



11 Days

Nicaragua

Coffee and Canopies

Like the perfect espresso, this is a short but flavour packed trip to one of the most beautiful countries in Central America. Whether peering into an active volcano and ziplining your way through the jungle canopy, surfing in the Pacific Ocean or coming face to face with a curious Iguana, this combined geography and biology adventure will give you a great introduction to all things Latin American. With the political problems of the past long put to bed, Nicaragua is a safe and beautiful country where the culture remains vibrantly authentic. Not yet on the main stream tourist bucket lists, this adventure is a great insight into an undiscovered destination.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Managua

We are met on arrival at the airport by our bi-lingual guide and transferred to Managua City, the capital of Nicaragua, where we enjoy a typical Nicaraguan dinner at a local restaurant

Day
2

Managua Sightseeing, Transfer to Selva Negra & Nature Walk

We begin our day with a sightseeing tour of Managua City, including a visit to Tiscapa Hill National Park, with its panoramic views and volcanic lagoon. We will also visit Salvador Allende Port for a closer look at Lake Managua and the surrounding areas. We then transfer to Selva Negra Eco Lodge, situated on an organic farm and bird-friendly coffee estate in the Highlands of Northern Nicaragua before setting out on a guided nature walk to explore this amazing location.

Day
3

Coffee Picking and Farm Tour

Today is all about coffee, Nicaragua's prime export. We visit the coffee plantillos where we can see how the coffee beans are harvested. Selva Negra is recognised for its pioneering, innovative and sustainable farming methods. Please note: the harvest season is from November to February.

Day
4

Private guided transfer to Leon and Colonial Leon City Tour

This morning we head to the city of Leon for a walking tour, we'll get to know the historic murals that grace the city and understand the important role Leon has played in Nicaragua's social, economic and political development. The tour includes a visit to the Cathedral, the largest in Central America and a UNESCO world heritage site. Afterwards, we will visit the house of Ruben Dario (the father of Modern Spanish Literature) and the Ortiz Gurdian Art Gallery, known as one of the best private art galleries in Latin America. For the rest of the afternoon, we are free to explore the city at our leisure.

Day
5

Cerro Negro Volcano and Transfer to Granada

We start the day with an exciting trip to the Cerro Negro Volcano. Cerro Negro means 'Black Hill' and it is the perfect description of this truly unique volcano which was formed 160 years ago, making it the youngest volcano in Central America. The volcano is only 400 meters high, but the ascent is steep. There is no paved trail - just a natural path along a rim that leads us to the top, and we will be rewarded with spectacular views of the area. We then move onward to Granada which sits next to the Mombacho volcano and the great lake of Nicaragua. We will take a combined walking and horse drawn carriage sightseeing tour, taking in the faded colonial glory and the Convento San Francisco Museum with its impressive collection of pre-Columbian sculptures. Due to the historical and cultural value of the city, it is in the process of being declared a heritage of mankind site by UNESCO.





Day
6

Mombacho Volcano, Crater Trail & Canopy Tour. Artisan Market & Night Tour of Masaya Volcano

Today we head to Mombacho Volcano for a drive to the summit and a nature walk. The volcano has an abundance of plant and wildlife and breath-taking views of the cloud forest. After, we will visit the biological station where we enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and begin the Canopy Tour adventure trip, one of the most exciting excursions in Nicaragua. We slide on cables that connect platforms located at the very top of the forest. We slide from platform to platform, surrounded by the flora and fauna of the jungle – a truly unforgettable experience.

In the afternoon, we head to Masaya to visit the market and artist workshops to see them making ceramics, hammocks and other artisan crafts. We will then continue onwards to the Masaya Volcano. The vehicle will go up to the hill and within only a few steps the impressive Santiago crater appears, which has been active since 1946. We will learn from our local expert how the Aratinga Strenua (a parakeet which inhabits this part of Nicaragua) manages to live in the toxic crater walls, as well as the history of the Spanish priests who explored the volcano and the superstitious beliefs held by the natives who inhabited the area. Other activities include bat watching, visiting an underground lava tunnel and peering directly into the red, glowing mouth of the crater.

Day
7

Transfer from Granada to San Juan del Sur.

Today we head to San Juan del Sur in the south of the country. Situated on the Pacific coast, it is a surfer's paradise. We will have a two hour surf lesson with fully-qualified and experienced instructors and then will be free to spend the rest of the day practicing and honing our new found skills to perfection.

Day
8

Snorkelling Tour and Parque Aventura Las Nubes

This morning we get to snorkel through and discover the beautiful underwater world just outside of San Juan del Sur Bay; Afterwards, our afternoon adventure options include a Canopy Tour, an off road trip through thick tropical forest and a nature walk through the tropical forest with one of our expert guides. We will learn about Central American trees, ferns, vines, mosses, heliconias and much more. It is the perfect place for wildlife watching and we might spot all kinds of animals including monkeys, sloths, lizards, reptiles and hummingbirds. Finally, we visit the Iguanarium to see Nicaragua's most exotic lizard, the Green Iguana.

Day
9

Transfer to Managua and a Cooking Class

The morning is free to enjoy the beach and relax after our recent adventures, before returning to Managua City in the afternoon. When we arrive in Managua we'll be introduced to the basics of Nicaraguan Cuisine and cooking. We will need to pay close attention as we get to prepare a very typical dish for our dinner as part of the end of trip celebrations.

Day
10-11

Return home

We are collected from our Managua hotel and transferred to the International Airport in time for our return flights to the UK.

Further information

Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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