

# EXPLORE!

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## Corn Island Beach Extension

NICARAGUA - TRIP CODE BCI

DISCOVERY

### Why book this trip?

Only 50 miles off the coast of the mainland, the Corn Islands are a little bit of Caribbean paradise in Latin America. Spend two nights on laidback Big Corn (locals just call it 'Corn Island', whereas its diminutive neighbour is termed 'Little Corn'), surrounded by a sea of ever-changing emerald and turquoise colours. At only 10 square kilometres the island is perfect for exploring on foot or by bike, with excellent snorkelling, diving and kayaking on offer in the warm Caribbean sea.

- **Tropical waters** - Relax on white-sand beaches, or swim in a marine wonderland with coral reefs full of tropical fish
- **Caribbean heritage** - Follow up a very Latin trip in Nicaragua with the unique blend of English and Creole culture on the island

- **Delicious seafood** - Taste lobster, red snapper and more, in one of the island's beachfront restaurants

				
<b>INCLUDED MEALS</b> Breakfast: 3	<b>TRIP STAFF</b> None	<b>TRANSPORT</b> Bus Flight	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b> 3 nights comfortable hotel	<b>TRIP PACE:</b> Relaxed

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Trip begins at Managua airport

We join our trip at 12pm at Managua's Augusto C. Sandino airport (MGA). If you are extending this trip from our Nicaragua - Land of Lakes and Volcanoes tour (trip code: NIC), you will have a transfer booked from the last hotel of your tour to the airport. For anyone else, we can arrange a night's accommodation plus a transfer if you require it, just speak to our sales team prior to booking.

The flight departs in the afternoon, arriving onto Corn Island at approximately 3pm, and there is an airport shuttle to the hotel. As this tour is unescorted, without a Tour Leader, there will be a representative of the hotel waiting for you when you touch down on the shores of the balmy Caribbean.

The rest of the afternoon can be spent getting your bearings on this small island. No resorts line the coast here, time seems to tick by more slowly and you'll quickly leave any worries behind as the magic of this sleepy island wins you over. Taxis or golf carts are cheap, making it easy to get around. There are also long stretches of coastline to walk and enjoy the views of turquoise ocean.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Casa Canada (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Free day on Corn Island

Today is free for you to make the most of this idyllic location. The hotel can help you organise snorkelling and scuba excursions. Alternatively, take a boat trip to contrast Corn Island with its smaller, carless neighbour Little Corn. Little Corn feels very remote - lined with palm trees just like its bigger neighbour, the water is so clear that you can see the grains of sand rippling along the bottom. Despite its holiday-brochure look, it attracts travellers from all over the world, and while undoubtedly scenic it doesn't have the sense of real Caribbean life that Corn Island has. If you fancy a boat trip today, contrasting the two islands gives a great overview of this slice of Latin American Caribbean.

Whatever you choose to do today (another good option is simply doing nothing!), seafood should be on the menu for dinner. While the hotel does have a restaurant, there are also other options on the beach that the hotel can recommend, serving fresh, seasonal seafood like snapper or lobster, with breadfruit, yucca or plantains on the side.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Casa Canada (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 3 - Free morning on Corn Island; depart for Managua

We aim to book a flight back to Managua at approximately 3pm today (airline schedules are subject to change), so you can make the most of your final morning on the island.

On arrival to Managua, you'll be picked up and transferred for a final night at a nearby hotel, for your last evening in Nicaragua.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Mansión Teodolinda (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 4 - Trip ends in Managua

Your trip ends today in Managua, and you can depart at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. A complimentary transfer will be provided for you when leaving Nicaragua today.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Climate and country information

# Nicaragua

## Climate

Tropical, with little seasonal variation in temperature. The heavy rainy season is May to October but it can rain at any time along the Caribbean coast of Rio San Juan. There are 3 main climactic zones, the hot tropical lowlands and the cooler hill region, which has a larger range of daily temperature.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-6	2 Pin Flat	Roman Catholic	Spanish

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Half day snorkel US\$30

Diving US\$40-\$70 (1 tank / 2 tank dives)

Boat tour of the island US\$150

Little Corn day trip US\$80

Please make sure you have cash prior to your visit to Corn Island as there are no reliable ATMs on the island

### Clothing

Beach clothing and casual clothes are all that you'll need on the island. You may wish to consider a light waterproof just in case. Don't forget your swimming costume.

### Luggage

11Kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of luggage, plus a daypack. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage - don't overload yourself.

### Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat, sunscreen and insect repellent are all essential. If you have your own snorkelling equipment, feel free to bring this. Alternatively rental options are available on the island.

### Tipping

## Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

## Nicaragua

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£10.00 - 12.00	£2	£0.8

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Cordoba (NIO)

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. The exchange rate with the NIO is approximately NIO 42 to the British Pound. We recommend you take some emergency cash in USD as the GBP exchange isn't very good. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they may not be accepted. USD can be used in some places in Nicaragua. Please check on line for up to date information

#### Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

#### ATM Availability

ATMs can be found in the major towns and cities for cash withdrawals in NIO. Always have some cash back up as they are not always reliable

#### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

#### Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Cheques

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Flight

## Accommodation notes

Our hotel is perfectly located by the sea, with small bungalow-style rooms and beautiful gardens. There is a pool on site, and steps leading down to the ocean. Although there is no sandy beach here, the nearest is only a short distance away.

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## Essential Information

### Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

Nicaragua: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

There is an entry charge of 10USD

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. All visa information is subject to change.

You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

USA (If flights transit): you will need to apply for an ESTA if you are transiting the USA as you will have to disembark and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight. Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done online - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be refused boarding. When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line. You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover. If you have visited Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since March 2011 or are dual

nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. If you are a citizen of a country not included in the VWP you cannot apply for an ESTA. In both cases, you will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel. For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada (in transit): An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at



an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Nicaragua

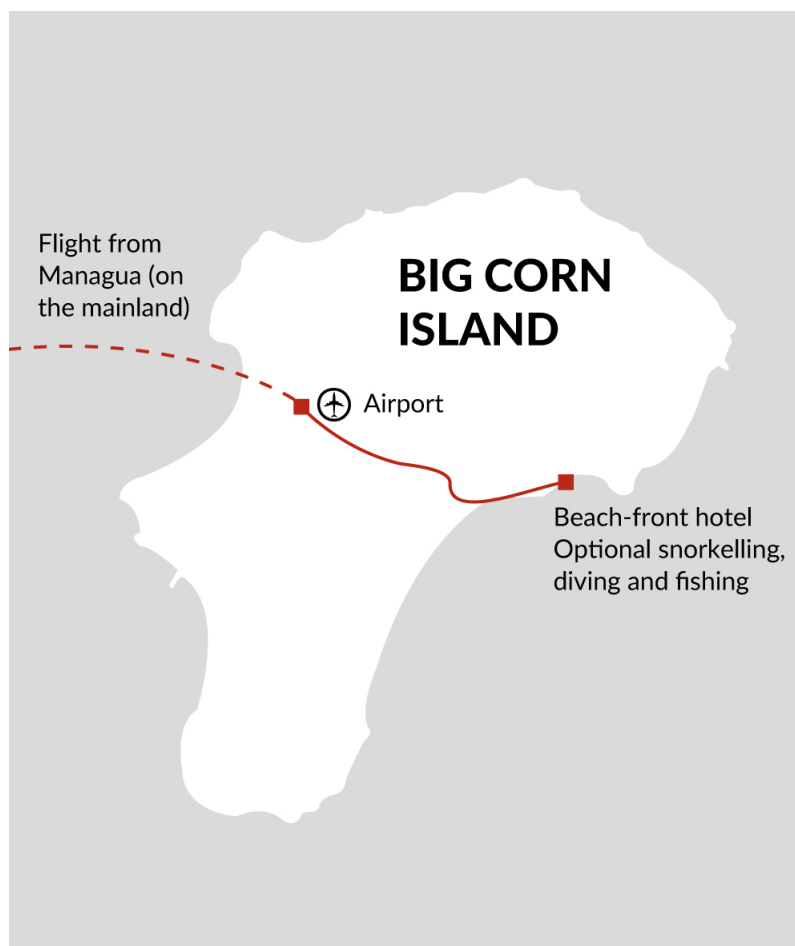
### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. All travellers coming to Nicaragua from the following countries (even if only in transit) must present an international certificate of vaccination: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Panamá, Paraguay and Venezuela. From the African Continent, all countries

are included except Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Somalia. This list is regularly updated please check NaTHNaC for the most up to date list. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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### Additional Information



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## Reviews

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EXPLORE LEADERS**



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PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**