

L360°

Antigua Guatemala

Holy Week!

See the 2016
Procession Schedule
and Event Photos

What to See, Eat & Do!

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Pocket Travel Guide to Antigua Guatemala - Holy Week 2016 Edition -

FROM A COURTYARD SOMEWHERE IN ANTIGUA:

First, I want to thank you for subscribing and allowing me to keep in touch with you. This special edition of Location360° was made specially for you. Lent festivities in Antigua are the largest and most famous in the world, so it's exciting that you can take part of them, whether here, or by following along at OkAntigua.com.

I've also included my favorite sights in town. There are also lists of the places I frequent and hotels I recommend. Use these lists as starting points for your exploration of this beautiful town and let me know if you find a place worth raving out. With all the restaurants in town - and new ones opening up every month - I've got my hands full trying to keep up! I know, woe is me.



If you do visit Antigua, we'd love to hear from you. Reach me at richpolanco@unwireme.com, or via social media at OkAntigua.com.

May you have a great time in wonderful Antigua.

Rich Polanco

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What to See & Do

(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. Lively 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 only - not safe outside daylight hours*

(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 **Efraim 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, 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.

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Contributors



TOP ANTIGUA ATTACCTIONS

Antigua
Guatemala

3

- 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

9

1

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5

4



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.

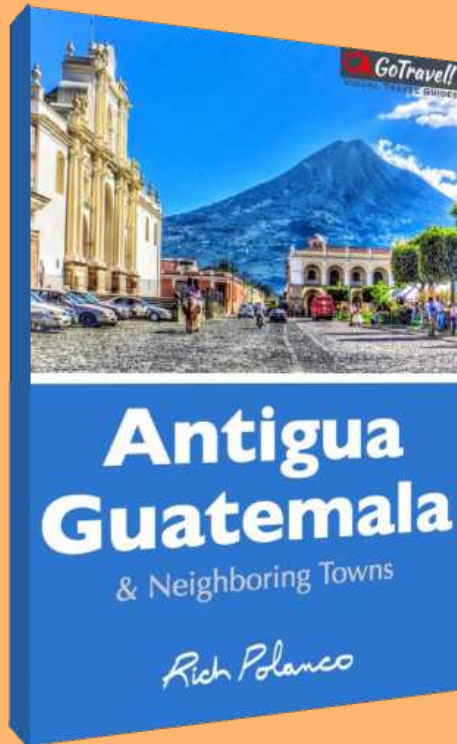
Guatemala has two seasons: *Invierno* (winter), marked by rain, and a dry season called *verano* (summer). Winter runs from May through mid-November and *verano* from November to April. In Antigua, daytime is typically warm and sunny, temperatures rarely reaching 80°F (26.6°C). At night, temperatures 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.



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tour of the city and all it has to offer



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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:

Breakfast

Panadería Santa Clara: Bakery/restaurant popular with locals. Restaurant next door



McF****

Muffin Sandwich

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 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: Come to Santo Domingo del Cerro 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).

Lunch

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

Quinchos Restaurante / Hugo's Ceviches: *Ceviche* (Guatemalan seafood cocktail) and *micheladas* (beer + tomato juice + lime + hot sauce cocktail). Quinchos' truck is parked at Alameda Santa Lucia, while Hugo's is at 2a Avenida Norte and 6a Calle Oriente. Hugo's restaurant has a playpen for kids and free WiFi. Both \$\$.
Hugo's Restaurant: 7a Calle Poniente #11
Quinchos Restaurant: Ave. La Releccion #55

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. (*6ta Calle Poniente #21B*). \$\$

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

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? (*5ta Avenida Sur #19 - Continental cuisine*). \$\$\$\$

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)


Guatemalan Cuisine

Guatemalan cuisine is largely inspired and based on the same ingredients that indigenous Maya have used for hundreds of years. Crops like corn, bean and squash (known as the Three Sisters because of how well they grow when planted together) were originally discovered in these regions, as well as some that are consumed throughout the world today - like avocado, cocoa, pineapple, papaya, pumpkin, tomato and [many others](#). Turkeys, an American staple during Thanksgiving Day, originated here.

Guatemalan cuisine shows a varied influenced. Conquering Spaniards brought over citric fruits, Arab-influenced cuisine and key ingredients - oregano, cinnamon, nuts, garlic for example. Later, descendants of African slaves, who settled in Guatemala's Caribbean region, contributed to the local cuisine recipes with coconuts, plantains and seafood.

In 2007, Guatemala's government awarded the designation of "cultural heritage" to five dishes:

 **Pepián:** Traditional, dark red chicken/pork/beef stew made with tomatoes, *pepitoria* (dried pumpkin seeds), chilies - can be quite spicy depending on recipe.

 **Jocón:** This acidic green stew, made with gallina (a type of chicken brought over by the Spanish), owes its color to a base made with *miltomates* (tomatillos), green onion stalks, green bell pepper, and cilantro.

🍲 **Kaq 'Ik:** Of the dishes listed, the only one that predates the Spaniards arrival. In Maya language, "Kak" means red and "Ik" means spicy. This turkey stew - red in color, perhaps symbolizing blood to the ritualistic pre-hispanic Maya culture, is made with achiote (hence the red color), tomatoes and at least four kinds of chilies.

🍌 **Plátano en Mole:** Unlike salty Mexican mole, this Guatemalan dish is sweet, almost dessert-like, and accompanied with white meat. To make, you begin with sweet fried plantains and add a sauce made with artisanal chocolate, cinnamon, sesame, tomatoes and *pepitoria*.

🍲 **Frijoles con Chicharrón:** Personal favorite. While the vast majority of Guatemalans consume black beans, this dish calls for red beans, cooked in a tomatillo and tomato stew with fried pork rinds. The secret ingredient in this dish, once again, is toasted, is *pepitoria*, which is grounded and added to the sauce. Goes great with white rice.

To try these, you can go the touristy, more expensive route, or go where the locals eat. For the local experience, visit [San Felipe's Handicrafts Market](#). To get there, follow 6th Avenue North, past **La Merced Church** - it's a 5-minute tuk-tuk ride away from there. For the touristy experience, visit stylish **Los Tres Tiempos** (5a Avenida Norte #31). **La Casa de las Sopas** (7a Avenida Norte #5) is a nice compromise between price and restaurant dining.



Eating Healthy In Antigua!



Into a healthy lifestyle - well, excluding your fondness for visiting "dangerous" developing countries? Then you'll feel at home in Antigua. Restaurants here typically offer vegetarian options. [La Vaca Feliz](#) (*Calzada Santa Lucia, between 6a and 7a Calle Poniente*), caters to vegan crowds, offering gluten-free options at decent prices.

Another place worth exploring is [Caoba Farms](#) (*end of 5a Avenida Sur*) an organic farm on the outskirts of the city. Every Saturday, it hosts a Farmers' Market where you'll be able to stock up on organic food, eat at their salad bar, drink artesanal beer and listen to live music - a veritable hipster utopia. In addition, there are often activities for the kids, such as magic shows and also a petting zoo.

**Read More
About Caoba Farms:**



Going Nuts For Macadamia!



If I say "macadamia", what pops in your head? If you're American, most likely it'll be Hawaii, even though it's nowhere near the top producers of this Australian nut - that distinction belongs to South Africa. Hawaii doesn't even export macadamia nuts nowadays. Guatemala produces about 5% of the worldwide macadamia market.

It just so happens that Antigua is at the right altitude to grow macadamia trees. In San Miguel Dueñas, about 15 minutes outside Antigua, you'll find [Valhalla](#), a macadamia farm owned and run by Lorenzo, an American, and his wife Emilia. Visit to take a free tour, have savory macadamia pancakes and enjoy a free macadamia oil facial - the latter the secret ingredient to the world's most expensive anti-aging creams.

**Read More
About Valhalla:**





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 the Maya's insolence about not wanting to be slaves, de Alvarado declared war on them, one 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** (present-day **Ciudad Vieja**). All was well until

September 11, 1541, when, after three days of torrential rain, either a side atop the volcano came down, causing the lagoon to empty, or (the likelier theory), a gully in the direct path of the town - still visible today, held enough water to unleash an epic mudslide. I'll note here that 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 injuring more. 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 grow 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 two thirds - 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.

In 1773, a strong earthquake on July 29 that killed over 500 people and serious aftershocks that lasted until December and killed another 500 people, weakened the population's resolve about staying in the area - but local sentiment still leaned towards remaining. 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 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.

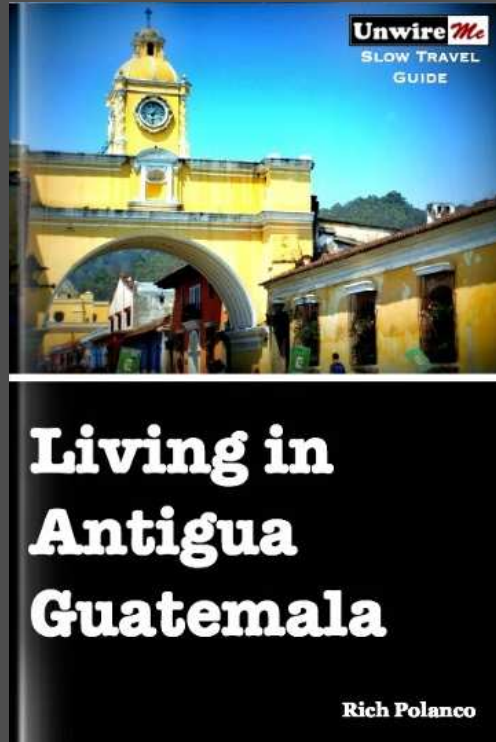
It was in 1784 when the city began to be referred to as "antigua ciudad", or "old city". And so it was that Antigua would remain a forgotten city, its ruins repurposed for various uses, including the drying and roasting of coffee beans, the new crop growing in popularity during the first half of the 1800s. Another earthquake leveled what was left of Antigua, in 1874. 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.

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Lent Season in Antigua

Antigua's colorful Lent and Holy Week celebrations, the latter known as *Semana Santa*, are world-famous. Just as with Christmas, the sights, sounds and smells of Lent season are welcome by nearly all Guatemalans. While there are similar celebrations in other countries, Antigua's are certainly among the most elaborate. Massive floats - known as *andas*, some which weigh over 6,000 pounds, are the centerpiece of procession events. The air, choked with incense, and the funereal music pair up with the visual feast to create a memorable experience.

The smell of incense and solemn, mournful music fills the air during these religious processions. Many of Antigua's cobblestone streets are adorned with *alfombras* - colorful dyed-sawdust carpets bearing intricate patterns. Participation in *anda* processions, reenactment of Gospel scenes and sawdust carpet-making are oftentimes family traditions that go back generations.

This year, Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday (March 20th), ending on Holy Saturday (March 26th), while Easter Sunday falls on March 27th.



If you won't be here for Holy Week, don't despair! While most of the elaborate processions take place during Holy Week, there are many processions during the run-up to Palm Sunday.

Check out the 2016 Lent & Holy Week Procession Calendar ahead.

- **Watch** for pickpockets in crowded areas.
- **Book** your room early if planning to arrive in March.
- **Staying longer?** Rental rates skyrocket around this time. Arrive in March or earlier for better selection and lower rates.



Cucuruchos



OkAntigua.com



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

Churches North and East of Antigua



Churches South of Antigua



Sacatepéquez

Calle de los R

4 Calle A

6a Calle

Calle San Lucas

9 Calle poniente

Alameda Santa Luda

3 Ca

4 Calle

5 Cal

6 Cal

Calle de S

Colegio El Valle

Panorama

Calle del Reformador

Calle de Virrey

Calle del Emperador

Parque Central

San Francisco El Grande Church

Escuela de Cristo Church

Santa Ana Church

El Calvario Church

Santa Catarina Bobadilla Church



Calle poniente

3 Calle oriente

Calle poniente

4 Calle oriente

Calle poniente

5 Calle oriente

Calle poniente

6 Calle oriente

anta Lucia

7 Calle oriente

8 Calle oriente

9 Calle oriente

9 Calle A or

5 Avenida sur

4 Avenida sur

2 Avenida sur

5a Avenida

Callejon de la Cruz de Piedra



**Watch a
Good Friday Procession:**





**See More
Holy Week Pics:**



Holy Week FAQ

◆ **What's a procession?** Many area churches have religious statues on display year-round, some which are priceless works of art. At Lent and during Holy Week, many of these statues are paraded around town. These ceremonies are called **processions**.

◆ **What about floats and flower carpets?** Floats - *andas* in Spanish - are heavy platforms used to carry religious images during their procession. Because floats are so heavy, multiple shifts, each with as many as 100 men, are needed. Elaborate flower, fruit, and colored sawdust carpets (*alfombras*), some taking hours to make, are created along a procession's route to be walked over by *anda* bearers.

◆ **What's a Vigil?** Before a religious image leaves its home church, usually two days prior to a procession, parishioners build elaborate showcases - known as vigils (*velaciones*). These are great photo-ops. There's usually a festive atmosphere outside the church hosting



the vigil and plenty of street vendors - a great chance to sample Guatemalan cuisine. Usually open from 9am to 10pm, try to visit late morning, when crowds are at their smallest.

◆ **How long do processions last?** Depending on the length of the journey, a procession will often last six or more hours. If possible, try to catch a procession as it leaves a church, otherwise you'll be chasing it and trying to figure out where along its route it might be. Nearly all processions make a pilgrimage to Parque Central, stopping in front of San Jose Cathedral. Tourist information booths can often provide route and time information.

◆ **What are Stations of the Cross?** Similar to processions, they differ in that they have scheduled stops where scenes of the life and death of Jesus are reenacted. They usually don't return to the point of departure.







Vigil Display

Holy Week Calendar

Schedule has the following format:

<Event>, <Statue Venerated>, <Location>

Processions are marked with a '•'

Ash Wednesday - February 10

Imposition of Ashes - All Churches

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

Friday - February 12

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

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

Saturday - February 13

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

1st Sunday of Lent - February 14

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

2nd Wednesday of Lent - February 17

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

2nd Friday of Lent - February 19

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

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

2nd Saturday of Lent - February 20

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

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

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



Won't be in Antigua to catch the Lent and Holy Week festivities? Don't be bummed out! Antigua has a museum dedicated to all things Holy Week. Head to **Museo de las Tradiciones de Semana Santa**, set inside what is believed to be the former home of enigmatic and in her time, controversial nun **Sor Juana de Maldonado**. (*4a Calle Oriente #45*). Q15 p/p.

Holy Week Calendar (cont.)

2nd Sunday of Lent - February 21

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

3rd Friday of Lent - February 26

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 - February 27

• 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 - February 28

• 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 4

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 5

Vigil, Sma Virgen de Soledad, *San José Cathedral*

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

4th Sunday of Lent - March 6

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









Holy Week Calendar (cont.)

5th Wednesday of Lent - March 9

Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *San Bartolomé Becerra*

5th Friday of Lent - March 11

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 - March 12

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 - March 13

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

Passion Tuesday - March 15

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

Passion Wednesday - March 16

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

Passion Thursday - March 17

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

Passion Friday - March 18

• 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*
(continued...)



Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *La Merced*

Vigil, Virgen de Dolores, *Sta Ana*

Vigil, Jesús del Silencio y Virgen de Soledad, *El Calvario*

•19:00 Hrs **Procession**, Sma Virgen de la Soledad,

Nuestra Sra de La Asunción, Jocotenango

Palm Saturday - March 19

•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 - March 20

•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 - March 21

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 - March 22

•08:00 - 23:00 Hrs **Vigil**, Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, *San*

Francisco El Grande

•16:00 Hrs **Procession**, Jesús Nazareno del Silencio, *El*

Calvario

Spy Wednesday - March 23

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

(cont.)



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- 14:00 Hrs **Children Procession**, La Merced
- 14:50 Hrs **Procession**, Jesús Nazareno del Milagro, San Felipe de Jesús

- 16:00 Hrs **Procession**, Jesús Nazareno y Virgen de Dolores, San Mateo Milpas Altas
- 00 Hrs Procession, Jesús Nazareno y Virgen de Dolores, San Mateo Milpas Altas

Maundy Thursday - March 24

- 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 - March 25

- 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 - March 26

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

Easter Sunday - March 27

- 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

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 (Q5-Q20/\$0.60-\$2.50). Chicken buses travel to outlying communities(Q1-Q3.50/\$0.12-\$0.50). 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**

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 **National Police**, dial 120, for **Fire Department** dial 123. Guatemala's country code is 502. **INGUAT**, Guatemala's tourism information office, can also provide assistance - at 5a Calle Oriente #13, open daily from 8am to 4pm.

WEATHER

Antigua has a pleasant, spring-like climate during the day. Rainy season starts mid-May, running through October - afternoon thunderstorms aren't unusual. Temperatures tend to stay in the mid-70°s (24°C), though they can climb to the mid-80°s (29°C) from March to June. Bring a light jacket - nightly temperatures can dip to the mid-50°s (13°C) throughout the year.

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.](#)