

A Journey Idea to Nicaragua



Prepared for
Steppes Clients
16 Days

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly Heathrow / Houston / Managua
Day 2	Managua/ Northern Highlands
Day 3	Northern Highlands
Day 4	Northern Highlands /Leon
Day 5	Leon
Day 6	Leon/Granada
Day 7	Granada
Day 8	Granada
Day 9	Granada/Ometepe Island
Day 10	Ometepe Island
Day 11	Ometepe Island/San Juan del Sur
Day 12	San Juan del Sur
Day 13	San Juan del Sur
Day 14	San Juan del Sur/Managua
Day 15	Fly Managua / Houston / Heathrow (overnight)
Day 16	Arrive UK

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Route	Flight No.	Check in	Depart	Arrive
Day 1	Heathrow/Houston	CO 005	08:40	10:40	16:05
Day 1	Houston/Managua	CO1774	15:50	17:50	20:11
Day 15	Managua/Houston	CO1775	05:35	07:35	10:58
Day 15	Houston/Heathrow	CO 034	13:50	15:50	06:50*

* Arrival the following day

Flight Notes:

Continental

The baggage weight limit on Continental flights is 2 pieces of luggage each weighing no more than 23kg (50lbs) per person.

Remember that there is an international departure tax of \$35 per person payable at the airport upon departure from Managua.

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DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

Depart Heathrow on the Continental Airlines flight to Houston. Depart Houston on the Continental Airlines flight to Managua.

Managua



Managua is a hot and sultry urban expanse sprawling the South Western shores of Lake Managua, beneath the towering flanks of extinct volcanoes, crater lakes and lagoons. A fairly dramatic setting for the nation's capital with its dizzying network of unsigned landmarks and tree lined boulevards. Managua was no stranger to disasters and unrest but now enjoys a reputation as the 'City of Peace', and is certainly a good hub from which to begin exploring Nicaragua.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 2

Managua/Northern Highlands



Transfer with your private driver and guide to the Northern Highlands.

North of Managua the valley rears steeply toward the Honduran border with a ribbon of tall rugged mountain peaks shrouded in thick cloud forest and pine trees. Waterfalls cascade from tall granite ridges and the fertile valley below is speckled with acres of prime coffee and tobacco plantations. Here, the Northern Highlands experience a cooler climate and a timeless ambience that makes it Nicaragua's best kept secret.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Northern Highlands



Day with your guide to enjoy bird watching tours and discover the secrets of the cloud forest.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4

Northern Highlands /Leon



Transfer today to Leon.

Leon was Nicaragua's capital city for more than 200 years and is still considered today to be the intellectual capital of the country with a university, religious colleges and a huge cathedral. It has colonial charm unmatched elsewhere in Nicaragua, with narrow streets, low adobe houses, time-worn buildings and red tiled roofs.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 5



Leon

Enjoy this morning a privately guided city tour taking in the city sights including churches and the impressive Cathedral, the largest in Central America, with access to the roof for incredible views of the surrounding countryside, as well as a magnificent art gallery housing European and Central American art exhibited in two colonial houses.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 6



Leon/Granada

Continue your journey to Granada visiting Leon Viejo en route.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000 it is the first site in Nicaragua to receive such status. While on the surface Leon Viejo is nothing more than a few old foundations, since its destruction by a series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, it of great historical and archaeological importance. Leon Viejo was Nicaragua's first capital city, and the ground on which some of the bloodiest battles were fought during the Spanish conquest.



Founded in 1524 by Hernandez de Cordoba on the site of the Indian village of Xalteva, Granada is the oldest city in continental Latin America. It is a beautiful town located at the foot of Mombacho volcano and by the edge of Lake Nicaragua. There are many stunning buildings and churches and traditions remain very Castilian even today.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7



Granada

This morning enjoy a privately guided city tour of Granada taking in the key sites of its colonial beauty, history and art. Included in the tour is a boat ride on Lake Nicaragua, to navigate the tiny islets that form part of the 365 islands.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8



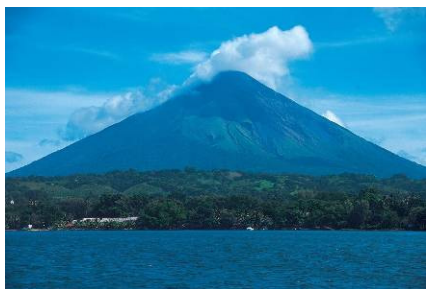
Granada

Today, visit with your guide the surrounding Mesa villages and market town of Masaya. The Mesa villages of Catarina, San Juan de Oriente and Mesatepe are all precious colonial towns home to hardworking native populations earning a living through artisan workshops, in particular pottery.

This historical town of Masaya is most famous for its hand woven hammocks, the finest selling for over \$200. Masaya has been inhabited for over 3000 years, and the Spanish exported the crafts. In addition to the hammocks, fine leather, wood and art pieces can also be found.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 9



Granada/Ometepe Island

Depart Granada this morning for the port, for your ferry ride across Lake Nicaragua to Ometepe Island.

Ometepe Island is the largest fresh water island in the world and a paradise for nature lovers. It has two volcanoes, one of which is active and the other hosts a large cloud forest with endless walking trails and a huge waterfall.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 10



Ometepe Island

Day with your guide to enjoy a cultural tour of the island, or for the more active, it is possible to summit Maderas Volcano for some breath-taking views.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11



Ometepe Island/San Juan del Sur

Return to the mainland and transfer to San Juan del Sur.

San Juan del Sur is a charming brightly coloured fishing village set alongside a crescent shaped bay in the south western corner of Nicaragua's Pacific Coast. Just a few kilometres from the Costa Rican border, San Juan del Sur offers a more relaxed ambience in comparison to its developed neighbour, with many stretches of deserted beaches and good breaks along the coastline popular with surfers.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12 & Day 13



San Juan del Sur

Days at leisure.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14



San Juan del Sur/Managua

Transfer this morning for Managua, taking in Masaya National Park and the active crater of Santiago.

Overnight at your chosen hotel on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15



Managua

Depart Managua on the Continental Airlines flight to Houston.

Depart Houston on the Continental Airlines flight to Heathrow, flying overnight.

Day 16

Arrive UK

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TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore as a guide we have divided these into 3 categories; Traveller, Deluxe and Superior Deluxe. It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much therefore this is a general price guide only.

Traveller price from £2,450 per person + flight taxes

Deluxe price from £3,105 per person + flight taxes

Superior Deluxe price from £3,590 per person + flight taxes

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a shared basis (or can be organised on a private basis), accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes entrance charges to sites, parks and museums, extra local excursions and guided tours, international and domestic airport taxes. Travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your

trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Latin America team on 01285 885 333 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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