Nicaragua – Granada to Costa Esmeralda

Trip Summary
From kayaking along the Isletas of Lake Nicaragua to exploring the jungles surrounding Mombacho Volcano, this adventure will have you “oo-ing and ahh-ing” at every turn! Discovering Nicaragua’s first national park will give you the chance to observe a dormant volcano and an active volcano up close! Zip line just above the treetops in one of Nicaragua’s most beautiful nature reserves. Relax on the white sand beach at Morgan’s Rock, taking in the wide-open Pacific Ocean views. Take a shot at photographing the abundant wildlife of Ometepe Island. From ultimate relaxation to top-notch adventure, Nicaragua has what you’re searching for!

Itinerary
Day 1: Managua Arrival / Granada
Today you will arrive in Managua’s International Airport • After completing the immigration formalities, our driver and English speaking tour guide will be waiting for you at the exit of the airport to take you to transfer you to Granada, about an hour’s drive away, where you’ll arrive to Hotel Plaza Colón, your accommodation for three nights • Overnight Hotel Plaza Colón (D)

Day 2: Granada / Masaya Volcano
No visit to Granada, one of the oldest colonial cities in the Americas, is complete without a tour of the city’s historic center • On your guided tour you travel both on foot and by traditional horse-drawn carriage to explore interesting sites including the San Francisco Church, San Francisco Convent, Merced Church and Xalteva Church • Today’s lunch involves a cooking class where you’ll seek out different ingredients at the local market, learn the ins and outs of Nicaraguan cuisine under the guidance of your cook, make your meal, and of course, indulge your taste buds as you eat what you prepared! • At the twilight hour, visit the Masaya Volcano and witness the wildlife at their most active time of day • Overnight Hotel Plaza Colón (B, L, D)

Day 3: Granada / Lake Nicaragua / Mombacho Volcano
This morning, navigate the calm waters of Las Isletas on Lake Nicaragua, keeping an eye out for the different species of birds and wildlife that inhabit the lake and its surroundings • Pass by local fishing communities where you get a glimpse of their daily island life • After lunch and a drive to the top of Mombacho Volcano, we’ll explore the scientific station and Crater Trail on the lookout for howler and white face monkeys as well as sloths and the endemic Mombacho salamander in the dense cloud forest • Head down the mountain for an exhilarating zip line tour that features 11 zip lines and 17 platforms • Overnight Hotel Plaza Colón (B, L, D)

Day 4: Granada / Isla de Ometepe
After breakfast, transfer to the port of San Jorge (1 hour, 45 min) to hop on a ferry to Isla de Ometepe • The island of Ometepe is situated in one of the world’s largest fresh water lakes, Lake Nicaragua • Ometepe has served as home to indigenous tribes and cultures for many centuries, of which the many pre-Columbian petroglyphs are silent witnesses • On arrival at the island, we start our adventurous tour of Ometepe’s natural treasures at Peña Inculta, a reserve where groups of white-faced and howler monkeys live • Afterwards, visit the historical coffee hacienda Finca Magdalena, where you can get an insight into the process of organic coffee cultivation • Take a short hike to some petroglyphs (rock carvings) in the midst of nature • You can have lunch overlooking the beach and continue to Ojo de Agua, a natural pool where you can relax before heading back • Overnight Finca San Juan de la Isla (B, L, D)

The toughest part is going home.
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Day 5 & 6: Tola - Costa Esmeralda
Take the ferry back to San Jorge and continue your transfer to Tola • We’ll spend the next two days exploring this idyllic getaway at your leisure • The Tola region, commonly referred to as the ‘Nicaraguan Riviera’ or ‘Costa Esmeralda’, is an idyllic getaway with isolated beaches and dramatic coastlines • Located off of a long, partially paved road just west of Rivas, the beaches of Tola have maintained quiet tranquility in comparison to other Nicaraguan beach towns such as San Juan del Sur, making this destination perfect for those who wish to unwind and relax • Visit the small fishing villages of Gigante and Playa Guasacate • Go horseback riding, fishing, surfing, or just hang out on the beach • Overnight Mukul, Auberge Resorts Collection (B)

Day 7: Managua Departure
Depending on your flight schedule, our private transportation will pick you up at your hotel and shuttle you to the International Airport in Managua (3 hours, 30 minutes) • No overnight (B)

* This trip is operated in partnership with Vapues Tours.

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Vapues Tours.
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Activities

**Hiking:** Easy to moderate hikes ranging from 1 to 2.5 hours (approx. 1-3 miles).

**Sightseeing:** Enjoy the beautiful views at the top of Mombacho and Masaya volcanoes, in the city of Granada, and much more.

**Kayaking:** 2 to 3 hour kayaking tour among the islands of Lake Nicaragua. Guided and no experience necessary.

**Zip Lining:** Flight between the treetops. Equipment provided and no experience necessary.

“**Other**” activities: Morgan’s Rock and San Juan del Sur have many activities to choose from ranging from snorkeling to whale watching to surfing (and much more!). These activities are not included in the trip price and are considered an extra cost.

**Discovery:** Nicaragua, “the Land of Lakes and Volcanoes” is the largest country in Central America and has the lowest population density. The name Nicaragua comes from a combination of two words, “nicarao” and “agua”; the Nicarao are the Indian tribe that was occupying the shores of Lake Nicaragua when the Spaniards arrived in the 1500's, and "Agua" is the Spanish word for water. Nicaragua's abundance of biologically significant and unique ecosystems contributes to its designation as a biodiversity hotspot. Walk the attractive streets of San Juan del Sur lined with charming homes and store fronts built of wood painted in vibrant colors. Visit the “Mouth of Hell” as you experience a hike through Masaya Volcano National Park, the first national park of Nicaragua. Explore Mombacho Volcano Nature Reserve, one of the 76 protected areas in Nicaragua with an active stratovolcano, which hasn’t shown any significant activity since its last eruption in 1570. Come explore Nicaragua with the experts in adventure travel!

Vapues guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that’s right for you.

**Meals**

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. Meals are included as indicated in the daily itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

The toughest part is going home.℠
Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 – 3: Hotel Plaza Colón
The elegant Hotel Plaza Colón is a beautifully refurbished colonial house overlooking Central Park. It combines modern amenities with the old colonial architecture of the restored building. All rooms have air-conditioning, cable TV, fans and an internet connection and minibar. Some of the rooms have a large terrace which offers great views of the park and the colorful cathedral. Other rooms have small windows in the large wooden colonial doors, a feature in compliance with traditional Spanish-colonial architecture. Hotel Plaza Colón is an eye catcher in the center of Granada. Right outside the hotel, guests can observe daily life in Granada or hop on a horse-drawn carriage and take a city tour. At the evergreen patio located in one of the hotel’s beautiful internal courtyards, guests can enjoy a nice refreshing swim.

Night 4: Finca San Juan de la Isla
The San Juan de la Isla Lodge is located on the Island of Ometepe and is a great choice for visitors who wish to feel at one with the island nature and culture. Comfort, privacy, great lake and volcano views, authentic Nicaraguan hacienda style, a long sandy beach and warm water all invite the visitor to make San Juan de la Isla the first choice for a beach front lodge Ometepe Island. The volcano lodge’s beach-front location is the ideal base for swimming in Lake Nicaragua’s clean, warm waters. Other activities include hiking inside nature reserves, mountain biking, horseback riding and volcano climbing.

Nights 5 & 6: Mukul, Auberge Resorts Collection
Mukul -the Mayan word for secret- is a luxury boutique hotel, spectacularly set where the jungle meets the dramatic coastline. The resort offers space and privacy in a style that fully embodies and compliments the natural surroundings. Views of the ocean come standard. Craft furnishings and decorations come straight from Nicaraguan artisans - carved native teak tables, sugarcane twig headboards and rum barrel staves. Amenities include a private swimming pool, private staff, a spa, a beach club with a seaside restaurant and a playground with onsite nannies and an 18 whole golf course.

Our Partner – Vapues Tours
Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Vapues Tours. When founder Jan Strik traveled to Nicaragua for the first time, in the late 1990s, he heard a typical catchphrase over and over: "va pues", meaning "all right". When he founded the company, back in 2002, he did not need to think twice on how to name it, and Vapues Tours was born. In those days, tourism in Nicaragua had barely set off- but the great potential was already right before their eyes. Tourism steadily grew over the years, and new and exciting properties opened their doors, while the general infrastructure improved, and new destinations were unlocked. Presently, more and more tourists are welcomed in Nicaragua each year, attracted by jubilant news articles, or enthusiastic first hand stories from friends, still the country manages to maintain its authentic atmosphere. Vapues Tours has grown steadily as well, and is now one of the country’s leading tour operators, with a wide understanding of what tourists seek and need. Vapues is keen to share not only the well-known attractions, but also the hidden gems; innovation is one of their key assets.
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Arrival and Departures
Your trip begins with your arrival in Managua at Nicaragua’s Augusto César Sandino International Airport. Your pick up time will coordinate with your flight information. After passing through Customs and Immigration, take the left hand side exit and you will see a Vapues Tours/Austin Adventures representative, who will be holding a sign that says your name on it. Your guide will take you to your first night’s hotel, Hotel Plaza Colón, about an hour’s drive away in Granada. Your trip ends with a drop-off at the Managua International Airport three hours before your flight departure.

Trip Price
From $2,898

Trip Length
7 days / 6 nights

2019 Dates
March 31 – April 6
July 20 – 26

Host City
Managua, Nicaragua
Airport code: MGA

Reservations & Availability
1.800.575.1540

Zip lining through rainforests, marveling at volcanoes and surfing the Pacific Ocean – this adventure has something for everyone.

The toughest part is going home.℠
Trip Reservations
Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due
To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A $750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540
Phone: 406.655.4591
Online: austinadventures.com
Email: reservations@austinadventures.com
Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional.
We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price
• Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
• Meals as indicated by detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
• English-speaking, professional tour guide during guided tours.
• All transfers and transportation during the trip.
• All entrance fees for the visits as per description.
• Water on board for transfers and excursions.
• Austin Adventures T-shirt, luggage tags, and luggage tags.
• Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price
• Gratuities to Austin Adventures/Vapues Tours guides/drivers.
• Tips for chamber maids, bellboys and local guides.
• Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
• Meals not listed in itinerary.
• Tourist card entering Nicaragua (US $10.00 –subject to change).
• Extra activities at Morgan’s Rock.
• Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
• Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
• All types of personal insurance.
• Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information
After receiving your reservation and deposit, we’ll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you’ll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

The toughest part is going home.℠
Private Custom Trips
May your vacation schedule doesn’t fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you’d prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your “must haves” and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that’s just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments
All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a “single supplement.” If you’re traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age
The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds
The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:
***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.
Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a $300 per person administration fee
Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded
Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded
Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee
Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.