20 Things You Didn’t Know about Honduras:

1. Honduras means “Great Depths.”

2. People have inhabited the Mosquito Coast of Honduras for at least 3,000 years.

3. Christopher Columbus was the first explorer to land in Honduras.

4. At the Mayan city of Copan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, there is a set of hieroglyphic stairs that tell the story of the rulers of Copan.

5. The five stars on the Honduras flag represent the five countries of Central America, with Honduras as the center star because of its central location.

6. Honduras marks the southern border line of Mesoamerica as defined by Paul Kirchoff in 1943.

7. Honduran money is called the Lempira, named after a native who died fighting the Spaniards.

8. The seemingly indigenous figure on Honduran money is in fact a North American Native American Indian.

9. Honduras was the first country to be called a “Banana Republic,” which was coined by the writer O. Henry.

10. Scarlet macaws were sacred to the Mayans. The scarlet macaw is the national bird of Honduras.

11. The national flower of Honduras is the orchid *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* (formerly known as *Brassavola digbyana*) which replaced the rose in 1969.

12. There is an annual phenomena in Yoro of fish falling from the sky, a.k.a. “rain of fishes” or “Lluvia de peces,” which happens between May and July.

13. The main exports of Honduras are coffee, bananas, and wood.

14. Honduras is 80% mountainous.

15. The Patuca River is infamous within Honduras for a section of rapids known as “El Portal del Infierno” or “The Gates of Hell.”

16. The archaeological site of Puerto Escondido in Honduras has early evidence of the use of cacao at circa 1150 B.C.

17. The capital of Honduras is composed of two cities: Tegucigalpa and Comayagueela.

18. There are no active volcanoes in Honduras, and there is only one natural lake: Lake Yojoa.

19. Honduras was formerly known as Spanish Honduras in order to differentiate itself from Belize, which had been known as British Honduras.

20. With the amount of Bay Island coral reefs, Honduras is the second country in the world with more coral reefs after Australia.