

¿Sabías que...

...Central America is between North and South America?

...the five original Central American countries were: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica?

Panamá belonged to Colombia until 1903. Belice belonged to Guatemala until 1981.

...the Mayans were the most advanced indigenous group in the Western Hemisphere?

...Central America only has two seasons?

Winter is the wet season and summer is the dry season. Seasons are not based on temperature, but the rainy season.

...Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th to October 15th?

During this time 7 out of 21 Spanish speaking countries celebrate their independence (México, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Chile.)

...Guatemala is known as the Land of the Eternal Spring?

...Chichicastenango Market in Guatemala is very colorful and one of the most famous indigenous markets in the world?

...the marimba is Guatemala's national instrument?

...Tikal, in Guatemala is the largest Mayan city and considered the New York City of the ancient world?

...the national bird and currency of Guatemala is the quetzal?

The quetzal is a majestic bird that symbolizes freedom. This bird cannot be kept in captivity.

...Tecún Umán is a national hero in Guatemala?
Tecún Umán was the last of the Mayan's leaders. He was killed by conquistador Pedro de Alvarado from Spain.

...Lake Atitlán in Guatemala is the deepest lake in Central America?

Lake Atitlán is surrounded by 3 volcanoes and 12 towns.

...Guatemala has 38 volcanoes?

Several of these volcanoes are active.

...in 1978, Yolanda Fernández de Cofiño sold her idea of the "Happy Meal" to McDonalds?

Mrs. Cofiño and her husband ran a McDonalds in Guatemala and sold "menú Ronald" as Happy meals.

...some people in Guatemala eat tepezcuintle (type of rodent similar to the guinea pig)?

...in Belice people eat armadillo and paca (type of rodent)?

...O'Henry, an American writer, called Honduras "Banana Republic?"

...Honduras has the only private museum with an insect collection from more than 112 countries?

It has more than 13,000 species of butterflies and insects.

...Honduras has a phenomenon called "Rain of Fish" were it actually rains fish?

This is a phenomenon has been occurring for more than a century on a yearly basis in Honduras.

...El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America?

...90% of El Salvador is made up of volcanic material?

El Salvador has 23 volcanoes.

...75,000 people died during El Salvador's civil war?

...Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America?

...Nicaragua is known as the land of lakes and volcanoes?

...Nicaragua has 22 volcanoes?

...The toucan is a very common bird in the rainforest of Nicaragua?

...In 1990 Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was elected president of Nicaragua, becoming the first woman president of the Americas?

...and the 2nd in the Western Hemisphere after Iceland's Vigdís Finnbogadóttir? Also, she is the only woman in the world to defeat an incumbent president.

...tourists from Europe and the USA travel to Nicaragua to ski on the black, volcanic ash of the volcano Cerro Negro?

...Lake Nicaragua is an enormous, fresh water lake?

It is located close to the Pacific Ocean; it is the third largest lake in Latin America. It is a little bit smaller than Lake Titicaca in South America.

...Lake Nicaragua is the only fresh water lake where sharks live and reproduce?

...25% of Costa Rica is national parks?

...Costa Rica does not have an army?

..."Pura vida" is a phrase people use in Costa Rica to greet their friends?

The phrase translates to "pure life." When you say someone is "pura vida" you are saying that person is cool, nice, and friendly. You can use the phrase to describe things as well.

...Costa Rica has 60 volcanoes?

Only 4 of these volcanoes are active.

...The Poas Volcano in Costa Rica has the largest crater in the world?

...Costa Rica's rainforest has a huge variety of flora and fauna?

...Costa Rica has more bird's species than all of North America combined?

...people go to Costa Rica to see the quetzal bird?

...after Belice, Panamá is the second youngest country in Central America?

...Panamá became independent from Spain in 1821 and from Colombia in 1903?

...in 1914 the USA built the Panama Canal?

The Panama Canal connects the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It cuts through only 10 miles of land, but saves boats 7,872 miles of travel around South America. Each lock weighs 750 tons (1 ton = 2,000 pounds).

...Several baseball players in the USA come from Panamá?

...the Smithsonian World Disease Center is located in Panamá?

...Gorgas Hospital in Panamá is named after American General ("US Navy) and doctor, William C. Gorgas?

Dr. Gorgas directed the 10 year project to control mosquitoes and prevent yellow fever in Panamá. General Gorgas is from Alabama.

...Some astronauts have gone to train in the rainforests of Panamá?

...The Dominican Republic is part of the island, La Española?

On December 6, 1492, Christopher Columbus christened the island with the name La Española.

...2/3 of La Española is The Dominican Republic and 1/3 is Haití?

...The taínos, indigenous people, were the first inhabitants of the island?

...in 1844 The Dominican Republic became independent from Spain, went back to be under them in 1861, and became once again independent in 1865?

...dictatorships have been common throughout the history of The Dominican Republic?

...several of baseball players in the USA were born in The Dominican Republic?

...San Juan is the capital of Puerto Rico and the oldest capital of the western hemisphere?

...San Juan is a World Heritage Site?

...Puerto Rico is a territory of the USA?

...the USA obtained Puerto Rico after the Spanish-American War in 1898?

...even though Puerto Rico is a territory of the USA, it has its own constitution and government?

...Puerto Rico uses the American dollar?

...Puerto Rico means "rich port" in English?

...in 1493, Christopher Columbus named Puerto Rico San Juan Bautista (Saint John the Baptist)?

...75% of Puerto Rico is mountains and hills?

...since 1917 the people of Puerto Rico have American citizenship?

...el coquí is a tiny frog that lives in the trees of Puerto Rico and has a very peculiar song?

El coquí is very big tourist attraction for Puerto Rico.

...El Yunque in Puerto Rico is the only rainforest that belongs to the USA National Parks?

...the La Parguera in Puerto Rico has a famous bioluminescent bay?

The bioluminescence is produced by a tiny microorganism. These live animals produce a spark of chemical light when disturbed in the water. They produce a striking effect of green and white diamonds that can only be seen at night. It is known as the paradise for scuba and snorkeling.

...Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean?

...in 1492 Christopher Columbus landed in Cuba and thought it was China?

...Cuba is 90 miles from the most southern part of Florida?

...Cuba has the smallest bird in the world?
This hummingbird is twice the size of a bee.

...Cuba does not have poisonous snakes?

...in 1959 Fidel Castro became Cuba's dictator?

In 2008 due to Fidel's health, his brother Raúl Castro became the new dictator.

...in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba there is a US military base?

...Carmen Deedy, well-known author and storyteller, was born in Cuba?

...famous singer Gloria Estefan, from the Miami Sound Machine, is from Cuba?

...Desi Arnaz, Ricky Ricardo in "I Love Lucy" is from Cuba?