



Tour Information

NICARAGUA HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Our Highlights of Nicaragua tour combines the best of this unique country's natural wonders and cultural gems. With a carefully mixed blend of sightseeing, travelling, relaxing and activity, we've packed in as much of this wonderful country as we can into just sixteen days.

DAY 1

Arrive in Managua

The tour starts in Managua, Nicaragua's capital city, where we'll transfer from the airport to our hotel for the first night of our trip.

DAY 2

Managua to Granada

In Managua we'll visit the Batahola cultural centre to get an insight into Nicaragua's colourful history and culture. From there we'll head to the Mirador Tiscapa, which before the 1972 earthquake housed the Presidential Palace and is now the site of a giant silhouette of Sandino, revolutionary hero of the Sandinistas, who stands proudly over the Managua skyline. We'll visit the Sandino museum and the ruins of the old Cathedral before driving on to Granada. This stunning colonial city is situated at the foot of Mombacho volcano and on the shore of the Lago de Nicaragua. We'll arrive in time for an afternoon cocktail and a panga (boat) trip to explore some of the many isletas just off the shore, including a visit to Castillo San Pablo and the Isla de los Monos (Monkey island).



DAY 3

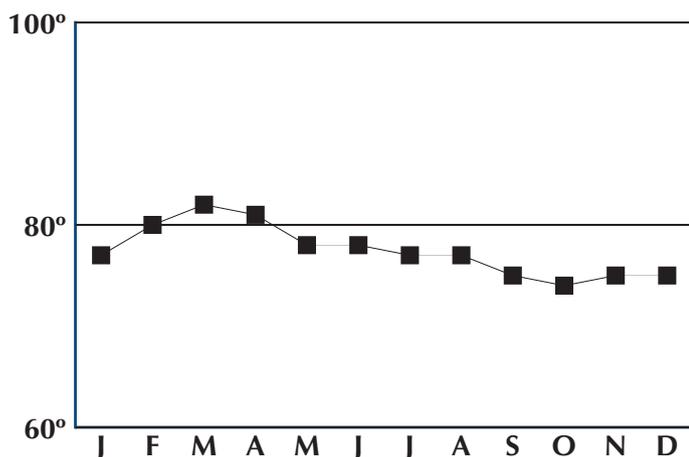
Granada

This morning we'll climb the Mombacho volcano that overlooks Granada, also spending time at the organic coffee farm and butterfly garden. We'll spend the afternoon exploring the city on foot and by horse drawn carriage, taking in some of its beautiful colonial buildings including the Cathedral de Granada, the Convento y Museo San Francisco and the Palacio de la Cultura Joaquin Cuadro Pasos. We'll have some free time to continue exploring, wandering the winding backstreets to discover the hidden delights of this beautiful colonial gem.

DAY 4

Granada to San Juan del Sur

Today we'll spend the whole morning relaxing at the Laguna de Apoyo, a 200m deep crater lake. Surrounded by trees and steep sided crater it's a beautiful place to spend the day relaxing, swimming or kayaking. Those preferring to remain in Granada for more sightseeing or shopping can do so. In the afternoon we'll make our way down to the Pacific coast at San Juan del Sur, a beautiful crescent of bays with numerous beaches. Tonight we'll head out to the Refugio de Vida Silvestre La Flor to witness





Tour Information

NICARAGUA HIGHLIGHTS 2020

turtles laying their eggs. This is where upwards of 30,000 Olive Ridley turtles, as well as a few hundred endangered leatherback turtles come to nest each year.

DAY 5

San Juan del Sur to Omotepe

Today we'll spend the day on the beach. A surfing lesson is arranged and provided for those who want it, and boards, wetsuit and snorkels are available to hire. This afternoon we'll head inland towards the huge inland freshwater Lago de Nicaragua. We'll have lunch in Rivas, then travel on to San Jorge to get the boat across to La Isla de Omotepe, where we'll spend the next couple of days.

DAY 6

Omotepe island

The Isla de Omotepe is Nicaragua's jewel in the crown. An island in the middle of a giant freshwater lake, consisting of two huge volcanoes, connected by a thin strip of beach and jungle. We'll rise early to climb Volcan Concepcion, its perfect conical peak worth the intense effort (and time) required to reach it. For those wanting a (slightly) smaller challenge, a climb of Volcan Maderas can be arranged.

DAY 7

Omotepe to Granada

We'll start the day with a walk around the Lagoon at the Charco Verde reserve. We'll then drive to the foot of the Maderas volcano to visit Finca Magdalena. Here we'll spend time with a local co-operative of farmers, see the abundance of the crops they grow here, and learn about their organic farming methods. After a quick swim in the lake we'll return by ferry to the mainland and spend the night in Granada.

DAY 8

Masaya and Leon

En route to Leon we'll pass through Masaya, where you'll have the chance to search and haggle for a huge variety of Nicaraguan arts and crafts, from T Shirts to Rocking chairs and everything in between. After a mid-morning coffee stop we'll head up to Leon, Nicaragua's cultural, political and intellectual

capital. After lunch we'll embark on a walking tour, taking in some of Leon's memorable murals, as well as churches and museums, ending with a stunning view of the city from the roof of the cathedral.

DAY 9

Esteli

We'll spend this morning on the road as we drive to the northern most point of our trip, into the mountainous Sandinista stronghold of Esteli. Our time here includes a visit to the Galeria de Heroes y Martires to gain an insight into how the civil war affected the lives of the people here. Later in the afternoon we'll spend time wandering around the cloud forest in the Reserva Natural Miraflor. This unique and pristine environment teems with Orchids, Trogons, Butterflies and an abundance of all kinds of natural beauty.

DAY 10

Matagalpa

Heading down to the mountains of Matagalpa, Nicaragua's coffee growing region, we start a two day horseback ride. We'll visit a remote community of coffee growers and learn about the positive impact that fair trade has had on their lives before camping out under the stars.

DAY 11

Matagalpa trek

Our trek continues as we fully immerse ourselves in this relaxed and beautiful wilderness, meeting local farmers, camping outdoors, cooking over open fires and swimming in the rivers.

DAY 12

Managua via Volcan Masaya

Leaving early in the morning from our campsite we'll head all the way back to Managua for our flight to the Corn Islands, stopping en route to peek over the crater of Volcan Masaya amidst sulphurous fumes into the bubbling lava below.

DAY 13

Big Corn Island