Comayagua

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**Site**

**Comayagua**, city, west-central Honduras.

Total Area: 43,278 sq mi.
Comayagua was founded in 1537 by Spanish conquistadors as Santa María de Comayagua.

Spanish captain Alonso de Caceres fulfilled the orders of the Spanish governor of Honduras to establish a new settlement in the geographic center of the territory.

Villa de Santa Maria de Comayagua
Villa de la Nueva Valladolid de Comayagua
Comayagua

Comayagua was declared a city in 1557, and in 1561 the seat of the diocese of Honduras was moved from Trujillo to Comayagua because of its more favorable conditions, central position and proximity to the silver-and gold-mining regions.

https://www.britannica.com/place/Comayagua
Average Weather

Over the course of a year, the temperature typically varies from 63% to 92°F and is rarely below 58°F or above 97°F.

Warm Season (March 17 to May 20)
- Average daily high temp. above 90°F

Cold Season (October 21 to December 30)
- Average daily high temp. below 83°F

Most families do not have access to clean water and get water from a cistern or pozo. If there is no rain, families haul water from the nearest, usually polluted, stream.

Transportation Conditions

Honduran road conditions differ significantly from those in the U.S., and driving can be very dangerous. Roads are poorly illuminated and marked. Because of a lack of enforcement of traffic laws, drivers must make an extraordinary effort to drive defensively.

Passengers on public buses are sometimes robbed en-route, at roadblocks, and at bus stops even during daylight hours. Some would-be muggers and gang members are known to keep to a daily schedule, riding city buses from one stop to the next, committing criminal acts with impunity.

Motorists should avoid traveling at night and always drive with their doors locked and windows rolled up to deter potential robberies at traffic lights and on congested downtown streets.

In 2015, an Embassy employee was robbed at gunpoint while in a taxi while the taxi was stopped at a traffic light. The intruder forced his way into the vehicle by pulling the window down, then opened the door. The intruder stuck a pistol in the driver’s ribs, then proceeded to rob the driver and the employee of valuables and cash.
Population

155,948

+2.6%/year [2013 → 2016]

Updated: 2016

https://www.citypopulation.de/php/honduras-admin.php?adm2id=0301
Demographic of Citizens

Births (both sex)

3,991 (2010)

https://knoema.com/atlas/Honduras/Comayagua
The economy has been based mostly on agriculture, and over a third of the labor force in 2011 were still involved in this sector.

Honduras' economic growth of 3 percent in 2013 was largely based on money sent home by migrants. Almost 60 percent of the country's 8 million people live in poverty, the World Bank says.
Poverty Levels

Honduras is one of the poorest and least developed countries in Latin America.

Brian said he left Comayagua, Honduras, because "there is so much poverty there, the crime is tremendous. You've got to sort things out because if not, you'll starve to death."

Political Infrastructure

2016 Economic Freedom Score
57.7 (up to 0.3 point)

Economic Freedom Status
Mostly Unfree

Regional Ranking
19th in the South and Central America/Caribbean Region

Notable Successes
Trade Freedom and Monetary Freedom

Concerns
Corruption, Property Rights and Labor Freedom

Overall Score Change Since 2012
-1.1

Police Infrastructure

Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador have rampant street gangs and a strong presence of organized crime and drug traffickers resulting in some of the highest homicide rates in the region and in the world. Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world, with 90.4 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. (June 3, 2014 | 7:35 PM)

Since 2010, Honduras has had one of the highest murder rates in the world.

Societal Infrastructure
Honduras was hit by Hurricane Mitch in 1998

Over 7,000 lives and 70-80% transportation and infrastructure were lost.
- Most affected were the inhabitants’ rural areas and entire villages were swept away by the mudslides.
- Over 3.8 billion dollars in damage was sustained.
- Damage affected:
  - Infrastructure
  - Transport
  - Communications
  - Electric Power
  - Water and sewerage Services
  - Irrigation and Drainage Systems

“President Carlos Flores said at the time that the hurricane annihilated almost fifty years of development and progress toward a better Honduras”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross value of output (GVO)</th>
<th>Value added (VA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total 1998 1999</td>
<td>1998 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>805,200 262,229 542,971</td>
<td>180,938 374,650</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>677,900 244,044 433,856</td>
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<td>Livestock-raising</td>
<td>119,000 17,000 102,000</td>
<td>11,730 70,380</td>
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<td>6,900 985 5,915</td>
<td>680 4,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>1,400 200 1,200</td>
<td>138 828</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing industry</td>
<td>360,800 290,444 70,356</td>
<td>82,486 19,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity and water</td>
<td>25,700 7,440 18,260</td>
<td>3,422 8,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>18,500 2,645 15,855</td>
<td>1,217 7,293</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>7,000 4,767 2,233</td>
<td>2,193 1,027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation and drainage</td>
<td>200 28 172</td>
<td>13 79</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>135,000 31,455 103,545</td>
<td>22,742 74,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and communications</td>
<td>296,300 42,371 253,929</td>
<td>23,643 141,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing ownership</td>
<td>123,100 17,603 105,497</td>
<td>10,139 60,766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>36,600 5,234 31,366</td>
<td>3,873 23,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6,200 886 5,314</td>
<td>656 3,932</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gross domestic product</strong></td>
<td>1,788,900 657,662 1,131,238</td>
<td>327,899 707,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ECLAC estimates; the VA/GVO ratios are from the Central Bank of Honduras, December 21, 1998.
Water Crisis

- The water problem affects many people in Honduras making it hard to find the nutritious and fresh sources of water
- The poor water quality poses significant health risks to the Honduran people.
- Two biggest obstacles to the success of the projects for potable water systems in rural villages
  - Lack of appropriate funding and economic support from the government in Comayagua
  - Lack of proper transportation and road infrastructure for supply the projects
- (VHCMB, EWB, Peace Corps, Preventive Medicine and more) wants the government help funding these projects for rural villages.

In 2003, a new law for water supply and sanitation passed.

- Includes service decentralization from the public utility
- Also creates a policy council, regulatory agency, and new institutions
- It remain weak and the decentralization process has been slow
  - No system of sector financing

"Between 2003 and 2008, the financial intermediation, electricity, gas and water, and communications sectors were the ones that presented the highest annual average growth with 20.2%, 17.3%, and 17.1% respectively. Meanwhile, the labor-intensive areas such as agriculture grew by only 3.9%, construction by 4.6% and manufacturing industry by 5.0."

http://www.aguavivaonline.org/facts/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Department/ Municipality</th>
<th>Probability at birth of not surviving to age 40 (% of cohort)</th>
<th>Adult illiteracy rate (% ages 15 and older)</th>
<th>Population without sustainable access to an improved water source (%)</th>
<th>Children under weight for age (% under age 5)</th>
<th>HPI-1</th>
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<td>0100</td>
<td>Atlántida</td>
<td>11.1 10.5 10.0 9.7</td>
<td>14.2 15.1 12.8 11.8</td>
<td>12.1 12.0 9.1 7.9</td>
<td>6.7 6.2 6.0 6.0</td>
<td>11.9 12.1 10.6 9.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>0101</td>
<td>La Ceiba</td>
<td>11.0 10.4 9.9 9.6</td>
<td>7.3 7.8 6.5 6.0</td>
<td>7.4 7.4 5.6 4.8</td>
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<td>El Porvenir</td>
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<td>6.3 5.8 5.7 5.7</td>
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<td>22.4 23.6 20.4 18.9</td>
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<td>Jutiapa</td>
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<td>25.2 26.6 23.0 21.4</td>
<td>20.7 20.6 16.0 14.1</td>
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<td>La Masica</td>
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<td>8.2 8.1 6.1 5.3</td>
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<td>Sabá</td>
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<td>Yocoá</td>
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<td>14.3 15.1 7.4 5.1</td>
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<td>15.2 15.5 14.6 14.3</td>
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<td>Bonito Oriental</td>
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<td>9.4 8.7 8.5 8.4</td>
<td>21.6 22.1 20.9 20.5</td>
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<td>Comayagua</td>
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<td><strong>20.9 22.1 19.9 18.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.6 22.0 14.9 12.1</strong></td>
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<td>0302</td>
<td>Ajaureñique</td>
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<td>Olancho</td>
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<td>7.3 5.8 6.6 6.6</td>
<td>15.2 15.5 14.6 14.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residential Building Housing Prisoners

Older prisons structures are less fire-safe and still used as prisons
- Overcrowding increases the life hazard (originally designed to house 520 inmates but that time of the fire, it housed 852)
- No sprinklers
- No smoke detectors
- No alarm pull
- No manual extinguishers or any other fire protection systems

“The residential structures run parallel to each other and are separated by an open walkway 16 feet wide. Each structure is roughly 96 feet long by 52 feet wide, with an approximately constructed area of 4,995 square feet, subdivided into five modules, or large cells. The cells are identified as Modules 1–5 on the south structure and Modules 6–10 on the north structure. The modules share interior walls; barred aligned openings about 3 feet high run the length of the walls, opening the upper portions of the cells to adjacent modules.”

https://books.google.com/books?id=hYmHCgAAQBAJ&pg=PA374&dq=residential%20structure%20comayagua%20honduras&source=bl&ots=jQfQCqsZ4&sig=hox05i6YFbSHGjrlfN8-HR_tBw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj2vMKPv_vRAhXJYfYKHY7lAa8Q6AEIMjAJ#v=onepage&q=residential%20structure%20comayagua%20honduras&f=false
February 14, 2012

Prison fire kills more nearly 360 people

- Most of the people were not convicted, rather fallen victim to police brutality

[cnn.com/2012/02/15/world/americas/honduras-fire-deaths/]
Health Concerns

Diarrheal diseases, related to unclean water, food, and sanitary practices, killed many more children under five years of age in Honduras than they did in more developed countries.

“After Hurricane Mitch wiped out many water improvements in 1999, the law changed how water was to be managed. Urban water systems improved but in rural areas, time stood still.”

Health Care Available in the Community

A model for the development of sustainable primary health care in village communities in Honduras through the training and support of community health workers.

Health worker training, evaluation, and support are provided by US-based primary care professionals.

The approach using the community-centered data generation, problem-specific curriculum development, and ongoing knowledge maintenance and support for community-based care givers.

Methods:
- background needs assessment / to identify prevalent health problems
- selection of target communities
- obtaining community involvement / prospective health worker commitment
- development and implementation of a needs-specific curriculum for health worker training and community health education
- maintenance, evaluation, and expansion of training and support for community health workers.

The establishment of sustainable primary health care in remote, underserved communities using community health workers is possible and feasible. Primary care professionals can play an instrumental role in project design, management, and supervision.


Table 2
Medical Problems Treated and Assessment of Treatment Appropriateness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>A</th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Point</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>15 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>15 months</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall patients attended by CHWs</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>1,415</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children attended by CHWs</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>618</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Problems handled</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>1,177</td>
<td>1,418</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>1,272</td>
<td>1,607</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Respiratory (total)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>582</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Viral URI</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasites</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diarrhea (no parasites)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatologic</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>119</td>
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<td>Body pain</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriate treatment</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


CHW—community health worker
URI—upper respiratory infection
“62.8% of Hondurans live in poverty (World Bank, 2013). Here, 6 out of 10 of households are subject to extreme poverty of incomes of less than $2.50 per day.”

The amount of access to health services is very poor especially for those who only earn about 2 Lempiras per day.

Health Needs

Common Illnesses, Conditions & Health Risks

- Respiratory Problems
- Cleft Lip and Palate
- Insect-borne Diseases
- Crippling Burn Scars
- Parasites
- Cataracts and Vision Problems
- Malnutrition and Vitamin Deficiency
- Urological Difficulties
- Women’s Health Concerns
- Hernias and Goiters
- Skin Conditions
- Infectious Diseases
- Maternal Death
- Infant Mortality

http://lightoftheworldcharities.com/comayagua-honduras/
Area of Comayagua: Hospitals

The St. Benedict Joseph Medical Center - A two story facility with consult rooms, a pre-op area, 4 operating rooms, patient rooms for short-term recovery after surgery, a pharmacy, a dental clinic and the St. Gerard Program for pre and post-natal care.

The Center operates as a basic healthcare clinic year round, treating approximately 3000 patients per month.

Several times a year SBJ hosts visiting surgical teams who offer their services free of charge to the poor.

http://www.sbjhonduras.com/medical_center.html
Area of Comayagua: Hospitals

Hospital Santa Teresa - a long serving hospital that has, on several occasions, been damaged or destroyed by natural phenomena such as flooding and fire.

This Hospital **only has 125 beds** to provide with only 12 beds in the Emergency Department.

http://www.sbjhonduras.com/medical_center.html
http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/914594-410/comayagua-ingresan-al-materno-a-otro-ni%C3%B1o-quemado-por-p%C3%B3lvora
Hospital Santa Teresa

This hospital does not have the ability to treat patients with injuries of second to third degree burns. **ONLY those with first degree burns can be admitted.**

Health officials clarified that they are forced to refer severed/serious patients to Tegucigalpa, where they have more health resources for serious injuries.

A trip to Tegucigalpa is a **FIVE HOUR** bus ride for those who do not own any sort of vehicular transportation.
## Costs of Childbirth

**1 USD = 23.6205 HNL**

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<td>Paid 600 Lempiras ($25.40) for a normal childbirth.</td>
<td>Paid $100,726 for a normal childbirth.</td>
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</table>
| Can amount to over 1,400 Lempiras for a C-section with an additional cost of 1,200 Lempiras for a disposable clothing kit. | Hospital stay for 30 days: **$67,375**  
Gynaecologist: **$4,100**  
Anaesthetist: **$2,086**  
Ultrasounds: **$1,200-$1,600 each**  
Blood tests: **$750-$959 each** |
| In 2013, childbirth was only 100 Lempiras and 400 Lempiras for C-section. | To her relief, the insurance covered the entire bill. However, not everyone is lucky. |
| Social Security Insurance may cover the costs of childbirth but these women must pay for the supplies; such as disposable diapers for both the mother and child, the C-section kit and painkillers. | The medical resources are already equipped for the mothers. |

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/sanpedrosula/710875-98/mujeres-costean-sus-partos-en-hospitales-p%C3%BAblicos-de-honduras
Infant and Child Medical Care and Resources

**Joint Task Force-Bravo:** have supported more than 500 children at five different orphanages in the Comayagua Valley since 1997.

**Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade:** sent teams of physicians and nurses to provide much needed medical relief. Over the years, the Brigade has developed from a medical relief organization to a community development organization that is partnering with local organizations, municipalities, and experts, that is based in local communities and that derives its strength from working with the people of Honduras.

**St. Benedict Joseph Medical Center (SBJ):** Several times a year SBJ hosts visiting surgical teams who offer their services free of charge to the poor.

**Operation Smile:** Since 1997, Operation Smile has conducted medical programs in six cities across Honduras. A year round cleft lip and cleft palate care center offers free surgeries to patients with post-operative care and also offers continuous dental and orthodontics care, pediatrics care, speech therapy, audiology and psychology consultations. Recently visited Comayagua on April 24 through 30, 2016

http://www.operationsmile.org/program/comayagua-honduras-medical-mission-0
Education

Instituto Privado Comayagua – Spanish Education

Escuela Bilingue Honduras – Bilingual Education in the levels of Pre-School, Primary, and Secondary

Universidad Jose Cecilio del Valle

Centro universitario regional del Comayagua

Universidad Politecnica de Honduras

Estacion Experimental La Soledad, Universidad ESNACIFOR

Instituto Leon Alvarado

Universidad Catolica de Honduras
Education
“Only 16.1% are internet users. The largest number of users has secondary education (26.4%) and higher education (78.5%). Internet is barely used by young Hondurans with primary education (1.6%) and users with a higher education almost triple the number of users with secondary education.”

The Riecken Community Libraries

Since in 2000, the Riecken Foundation worked with poor rural communities in Guatemala and Honduras.

Each Riecken library focuses on:
- Sparking a spirit of discovery through reading programs for all ages
- Open stacks of books available for lending
- Literacy programs includes for adults
- Support for local schools and teachers
- Safe activity choices for young people
- Access to information and technology through free internet services
- Training in technology tools
- Other community development initiatives geared
- Connecting the library with external opportunities and building a network, for funding, relationships and additional training
- Promoting citizen participation and strengthening the culture of volunteerism and social participation.

An average of over 800 visitors per month per library.
Significantly increases the impact that donor contributions provide.

https://riecken.org/
http://www.unesco.org/UIL/litbase/?menu=4&programme=216
HONDURAS
La Libertad, Comayagua

- Robert Warren Library
- Opened: March 27, 2003
- Population: 21,181
- Economy: tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, sugar cane, rice, coffee, corn, ranching

HONDURAS
Minas de Oro, Comayagua

- Minas de Oro Public Library
- Opened: July 31, 2004
- Population: 14,592
- Economy: mining, agriculture, ranching

HONDURAS
Esquías, Comayagua

- Esquías Public Library
- Opened: March 29, 2003
- Population: 19,792
- Economy: tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, sugar cane, rice, corn, ranching

HONDURAS
San Luis, Comayagua

- Arturo Flores Aguilluz Library
- Opened: August 7, 2004
- Population: 7,345
- Economy: tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, onions, sugar cane, coffee, rice, ranching
Culture

Religious and political

“The town’s rich past is evident in its fine old churches, an impressive cathedral and its colonial plazas. A very Catholic city, it’s the place in Honduras to witness Easter celebrations.”

www.lonelyplanet.com/honduras/western-honduras/comayagua/introduction#ixzz4XXMKdcLM
Religious Beliefs

Almost all of the Honduran people believe in God and Jesus. The upper classes tend to practice **Catholicism** while the lower classes tend to practice **Evangelism**. The national religion is said to be the Catholic Church. Religious preference is usually kept private but Catholics may wear a crucifix or religious medal around their neck.

“The Catholic Church in Honduras is composed of eight dioceses: Tegucigalpa, **Comayagua**, Choluteca, Olancho, Yoro, San Pedro Sula, Trujillo, and Copan which are part of the **Conference Episcopal of Honduras**.”

The people of Honduras are very superstitious and most believe in divine destiny. But most Catholics only go to church on special occasions, such as Christmas and funerals. Evangelicals will practice prayer meetings and Bible readings every night in a small chapel.

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
Religious Practices

Beliefs about death and the afterlife are very similar to Western tradition. One exception is the concept of *hejillo* which is a kind of mystic contagion that comes from a dead human body, no matter the cause of death. If the body is touched, the person who touched it must wash thoroughly as soon as possible to purify themselves.

There is a ritual practiced in the Department of El Paraiso by a magico-religious specialist that is said to eliminate corn pests such as an inchworm or caterpillar. “The specialist recites the Lord’s prayer while sprinkling holy water and walking from one corner to the other of the cornfield in a cross pattern. This person makes little crosses of corn leavers or caterpillars and buries them in four spots in the field.” This ritual is known as *cruzando la milpa* or *crossing the cornfield.*

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
Catholicism

Easter Celebration

Cathedral of Comayagua

Easter Celebration
Candidatas a la reina de la feria de Comayagua

Beauty Contest amongst the neighborhoods of Comayagua
Females 15-17 years of Age
http://www.elheraldo.hn/
Daily Life
Children | Family | Community

“Horizontes al Futuro is a home for street kids – kids that come from families too poor to support them. They are not orphans, but their parents have approached the center and asked for help.”

familyonbikes.org/blog/2009/05/street-kids-comayagua-honduras/

By the time I reached the highway in the USA my feet were bleeding and I was crying. I met a woman and begged her to help me. She helped me find work. I wanted to stay there, but then immigration came and sent me back.
Local Languages

“Spanish is the dominant national language. But Honduran Spanish has a distinct accent. Hondurans use some words that are not heard in other Spanish-speaking countries, and this gives their speech a distinctive character.”

Other languages spoken include Arabic and Chinese among migrants, Honduras sign language, and Lenca – which is a form of Spanish.

English is also common.

https://www.ethnologue.com/country/hn/languages
http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
“Special and holiday foods are an improved version of the typical meal but feature more meat and perhaps more of an emphasis on cream and fried plantains.”

Typical Christmas food items include: torrejas – a white bread soaked in hot syrup, and nacatamales – similar to Mexican tamales except larger, more moist with more gelatinous dough and wrapped in banana leaves instead of corn husks.

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
Food Customs

A typical meal consists of beans and corn tortillas; the beans are usually fried and the tortillas usually small, thick, and handmade. Ideally this would be eaten warm.

Other typical food items include: fried plantains, white cheese, rice, fried meat, a scrambled egg, a kind of thickened semi sweet cream called mantequilla, a cabbage and tomato salad or a slice of avocado, and a cup of sweet coffee or bottled soft drink.

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
Other Food Customs

Arab migrants in the area eat typical Middle Eastern food.

There are also Chinese restaurants owned by immigrants as well as fast-food restaurants as they became popular in the early 1990s.

Meals are typically served in restaurants or homes. Often times there is a porch or door open to the street through which dogs, cats, and chickens wander in.

http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Honduras.html
THANK YOU