

# El Salvador vs. America

## My Cross Culture Experience

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# History:

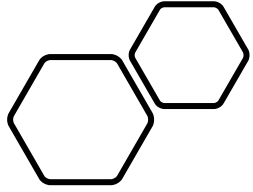
- El Salvador is a Central American country. Of the seven Central American countries, El Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated. Despite its lack of level ground, it is traditionally an agricultural country that relies mainly on coffee exports.
- El Salvador achieved independence from Spain as of the 1st Mexican Empire then furthered to secede as part of the Federal Republic of Central America two years later. In 1841. Upon the republic isolation, El Salvador became sovereign until forming a short lived union with Honduras and Nicaragua called the Greater Republic of Central America which lasted from 1895 to 1898.



# Geography:

- El Salvador is known for being the smallest country in Central America.
- The topography of El Salvador consists of various mountains, but the country does have a narrow, relatively flat coastal belt and a central plateau.
- One of the highest point in El Salvador is Cerro el Pital which is at about 8,956 feet, located in the northern part of the country on the border with Honduras.
- tropical on the coast with rainy season from May to October and dry season from November to April, but temperate in higher regions.





## Flag:

- The flag of the El Salvador consists of three horizontal blue-white-blue stripes.
- The blue stripes of the flag represent the two oceans that border Central America, the Atlantic and the Pacific.
- The center of the flag consist of the words that say "Republica de El Salvador en la America Central which means Republic of El Salvador in Central America.
- The 5 volcanoes represent the five states of the United Provinces of Central America.





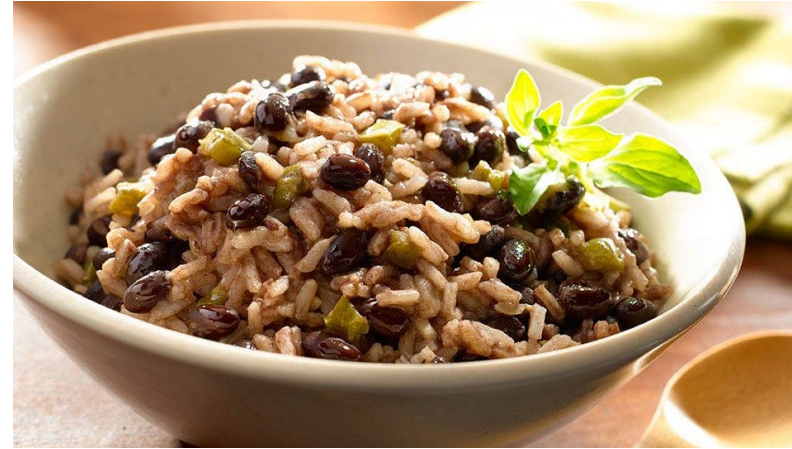
what represents El Salvador?



# Norms and Values:

- Maintain eye contact when greeting people.
- Shake hands when meeting someone and when leaving.
- At the dining table, say *buen provecho*, which translates as “enjoy your meal”.
- Respect your elders.
- The time spent as a family is always valued in salvadoran culture, normally families gather up on evenings to eat dinner together.





## Food:

- El Salvador has many unique and exotic traditional foods.
- Some of their more famous dishes are pupusas which is a stuffed flatbread, tamales de elote (corncakes), casamiento (black beans and rice), platanos fritos (fried plantains, quesadilla salvadorena (sweet cheese poundcake) and horchata which is a sweet rice beverage.
- El Salvador food is particularly distinctive among the diverse cuisines of Central America.





# Celebrations/Holidays:

- Independence Day parades in El Salvador are traditionally led by many cars that are decorated with the salvadoran flag, this takes place on September 15 and Salvadoran student bands prepare for these grand parades by practicing for months in advance, and on the day of families are preparing the materials to use to make the national dish in El Salvador, pupusas.
- El Salvador holidays and traditions combine religious events with unique indigenous and colonial customs. The most popular religious celebrations are Easter week, August festivities, and Christmas as well.







## Culture Shock In America:

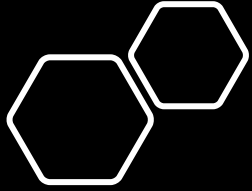
- Difference in language, weather, and laws.
- In El Salvador you are not obligated to attend school while on the other hand in America you must attend school every day.
- In order to have a job in America you must know how to speak spanish but in El Salvador the only language salvadorans speak is spanish.
- When it is winter in the US, it's summer time in El Salvador so it is difficult to get accustomed if you travel or move permanently.

# Summary:

- Our differences are making the world full of diversity. We learn about culture through experiences. Culture is learned by the involvement from our surroundings and we gain knowledge about other culture values within the people in the same community or even by social media. Our values decide how each person of one's particular culture will behave and how it will lead their life.







# Reference Page

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