

# Santo Tomas de Castilla, Izabal, Guatemala

Guatemala's busiest Caribbean port is an industrial workhorse — but step beyond the gates and you're in a world of ancient stelae, Afro-Caribbean rhythms, and river canyons draped in jungle.

Pier (direct docking)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

USD widely accepted / GTQ

Spanish (some English at port)

## 🚢 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Direct pier — no tender required; ~5–10 min walk to terminal

**Best For:** History lovers (Quiriguá), culture seekers (Livingston), nature fans (Río Dulce)

**Walk to Center:** Port area only; Puerto Barrios ~10 min by taxi (\$5–8)

**Don't Miss:** Tapado seafood soup in Livingston — the dish of this corner of Guatemala

Getting around: **Taxi** \$5 USD · **Rideshare** not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Quiriguá UNESCO Ruins** — Home to the tallest carved Mayan stelae ever found — some over 10 metres — this compact but remarkable 8th-century site...
  - Livingston & Garifuna Culture** — Accessible only by boat (~45 min), Livingston is the heartland of Guatemala's Garifuna people — descendants of...
  - Río Dulce Canyon Cruise** — A 300-foot limestone canyon smothered in jungle vines, with thermal springs bubbling out
- of the cliff face — the boat...

  - Las Escobas Springs & Rainforest** — Just 20 minutes from port, this reserve in the Cerro San Gil mountains offers well-maintained jungle trails leading to...
  - Amatique Bay Resort Day Pass** — A resort 15 minutes from port offering pools, water slides, a beach area, and restaurants — the easiest beach day...

## BEST WALKS

- El Puerto Terminal Craft Market** In-terminal | Flat | Free — The terminal building has a solid craft market with Guatemalan jade, hand-woven textiles (huipiles), wood carvings, coffee, and Ron...
- Puerto Barrios Market Stroll** 10 min by taxi | Flat | \$5–8 taxi — The neighbouring town of Puerto Barrios is a working Guatemalan port city — chaotic and authentic.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

| Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr | 87°  | 72° | 13d  |
| Jun | 85°  | 74° | 28d  |
| Aug | 85°  | 74° | 28d  |
| Sep | 85°  | 74° | 28d  |
| Oct | 83°  | 73° | 26d  |

**DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 5:39AM–6:08PM · Jun 5:23AM–6:26PM · Aug 5:39AM–6:17PM · Sep 5:42AM–5:55PM · Oct 5:46AM–5:33PM

USD widely accepted / GTQ

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Crisp USD only. US dollars are widely accepted, but vendors and taxi drivers often refuse torn, marked, or older-series bills. Carry clean small denominations.