

# HONDURAS

Central America's most diverse destination.



Honduras offers the best of the rich natural, cultural and archaeological diversity for which Central America is famous. Combine a visit to Copan with a few days exploring our varied and exotic system of national parks. Also, Honduras' Bay Islands are among the finest dive destinations the Caribbean has to offer.



## COPAN *Honduras* RUINS

Behold  
the Maya's  
Crowning  
Artistic  
Achievement

Tropical  
Nature



Maya  
Renaissance



Caribbean  
Creation



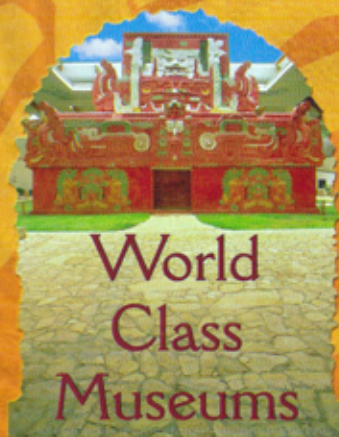
# Honduras

One small country: three wide worlds

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# Unsurpassed in the Maya World



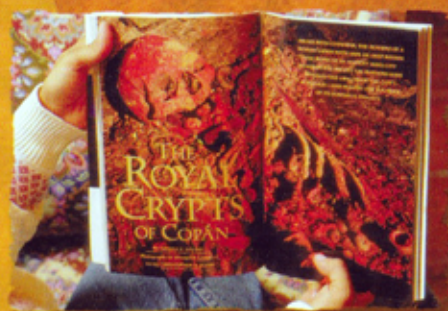
World  
Class  
Museums



A full-scale replica of the Rosalila Temple is the centerpiece of the world-class Copan Sculpture Museum, which protects much of Copan's original sculpture. The site's famous steles, altars and even whole facades are arranged together in an easily accessible, well-interpreted presentation.



A surprise for archaeologists, recent excavations have yielded the remains of two Maya queens.



National Geographic Magazine

Once the exclusive realm of an elite corps of archaeologists, visitors to Copan today can descend into some of the miles of exploratory tunnels that have made Copan the most intensely studied and best understood of all Maya cities.



The Hieroglyphic Stairway is the New World's longest inscribed text.

# Adventure

Relax in comfort,  
ride horses to remote

Maya sculptures,

## for

seek out exotic birds, watch

the sunset at "Egret Lagoon",

tour typical

## the

coffee and

tobacco farms,

soak in the Hot Springs,

## Whole

visit a Maya village,

explore waterfalls, caves

tropical forest, make friends,

## Family.

learn Spanish,

hang out, eat well, ...

Spend a little time

in our enchanting little town.



Stele 12, "La Pintada".



Spot-breasted oriole.



Tobacco fields.



Good food and atmosphere.



Hot springs.



El Rubí waterfall.



Charming family hotels.

Celebrated Altar Q is the key to Copan's mystery-shrouded past. Each of the square block's four sides presents four sovereigns, seated in the order of their rule, recording a 400-year dynasty of 16 kings.



# COPAN

Since their emergence around 2,000 BC, the Maya evolved into the

New World's

**"Athens"**

most sophisticated ancient civilization - a society of scientists, skilled architects and sculptors, fierce

**of the**

warriors, and a ruling

class that raised enormous temples to honor the lives and achievements

**New**

of their kings. Copan marks the southeastern outpost of the Maya world. Leader among all Maya cities

**World"**

in terms of quantity and quality of stone sculpture, Copan

represents the cultural apex of Maya civilization.



The startling discovery of the Rosalila Temple, with traces of its original color scheme intact, permits us to imagine Copan not as a solemn and austere world of gray stone, but as a stylish city splashed with vibrant color.



The Great Plaza is an expansive courtyard scattered with tall, monolithic "steles". Most of the glyphs and detailed carvings in the steles refer to

18 Rabbit, the thirteenth king. Considered the King of the Arts, 18 Rabbit implemented the intricate, high-relief style of sculpture for which Copan is famous.

