

Honduras



Part of Spain's vast empire in the New World, Honduras became an independent nation in 1821. After two and one-half decades of mostly military rule, a freely elected civilian government came to power in 1982.

HONDURAS FACTS

Population: 6.9 million (UN, 2003)

Capital: Tegucigalpa

Major languages: Spanish, indigenous languages, English

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 66 years (men), 71 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 lempira = 100 centavos

Main exports: Coffee, bananas, shrimp, lobster, meat, zinc, timber

Average annual income: US\$900 (World Bank, 2001)

Internet domain: .hn

The country was devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which killed about 5,600 people and caused almost \$1 billion in damage.



Flag Description: three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and blue with five blue, five-pointed stars arranged in an X pattern centered in the white band; the stars represent the members of the former Federal Republic of Central America - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua; similar to the flag of El Salvador, which features a round emblem encircled by the words REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR EN LA AMERICA CENTRAL centered in the white band; also similar to the flag of Nicaragua, which features a triangle encircled by the word REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA on top and AMERICA CENTRAL on the bottom, centered in the white band. To listen to the Honduran national anthem go to http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1225416.stm