

## A guide for people returning to Guatemala



- To stay safe, make a friend on the bus or plane, stick together to support each other.
- Be alert and calm, blend in, and comply with the authorities.
- Avoid casual street encounters, including eye contact.
- Be prepared for bribes, have \$40-100 in cash in \$10s & \$20s in different pockets.
- Beware of criminal elements, don't use an offered cell phone to call your family.
- *Have contact information for your family in Guatemala and all documents that prove your identity and deportation status on you, not in your bag.*
- To keep your family informed, use the emergency notification app Notifica ([notifica.us](http://notifica.us)) or WhatsApp ([whatsapp.com](http://whatsapp.com)). You need wifi to use WhatsApp.

### Specific security precautions for Guatemala



- Keep your money/valuables as secure as possible.
- Avoid public ATMs, where credit card scams tend to happen.
- Conceal valuable items such as smartphones.
- Be careful when walking in Guatemala City and on buses, which are frequently subject to armed robberies.
- Understand that members of MS-13 and Calle 18 gangs and Mexican drug trafficking organizations operate throughout Guatemala.

### Nonprofits offering assistance



**Casa del Migrante—Guatemala**  
15 Ave. 1-94 "A" Zona 1  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
(502) 2230 2781  
[camcs@telgua.com](mailto:camcs@telgua.com)

Types of assistance available:

- Accommodations, food, access to showers, clean clothes, and the option to wash clothes.
- Personal hygiene articles, basic medicines.
- A brief long distance phone call if needed to communicate with family.

They welcome returnees 7am–10pm.

**The Association of Returned Guatemalans (ARG)**  
Facebook: [bit.ly/ARG\\_Guatemala](https://bit.ly/ARG_Guatemala)

Services offered:

- Local and international phone calls.
- General orientation for returnees to their places of origin.
- Help to locate shelters or hotels if required.
- Other services to mitigate the process of return.

ARG meets returnees in the *Salón Migratorio* at the airport.

### Process of repatriation

Returnees arrive at the La Aurora Air Force base next to the La Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City.

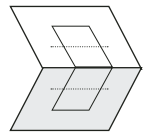
When deportees, both adults and minors, arrive in the *Salón Migratorio* at the Air Force base, they are given refreshments and are officially received by representatives of the General Agency on Migration (DGM). Adults get a free phone call and can exchange currency.

After that, they are taken to the bus terminal and given a bus ticket to their hometown. Representatives from the *Pastoral de Movilidad Humana* may be at the airport to meet returnees. They can arrange transportation to *Casa del Migrante*, which provides services to returnees. Representatives from the Association of Returned Guatemalans (ARG) may also be at the airport to offer help.

For more in-depth information, visit:

[afsc.org/XS/guatemala](http://afsc.org/XS/guatemala)

1



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3

