

## EMPRESA PORTUARIA QUETZAL

Guatemala Updated January 2008, according to Information received from Port Authority  
All this information given in good faith, with no guarantee  
**Status** Port Open **UN locode** GTPRQ

**Latitude** 13° 55.0'N **Longitude** 090° 47.0'W  
**Max draft** 11 **Time Zone** GMT -6  
**Worldscale** No

### PORT DESCRIPTION

**Location:** Puerto Quetzal is situated on the Pacific coast of Guatemala, SE San Jose.

**General Overview:** Puerto Quetzal, a modern port, is the first multi-purpose Guatemalan port on the Pacific Ocean and is located 100km from the capital, Guatemala City.

The harbour is protected by breakwaters; the major being 1,140m in length; the minor being 307m in length; with also an N dyke of 367m.

The main dock is situated in the eastern part of the harbour. Exports consist mainly of sugar and coffee, main imports are grain (corn, wheat, Soya), fertilizers and cement in bulk, general cargo and containers.

Vessels use their own cargo handling gear.

**Load Line zone:** North Pacific Seasonal Tropical Area, Tropical Mar 1 to Jun 30 and Nov 1 to Nov 30,

Summer Jul 1 to Oct 31 and Dec 1 to Feb 28/29.

### PRE ARRIVAL INFORMATION

**ETA's:** One month before arrival, vessels agent is requested to present in writing, by telex or fax to the Operations Management, the estimated date and time of arrival.

Eight days prior arrival the same applies with notification also to the Invoicing Department.

Three working days prior to arrival, agent is required to pay the guarantee deposit for services requested.

Once the deposit has been made the request for service will be authorized.

Services are requested 24 hours before arrival. Vessels agent must present to the operations management, in writing, the request for services when coming from Acajutla or other local port. Other ports must request services 48 hours before arrival. Service cancellation to be notified in writing at least 2 hours prior to non arrival.

The following information must be confirmed 8 days in advance:

1. Ship's name.
2. ETA
3. Length of ship
4. G ton
5. Quantity, weight, type of cargo and all the information to calculate the approximate amount of the guaranteed deposit for the services that the port provides.

The above are required by the port authorities and may be completed on the ship's own forms

**Documentation Required:** the following are required

Document:

1. Ship Particulars
2. Crew List
3. Provisions List
4. Voyage Memo (Last 5 Port of call with arrival/departure date)
5. Certificate of Registry (photocopies)
6. International Tonnage Certificate (photocopies)
7. Crew Personal Effects List
8. Clearance from Last Port
9. Negative passenger List
10. Passenger List
11. International Ship Security Certificate

### IMPORT OF GENERAL CARGO:

1. Stowage Plan
2. Bill of Lading
3. Tally Book
4. Cargo Manifest

**IMPORT OF DRY/LIQUID BULK:**

1. Stowage Plan - dry bulk
2. Bill of Lading
3. Cargo Manifest

**IMPORT OF CONTAINERS:**

1. Stowage Plan
2. Bill of Lading
3. Cargo Manifest
4. Container Listings

**IMPORT OF VEHICLES:**

1. Stowage Plan
2. Bill of Lading
3. Tally Book
4. Cargo Manifest

The above are required by the port authorities and may be completed on the ship's own forms. Important: documentation must be presented at least 24 hours prior to the arrival of the vessel.

**Communications:** The following coast radio stations can be used for passing messages: Mobile, Limon, Sleidale, Tropical, San Francisco, Balboa and Canal. All stations work throughout 24 hours.

VHF-FM Marine Band Traffic Control Tower Channel 16 (Stand-By)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.puerto-quetzal.com>

**Health Regulations:** Free pratique is normally granted every day; including Sundays and holydays, either at anchor or after berthing.

If wharf space is available and vessels documents have been presented, a vessel would normally dock on arrival or at scheduled time for clearance and receive free pratique at the wharf.

Free pratique in Puerto Quetzal is granted when the party of officials visits the vessel to clear it inwards.

**Customs and immigration:**

**Customs:** there are no customs restrictions for personal items for crew and officers. Such items should be duly declared in the Crew Personal Effects List. Non compliance may result in a fine up to US\$5,000.

**Immigration:** Crew and Passenger Lists required, Shore passes issued by Agency/Customs and are immigration approved.

**Flags:** Flags should be displayed as per Interco. Fines up to US\$5,000 may be payable for non compliance.

**Notice of readiness:** Usually tendered on dropping anchor in an anchorage zone.

Ship's agent must be sent a copy of the official's visit authorization given by the Port's Commander to the Port Services Division one hour before berthing.

Lowering of boats requires permission from the Port Captain.

**Agency:** It is recommended that an internationally recognized agent be appointed

**General Notices & Regulations:** The Drug Enforcement Agency may, at their sole discretion, request permission from the ship's Master/Agent to carry out a sniffer dog inspection of the ship.

**NAVIGATION**

**Port Limits:** The port limits are bounded by the approximate parallels of 13°54'N and 13°57'N and the meridians of 090°47'W and 090°48'W.

**Sea buoys, Fairways and Channels:** the approach channel and turning basin are dredged to 12m and the berths are dredged to 11m. The approach channel is well buoyed.

The access channel to the basin has a width of 210m and depth of 12m. The maneuvering basin is circular, with a diameter of 400m and a depth of 12m.

**Pilot:** Compulsory for arrival and departure but not for shifts within the harbor. The Pilot board at the anchorage area. The Pilot boat is red with a white horizontal stripe and is equipped with VHF

**Anchorage:** Anchorage may be obtained in depths of from 18.8-28m, 0.3nm S of the W breakwater head where there are nine designated berths. The holding is moderately good although the anchorage is exposed to considerable swell. A vessel approaching from sea may anchor in front of the harbor not closer than 1nm without the services of a pilot.

**Tidal Range and flow:** Range 2.2m; max2.8m, min 0.19m.

**Dock density:** 1027

**Weather:** Average relative humidity 92%, Temperatures 18-33°C

**Principal navigation aids:** Lights are exhibited from the breakwater heads and lightbuoys mark shoal areas within the basin.

A pair of leading lights (Red and White daymarks) stands near the root of the W breakwater. In line bearing 295° they lead through the entrance. A lightbuoy (white, pillar) is located 1.25nm SE of the breakwater head, S of the leading line.

**Charts:** Admiralty charts # 659, approaches to Puerto Quetzal, scale 1:25,000; Admiralty Pilot NP8 GUA 05, Approaches to Puerto Quetzal, scale 1:20,000 GUA 04, Puerto Quetzal, scale 1:5,000

**Tugs:** compulsory for vessels over 500gt when berthing and sailing.

**Coast Guard:** Search and rescue is operated by the Guatemalan Navy.

**Mooring information:** Usually 4-5 vessels can be berthed on the main quay and 1 vessel on the S quay.

There is a priority for passenger vessels, vessels with perishable or dangerous cargo and for container vessels. Apart from these priorities the general rule is to give berth to 2 liner and 2 tramp vessels, i.e., in any congestion situation a 3rd tramp vessel could be sent back to the anchorage as soon as a liner arrives.

At peak times of berth occupation, a vessel can also be sent to anchorage for reason of poor cargo

handling performance.

## BERTHS AND CARGO

**Names/Nos:** Multipurpose quay, length 800m, width 56m, depth along side 11m, with ramp on the

northern end (length 30.11m, width 25.5m). Apron for loads of 6t/m<sup>2</sup>. Passenger and Ro-Ro vessels are usually berthed on the northern section, vessels loading sugar and tankers on the southern section, as sugar sheds, conveyor belt installations and pipeline installation are located here.

Container vessels are berthed preferably opposite the container yard, other vessels according to actual berth occupation and planning requirements.

Southern quay, length 170m, width 31m, depth alongside 5.2m, apron for loads of 2t/m<sup>2</sup>. Used to berth vessels with shallow draft. Due to the permanent presence of three power generating barges, the available space on the S side of the southern quay is limited to vessels up to 80m LOA are berthed here.

There are some smaller berths for vessels and tugs.

**Facilities:** cranes 6t, 28t, 32t, 90t, various forklifts and stackers. Private operated equipment for sugar (conveyor belts from sugar sheds) and cement (mobile ship unloader).

For loading of sugar (bulk and bags), conveyor belt installations are used (private operator); discharge of cement is by mobile ship unloader (private operator).

**Fenders:** The 800m length wharf has rubber fenders that are approx 2x1.2m in diameter, spaced at 20m.

**Storage:** Total warehouse space, 34,080m<sup>2</sup> (13,200m<sup>2</sup> general cargo, operated by port authority; 20,880m<sup>2</sup> sugar shed by private operator) Yard storage, 21,280sqm container yards, 11,013m<sup>2</sup> general cargo and vehicles.

For user's convenience there is a multiple use warehouse, length 90m, width 80m. The warehouse is a metal structure with concrete walls and fitted with fire-fighting equipment.

Handling of the merchandise, wagons, platforms, chassis, vehicles and containers from ship's side on the dock, on the transport until their appropriate stowage aboard, includes workmanship, the use of platform, elevators, ramps for handling, using ship's cranes or winches or any other system of elevating and/or horizontal displacement.

For liquid bulks, the use of the port's pipes and facilities includes connection or disconnection of the pipe's system.

**Barges:** The following barges are available:

Pilot barge: To transfer the Pilot at vessel or vice versa. Includes barge, crew and fuel.

Bit barge: Used to moor the vessel at wharf's bitts. Includes barge, crew and fuel.

**Ballast/slop reception:** Available by private company.

**Security:** Police, fire and ambulance services provided by the Security and Vigilance Department.

Ambulance service provided by the port clinic. Firefighting by the local station of San Jose.

## GENERAL

**Repairs:** Repairs available only for fishing vessels and small craft by shipyard in El Carrizo (5km).

Accessible by the Canal de Chiquimulilla and by road.

**Bunker/Water/stores:** *Fresh Water:* Available alongside

*Bunkering:* Available by road tanker.

**Medical Facilities:** Nearest hospital is at Escuintla, 54km and Guatemala City 100km.

**Transport:** *Nearest airport:* Puerto San Jose Military Base (7km from the port) *Airport facilities:* Domestic flights *Nearest*

*railway:* National railway network for connection to capital city are currently not operated.

**Consuls:** Consulates available in Guatemala City, 100km.

**Banks:** There are 2 banks in Puerto Quetzal, Banco del Quetzal and Crédito Hipotecario Nacional. Other banks are in San Jose.

**Public Holidays:** New Year's Day, (14:30hrs on Dec 31 to 07:00hrs on Jan 2). Easter week: Thu 21:30hrs to Sat 07:00hrs.

Labor Day, (00:01hrs on May 1 to 07:00hrs on May 2. and Christmas Day, 14:30hrs on Dec 24 to 07:00hrs on Dec 26.

Passenger vessels, perishable cargo and special cases are excluded.

**Working hours:** Throughout 24 hours if required. There are 3 shifts: First, 0700-1430hrs; second 1430-2130hrs; third, 2130-0700hrs.

**Recreation:** Available within 4km (San Jose City). There is No Seaman's mission.

**Garbage:** Is not allowed due government regulations.

**Officials and Visitor:** Only Official visited permitted.

**Fumigation:** Fumigation available through quarantine officer.

**Port Charges:** Port Charges must be deposited in advance before the vessel's arrival, in order to ensure immediate berthing and proper services; otherwise Port Authorities will refuse the vessel.

**Others:** If the vessel will require logistics as fuel, water, supplies and others please let us know in advance. If there will be crew rotation or any other immigration matter, please let us know in advance

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Temperature:** max: 33.6°C min: 21.9°C mean: 28.3°C

**Humidity:** max: 90.1% min: 46.3% mean: 71.4%

**Rain:** Rainy season normally takes place between May to November with an annual mean of 1016mm

**Atmospheric Pressure:** max: 1019.8mb. min: 1013.7mb. Annual mean: 1016.9mb.

**Hydrographic Port Datum:** MLWS