

Nicaragua Family – Granada to San Juan del Sur



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 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 • Next head for the ChocoMuseo to learn everything about chocolate and cacao • Your workshop covers the entire chocolate making process, starting from the cocoa bean (organic and from Nicaragua), and ending with your own handmade bar of chocolate! • 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 Inculca, 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)*



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Day 5: San Juan del Sur / Morgan's Rock

Take the ferry back to San Jorge and head to your next destination at the Pacific Bay, San Juan del Sur • Once a quiet fishing village, San Juan del Sur has emerged into one of the country's major beach destinations • Fortunately the town has maintained its charm and laid back atmosphere • San Juan del Sur is home to many hotels, restaurants, bars and clubs and offers great nightlife • The beaches are great for surfing almost year round; other activities include snorkeling, diving, sailing and whale-watching • You can do a canopy tour just outside the town and enjoy nice views of the surrounding landscapes • Also the protected La Flor beach and wildlife reserve should not be left out of any itinerary, especially for those who are keen to see marine turtles • Twenty minutes north of San Juan del Sur, Morgan's Rock Ecolodge sits on a crescent-shaped beach and is the perfect place to spend unscheduled time playing or relaxing • *Overnight Morgans Rock Ecolodge (B, L, D)*

Day 6: San Juan del Sur / Morgan's Rock

Today can be spent however you see fit at the lodge • Perhaps you'd like to check out the private white sand beach, a place that calls for supreme relaxation; bring a book along, swim in the clear waters, or just take in the never-ending views from your beach towel • Take on a surfing lesson with a personal instructor, trained to teach you the basics of this intense sport • Paddle around an estuary by kayak, searching for hidden creatures in the surrounding trees • Grab a bike and get to know Morgan's Rock Private Reserve on two wheels • Whatever you decide to do today, enjoy the beauty and adventure of Nicaragua! • *Overnight Morgans Rock Ecolodge (B, L, D)*

** Onsite Experiences at Morgan's Rock are at guests' own expense: Surfing, Kayaking, Fishing, Zip Lining, Horseback Riding, Snorkeling, etc.*

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) • *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.*

Nicaragua Family – Granada to San Juan del Sur



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.



Nicaragua Family – Granada to San Juan del Sur

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: Morgan's Rock Ecolodge

Situated on a 4,000-acre sector of protected Nicaraguan jungle, Morgan's Rock Ecolodge boasts the finest amenities available in the region. From homegrown breakfasts picked directly from the hotel garden to walks along the miles of white-sand beaches surrounding the resort, you'll certainly be hard pressed to forget the incredible sights, sounds, and tastes you're treated to at Morgan's Rock. Guests are also invited to participate in the signature onsite experiences on offer ranging from surfing to fishing to hiking.

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
Children: From \$2,698

Trip Length

7 days / 6 nights

2020 Dates

April 10 – 16
June 13 – 19

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.*



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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.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe 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.

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (six years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. 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.