



Ok Antigua!

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**Top 10
Attractions**

7 Dishes You MUST Try!

**Lent & Holy Week
Information**

Plus:
Where to
Shop
Stay
Eat

with
full-color
map inside

Antigua Guatemala Pocket Guide - 2017

How to navigate:

Swipe horizontally to navigate between pages.

Tap the globe icon to view links.



Tap images and maps in index to jump to each section:



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Antigua Guatemala Pocket Guide - 2017 Edition -

Hello!

Thank you for visiting OkAntigua.com and downloading this updated guide. I hope you find it useful and if you have comments, please let me know by sending me a message at richpolanco@okantigua.com.

By the way, we've also updated the [Antigua Guatemala Travel Guide](#) for 2017. If you enjoy the photos and info here, the travel guide has 10x the pages you'll find in this pocket guide.

That's it for the intro message!

Have fun and enjoy Antigua Guatemala, the greatest little colonial town I know.



Rich Polanco

Our Top 10

Content



Take your pick!

Parque Central
The center of social life throughout the city's history. A great place to meet locals and start your exploration.

Arco Santa Catalina
The iconic yellow arch along with the Mayan pyramids of Tikal, is Guatemala's most recognizable landmark.

Cerro de la Cruz
This hill, directly north of the city, offers a breathtaking view of the city and surrounding volcanoes.

Santo Domingo del Cerro
Beautiful gardens with numerous art exhibits - indoor and outdoor, aviary, zipline, playground, and restaurant.

San Francisco Church
Rebuilt, it houses the tomb of Guatemala's only canonized saint, Hermano Pedro. Convent ruins and museum onsite.

La Merced Church
Prettiest church in town. Convent ruins next door are inexpensive, well marked, and have beautiful views.

Mercado de Artesanías
Find quality handicrafts and souvenirs. Want a good deal though? Bring your bargaining skills, or learn on the job.

El Mercado
An overload of the senses. Come explore, see fruits you've never seen before, and watch locals go about their daily lives.

Las Capuchinas Ruins
Explore one of the most interesting ruins in the city. Learn about the lives of cloistered nuns in colonial Antigua.

Museums Promenade
By far the best museums in the city and housed inside ruins of one of the grandest convents in the Americas.



Attractions - p.4
Know what places to put first on your list as must see attractions in town. With hours and pricing info.

Restaurants - p.12
Want to know where to grab a bite? See our picks for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Know which local dishes you MUST try.

Shopping - p.24
Whether shopping for souvenirs, or for the best high-end fashion, this section has what you're looking for.

Practical Info - p.26
Check out our safety tips, how to use local transportation, and other useful info every visitor should know.

Lent & Holy Week - p.32
Plan your visit to Antigua's world-famous celebrations. Dates and location info so you can plan your visit accordingly.

Maps



Check out our full color Antigua map with attractions (p.10-11).



Here for Lent or Holy Week? Our maps will help you find the right church in a cinch.

Attractions

(1) Parque Central



The meeting place for tourist and locals and an excellent place to people watch. Jacaranda trees bloom with purple flowers during Lent season. Liven up on weekends with street performers and traditional marimba music.

Location: 4a/5a Avenida & 4a/5a Calle

(2) Arco Santa Catalina



One of Guatemala's iconic landmarks. Part of the convent

the arch once belonged to is now a hotel/restaurant. Now closed to the public, the arch once served as a passageway for cloistered nuns and connected sections of the convent on opposite sides of the street.

Location: 5a Avenida Norte

(3) Cerro de la Cruz



Magnificent views of Antigua and nearby volcanos. Not much else there, but worth the trip.

Location: Entrance on 1a Avenida Norte

Hours: Daylight hours only - not safe at night

(4) Santo Domingo del Cerro



Great place to spend a few hours walking. Has many

sections, each displaying interesting art. My favorite is the outdoor art gallery featuring works by **Efraín Recinos**, Guatemala's most renowned artist. There's also a nice, one-room museum, displaying personal belongings of the late **Miguel Asturias**, Guatemala's Nobel Prize winning writer. Adjacent, there's another recipient, a room housing personal effects used by **Pope John Paul II** during his last visit to the country. There's a playground, an aviary, and new canopy rides. View of surrounding volcanoes is excellent. White-tablecloth restaurant **Tenedor del Cerro** is an excellent place to enjoy breakfast. Admission is free - take **Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo's** free shuttle up to the restaurant (dining there not required). Parking is Q10 if driving up.

Location: Take shuttle at 3a Calle Oriente #28A

Hours: 7am-10pm. Closed Mondays

(5) San Francisco Church



This church is one of the country's most important pilgrimage places - **Hermano Pedro's** resting place is here and a museum housing his personal effects.

Location: 1a Avenida Sur **Hours:** Museum - Q5 (9am to 4:30pm), Church (6:15am to 6:15pm)

(6) La Merced Church



Its beautiful yellow façade and arabesque relief make this church one of Antigua's most striking buildings. Take a self-guided tour, in English, of the convent's ruins for outstanding volcano views and the largest fountain in Central America.

Location: 1a Calle Poniente, 6a Avenida Norte

Hours: Convent - Q15 (8am-6pm), Church (7am-8pm)

(7) Mercado de Artesanias



Antigua doesn't lack for handicrafts sellers. Choose wisely - it means the difference between a bargain and overpaying four times as much for the same trinket.

Many shops sell mass produced knickknacks and Chinese "Maya textiles" knockoffs, but if you're looking for above average stuff, the **Mercado de Artesanias** is a good place to start. You'll have the chance to meet the actual artisans who make what they sell. Bargain hard - prices first quoted can be as high as three times above what the sellers are willing to settle for.

Location: *4a Calle Poniente, Cda Santa Lucia*

Hours: *7am to 10pm - Closed Monday*

(8) Mercado Central



A disorienting overload of sight, sound and smells. The **Mercado** is crowded during official days (Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays). Visit between 7am - 3pm. Stay away from empty alleys and mind your pockets.

Location: *Behind Alameda Santa Lucia*

Hours: *Every day from 7am to 6pm*

(9) Las Capuchinas Convent

Ruins with an interesting architecture - its circular cells are thought to be the first apartment building in the Americas.



Location: *2a Calle Oriente/ 2a Avenida Norte*

Hours: *Daily, 9am to 5pm - Q40 p/p*

(10) Museums Promenade



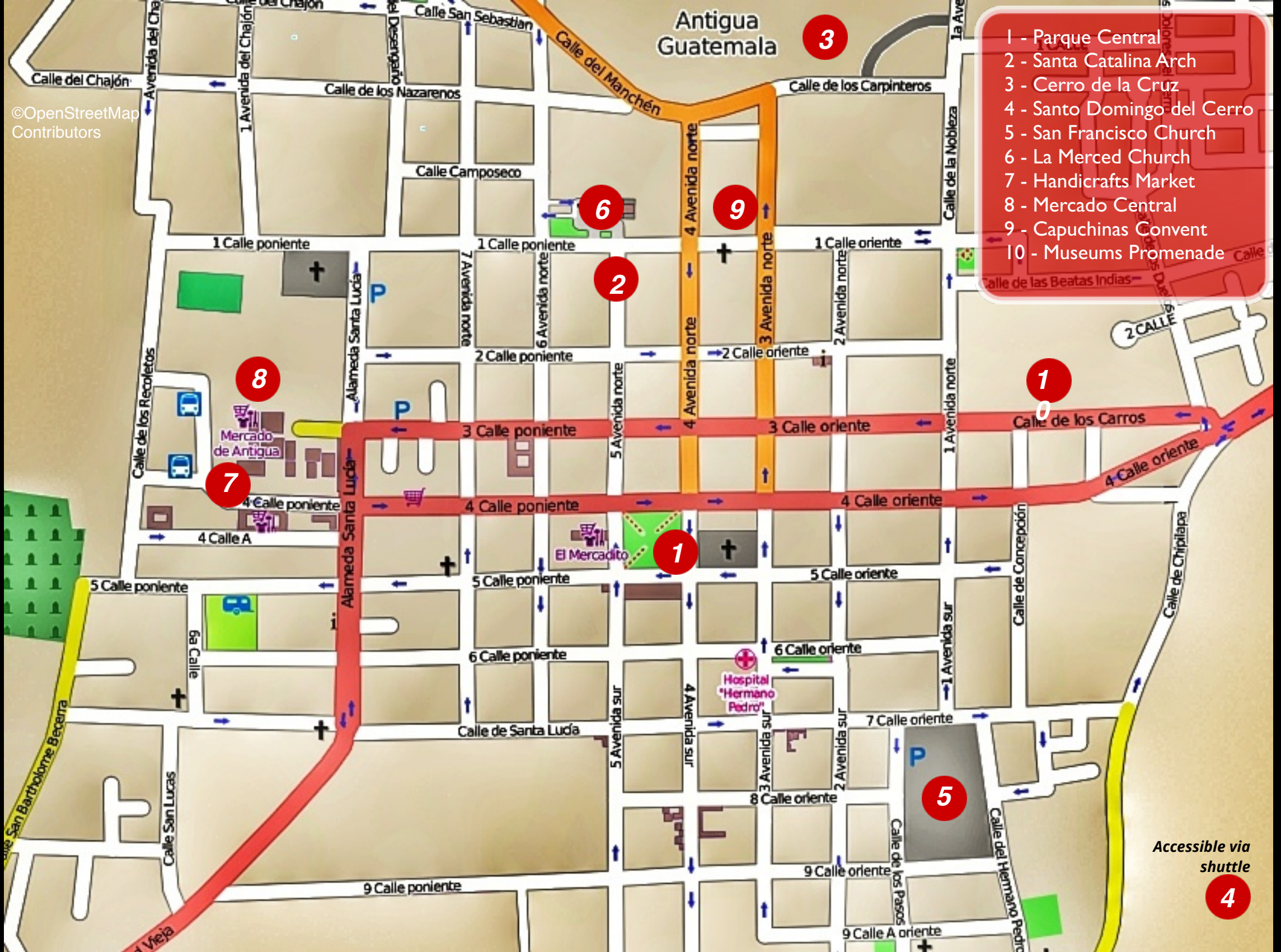
Tour six museums inside **Hotel Casa Santo Domingo**. See colonial and Maya art, archeological findings and crypts in what was once Antigua's largest convent.

Location: *3a Calle Oriente #28A*

Hours: *Daily, 9am to 6pm - Q40 p/p*

Want more? [Then check out our digital guide on the next page.](#)

©OpenStreetMap
Contributors



- 1 - Parque Central
- 2 - Santa Catalina Arch
- 3 - Cerro de la Cruz
- 4 - Santo Domingo del Cerro
- 5 - San Francisco Church
- 6 - La Merced Church
- 7 - Handicrafts Market
- 8 - Mercado Central
- 9 - Capuchinas Convent
- 10 - Museums Promenade

Accessible via
shuttle

4

TOP ANTIGUA ATTACIONS

Where to Eat

Antigua Guatemala is a great place for foodies. There are over 150 eating establishments here, most within walking distance of each other. Here are some we consider to be the best of the best:

Price Guide

\$ = Under Q50 (\$6.25)

\$\$ = Dishes are Q50 - Q100 (\$6.25 - \$12.50)

\$\$\$ = Dishes Q100 - Q150 (\$12.50 - \$18.75)

\$\$\$\$ = Over Q150 (Over \$18.75)

BREAKFAST

Panadería Santa Clara: Bakery / restaurant popular with locals. Restaurant next door offers varied breakfast options. Has a covered terrace. (2a Avenida Sur #24). \$

Doña Luisa Xicontecatl: Bakery / restaurant - try the banana bread. Breakfast is great as are lunch options. (4a Calle Oriente #12). \$

Fernando's Kaffe: Great coffee and chocolate. Limited menu. Good WiFi too. (7am Avenida Norte and Callejon Camposeco). \$

Y Tu Piña También: Best vulgarly named English muffin sandwiches. Friendly staff. Bacon pancakes and a Sunday brunch. (1a Avenida Sur #10B and 6a Calle). \$



Rainbow Cafe: Open for breakfast to dinner. Vegan & gluten-free options. Live music on weekends, open mike nights Wednesdays. (7am Avenida Sur #8). \$

Cafe Condesa: Strong coffee, great omelets. Serving breakfast all day! Sunday brunch. (5a Avenida, across Parque Central). \$

Tenedor del Cerro: Visit on a clear day to gaze at the volcanoes in the distance. Free shuttle from Hotel Casa Santo Domingo. (Closed Mondays). \$ \$ (Rating is for breakfast prices).

Entre Campanas: Restaurant inside Hotel Los Pasos serves up a popular 2x1 breakfast special every day. (9a Calle Oriente #19). \$

LUNCH

Hector's: Tiny French-inspired restaurant. New owners, but still ranks as one of the best. (*1a Calle Poniente #9A*). \$\$

Quinchos Mariscos / Hugo's Ceviches: Try *ceviche* (Guatemalan seafood cocktail) and *micheladas* (beer + tomato juice + lime + hot sauce cocktail). Hugo's restaurant has a playpen for kids and free WiFi. Both \$\$.
Hugo's Restaurant: *7a Calle Poniente #11*
Quinchos Restaurant: *Calz. Santa Lucía #5*

Sobremesa: Unicorn steak! Gourmet ice cream! (*4a Calle Oriente #4A*). \$\$\$

Cactus Grill: Best Mexican food in town. (*6a Calle Poniente #21*). \$\$

Pappy's BBQ: Texas-style BBQ by a born-n-raised Texan. (*6a Calle Poniente #21B*). \$\$

Metiz Deli & French Bistro: Tasty sandwiches, real macaroons. (*4a Avenida Norte 4A - Closed Mondays*). \$\$

Epicure: With a pretty courtyard, this restaurant serves up tasty pizzas, ribs, burgers, sandwiches, and other tasty items made with locally-sourced ingredients. Great desserts. (*3a Avenida Norte #11B*). \$\$\$

DINNER

Por Que No? Cafe (Why Not? Cafe): Tiny, quirky restaurant. Good steak, quesadillas and burritos. Good place to stand around with a beer and chat with friendly folks. (*2da Avenida Sur #9a*). \$\$

COMO COMO: New location! Run by a Belgian couple, this gastropub serves a variety of pasta and meat dishes. (*2a Avenida Sur #10*). \$\$\$ - Closed Mondays

Bistrot Cinq: French bistro. Big wine list and absinthe. Sunday brunch. Lunch and dinner. (*4a Calle Oriente #7*). \$\$\$

Rincon Típico: Inexpensive, filling Guatemalan food. Try the wood-roasted chicken. (*3a Avenida Sur*). \$

Meson Panza Verde: For romantic evenings and special occasions. High-end meals, live piano music and wine to match. Dress up a bit, will ya? (*5a Avenida Sur #19 - Continental cuisine*). \$\$\$\$

Los Tres Tiempos: Pretty restaurant serving traditional Guatemalan food with a creative flair. (*5a Avenida Norte #31 - Guatemalan cuisine*). \$\$



Dishes You MUST Try!

Guatemala's culinary traditions are a mix of the Maya's New World recipes and ingredients (like corn, beans, and turkey), and Spanish' Old World ingredients (spices and livestock) and influences. Try these dishes to take a culinary tour of Antigua's regional roots and taste recipes beloved by Guatemalans.



Tamales

There are over 250 regional tamale variations. Try the local version, *tamales colorados*, made with corn dough, with a piece of pork or chicken inside, and topped with a tomato-based sauce. Wrapped and boiled in leaves, it's a tasty, filling meal. Traditionally sold and eaten on Saturdays. Its cousin, *pache*, is made with potato instead of corn dough.



Pepián

Guatemala's national dish is a dark red chicken/pork/beef stew made with tomatoes, pepitoria (dried pumpkin seeds), chilies - can be quite spicy depending on recipe. The original Mayan recipe calls for turkey - chickens were brought over by European settlers.



Rellenitos

Popular street food, often sold at nighttime. They are fried sweet plantain balls filled with a sweet black bean sauce - similar taste to chocolate, and topped with sugar.



Pupusas

El Salvador's national dish is really a Mayan creation. Popular in all Central America, this cheese or pork-filled corn tortillas are tasty and filling. Topped with cabbage slaw.



Atol de Elote

Available nationwide, this is a sweet, creamy, corn-based drink - topped with corn kernels. Don't confuse with *atol blanco*, which is not sweet, but just as popular and served in a bowl.



Ceviche

This dish features shrimp marinated in lime juice, and mixed with beer, tomato juice, Worcestershire sauce, among other seasonings. Other seafood can be included. Delicious!



Flan Antigueño

Antigua's own dessert, it features a layer of egg custard on top and candied figs, local squash and sweet potato, and a cake layer at the bottom. Quite a treat!



A (Very) Brief History of Antigua Guatemala

Few places make a first impression quite like Antigua Guatemala. For many, the backdrop of nearby volcanoes, towering over the landscape better than any skyscraper I've ever seen, are enough to make one stand in awe. The town itself mesmerizes. To tread over cobblestone streets, laid down amidst Spanish colonial buildings, is to travel back in time hundreds of years. How Antigua survived all the catastrophes that have befallen it and been able to survive to this day is a story worth telling, even if it does have rather bloody beginnings.

Our story picks up when ruthless mass murderer and Spanish Conquistador **Pedro de Alvarado** arrived in the territory we now know as Guatemala in 1524, seeking power and riches. He established an outpost, via truce with natives, in nearby **Iximche**, the capital of the Kaqchikel Maya. With help from the Kaqchiquel, de Alvarado was able to quickly subdue surrounding tribes. Mission accomplished, de Alvarado declared Iximche the colonial capital and its inhabitants his subjects - that DID NOT go over well with the Kaqchikel, who realized they'd been duped and promptly broke off the alliance. For their refusal to become servants to the invaders, de Alvarado declared war on them - a war which he would not win. After two years of fighting, the Spanish decided that if Iximche couldn't be theirs, then it wouldn't belong to anybody, summarily burning it to the ground. That done, the Spanish moved on, seeking greener, more peaceful pastures.

In 1527, the Spanish established themselves in the Valley of Almolonga, on the slopes of sacred **Hunahpú Volcano**, in the area today known as **Ciudad Vieja**.

All was well going well for the Conquistadors - not so for the local Maya, who had promptly been enslaved and divided among landowners as if they were livestock. On September 11, 1541, tragedy struck, when, after three days of torrential rain, either a side atop the volcano came down, causing the crater lagoon to empty, or (the likelier theory), a gulley in the direct path of the town - still visible today, held enough water to unleash an epic mudslide. History repeated itself in 2010, when Tropical Storm Agatha caused a similar mudslide that brought trees and rocks barreling towards the same location where the second capital once stood, killing 9 people and depositing enough mud as to bury two-story houses. It was after the first catastrophe that Hunahpú volcano gained the name it's known by today, **Agua Volcano** (Water Volcano).

Most of the Spanish population was wiped out following the mudslide - including the first female Governor in the Americas and wife of Pedro de Alvarado, **Beatriz de la Cueva**. Her reign was short-lived, mercifully, as she had assumed office only two days prior to the mudslide. She was as cruel to the natives as her late husband had been, believing them to be on par with animals - without a soul.

The survivors, led by **Francisco de Marroquin**, later a bishop, moved the capital once again, this time establishing it less than five miles away, in fertile and water-rich Panchoy Valley. **Santiago de Los Caballeros**, as Antigua Guatemala was once known, slowly but surely grew in importance. Because of its wonderful location and prestige, Santiago became a popular destination for Spanish dignitaries and Catholic missionaries on assignment to the New World.

At the height of Antigua's power and influence, the city boasted 38 churches and sumptuous convents, many of them magnificently appointed and well-renowned.

Unfortunately, Santiago was periodically hit by intense earthquakes, some so strong that chronicles of the time state that they knocked people off their feet and sloshed all water out of fountains. One earthquake in particular, in 1717, prompted authorities to consider moving the city elsewhere - which after lots of consideration, they decided against. A consequence of these powerful earthquakes was the rise of 'earthquake baroque' construction, which Architect **Diego de Porres** and others were responsible for implementing. Rather than constructing magnificent, airy churches with high ceilings, architects increased the thickness of the walls - up to a meter wide in places - and lowered ceiling by as much as a third - see **La Merced Church** and the **Captain-Generals' Palace**. Another strong earthquake in 1751 caused a lot of destruction, but newer buildings were able to withstand it with minor damages.

On July 29, 1773, a strong earthquake killed over 500 people and serious aftershocks that lasted until December, which killed another 500 people. These earthquakes weakened the population's resolve about staying in the area. Captain-General **Martin de Mayorga**, who had arrived just a little over a month to the city, seized the opportunity to make a name for himself, establish a new capital elsewhere and begin collecting new taxes, eventually convincing the Spanish Crown to allow him to do so. This despite fierce opposition from resident Archbishop **Pedro Cortez y Larráz**.

At first, residents resisted, but de Mayorga ordered that all important religious imagery be moved to the new location, in present-day Guatemala City. Officials, desperate for construction material needed to build the new capital, began tearing walls and anything of use from convents, houses and churches. Even though residents were ordered to move under threat, a small number of residents managed to defy the orders, keeping a low profile until de Mayorga lost interest and left them alone.

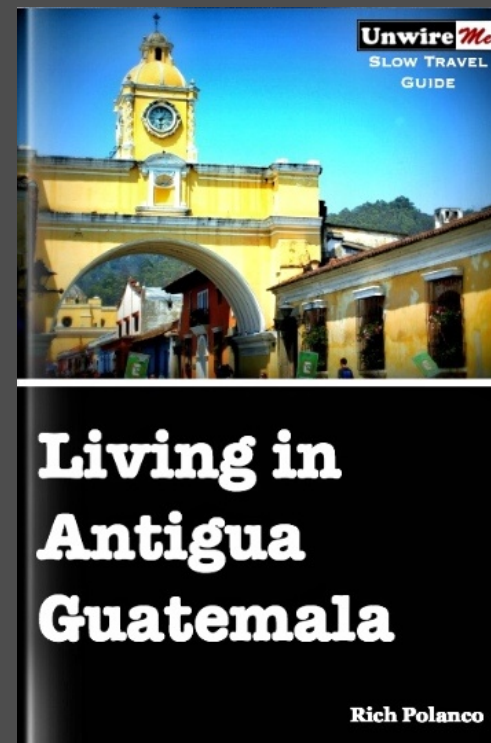
It was in 1784 when the city began to be referred to as "antigua ciudad", or "old city". And so it was that Antigua would remain a forgotten city, its ruins repurposed for various uses, including the drying and roasting of coffee beans, the new crop growing in popularity during the first half of the 1800s. Another earthquake, in 1874, leveled what was left of Antigua. Residents coped as best as they could, using whatever materials were available in the rubble to rebuild their homes. The 1917 earthquake toppled domes of churches that had been left unrepaired.

In 1944, Antigua was declared a national monument and restoration work began. A National Council for the Protection of Antigua Guatemala was formed and their task is to enforce building codes consistent with the character of the city, to restore and preserve it. In 1979, the city was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is said progress is inevitable and the battle is constant between those who want to see Antigua grow and modernize and those who want to keep it quaint, harking back to an idealized version of its colonial roots. Who'll win out? Only time will tell.

Thinking of moving to Antigua Guatemala for a month? Six months? Retiring?

Get our digital guide to
Living in Antigua Guatemala!



Available **now** as an instant download, for iPad and in PDF format!

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Shopping

The Art of the Deal

Antigua Guatemala has an abundance of shops where you can find some of the best Guatemala has to offer. Places you should visit are:

JADE & JEWELRY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Casa del Jade | 4a Calle Oriente #10 | - Museum-quality pieces. |
| Jade Maya | 4a Calle Oriente #34 | - See jade artisans at work. |
| Jades Imperio Maya | 4a Avenida Norte #4 | - High-end jade store. |
| C'Santos | 3a Calle Oriente #31 | - Jewelry other than jade. |
| Colores De La Tierra | 4a Calle Oriente #14 | - Unique Mayan designs. |

TEXTILES & LEATHER

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Colibrí | 4a Calle Oriente #3B | - Quality textile pieces. |
| La Casa del Algodón | 4a Calle Oriente #44 | - Handcrafted cotton pieces. |
| Uxibal | 4a Calle Oriente #5 | - Mayan-inspired boots. |

HANDICRAFTS & SOUVENIRS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nim'Pot | 5a Avenida Norte #29 | - Variety, great prices. |
| Merc. de Artesanías | Calz. Santa Lucía #4 | - Traditional handicrafts. |
| La Casa de Los Gigantes | 7a Calle Oriente #18 | - Textiles, home furnishings. |

5 Great Gifts To Take Back Home

Take a piece of Guatemala back home, or as gifts for friends and loved ones.



Mayan Textiles

You can find beautiful Mayan textile patterns everywhere, from souvenir pens to high-priced boots and purses. Take home a colorful souvenir or two.

Jade

Guatemala has some of the best jade in the world and was prized by the Maya as a sign of wealth and power. Jade comes in a variety of colors - one is sure to be your favorite.



Coffee

Antigua is a productive coffee-producing region due to its rich volcanic soil. Nearby Finca Filadelfia produces export-quality coffee. Find it at the local supermarket (La Bodegona).



Worry Dolls

These tiny "magic" dolls are popular keepsakes. According to legend, *quitapenas* (worry lifting) dolls are adept at relieving stress and solving problems. Tell your worry doll what's troubling you, place the doll under your pillow before you go to sleep, and your doll will take care of the rest.



Zacapa Rum

This sugar-cane rum has won numerous awards and is considered among the best in the world. Pair with quality dark chocolate.

Buy it here, as you won't find a cheaper price outside of Guatemala.



Practical Information

SAFETY

Antigua Guatemala is a fairly safe city - that doesn't mean it's crime-free. During Lent season, petty crime rises, as pickpockets descend on Antigua to feast on tourists and locals too distracted by the pageantry of Lent celebrations. Avoid being a victim by following simple safety precautions:

1 - Don't carry anything that you're not willing to lose in your back pocket or front pants' pockets. Zippered pockets work best - make them work for it is what I'm saying.

2 - Be mindful of who's walking too close behind you. When you know you'll be in crowds, don't carry your wallet and all personal documents. Use a money belt and only carry small amounts of currency in your pockets.

3 - It's fine to bring cameras and expensive gadgets to Antigua. However, keep an eye on them when walking about. Do not leave them unattended, nor carelessly stick that expensive iPhone in a random pocket you're not aware of at all times.

4 - If you're the club-going type, steer clear of pushy, who'll insist of becoming fast friends with you. House parties (after parties), which you may be invited to at clubs, are illegal and often traps for clueless foreigners.

If by some misfortune you happen to be a victim of a crime, don't fret. Antigua has an English-speaking **Tourism Police** (phone # 7968-5303), which provides assistance to tourists in case of emergencies. Reach them toll-free, from anywhere in Guatemala, at phone number **1500**. For the **National Police**, dial 120, for the **Fire Department** dial 123. Guatemala's country code is 502. **INGUAT**, Guatemala's tourism information office, can also provide assistance - at 5a Calle Oriente #11 (phone # 7832-0787), open daily from 8am to 4pm.

MONEY

Stay clear of **Global Exchange** kiosk at the airport or in Antigua - their rates are atrocious. Instead, withdraw money at ATMs around Antigua's Central Park. **Banco Industrial's** (BI) blue ATMs have lowest fees. Yellow **5B's** ATMs are OK. Avoid **BAC's** white/red ATMs, as some have reported being victims of identity theft shortly after using them. Local banks will exchange euros and dollars, provided your bills are in near-mint condition.

VISAS

A tourist visa (90-day permit) is granted upon arrival, whether by land, air, or sea. A 90-day extension is available. [Click here for details.](#)

Getting Around

Flying in? Antigua is a 50-minute shuttle ride from Guatemala City's La Aurora Airport. Look for "Antigua Shuttle" signs upon exiting Customs, or arrange with hotel. Cost: Q80-Q90 (\$10-\$12).

Driving in? Pan-Am Highway CA-2 connects Mexico and El Salvador. Follow signs for Guatemala City (CA-9). Follow turnoff to Antigua (RN-14).

Getting around: Antigua is easy to explore on foot. For longer distances, use a tuk-tuk - three-wheeled motorbikes (Q10-Q20/\$1.25-\$2.50). Chicken buses travel to outlying communities(Q2-Q4/\$0.25-\$0.55). Taxis are available at the taxi stand across the east side of Parque Central.

TIP: ALWAYS negotiate the total fare cost with taxi and tuk-tuk drivers **BEFORE** you get inside the vehicle. Don't be scammed.



Where To Stay

There are quite a few places to stay in Antigua. Below are our picks. Remember to book early if coming to Antigua during Holy Week or at Christmastime.

BUDGET

Yellow House Hostel: Best of the cheap ones. Good terrace, friendly staff, clean, good WiFi. Breakfast included. (1a Calle Poniente #24). **Under \$25USD.**

MIDRANGE

Hotel Casa Cristina: Clean, nicely decorated. Great terrace views. (Callejon Camposeco, between 6a and 7a Avenida). **Under \$50USD.**

Casa Florencia Hotel: Beautiful hotel on the edge of town. Keep in mind if walking back late. Excellent service, quiet surroundings. (7a Avenida Norte #100). **Under \$100USD.**

HIGH-END

Meson Panza Verde: Luxury hotel and restaurant. (5a Avenida Sur #19). **Over \$100USD**

Porta Hotel Antigua: Good pool, beautifully decorated hotel. (8a Calle Poniente #1). **Over \$100USD**

Hotel Santo Domingo: Best hotel in town - if money is no object. Set among ruins of former Santo Domingo Convent.(3a Calle Oriente #28A). **Over \$150USD**

What to Wear

One reason Antigua is such a popular travel and retirement destination is the city's agreeable climate year-round, due to its elevation (1,530 meters) and location in Guatemala's Central Highlands. Unfortunately, many tourists come to Antigua woefully underdressed, as if prepared to deal with a sweltering jungle. Don't be caught unprepared.

Guatemala has two seasons: *Invierno* (winter), marked by rain, and a dry season called *verano* (summer). Winter runs from May through mid-November and summer from November to April. In Antigua, daytime is typically warm and sunny, temperatures rarely reaching 80°F (26.6°C). At night, temperatures drop and can be downright chilly - for Guatemala anyway, especially during December and January, when temperatures can dip to the low 50°F (10°C) degrees.

My advice? If here during rainy season (summer), bring a light rain jacket. If here for winter, a warm sweater or jacket will come in handy during frosty nights. Care to be culturally sensitive to local residents? Don't dress like you're at the beach - the closest one is 68 miles (110km) away anyway.

Get Updated
Antigua Weather Info:



Make Antigua Guatemala's History Come Alive!

Our digital guide will give you a tour of the city and all it has to offer



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Lent & Holy Week Calendar

Schedule has the following format:
 <Event>, <Statue Venerated>, <Location>
Processions are marked with a '•'

Ash Wednesday - March 1

Imposition of Ashes - All Churches

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno del Milagro, *San Felipe de Jesús*

Friday - March 3

Vigil, Sto Cristo del Perdón, *San José Cathedral*

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno de la Salvación, *Sta Catarina Bobadilla*

Saturday - March 4

Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *San Felipe de Jesús*

1st Sunday of Lent - March 5

•11:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno de la Salvación, *Sta Catarina Bobadilla*

2nd Wednesday of Lent - March 8

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno, *Cuasi Parroquia, Los Llanos Jocotenango*

2nd Friday of Lent - March 10

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno, *Sta Inés del Monte Pulciano*

•18:00 Hrs Stations of the Cross, *San José Cathedral*

2nd Saturday of Lent - March 11

Vigil, Sma. Virgen de Dolores, *Nuestra Señora de La Asunción, Jocotenango (continued...)*




Roman centurion

@Rich Polanco

Churches North and East of Antigua



-  Parque Central
-  Jocotenango General Cemetery
-  Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church
-  San Felipe de Jesus Church
-  La Merced Church
-  San Jose Cathedral
-  Santa Ines Monte Pulciano Church

Holy Week Calendar



Roman chariot, procession

@Rich Polanco

•17:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno, Cuasi Parroquia, *Los Llanos Jocotenango*

•18:00 Hrs Procession, Anniversary of Consecration, *Sta Catarina Bobadilla*

2nd Sunday of Lent - March 12

•12:45 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno, *Sta Inés del Monte Pulciano*

3rd Friday of Lent - March 17

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno El Dulce Rabí, *Nuestra Sra de La Asunción, Jocotenango*

•18:00 Hrs Stations of the Cross, *San José Cathedral*

3rd Saturday of Lent - March 18

•13:00 Hrs Children's Procession, Jesús Nazareno Replica, *Sta Ana*

•14:00 Hrs Children's Procession, *Nuestra Sra de La Asunción, Jocotenango*

3rd Sunday of Lent - March 19

•11:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno El Dulce Rabí, *Nuestra Sra de La Asunción*

Children's Vigil, Jesús Nazareno El Peregrino (Infantil), *La Merced*

4th Friday of Lent - March 24

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno de la Dulce Mirada, *Sta Ana*

Vigil, Replicas of Señor Sepultado and Sma Virgen de Soledad, *Escuela de Cristo*

4th Saturday of Lent - March 25

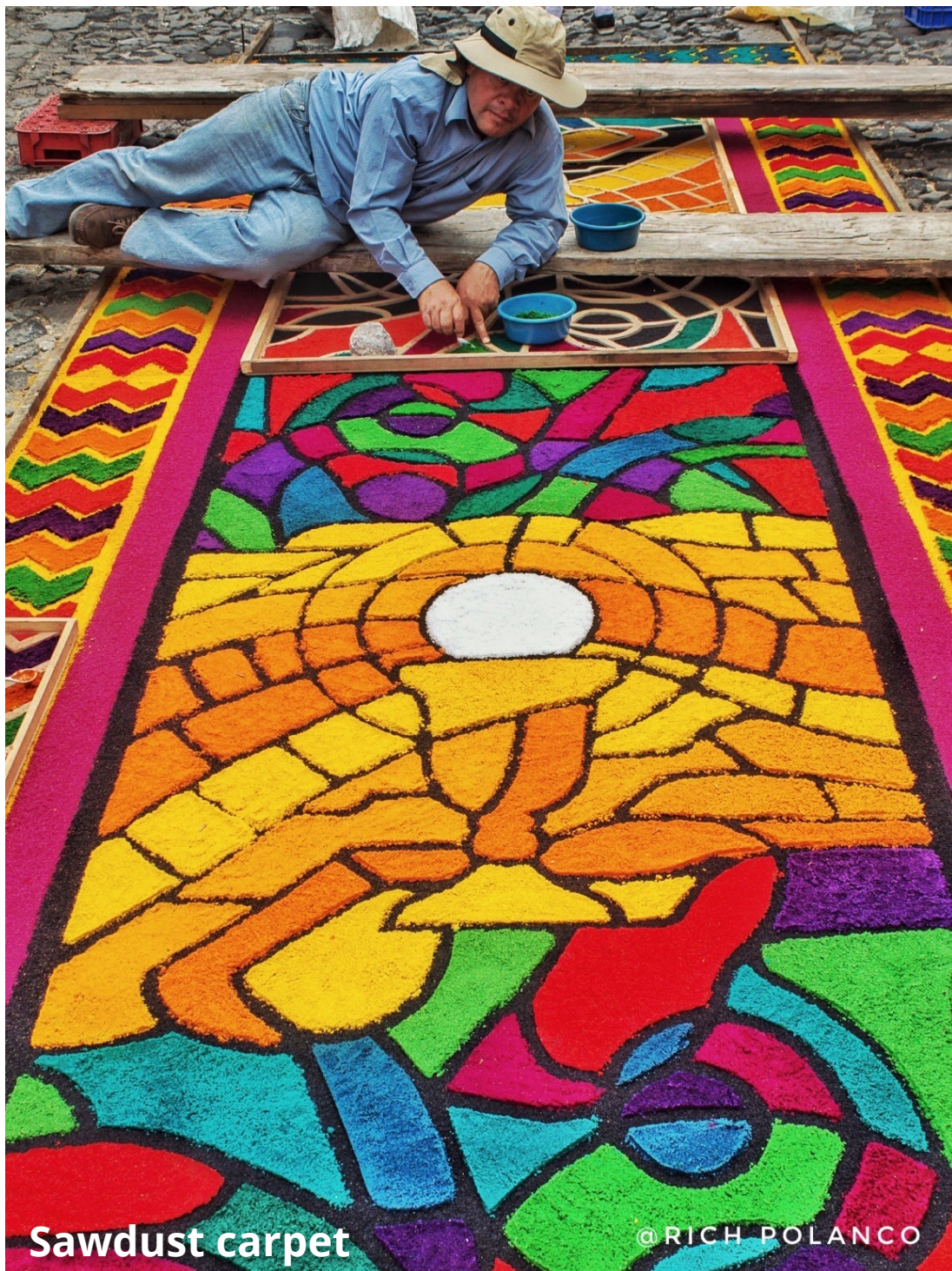
Vigil, Sma Virgen de Soledad, *San José Cathedral (continued...)*



Vigil, Escuela de Cristo Church

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Holy Week Calendar



Sawdust carpet

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•15:00 Hrs Children's Procession, Replicas of Jesus Nazareno de la Caída and Sma Virgen de Dolores, *San Bartolomé Becerra*

4th Sunday of Lent - March 26

•11:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno de la Dulce Mirada, *Santa Ana*

5th Wednesday of Lent - March 29

Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *San Bartolomé Becerra*

5th Friday of Lent - March 31

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno de la Caída, *San Bartolomé Becerra*

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno de La Esperanza, *Sta Lucia*

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno Infantil, *General Cemetery, Jocotenango*

5th Saturday of Lent - April 1

Vigil, Sma Virgen de Dolores, *San Francisco*

Vigil, Señor Sepultado, *San José Cathedral*

•10:30 Hrs Children's Procession, *San Jose Cathedral*

•15:00 Hrs Children's Procession, *Escuela de Cristo*

5th Sunday of Lent - April 2

•06:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús de la Caída, *San Bartolomé Becerra*

Passion Tuesday - April 4

Vigil, Sma Virgen de Soledad, *San Felipe de Jesús*

Passion Wednesday - April 5

Vigil, Sma Virgen de Soledad, *Escuela de Cristo*

Passion Thursday - April 6

Vigil, Jesús Nazareno del Desamparo, *San José Cathedral*

Elaborate Alfombra



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Passion Friday - April 7

- 03:00 Hrs Stations of the Cross, Hermano Pedro (Men), *San Francisco*
 - 15:00 Hrs Children's Procession, Jesús Nazareno del Desamparo, *San José Cathedral*
- Vigil, Jesús Nazareno de la Humildad, *San Cristóbal El Bajo*

Palm Saturday - April 8

- 05:00 Hrs Stations of the Cross, Hermano Pedro (Women), *San Francisco El Grande*
- Vigil, Jesús Sepultado Templo, *San Felipe de Jesús*
Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *San Mateo Milpas Altas*

Palm Sunday - April 9

- 06:30 Hrs Procession of Palms, *Nuestra Sra de La Asunción, Jocotenango*
- 08:00 Hrs Procession of Palms, *La Merced*
- 08:00 Hrs Procession of Palms, *Sta Ana*
- 08:00 Hrs Procession of Palms, *Escuela de Cristo*
- 08:00 Hrs Procession of Palms, *San Felipe de Jesús*
- 11:00 Hrs Procession, Reseña de Jesús Nazareno, *La Merced*

Holy Monday - April 10

- Vigil, Jesús Nazareno, *La Merced*
- 16:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno, *Sta Inés del Monte Pulciano*
- Vigil, Jesús Nazareno, *San Mateo Milpas Altas*

Holy Tuesday - April 11

- 08:00 Hrs Vigil, Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, *San Francisco El Grande*
- 16:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno del Silencio, *El Calvario*

Spy Wednesday - April 12

- 09:00 Vigil & Mass, *Señor Sepultado, Escuela de Cristo*

Maundy Thursday - April 13

- 11:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno de la Humildad, *San Cristóbal El Bajo*
- 13:00 Hrs Procession, Consagrada Imagen de Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, *San Francisco El Grande*
- 17:00 Hrs Holy Week Service, *All Churches*

Good Friday - April 14

- 00:00 Hrs Midnight Sentence Announcement, *La Merced*
- 04:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno de la Penitencia, *La Merced*
- 12:00 Hrs Act of Crucifixion, *San José Cathedral*
- 12:00 Hrs Act of Crucifixion, *Escuela de Cristo*
- 15:00 Hrs Procession, Señor Sepultado, *San José Cathedral*
- 15:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Sepultado, *San Felipe de Jesús*
- 16:00 Hrs Procession, Señor Sepultado, *Escuela de Cristo*

Holy Saturday - April 15

- 15:00 Hrs Procession, Virgen de la Soledad, *San Felipe*
- 16:00 Hrs Procession, Santísima Virgen de Soledad, *Escuela de Cristo*
- 20:00 Hrs Easter Mass - *All Churches*
- 22:00 Hrs Paschal Candle Lighting - *All Churches*

Easter Sunday - April 16

- 08:00 Hrs Procession, Resurrección, *Cuasi Parroquia Los Llanos, Jocotenango*
- 13:00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Resucitado, *San Pedro (Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro)*
- 19:00 Hrs Solemn Eucharistic Procession, *Escuela de Cristo*