

# La Antigua Guatemala



SACATEPÉQUEZ

# Guatemala



*Heart of the Mayan World*



**La Antigua Guatemala, the first Capital of Central America, is culture and history. This city of nostalgic cobblestone streets, represents in its antique walls, the rich inheritance of the Hispanic colonial time period. Churches, convents, monasteries, large family housings, are part of a beautiful and evocative collection of monumental architecture.**

**They represent the cultural and architectural treasures in which Hispanic and Native art fused, giving this collection an experience filled with religiousness, mysticism, and tradition. Antigua Guatemala was declared Patrimony of Humanity by UNESCO in 1979.**

# Interesting Places

## 1. SANTIAGO MUSEUM (OLD WEAPONS):

In this Museum you can see the weapons Spaniards and indigenous people used during the conquest.

## 2. ANTIQUE BOOKS MUSEUM:

Here you will find on display a replica of the first printing press in Guatemala which was operated for the first time in 1660.

## 3. COLONIAL ART MUSEUM:

This important museum is located in the building which housed the San Carlos University during the colonial period. Here you may admire paintings and sculptures of that era.

## 4. CATHEDRAL:

It was not until 1680 that St. Joseph's Cathedral acquired the beauty we can get a glimpse of today. An interesting fact is that according to some historians somewhere in the crypts lie the remains of the conqueror of Guatemala, Don Pedro de Alvarado.

## 5. SANTA CLARA CONVENT:

This convent was originally founded in 1699 by a group of nuns from the Mexican city of Puebla, known as "Monjas Clarisas".

## 6. SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH & CONVENT:

The tomb of the Saint Hermano Pedro de San José de Betancourt is located here. He was a Franciscan friar who in the late seventeenth century was known for his great charity and love for the poor. His resting place has become an important destination for pilgrimages from Central America.

## 7. CAPUCHINAS CONVENT:

This was the last convent of nuns founded in the city. One of the main attractions is the Del Retiro Tower which was built in a circular shape with 18 rooms or cells. In the museum, located on the second floor of the building, you can find a collection of carved colonial religious images and paintings.

## 8. LA MERCED CHURCH & CONVENT:

This site has an exquisite baroque style-facade that shows an extraordinary stucco finish. In the convent's courtyard you will also see one of the largest and most beautiful fountains in the city.

## 9. SAN JERÓNIMO CLOISTER:

Its construction was finished in 1759. Soon afterwards the Spanish authorities established the Royal Customs Office in this building.

## 10. LOCAL MARKET:

The busiest days are Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Here you may find a wide selection of fruits & vegetables. You can also admire the colorful typical costumes worn by the indigenous people from La Antigua's surrounding villages.

## 11. HANDICRAFT MARKET:

This interesting marketplace offers crafts made by authentic artisans from La Antigua.

## 12. LA AZOTEA, CULTURAL CENTER:

Guided tours through three interesting museums, the Mayan Music Museum with a collection of Mayan instruments, the Coffee Museum with the history and process, and the Handcraft Museum with a collection of crafts and typical customs of the area of Sacatepéquez.

## 13. POPENOE HOUSE:

Seventeenth Century colonial house and museum.

## 14. HOUSE OF THE ANTIQUE COSTUME:

Offers a wide selection of typical costumes from different regions of the country.

## 15. MUSEUMS PROMENADE:

Cultural route through six museums installed in what was the church and convent of Santo Domingo and the Santo Tomás de Aquino College. (Colonial Art Museum, Archaeology Museum, Pre-Columbian Art and Popular Handcrafts Museum, Pharmacy Museum). All along the way you may observe wax and majolica china workshops, as well as the burial and vigil crypts among with the Clavary Crypt is outstanding.

## 16. CULTURAL CENTER EL SITIO:

Promotes art and culture. (music, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, literature and film, as well as other activities related to cultural development).

## 17. LA RECOLECCIÓN CONVENT:

This beautiful colonial monument finished in 1715, now in ruins, housed the religious order of the "Frailes Recoletos".

## 18. CULTURAL CENTER AECL - Compañía de Jesús:

In 1994 the Municipality of Antigua cedes the property to AECL to create an Ibero-American Center for Development. It has four cloisters with 18 wings, four exhibit halls, a corridor, kitchen and library-documentation center.

## 19. VALHALLA (Macadamia Nut Plantation Tour):

Experimental farm located ½ km before San Miguel Dueñas. Observe and enjoy natural macadamia, with chocolate and in cosmetics. A program for volunteers is available for people who work in agriculture. Accommodations and meals provided.

## 20. BISHOP'S MUSEUM:

Guided tours of colonial era sculpture, paintings and altar pieces are available.



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## ACTIVITIES

- Cultural Tourism (Museums and Traditions)
- Religious Tourism
- Ecotourism & Agrotourism (Coffee, Macadamia, Medlar)
- Birdwatching
- Adventure tourism (Volcano Climbing, Canopy)
- Spanish schools
- Golf
- Health and Wellness Tourism
- Weddings and Honey Moon
- Weaving and Handcrafts
- Businesses and Congresses





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