

# *Tegucigalpa: Honduras' Heart and Soul*

Before becoming the capital, Tegucigalpa was a mining town known as Comayagua's "sister city".

Up until that moment, Comayagua was the capital and a booming metropolis in the center of the country, however, it all changed when Dr. Marco Aurelio Soto became president.

According to historians, Dr. Soto married a Tegucigalpa woman and that upset Comayagua's high society. Facing fierce criticism, he made the decision of transferring the capital to his wife's hometown in 1880.

That small mining community is only history now. "Tegus," as it is known by the locals, has become a metropolis with all the accommodations and services needed for modern-day living. Population now reaches one million and the architecture combines colonial and contemporary designs.

So much to see!

Tourism attractions in Tegucigalpa include the historical center. Some of the mandatory stops are the beautiful antique buildings, museums, the Zona Viva (home of the most exclusive bars, restaurants and businesses in the country), and the parks "La Leona" and "United Nations," which offer impressive panoramic views of the city and a breath of fresh air for the busy capital.

Tegus' cultural center is the Manuel Bonilla Theater, an architectural jewel inspired on the Ateneo Theater in Paris. It boasts an exclusive stage for the most important artistic presentations, both musical and dramatical.

History, Faith and Nature

These are some of the many attractions Tegucigalpa has to offer:

- Historic center. Here you'll find the capital's antique buildings and museums.
- Suyapa Basilica. Built in honor of the Virgin of Suyapa, the country's patron saint.
- Tegucigalpa Cathedral. One of the most beautiful colonial churches in Latin America.
- La Tigra National Park. Source of water and fresh air for the capital. It's located 6.83 miles from "Tegus."
- La Leona Park. It offers one of the most impressive panoramic views of the city, along with the Peace Monument, the United Nations Park and the Christ of Picacho.

Another must-see is the Villa Roy National Museum, located in an old house that belonged to Mr. Julio Lozano Díaz, former president of Honduras. Here you can appreciate an interesting collection of pieces that tell national history dating back to pre-Columbian times.

On the other hand, the old Presidential House, located in downtown, is now a museum and stores a collection of pieces that belonged to the different Chiefs of State of Honduras.

Adventurous visitors also have plenty of choices. Close to the city you'll find the "Route of the Royal Mines," an 18-mile tour featuring colonial towns such as San Jacinto, Valle de Ángeles and Ojojona.



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