



## Nicaragua - Land of Lakes and Volcanoes

NICARAGUA - TRIP CODE NIC

DISCOVERY

### Why book this trip?

The 'Land of Lakes and Volcanoes' certainly lives up to its name - during this highlights trip, take a boat trip across magnificent Lake Nicaragua to the laid-back volcanic island of Ometepe, discover the birdlife of the lush Selva Negra Cloudforest, and explore Leon and Granada, two colonial towns that are bursting with revolutionary history.

- **Masaya Volcano** - Watch the lava swirl in the depths of this impressive active volcano
- **San Ramon homestay** - Spend the night with a family and taste the labours of this rural coffee community
- **San Juan del Sur** - Relax on the Pacific Coast, and take the opportunity to watch nesting turtles in season (August-January)



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 12  
Lunch: 3  
Dinner: 1



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Boat Crew  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Ferry



**ACCOMMODATION**  
1 nights simple  
homestay  
11 nights  
comfortable hotel



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
12 - 18

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Managua

Arrive in Managua, Nicaragua's capital. At the centre of Nicaragua's political and cultural history, this modern capital is known for the volcanoes and lakes which surround it, as well as its lively markets.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at approximately 8.30pm for the welcome meeting. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive into Managua at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Augusto C. Sandino International Airport (MGA), which is a 20 minute drive from our hotel. There are many evening flights into Managua, so if you do miss the meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If you arrive earlier in the day, you may want to visit the city's lakefront, a perfect place for a refreshing drink and a walk.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Mansión Teodolinda (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Tour of Managua and Leon's highlights

This morning we enjoy a short city tour of Managua by bus, exploring both the historical and modern facets of the city. Our first stop is the Tiscapa Crater Lake for superb views over the entire city. On a clear day, we can see several volcanoes to the north of the city, and we can't miss the large silhouette of the General Sandino statue, the famous revolutionary, that stands overlooking the Tiscapa Crater Lake. Next, we head over to the old city to see the National Palace, the Old Cathedral, the National Theatre and the President's house. We will end this tour at the Malecon Puerto Salvador Allende, Managua's favourite hangout, for a drink.

Leon Viejo is our next stop. The first capital of Nicaragua, Leon Viejo (Old Leon) was founded in 1524 by the Spanish conquistadores, and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The area suffered frequent volcanic activity, culminating in the huge earthquakes of 1594 and 1610. The damage caused to the infrastructure by the 1610 earthquake caused the settlers to hold a referendum, and a decision was made to relocate the city to its present location, about 20 miles to the west. The old city was gradually buried by the continuous expulsions of ash and volcanic stone coming from Momotombo, and by lake sediments. The ruins of Leon Viejo were discovered in 1967 and today we visit the excavated city.

Finally, we head to Leon where we will have an orientation tour on arrival to discover the rich cultural and political history of one of Nicaragua's oldest and most influential cities. Defined by its graceful Spanish colonial architecture and fascinating political history, we will soon discover why Leon is considered to be Nicaragua's historical, cultural, educational and religious capital. The best way to explore this captivating city is by foot, as much of its charm lies in the narrow colonial streets and architecture, art galleries, museums and cafes. Leon's history is fascinating, like no other town in Central America. The town was dismantled, moved, and rebuilt due to volcanic activities, ransacked (and reconstructed!) by pirates, it won and lost its struggle as the most important city in Nicaragua against Managua, and several presidents were assassinated here. It is the place where famous poets are buried, where the largest cathedral in Central America stands, and is a hotbed for revolutionaries due to the big university located in Leon. In this guided walking tour we will visit revolutionary murals, baroque and neoclassical churches and a surprisingly interesting museum of legends, arts and poetry. After the tour, we can climb to the rooftop of Central America's largest cathedral, recently added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites, and enjoy astonishing views over the city and the surrounding Maribios Volcanic Chain.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Los Balcones (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 3 - Free time to explore Leon or optional Cerro Negro hike

Today is free to explore Leon at your own pace, taking in one of the museums or relaxing at one of the cafe's near the main square. Alternatively, you may choose to enjoy one of the optional excursions available in the area. One option is a hike on the nearby Cerro Negro Volcano - one of the most active volcanoes in Nicaragua. The hike takes approximately 1.5hrs at a moderate pace, and there are stunning views across to the Pacific ocean as well as the surrounding countryside. The fun is in bouncing down the volcano, as we run/jump/walk down through the scree. For something less exertive, a visit to the Isla Juan Venado Mangrove Reserve provides the opportunity to spot wildlife including crocodiles, caiman and iguanas.



ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel Los Balcones (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 4 - Visit San Jacinto en route to San Ramon homestay

Today we leave Leon and visit the mud fields of San Jacinto, en route to San Ramon. San Jacinto is a little town about 20 kilometres northeast of Leon; behind the village is boiling mud holes connected to the Telica Volcano. These volcanic fields serve as breathing holes for the nearby volcanoes, forming the area like a Martian landscape (and, in turn, help to prevent future eruptions). It is extremely hot to walk around and see the holes, which differ in size and colour, where the mud is fiercely boiling. The mud sometimes throws little rocks in the air and steam is continuously emitted from the holes. Local people (especially children) are keen to sell you indigenous ceramics and handmade figurines, made fresh from the hot volcanic mud.

Then we continue our journey to San Ramon. San Ramon is located in the mountainous north of the department of Matagalpa. The area was originally settled by the Sumo and Miskito people of the Atlantic Coast, as well as the Chontales Indians. We will spend the night in a homestay. This experience offers a unique chance to get to know more about the culture and daily life of the coffee producers and their

communities. You can participate in the process of coffee making and share their everyday lives by learning how to cook local dishes or produce natural medicine, as well as enjoy various cultural events such as music, drama and crafts. You can also explore the local surroundings by taking a walk to the waterfall of Salto Yasica.



ACCOMMODATION:  
UCA San Ramon (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Homestay**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

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## **DAY 5 - Search for wildlife in the Selva Negra Cloudforest**

Today we enjoy a cloudforest hike (approximately two hours) in Selva Negra or Black Forest. During the walk we will learn about the importance of the rainforest and discover the flora and fauna. Then we head south to Granada. Granada was founded in 1524 and is believed to be the second oldest city established in mainland Latin America by the Spanish conquest. During colonial times, Granada saw much unrest as the city was attacked several times by pirates. Nowadays Granada is characterised by bright-coloured Spanish-colonial architecture, visible throughout the city centre. The ambiance is very pleasant and there is a wide array of restaurants and bars, especially along the boulevard from the central park to the shores of Lake Nicaragua.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Con Corazon (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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## DAY 6 - Discover Granada, optional boat trip on Lake Nicaragua

In the morning, we will enjoy a city tour of Granada. No visit to Granada is complete without a tour of the city's beautiful historic centre and there is no better way to visit it than on foot. Founded by the Spanish in 1524, Granada is considered to be one of the oldest colonial cities in the Western hemisphere. On this walking tour we will explore the San Francisco Church and neighbouring San Francisco Convent built in 1529 (entry optional). We then continue onto the beautiful Merced Church where we will have the opportunity to climb to the top of the bell tower and take in the spectacular views over the city, Lake Nicaragua and the Mombacho Volcano. Finally, you will see a glimpse of Nicaraguan daily life at the local market.

This afternoon is free. A recommended optional activity is a boat trip through Las Isletas on Lake Nicaragua. A boat trip through the Isletas of Granada is a great way to explore Lake Cocibolca, also known as Lake Nicaragua. Situated at the foot of the impressive Mombacho Volcano, the area we visit consists of around 360 small volcanic islands which were formed when the Mombacho Volcano erupted about 20,000 years ago. These small islands are inhabited by families who make their living from fishing, while other islands are host to extravagant villas owned by Nicaragua's rich and famous. Along the way, the tour guide will explain a lot about the many birds that can be seen here as well as recalling the history of the area.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Con Corazon (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 7 - Visit the Masaya Volcano and artisan market

Today we will explore the Masaya region including the Masaya Volcano and artisan market. The Masaya Volcano is still active and is the only volcano in the western hemisphere where it is possible to drive to the rim and see the smoking crater. If we are lucky, we might encounter the extremely rare green parakeets which, strangely, call the volcano home. After visiting the volcano we will visit Masaya's famous and diverse artisan market, where we can find many products quite unique to Nicaragua.

We'll stop for lunch in the small colonial village of Catarina, known for its 'viveros' or nurseries of potted plants that are sold to households across Nicaragua. Our last stop today is San Juan de Oriente, one of the so called 'Pueblos Blancos' with its eye-catching white colonial architecture. This small town is known for its ceramic production, and we'll be able to visit the house of a local family and learn about the delicate process of this traditional art form.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Con Corazon (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

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### DAY 8 - Travel to Ometepe Island

Today, we transfer to the port of San Jorge, at the shores of Lake Nicaragua or Cocibolca as the locals call it, and take the ferry to Isla de Ometepe. The island of Ometepe is situated in one of the world's largest fresh water lakes, Lake Nicaragua. The two volcanoes on the island, Concepcion and Maderas, offer stunning views when approaching Ometepe by boat from the mainland. Both of the volcanoes have their own climate and unique vegetation and hiking either of them is a great way to enjoy spectacular views of the surroundings. We will take a short walk in the Charco Verde Natural Reserve, a protected area located between Ometepe's two volcanoes. The area consists of a lagoon, a beach, and a forest. The reserve is named Charco Verde (Green Puddle) due to the green colour of the lagoon. Many birds find shelter in this part of the island so birding enthusiasts should keep an eye out. The walk is not strenuous and leads up a hill, from where we will have nice views on the surroundings.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Playa Venecia (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 9 - Free day for optional walks or cooking class at a women's co-operative

Today you are at your leisure to make the most of this laidback island. There is plenty to do here, and we

have a range of options from active hikes to San Ramon Waterfall, or up the Maderas or Concepcion Volcanoes, to a classic tour of the whole island with a stop for a traditional lunch. For those who want to learn more about the local Nicaraguan way of life at Ometepe, there is the chance to visit a women's co-operative here on the island. They are strongly focused on sustainable and community-based tourism here, and you will take a tour around the medicinal garden, learning about their homemade hibiscus wine and some of the restorative properties of the plants that are used for healing. Following this, you'll have a cooking class with the women to learn about and taste more of the local Nicaraguan cuisine.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Playa Venecia (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 10 - Travel to San Juan del Sur on the Pacific Coast

Today, we take the ferry back to the mainland and continue to San Juan del Sur, in the southwest. San Juan del Sur is one of the most popular destinations in Nicaragua. It used to be a quiet fishing village and has now emerged into one of the country's leading coast destinations, but has still maintained its charm and unique culture. The beaches are great for surfing almost all year long; also snorkelling or sailing trips are offered along the coast.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Gran Oceano Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE







MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 11 - Optional surfing lesson or turtle nesting tour (in season)**

Today is a free day. You can choose to simply relax or perhaps try your hand at surfing. La Flor Beach is a must to witness mass arrivals of turtles (during the season, August-January). The beach is a protected wildlife reserve because of the massive arrivals of Olive Ridley turtles that take place every year between August and January. Thousands of turtles arrive during certain nights to lay eggs at this one specific beach. About 50 days later, thousands of eggs hatch and the baby turtles try to make their way to the ocean.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Gran Oceano Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 12 - Return to the capital, Managua**

Today we return back to the capital, Managua.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Mansión Teodolinda (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 13 - Trip ends in Managua

The trip ends after breakfast this morning in Managua.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Managua at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Augusto C. Sandino Airport (MGA), which is approximately a 20 minute drive from our hotel.



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.

Leon - Walk on Cerro Negro costs US\$ 35 pp (min 3); Juan Venado Excursion US\$ 80 pp for 2-3; US\$ 65 pp for 4 or more

Granada - Las Isletas boat trip US\$25 (3 pers) US\$35 ( 2pers); Las Isletas kayak US\$35 (2 pers)

Ometepe - Ometepe Classic tour inc. lunch : US\$ 115-95 pp 2-3; US\$ 85 pp for 4 and US\$75pp for 8 +;

San Ramón hike: US\$ 90 pp (2 pers), US\$75 pp (3-5 pers) US\$65 pp (6 pers +) ; Maderas hike inc. lunch:

US\$ 80 pp (2-5 pers); US\$ 70 pp (6-9 pers) ; Concepcion hike inc. lunch: US\$ 80 pp (2-5 pers); US\$ 63 pp (6-9 pers) ; Ometepe Nature tour US\$70pp (2 pers), US\$55pp (3-6 pers) lunch not included; Cooking class and project visit: US\$40-\$60pp (2-8 pers)

San Juan del Sur - Surf Lessons 65 US\$pp (3-6 pers) (two hours of instructions, and use of the board for the day); Canopy zip wire tour US\$ 45 pp; Turtle watching (Aug - January only) US\$ 85 pp (2-5 pers)

US\$70 (6 pers +)

## Clothing

Around Managua you will need loose-fitting comfortable, hot-weather clothes (100% cotton is recommended). Don't forget your swimming costume.

## Footwear

Lightweight walking boots plus comfortable trainers and sandals for travelling and relaxing. Water sandals may be useful.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of luggage (suitcase or holdall) and a daypack.

## Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Binoculars are useful for bird watching. Also bring a torch and a beach towel. If keen, we suggest you bring your own snorkelling gear. An umbrella and waterproofs can be useful in short downpours.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

### 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. In order

to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 50, approx. 1'650 Cordoba's for group tipping

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

### **International Departure Taxes**

There is an entry tax to Nicaragua of US\$10

## **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.

<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£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, Ferry

### Accommodation notes

During this trip you'll be staying in a range of comfortable 3-star hotels, locally run wherever possible. You'll also stay for one night with a family in the San Ramon community, a simple but comfortable homestay experience where you'll have a mosquito net, fan and private bathroom. Hot water is not always available. There will usually be 2-4 people staying with one family, and it's an amazing experience to integrate with this small community - for many this stay is the highlight of their trip.

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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.

USA: (including those in transit) 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 on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

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 Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will 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.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: 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>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you

wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## 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





## Why book this trip

This two-week trip is a classic highlights tour through the increasingly popular destination of Nicaragua. The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes lives up to its name, and during your trip you'll be seeing the swirling red lava of the Masaya Volcano as well as walking below the peaks of Ometepe Island, in the middle of Lake Nicaragua. As well as visiting Nicaragua's classic colonial cities, beachside towns and best birdwatching spots, one of the highlights of the trip is a homestay with the coffee farmers of San Ramon, where you'll be integrating with the community and finding out more about their rural lives.

# Reviews

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AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS