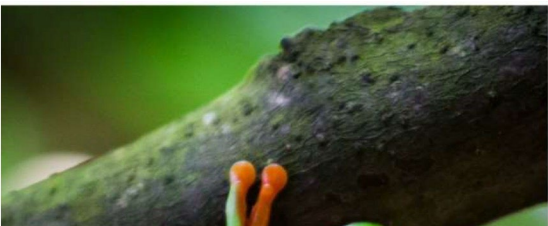


**PIONEER  
EXPEDITIONS**



**WILD LANDSCAPES and HISTORIC TREASURES OF NICARAGUA**

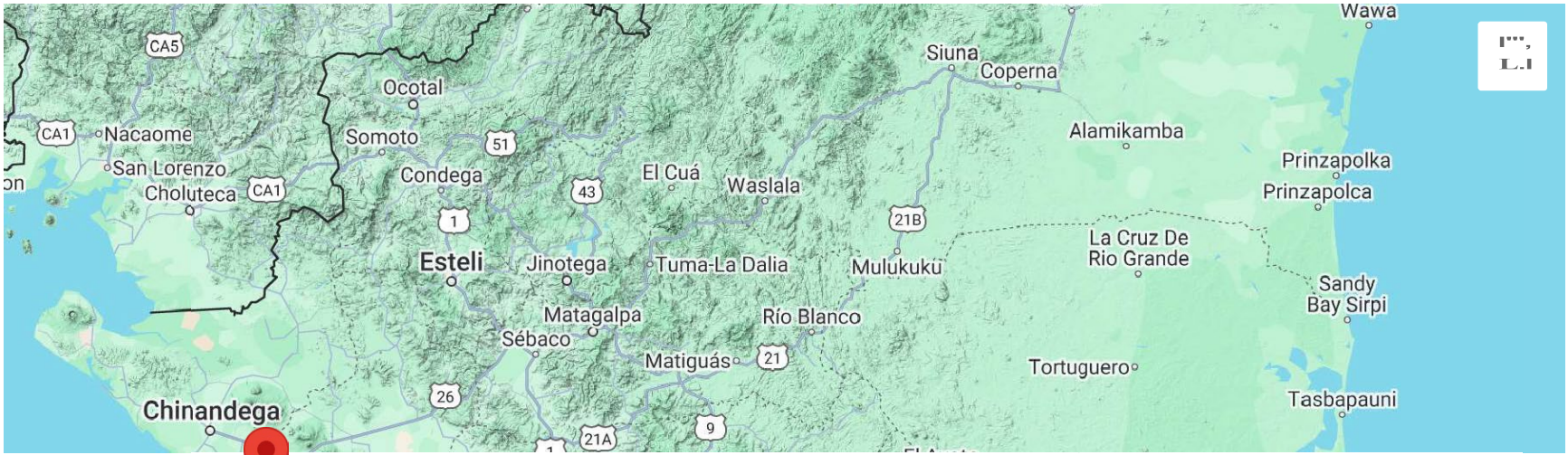


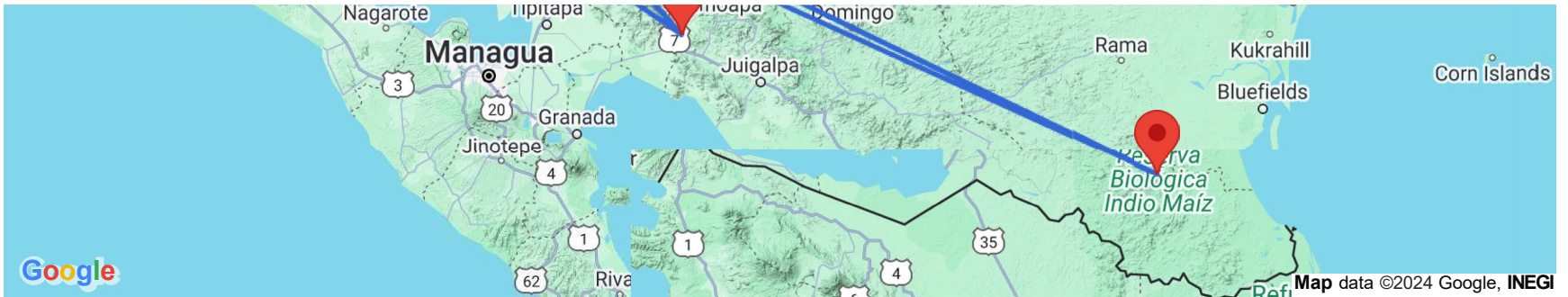


DAY	DESTINATION	HOTEL
	Granada	Hotel Con Corazon
2	Granada	Hotel Con Corazon
3	Granada	Hotel Con Corazon
4	Granada	Hotel Con Corazon
5	El Castillo	Hotel Victoria
6	El Castillo	Hotel Victoria
7	Leon	Hotel Austria

DAY	DESTINATION	HOTEL
8	Leon	Hotel Austria
9	Leon	Hotel Austria
70	Isla de Ometepe	Hotel Villa Parafso
77	Isla de Ometepe	Hotel Villa Parafso
72	Isla de Ometepe	Hotel Villa Parafso
73	San Juan de! Sur	Hotel Victoriano
74	San Juan de! Sur	Hotel Victoriano







## Pickup point: Managua Airport - International Flights

Welcome to Nicaragua! Upon arrival at Managua International Airport (MGA) you might be asked for proof of vaccine (Covid 79 and in some cases Yellow Fever), after which you pass through immigration and customs. All foreigners entering the country are required to have a passport valid for at least six months and will need to purchase a tourist visa (70 USO). Customs officials might decide to retain night vision binoculars or drones. Be advised not to bring these items, and if you do, ask for a ticket when items are being retained, to be able to reclaim them when leaving from the same airport, after paying storage fees (not included). Leaving the customs area, where all your luggage goes through a scanner, you make a left followed by a quick right. Exit the glass doors that give way to the street, where our representative waits for you with a name sign.

# Itinerary

## Bienvenidos a Nicaragua!

Arrival in Nicaragua, Land of warm welcomes, stunning volcanic landscapes, vast tropical forests, and unmatched beaches.

You arrive at Managua Airport, after customs procedures, our representative welcomes you and provides you a welcome package including the information you need for your trip.

Later you are transferred to your hotel in Granada.



**Transfer:** Managua Airport - Granada - Distance: 46 km. - Road is in very good condition.

Average travel time: 1:00h



### Destination Info: Granada

Granada, or the "Gran Sultana", is one of Latin America's most beautiful cities, and is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Founded in 1524 on the shores of vast Lake Nicaragua, this ancient town is full of history and Spanish colonial charm, and is famed as one of the oldest European settlements in the western hemisphere. Amongst the narrow streets and glorious architecture, you'll find some excellent hotels, fine restaurants and plenty of interesting sites and museums to fill your days.

The city also makes a great base for exploring the surrounding area, with volcanos, beaches, national parks and the incredible waterworld of Las Isletas de Granada all within easy reach.

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## Hotel Con Corazon or similar

Hotel con Corazon literally means 'Hotel with a Heart', not because of its central location, just *off* Central Park, but because all the profits go to projects that support education for children in need. This means that the hotel, in its own unique way, is contributing to sustainable development in Nicaragua, by investing in education and employment.

The appealing colonial entourage with its classic patio and adobe walls is complemented by the modern comfort; the 75 rooms have air-conditioning, private bath, ceiling fan and cable TV.

On a warm Granada afternoon you could opt to use the swimming pool, or just to relax in a hammock with a long drink or fresh fruit juice. Enjoy today, care for tomorrow!



**Rooms:** Double Room - Standard

## Best Practices of this property (click on icon)



**Water Refill Point**

## **Self guided day- Day at leisure.**

Enjoy a day on your own and explore the city surroundings.

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 **Hotel Con Corazon**

## **Self guided day- Day at leisure**

On this day you can also look over the optional experiences in Granada.

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 **Hotel Con Corazon**

## **Self guided day- Day at leisure -**

On this day you can optionally go exploring the nearby volcanoes in Granada such as the Mombacho Volcano during the day or the Masaya Volcano in the evening.



\*closure of Masaya Volcano subject to potential volcanic activity,

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

### 16:00 Masaya Volcano - Lava Night Tour

Masaya Volcano National Park is one of the most famous volcanoes in the Pacific region of Nicaragua due to its constant activity, and was known to the Spanish at the "Mouth of Hell". It offers the unique experience of seeing an active volcano up close, and watching as molten lava glows in crater just meters away from you. It's an awe-inspiring experience allowing visitors to experience a phenomenon once sacred to the pre-Columbian Nicaraguans, who were inspired by the raw power and beauty of nature.



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### Hotel Con Corazon

#### an **El Castillo on the San Juan River: Exuberant Nature**

0

Transfer from Managua to San Carlos by ground transportation, the port is the regional hub to travel the Rfo San Juan area.

Once there, you board your public boat for a scenic journey to your hotel in El Castillo.



**Transfer: 09:00** - Granada - San Carlos - Distance: 376 km. - Road is in good condition.

Average travel time: 5:00h



**Boat: 15:00** - San Carlos - El Castillo (Public Boat Fast) - Distance: 50 km. Average travel time: 2:30h



### **Destination Info: Rio San Juan**

The Rio San Juan flows from the vast Lake Nicaragua into the Caribbean Sea. Its path cuts through thick jungle along the border with Costa Rica, passing tiny villages and through the vast Indio Maiz Biosphere Reserve, home to diverse wildlife such as toucans, eagles, caiman, turtles, tropical frogs and a variety of monkeys. For a wild and authentic Nicaraguan experience, this region should not be missed.

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## Hotel Victoria

Near to the center of the town, this friendly hotel offers clean, spacious rooms with wooden interiors, looking out over the Rio San Juan. It makes a comfortable and convenient base for your time in El Castillo. The adjoining Dona Victoria restaurant offers fresh fish caught in the San Juan River, as well as their specialty, the Giant River Shrimp.

**Rooms:** Double Room - Standard



## Best Practices of this property (click on icon)



Renewable energy

## Indio Maiz Nature Reserve

After breakfast, meet your guide at the hotel to go on an exciting excursion to Indio Mafz. Discover the beauty of the Bartola Trail and enjoy a scenic boat ride along the river. In the afternoon, immerse into the local culture with a visit to the

town's cacao plantations, learning about their history and significance.



## INCLUDED EXPERIENCES



### 08:00 El Castillo - Indio Maiz: Bartola trail

From El Castillo you ride down San Juan river for about 45 minutes until you reach the Indio Maiz Reserve. The Indio Maiz Reserve is home to numerous animal species, among which are deer, wild boars, pumas, sloths, jaguars, manatees, howler monkeys, white-faced monkeys, spider monkeys, poison dart frogs, snakes, crocodiles, turtles, and iguanas.

You have a 2 hour hike in the rain forest, after which you jump back in the boat to witness wildlife.

After hike we take the boat and going to explore Bartola river, where you have chance for swimming in the middle of the forest.



### 14:00 El Castillo - Cacao Cooperative Encounter

The tour starts with a boat ride that takes you to one of the farms of the Cooperative, during the ride you will be able to admire the Flora and Fauna of the area. Once you get to the farm, enjoy a walk across the cacao plantations while your guide explains about the harvest and production. Continue to the cooperative, where you learn about the cacao fermentation and drying. The tour ends with a chocolate workshop at one of the houses of the community, where you will also share with the cacao producers and their families.




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 **Hotel Victoria**

..... **Traveling to Leon**

Today, you early boat to San Carlos, then you continue to your hotel in the university city of Le6n.

 **Boat: 07:00** - El Castillo - San Carlos (Public Boat Fast) - Distance: 50 km. Average travel time: 2:30h

 **Transfer: 09:00** - San Carlos - Le6n - Distance: 337 km. - Road is in good condition.  
Average travel time: 6:30h



**Destination Info: Leon**

Seen by many as the intellectual center of Nicaragua, Le6n offers energy and beauty in equal measure. A picturesque colonial town dating back to the 7600's, it has grown into a city full of political spirit, art, great food and buzzing nightlife.

The city has a fascinating history, having been relocated from its original location at Leon Viejo, which you can still visit today. The historic center of Leon is filled with stunning colonial architecture and museums, whilst nearby you'll find fantastic beaches and volcanic landscapes which are perfect for adventure seekers.

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## Hotel Austria

Hotel Austria is in an ideal base for tourists who are visiting Leon. To admire its churches and colonial buildings you only have to walk 2 minutes. Because of its central location, this hotel is perfect if you only have limited time to see the city.

The hotel has 35 clean and comfortable rooms, equipped with modern comforts such as cable TV, hot water, and air-conditioning. The hotel proudly promotes renewable energy by using solar power to provide its customers with hot water. It is also a top spot for the business traveler due to its proximity to Leon's universities and the financial and commercial centers. In the year 2009 Hotel Austria received a national award for maintaining the cleanest operations of the hotel industry.



**Rooms:** Double Room - Standard

### Best Practices of this property (click on icon)



Renewable energy

**Juan Venado Island Kayak Experience**

Breakfast and private transfer to the coastal estuary wildlife refuge of Juan Venado, navigating the wetlands and mangrove forest in kayak to observe numerous wading birds like the Roseate Spoonbill and Boat-billed Heron.

Rest of the day at leisure.

## INCLUDED EXPERIENCES



### 07:30 Le6n - Juan Venado Island Kayak Tour

Juan Venado Island is a nature reserve situated 25 minutes from Leon and located to the south of the beaches of Las Penitas and PoneLOYA. The best way to discover its impressive mangrove sanctuary is by kayak.

The edge of Juan Venado Island that faces into the Pacific Ocean possesses a fine estuary and is also a vital nesting site for Olive Ridley sea turtles between August and January. The estuary of Juan Venado Island itself is inhabited by water birds, caimans, crocodiles, iguanas, crustaceans and more. Bird watching enthusiasts will find the island a real treat as it is home to 106 bird species.

You are transferred to the Pacific bay of Las Penitas from where you kayak towards the island. Lined with mangrove forest between the island and coast, your guide will find the perfect route through the curvy waterway to the secluded Pacific beach side of the island. Here we take you for a walk and if you like, you can have a refreshing dive into the Pacific Ocean.





a, **Discovering the city**

This morning, take a walking tour of León to discover its rich history, colonial architecture, and vibrant street art, including the Cathedral of León and local markets. Learn about the murals of the city and the history behind them.

### INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

 **14:00 León - City Walking Tour & Muralism**

Explore the gorgeous historic centre of León along with a local guide, learning about the city's past and its stunning colonial architecture. You'll see a number of León's famous churches, as well the mighty León Cathedral - the largest in Central America. On route you'll also visit Ortiz Gurdian museum, which houses the works of renowned classic and contemporary artists, and see daily life unfold in the local fruit and vegetable market. The tour ends with remarkable views from the cathedral's picturesque rooftop.



## 0 To paradise Ometepe Island

Today you continue to Rivas and San Jorge port, we travel to Ometepe Island, the largest island in Lake Nicaragua and home to two volcanoes, Concepcion and Maderas.



**Transfer: 09:00** - Leon - San Jorge - Distance: 787 km. Average travel time: 3:00h



**Ferry: 13:00** - San Jorge - Moyogalpa - Distance: 25 km. Average travel time: 1:00h



**Transfer: 14:15** - Moyogalpa - San Jose de! Sur - Distance: 73 km. - Road is in good condition.

Average travel time: 30 minutes



### Destination Info: Isla de Ometepe

Once thought to have been the promised land by Aztec explorers, Isla de Ometepe is made up of two imposing volcanic cones rising out of western Lake Nicaragua. Ometepe has been inhabited for thousands of years due to its fertile volcanic soils, and evidence of its past can be found in archeologic sites dotted all around the island. Most travelers come here for the sandy beaches, clean waters, diverse wildlife and stunning scenery, with numerous forests, waterfalls and springs in the island's center. Ometepe is beautiful, unique and one of Nicaragua's lesser-known highlights.

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## Hotel Villa Parafso

Situated on the isthmus between Concepcion and Maderas, Hotel Villa Parafso has a spot located right on Santo Domingo Beach. Often considered to be one of the most beautiful beaches on Ometepe Island, Santo Domingo beach encompasses over 7 km of white sand and imposing natural beauty.

The hotel, which is comprised of private cabins overlooking the beach, is richly decorated and well-maintained. All cabins come equipped with air-conditioning, warm water, and satellite TV. A swimming pool is located next to the beach. The hotel's restaurant specializes in seafood and Lake Nicaragua fish.

**Rooms:** Double Room - View lake



## '''' Self guided day - Day at leisure

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On this day on your own, you can choose among the optional experiences available we can assist you to arrange. For instance, Visit the Charco Verde Nature Reserve: Start your day early at this beautiful reserve. Take a walk along the trails to spot wildlife, enjoy the views of the lake, and perhaps go birdwatching.

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## Hotel Villa Paraiso or similar



## Self guided day- Day at leisure

A day on your own, to explore the reserve or simply relax at the lodge.

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**Hotel Villa Parafso**



## Heading to San Juan del Sur--

Today you will be picked up at your hotel and transfer to the port for your ferry to San Jorge. Continue your journey to the sun-kissed shores of San Juan del Sur, a coastal gem renowned for its laid-back vibe and world-class surf breaks.



**Transfer: 11:30** - San Jose del Sur - Moyogalpa - Distance: 72 km. - Road is in good condition.

Average travel time: 30 minutes

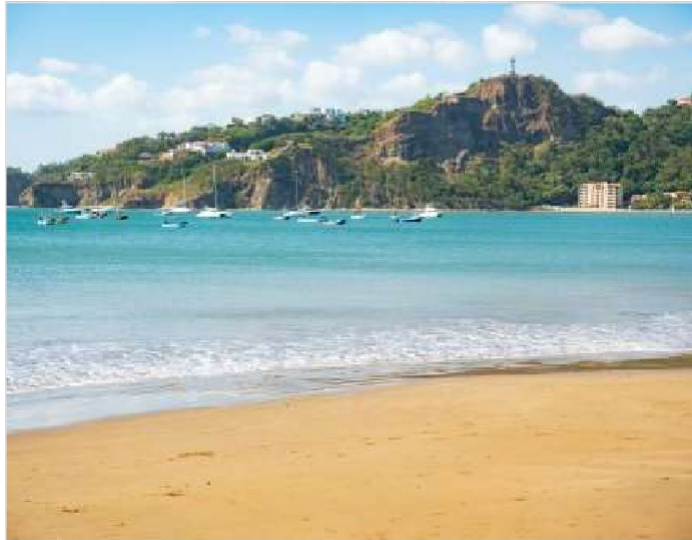


**Ferry: 12:30** - Moyogalpa - San Jorge - Distance: 25 km. Average travel time: 7:00h



**Transfer: 13:30** - San Jorge - San Juan del Sur - Distance: 33 km. Average travel time: 45 minutes





### Destination Info: San Juan del Sur

Once a quiet fishing village, San Juan del Sur has grown into one of the most popular beach destinations on Nicaragua's southern Pacific Coast. Happily, the town has maintained much of the charm and laid-back atmosphere which made it famous, and the surrounding area remains as beautiful and wild as ever. The picturesque half-moon bay is ideal for swimming, and there are some lovely hotels and restaurants along the waterfront. The town is an excellent base for exploring other less known beaches in the region, some of which are great for surfing almost year-round. Other activities, some seasonal, include snorkeling, diving, sailing, whale-watching and zip-lining.

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### Hotel Victoriano

Housed in a Victorian mansion constructed by a wealthy British migrant in the year 1902, Hotel Victoriano brings some old-world style to the Pacific coast. This fabulous hotel, constructed out of precious wood, is located just steps away from the beach in the pristine bay of San Juan del Sur. The hotel has a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, a bar and restaurant, and a beautiful courtyard with a fountain. The 27 rooms of the hotel are all in Victorian style, with modern amenities and a private bathroom.

**Rooms:** Double Room - Standard



DAY 14

## Self guided day- Day at leisureIB--

Spend your day at leisure by embracing the surf culture as you ride the waves at Playa Maderas or unwind on the pristine sands of Playa Hermosa.

Optional tours available.



Hotel Victoriano

## Farewell Nicaragua!

Today you have to leave Nicaragua already, with a direct private transfer to Managua International Airport.

We hope - but are pretty sure - that you have enjoyed Nicaragua!



**Transfer:** San Juan del Sur - Managua Airport - Distance: 740 km. - Road is in good condition.

Average travel time: 3:00h

## Drop off point: Managua Airport - International Flights

Thank you for traveling with us! Upon arrival at Managua International Airport (MGA), head to the check-in counter of your airline. Pass through security and onward towards your gate and outbound international flight. There are no fees to be paid unless your departure tax (42 USO) is not included in your ticket, which is highly uncommon. Facilities within the airport include a bank, restaurants, bars, souvenir shops, duty free shops, and a VIP lounge (charges apply).

## Sustainability



## CO2 compensation

In this reservation you traveled 7234 km approximately. This produces 720.56 kg of CO2. It takes 7.93 trees to compensate for the environment impact.

CO2 generated = Km traveled x 0.0977

Tree compensation= CO2 generated / 75.2 trees

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## INCLUDED

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- Meet & greets
- Information package with maps and a detailed itinerary
- Lodgement at hotels as mentioned or similar
- Breakfast
- Transfers and Ferry tickets
- Tours mentioned with an English speaking guide+ entrance fees.
- VAT /taxes

## NOT INCLUDED

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- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Migration fees
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours/activities
- Tips nor porters