to have all the necessary health, travel, repatriation and cancellation insurance in place before your travel. For people under medical treatment or that require specific medication, please request the advice of your personal medical specialist, prior to travel.



HOTEL CASA SANTO DOMINGO, A PIECE OF HISTORY IN ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA



Click on this Link to book your room at Hotel Casa Santo Domingo under WWF rate

HERE →

Hotel Casa Santo Domingo is an award-winning five-star hotel and museum located in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala. Set within the former Convent of Santo Domingo—once one of the largest convents in the Americas—the property dates back to the arrival of the Dominican Order in 1538. Partially destroyed by the 1773 Santa Marta earthquake, the remaining structures have been carefully preserved and now showcase outstanding examples of Baroque colonial architecture and historical artifacts. The hotel opened in June 1989, seamlessly blending cultural heritage with luxury hospitality.





LOGISTICS CONTACTS



In case of an emergency, please contact:

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