



Area: 43,278 sq miles (about the size of Tennessee)

Capitol: Tegucigalpa

Population: 7.1 million

Age of Population:
43% of the population is under age 15

Ethnicity:

- 90% Ethnic Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and European)
- 7% Amerindian
- 2% Black
- 1% White

Language: Spanish and Amerindian dialects

Religion: The majority of Hondurans are Roman Catholic (97%) or evangelical Protestants (3%)

Industries:

- Mining (silver, lead, zinc)
- Manufacturing (*maquila*—importing raw materials and manufacturing them for export)
- Tourism
- Financial services

Money: Lempira, also called peso

Agriculture:

- Coffee
- Bananas
- Shrimp farming

Chief Exports:

- Machinery and transport equipment
- Industrial raw materials
- Chemical products
- Fuels
- Foodstuffs

Favorite Foods:

Tortillas, tamales, rice, plantains, beans, deep-fried chicken with chopped cabbage, coconut and seafood

Information obtained from various websites, including honduras.com and maps.com.

Christopher Columbus landed at mainland Honduras (Trujillo) in 1502. He named the area “Honduras” (meaning “depths”) for the deep water off the coast.

Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras in 1998, causing over 7,000 deaths. Over 1.5 million people were left homeless by the storm. Mudslides and flooding caused by Hurricane Mitch devastated the Honduran infrastructure. Nearly **half of the country’s road network was damaged** by the storm. Over 160 bridges were destroyed. Approximately 50,000 telephone lines went down. Water and sewage pipes were damaged, as were seaports, airports, and schools throughout the country. More than 42% of the population do not have access to **safe drinking water**.

The economy came to a near standstill, worsening the effects of already endemic poverty. More than **80% of the population are poor**. This deeply affects the culture, while

the lack of pensions, welfare and problems in the healthcare system also deeply affect the country. **Minimum wage is less than \$US150 a month**. Over 50% of the rural population are agricultural workers who own no land or are small-scale landowners who have less than five hectares.

The **labor force in Honduras is mostly unskilled**. The general level of education is low and training is limited. Children between ages 7-13 receive free, compulsory education, but tuition is required in order to continue after the age of 13. A majority of families cannot afford to pay for education, and most children move into the labor force after they turn 14. The **illiteracy rate in Honduras is around 19%**.

Hondurans love **soccer**. The *Federación Nacional Autónoma de Fútbol de Honduras* runs the popular soccer league while the Honduras national soccer team represents the country internationally.