HONDURAS CULTURE GUIDE

Honduras is a Central American nation situated in Central America between Guatemala and Nicaragua. It has a population of 10.3 million people, and the official language is Spanish. The climate in Honduras is hot and tropical in the lowlands (78-84 ℉) and more temperate in the highlands (61-75 ℉). With a poverty rate of almost 74%, there is a large wealth gap between the upper and lower class, with not much of a middle class.

Courtesies

Learn some Spanish! Apply what you learn and practice when you can. Remember *you* are a foreigner in another country. Your efforts in speaking Spanish will be appreciated, and it will help you build relationships with the family, community, and the sponsoring pastor.

Greet (saludar) people when you arrive and leave. When greeting older people, be sure to stand up if you happen to be seated.

Get to know people before taking pictures to avoid looking like a tourist. Once you get to know them, ask permission to take their picture and they will be honored!

It's considered rude to decline food/drink so please take what is offered to you. Take a chance and try something new!

A smile will always be well received.

Family Ties

Community and family are incredibly important in Honduras, with a strong emphasis placed on family loyalty. Almost everyone spends time on their front porch chatting with family and neighbors. In smaller villages, it is polite (and expected) to stop and talk to people who are sitting on their porches when you walk by.

Hospitality

The people of Honduras are extremely friendly and hospitable and are always ready for a lively conversation or a good party. Food and drink are central to Honduran social gatherings. It's common for people to share a Coke when hosting visitors. The main meal is eaten early in the day and usually consists of beans and corn tortillas (and seafood if there is money for it). Relationships between family members and the community are highly valued, and dropping by someone's house unannounced is very common. It's also common for family and neighbors to share meals or extra fruit from their land.

Religion

Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion in Honduras, constituting almost half of the country's population. Protestant Christianity is the fastest-growing religion in the country, making up 35% of the population. This is mainly due to the strong evangelistic efforts of Protestant churches. Around 10% of the population does not claim any religious affiliation.

Time

Timekeeping is more relaxed, and it's relatively common to arrive 15 or 30 minutes later than planned. In Honduras, relationships are valued more than punctuality. This means they would rather chat with or help someone in need and be a little late rather than cut a conversation short and be on time.