



NICARAGUA: Lakes, Canyons, Volcanoes, From Cloud forest to Sunny Pinewoods

15 Days / 14 Nights - (Ref#LNI-051)

Fun, trekking and multi-activities



Verified as meeting
Rainforest Alliance
sustainable tourism
requirements



Summary

Between the Pacific and Caribbean Sea, the largest country in Central America, no less than 58 volcanoes, of which seven are giants in activity. During this trip, you climb four of

them, but you also ride horses, and go kayaking on a huge lake. You will also encounter a very endearing mixed-race population, and discover some very beautiful colonial cities.

Highlights

- Thrilling descent on black lava in Cerro Negro volcano
- Observe turtles nesting on the beach at sunset
- Bike and Kayak tour into jungle and a water labyrinth of Granada Islets
- Discover the stunning Ometepe Island composed of two volcanoes
- Participate to sustainable development and responsible tourism

Day to Day Program – ENGLISH VERSION

D1: Flight to Managua

Welcome at the airport and transfer to the town of Granada. Dinner not included.

Note: Night: in hotel , Transfer: 1h00/ 46 km

D2: Volcano and Laguna Apoyo, Masaya Volcán

Beautiful views high above Apoyo Crater, interesting strolls around Pueblos Blancos- church, exotic spice and fruit garden. Swim in clear Apoyo lagoon, having descended through tropical forest. Masaya Volcano National Park, sunset walk observing lava tunnel as bats fly out, then glowing lava at night.

Note: Night: in the hotel , Transfer: , Walking:

D3: Mombacho Volcano (1200m)

Walk through tropical “cloud forest” of Mombacho, botanical “island”, hundreds of orchids. See 2 pointed volcanoes emerging from lake on Ometepe, arrive and climb forest-covered Maderas for beautiful view of smoky sister volcano - majestic Concepción, encircled by water. Descend before sunset with headlamps.

Note: Night: in the guest houses , Transfer: 3h00/95km By boat: 1h00, Walking:3h00

D4: Discovery of Ometepe Island

Organic Coffee at the Cooperative, then sacred pre-Columbian petroglyphs, enigmatic symbolic artform scattered among plantations. Then a refreshing bath in a volcanic water source, high forest trail with ancient lava flows, capuchins and howler monkeys. Finally wild beach walk, hunting glimpses of vultures, white-throated magpie-jays and ospreys.

Note: Night: in the hostel , Transfer: , Walking:3h00

D5: Natural reserve of Chacocente (Pacific coast)

Ferry, then drive to El Astillero fishing village on Pacific coast. Meet inhabitants, swim (unsupervised), then pack a bag and walk to Chacocente along the beach. Watch sunset on protected beach which safeguards sea turtles who lay their eggs here.

Note: Night: in simple bungalows (dormitories, camp beds) , Transfer: 2h00 / 55km , Walking: 1h30

D6: Horse and sweets

Tropical dry forest walk / ride, crossing Jinotepe and Diriamba plateau, discovering sweet products en route, maybe visit traditional "Trapiche" sugar cane mill in action. Late arrival in

colonial Leon for dinner or eat on Pacific Ocean front again.

Note: Night: in hotel , Transfer: 2h00/120km , Walking:

D7: Pacific Mangrove and Cerro Negro volcano

Boat quietly through strange, thick mangrove to Juan Venado Island, surprising crocodiles, egrets, storks, Roseate Spoonbills and kingfishers; then tricky dune walk /search for raccoons, anteaters or sloths. Climb Cerro Negro, pre-sunset crater walk, with fun downhill slide, walk or surfing cinders.

Note: Night: in hotel in Leon , Transfer: 1h40 / 78km , Walking: 2h00

D8: Ascent of Telica Volcano(1061m)

Shop, stroll, then climb to rooftops of Leon cathedral, jewel of colonial architecture, Heritage of Humanity for a panoramic view. Climb active Telica volcano, on foot or on rustic peasant horses. Set up camp below summit, then relax and eat your campfire-cooked supper.

Note: Night: under canvas , Transfer:0h30/25km , Walking: 2h00

D9: Crater and lagoon of lava, then to the home of the pioneers, the mountains in the North and gourmet coffee

Nocturnal lava and dawn views of rocky landscape, giant volcanic bombs dotted around. Then contrasting foothills of Estelí trek with pack mules, climb ramparts of light-filled, wooded valley. Evening meet pioneer farmers in mountain paradise.

Note: Night: on the farm: in rustic bungalows , Transfer: 2h30/ 100km , Walking:3h30 descent in the morning and 3h00 ascent in the afternoon

D10: Visit organic coffee plantations in the mountains, practice roasting grains or walk along the river valley

Walk to coffee plantation; discover the issues facing the growers, roast coffee, making souvenir sachets. Evening hike back to minibus. Then head North to Somoto, Honduras border.

Note: Night: in hostal of town , Transfer: 1h50/ 70km , Walking: 5 hours

D11: Water hike in Somoto Canyon

Water-walk in river bed, beautiful gorge, floating peacefully with life jackets or arm-bands. Boat or swim-and-walk for those athletic enough. In Estelí, visit cigar factory, then late return to Granada.

Note: Night: in hotel , Transfer: , Walking: 4h00

D12: City Tour of Granada, by bike in the colonial town

Astonishing spices, fragrant fruit at market then see Granada's flowery patios, domes, Roman-tiled roofs from belfry, before biking around colonial streets and buildings, seeing artisans' leather shoes and Havana cigars. Have lunch and buy a hammock at café de las Sonrisas workshop attended by deaf-mute youngs (responsible tourism!) see street theatre in bustling zone...

Note: Night: in hotel , Transfer: 187km/4h30 , Walking

D13: Explore the archipelago of "Isletas de Granada" in kayak

Bike shores of lake then roam through maze of jungle and water: archipelago of Isletas. Ride to the centre Granada, with the afternoon at your leisure.

Note: Night: In hotel , Transfer: , Walking:

D14: Transfer to Managua airport

Note: Night: , Transfer: 1h00 / 46km

D15: Arrival (only for European tourist)

Note: Night: , Transfer: , Walking: INCLUDED: Bilingual guide, Tours, Transport, Accommodation and Food, all included apart from the first meal, all the drinks, tips, and airport tax.

Minimum: 4 people

Rate per person: U\$ 1692