

Argentina

- **Population:** About 46 million people live in Argentina (2022)
- **Capital:** Buenos Aires has a population of about 15 million people
- **Name:** *Republica Argentina* or Argentine Republic, *Argentina* means 'land of silver'
- **Government:** Democracy, Republic
- **Language:** Spanish(Official), Italian, English, German, French and indigenous languages
- **Literacy:** 98% can read and write
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 92%)
- **Currency:** 1 Argentine peso = 100 centavos
- **National Flag:** blue and white, with a yellow sun on the white band

- **National Symbols:** Sun of May - sun with a face symbol
- **History:** Spanish explorer Juan Diaz visits the area now called Argentina and claims it for the Spanish crown. In 1535 Buenos Aires is founded by Pedro de Mendoza. Only in 1816, Argentina gained independence from Spain. In 1880 Buenos Aires became capital of Argentina. In the next fifty years from 1880 onwards Argentina was one of the richest nations. In 1982 Argentina went to war with Britain to try to get the Falkland Islands but this was unsuccessful for the Argentines.

Bolivia

- **Population:** roughly 11.8 million people live in Bolivia (2021)

- **Capital:** Bolivia has two capitals, La Paz and Sucre. La Paz is the administrative capital with the seat of government and Sucre is the capital as described in the Bolivian constitution. La Paz has a population of about 1.8 million people. Sucre has about 300,000 inhabitants.
- **Name:** Plurinational State of Bolivia; in short: Bolivia
- **Government:** Democracy; Presidential Republic
- **Official Languages:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Guarani.
- **Literacy:** 95% of all over 15 years can read and write
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 77%)
- **Currency:** 1 Bolivian 'boliviano' = 100 centavos/cents
- **National Anthem:** "*Bolivianos, el Hado Propicio*" (in English: "Bolivians, a most favorable destiny")
- **National Symbols:** Llama, Andean Condor
- **National Colours:** Red, yellow, green
- **National Day:** 6 August (Independence Day)
- **History:** Before the Spanish started colonising the region, the area around today's Bolivia belonged to the Inca Empire. The conquistadores from Spain took control of the region in the 16th century. Bolivia gained independence (from Spain) in 1825. The country is named after South American freedom fighter Simón Bolívar.

Chile

- **Population:** 19 million people live in Chile (2022)
- **Capital:** Santiago, with almost 7 million inhabitants is the country's largest metropolitan area
- **Name:** Republic of Chile
- **Government:** Democracy, Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** More than 97% of the people can read and write.
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 77%, Protestants 16%)

- **Currency:** 1 Chilean peso = 100 centavos
- **National Symbols:** red, white and blue (national colours), copihue (national flower), condor (national bird) and huemul (national animal)
- **National Anthem:** "*Himno Nacional de Chile*" (Anthem of Chile)
- **National Day:** 18 September
- **History:** The country was inhabited by the Inca in the North and the Mapuche people in the centre and southern parts before the arrival of the Spanish colonialists. The country gained full independence from Spain in 1810. Chile's president-elect is Gabriel Boric who will take office from 11 March 2022. The country was led by Sebastián Piñera since March 2018 prior to the November 2021 election.

Colombia

- **Population:** More than 51 million people live in Colombia (2022)
- **Capital:** Bogotá with 11 million inhabitants is the country's largest city
- **Name:** Republica de Colombia or Republic of Colombia.
- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** More than 94% of the people can read and write.
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 79%, Protestants 14%)
- **Currency:** 1 Peso = 100 centavos
- **National Symbols:** Orchid (national flower), Andean condor (national bird) wax palm tree (national tree)
- **Motto:** "*Libertad y Orden*" which means "Freedom and Order"
- **National Day:** 20 July (Independence Day)

History: The country was inhabited by mainly semi-nomadic tribes before the arrival of the Spanish colonialists. Colombia is named after explorer Christopher Columbus. However, the land was also referred to as New Grenada from 1499. Colombia gained independence from Spain on 20 July 1810. Slavery was abolished in Colombia in 1849. Finally in 1886 the Republic of Colombia was proclaimed.

Costa Rica

- **Population:** 5.1 million people
- **Capital:** San José with 1.4 million people
- **Name:** Republic of Costa Rica
- **Official Language:** Spanish
- **Religion:** Most Costa Ricans are Christians (87%)
- **Currency:** 1 Colón, the symbol is (₡) the smallest coin is 10 colones
- **National colours:** blue, white and red
- **National bird:** *yiguirro*, which is a clay coloured robin
- **History:** Indigenous settlements in the region date back to 10,000 BC. Stone tools were found from the early settlements in the Cartago Province of Costa Rica. Farming and agricultural activities in the area were already conducted about 5,000 years ago, however, the country was then only sparsely inhabited. Christopher Columbus reached the Costa Rican shores in 1502. Costa Rica was a Spanish colony until 1821. Costa Rica gained independence from Spain on 15 September 1821. The country has no army since 1948. Since 2018, the president is Carlos Alvarado Quesada

Cuba

- **Population:** 11 million people (2022)
- **Capital:** Havana 2.1 million inhabitants
- **Name:** Republic of Cuba
- **Government:** Socialist republic
- **Official language:** Spanish
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (65%, of these mainly Catholics)
- **Currency:** 1 Cuban Peso (CUP)=100 centavos
- **National Symbols:** Royal Palm Tree (national tree)Cuban trogon, also called tocororo (national bird), Mariposa butterfly flower (national flower)
- **History:** Cuba was a Spanish colony until the Spanish American war 1898. Christopher Columbus landed on Cuba on 12 October 1492 and the first Spanish settlement was founded in 1511. After the Spanish-American War, Cuba became a protectorate of the USA. On 20 May 1902, Cuba became fully independent republic. Since 1965 Cuba is under communist rule. The country was lead by Fidel Castro from 1959 until 2006 when he handed the presidency over to his brother Raúl. Since 2019, the president is Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Dominican Republic

- **Population:** 10.6 million people live in the Dominican Republic (2021)
- **Name:** *República Dominicana* (Dominican Republic)
- **Capital:** Santo Domingo with 3.4 million inhabitants
- **Government:** Presidential republic
- **Motto:** "*Dios, Patria, Libertad*" (God, Homeland, Freedom)
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** More than 93% of the people can read and write.

- **Religion:** mainly Christians (about 70% of these mainly Catholics 48%)
- **Currency:** 1 *Peso Dominicano* = 100 *centavos*
- **National Symbols:** Palmchat (national bird), red, white and blue (national colours)
- **National Anthem:** "*Quisqueyanos Valientes*"
- **National Day:** 27 February (Independence Day)
- **History:** The Taíno lived on Hispaniola island long before the Spanish colonisers settled on the island. Christopher Columbus explored the island on his first voyage in 1492. Due to smallpox and other imported diseases many of the Taíno people died during the colonisation. The Spanish established sugar cane plantations and in the 17th century the French mainly settled in the western parts of the island, where they started tobacco plantations. The Dominican Republic was first known as Santo Domingo and only in 1844 declared independence from Haiti. Then the first constitution was established after the Dominican Republic's Independence War and the republic only gained independence again in 1865.

Ecuador

- **Population:** 17 million people live in Ecuador (2021)
- **Capital:** Quito with 1.9 million inhabitants
- **Name:** *República del Ecuador* (Republic of Ecuador)
- **Government:** Democracy, Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** More than 92% of the people can read and write.
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholics 80%)
- **Currency:** 1 US Dollar = 100 cents

- **National Symbols:** yellow, blue and red (national colours), Andean condor (national bird)
- **National Anthem:** "*Salve, Oh Patria!*" (We Salute You, Our Homeland)
- **National Day:** 10 August (Independence Day)
- **History:** Amerindians were the earliest settlers in the region which later became part of the Inca empire. The region was colonised by the Spanish in 16th century. Ecuador proclaimed independence in 1809 and from 1820 - 1830 was part of Gran Colombia. Only in 1840 the independence of Ecuador was recognised by Spain. Since May 2021, Guillermo Lasso is the President of Ecuador. He succeeded Lenín Moreno.

Equatorial Guinea

- **Population:** 1,454,789
- **Capital:** Currently Malabo will be "Ciudad de la Paz" once finished
- **Name:** Republic of Equatorial Guinea
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic under Dictatorship
- **Language:** Spanish primary (French and Portuguese secondary plus indigenous languages)
- **Literacy:** N/A
- **Religion:** 88.7 Christian 5.0 None 4.0 Islam and 1.7 native religions
- **Currency:** CFA
- **History:** Equatorial Guinea was the only Spanish Colony on the African continent.

El Salvador

- **Population:** 6,830,000
- **Capital:** San Salvador
- **Name:** Republic of El Salvador
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** 89.14
- **Religion:** Christian 84.1%
- **Currency:** US Dollar and Bitcoin

- **National Day:** 15 September
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century.

Guatemala

- **Population:** 17.4 million people (2021)
- **Capital:** Guatemala City with 3 million people
- **Name:** Republic of Guatemala (República de Guatemala)
- **Official Language:** Spanish
- **Religion:** Most Guatemalans are Christians (88%)
- **Currency:** 1 quetzal = 100 centavos
- **National Colours:** blue and white
- **National Bird:** *quetzal*
- **National Day:** 15 September

- **History:** Indigenous settlements in the region date back to 12,000-18,000 BC. Houses and palaces of the Maya people date back to about 650-800 AD when between 7 and 11 million people are thought to have lived in the area. Then, Mayan cities such as Tikal were very large. The first Spanish expeditions in the area were held from 1519. Guatemala was a Spanish colony until 1821 when Guatemala gained independence from Spain on 15 September.

Honduras

- **Population:** 9,265,067
- **Capital:** Tegucigalpa
- **Name:** Republic of Honduras
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** 80%
- **Religion:** 87% Christian
- **Currency:** Lempira

- **National Day:** 15 September
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century.
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Mexico

- Population: 126 million people live in Mexico (2021)
- Capital: Mexico City with 17 million inhabitants is the country's biggest city.
- Name: United Mexican States (in Spanish: *Estados Unidos Mexicanos*)
- Government: Democracy, Republic
- Language: Spanish
- Literacy: More than 95.3% over the age of 15 years can read and write
- Religion: Christians, mainly Roman Catholics (89%)
- Currency: 1 Peso = 100 centavos
- Flag colors: green, white and red
- National Symbols:
- History: Mexico was conquered and colonised by the Spanish from the 16th century. The president of Mexico is Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Nicaragua

- **Population:** 6.3 million people
- **Capital:** Managua with 1 million people
- **Name:** Republic of Nicaragua (República de Nicaragua)
- **Official Language:** Spanish
- **Religion:** Most Nicaraguans are Christians (87%)
- **Literacy:** 83% of all Nicaraguans over the age of 15 years can read or write
- **Currency:** 1 córdoba = 100 centavos
- **National colours:** blue and white
- **National bird:** *Guardabarranco*, a turquoise browed motmot
- **National day:** 15 September
- **History:** Nicaragua gained independence from Spain in 1821.

Panama

- **Population:** 3.8 million people live in Panama (2020)
- **Capital:** Panama City with 1.9 million inhabitants
- **Name:** Republic de Panama. República de Panamá
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** More than 95% of the people can read and write.
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (Roman Catholic 85%, Protestants 15%)

- **Currency:** 1 balboa = 100 centesimos
- **National Symbols:** Harpy eagle (national bird) blue, white and red (national colours)
- **Motto:** "*Pro Mundi Beneficio*" which means "For the Benefit of the World"
- **National Day:** 3 November (Independence Day)

- **History:** Panama was inhabited by indigenous tribes such as the Cueva and Chocoan people before the Spanish conquistadors arrived in 1500. The Spanish settlers based themselves in Panama. The Spanish ruled for about 300 year. Panama gained independence from Spain in 1821, but then became part of the Republic of Gran Colombia and only in 1903 gained full independence.

Paraguay

- **Population:** 7,359,000
- **Capital:** Asunción
- **Name:** Republic of Paraguay
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic

- **Language:** Spanish and Guarani
- **Literacy:** 94%
- **Religion:** 96% Christian
- **Currency:** Guarani
- **National Day:** May 15
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century.

Peru

- **Population:** 33.6 million people live in Peru (2022)
- **Capital:** Lima with 10.8 million inhabitants
- **Name:** *Republica del Peru* (Republic of Peru)
- **Government:** Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara
- **Literacy:** More than 94% of the people can read and write.
- **Religion:** mainly Christians (of these about 60% are Roman Catholics)
- **Currency:** 1 sol = 100 centimos
- **National Symbols:** red and white (national colours), vicuna (national bird)
- **National Day:** 28 July (Independence Day)

Philippines

- **Population:** 109,035,343
- **Capital:** Manila

- **Name:** Republic of the Philippines
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Filipino and English with Spanish as an secondary Official Language
- **Literacy:** 96.5%
- **Religion:** 88.7 % Christian 6% Muslim
- **Currency:** Peso
- **National Day:** July 4
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century. Seized by the US in December 1898 after the Spanish American War. Granted independence on July 4, 1946.

Puerto Rico

- **Population:** 3,285,874
- **Capital:** San Juan
- **Name:** Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- **Government:** Republican form of Government under US protection
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** 93%
- **Currency:** US Dollar
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century. Seized by the US in December 1898 after the Spanish American War.

Spain

- **Population:** 48 million people live in Spain (2021)
- **Capital:** Madrid, with 6.7 million inhabitants

- **Name:** *Reino de España* (Kingdom of Spain), short form: *España*
- **Government:** Parliamentary Monarchy
- **Languages:** Castilian Spanish 74%, Catalan 17%, Galician, Basque
- **Literacy:** More than 98% can read and write.
- **Religion:** 69% Christians (mainly Roman Catholics)
- **Currency:** 1 Euro = 100 cents, before 2001 Spanish *peseta*
- **National Symbol:** National flag and coat of arms, the short-toed eagle (national bird), red carnation (national flower), the bull (national animal). The official Spanish anthem "*La Marcha Real*" (the Royal March) is one of only four anthems in the world without lyrics.

- **History:** From 711 to 1492 Islamic Moors ruled in Spain. In 1492 Christopher Columbus reaches America and the Spanish rulers start forming their empire, building colonies in the Americas. In the 16th century Spanish kings also ruled over many European countries: Portugal, Netherlands, parts of France, Germany, Italy and Austria. The Spanish Civil War rages in Spain from 1936 to 1939 when dictator General Franco takes over the country. In 1975 Franco dies and Juan Carlos I becomes King of Spain. In 2014, his son Felipe followed him on the throne.
- **National Day:** 12 October (*Fiesta Nacional de España*)

Uruguay

- **Population:** 3,518,552
- **Capital:** Montevideo
- **Name:** The Eastern Republic of Uruguay
- **Government:** Unitary Presidential Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** 98%
- **Religion:** 55% Christian 45% none
- **Currency:** Peso
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century.

Venezuela

- **Population:** 28,515,829
- **Capital:** Caracas
- **Name:** The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
- **Government:** Federal Republic
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Literacy:** 97%
- **Religion:** 86% Christian
- **Currency:** Bolivar
- **History:** Colonized by the Spanish beginning in the 16th century.