

Nicaragua - Volcanoes and Lakes - Motorcycle Tour (M-ID: 2179)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2179-nicaragua-volcanoes-and-lakes-motorcycle-tour>



from €3,350.00

Dates and duration (days)

On request

16 days

Nicaragua is one of the poorest but also one of the safest countries in Central America. It's perfect for discovering it by motorbike.

The country is authentic and the people are very friendly and helpful. There are still many quiet and unpaved roads "off the beaten track" here. It offers a lot of variety in a relatively small area.

The start and finish of our trip is the oldest city in Central America, Granada. A beautiful colonial city with beautiful cobblestone streets, impressive churches and cathedrals, countless restored colonial buildings, and cozy plazas (squares). We visit the active volcano Masaya and look into its smoking maw, ride along crystal clear lakes and volcanic chains, and through dusty villages.

After several days in the somewhat cooler mountainous region of Nicaragua, we head south. We encounter cowboys, ox carts, fog and virgin forests, wide rivers, and - of course not to be forgotten - the beautiful beaches on the Pacific coast where the turtles love to lay their eggs.

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Summary of the trip:

1. arrival - Granada
2. Granada - León (165 km)
3. León - day trip (100 km)
4. León - Estelí (140 km)
5. Estelí - Somoto (135 km)
6. Somoto - La Dalia (185 km)
7. La Dalia - Matagalpa (65 km)
8. Matagalpa - day trip (100 km)
9. Matagalpa - Juigalpa (175 km)
10. Juigalpa - San Jorge (165 km)
11. San Jorge - Ometepe (100 km)
12. Ometepe - rest day/excursion
13. Ometepe - San Juan del Sur (105 km)
14. San Juan del Sur - day trip (80 km)
15. San Juan del Sur - Granada (115 km)
16. Granada - Departure

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PROGRAM:

DAY 1: ARRIVAL GRANADA

Arrival in the capital of Nicaragua, Managua. You will be met at the airport and get a transfer to the nearby beautiful colonial city of Granada.

DAY 2: GRANADA - LEÓN (165 km)

We leave Granada, where we will return at the end of our trip. We will ride directly to Masaya to the crater rim of the volcano. Here you can look into the crater mouth of the volcano which is active all year round. You can see and smell the fumes and smoke coming out of the volcano. Afterward, we continue towards Mateare. Although we are not far from Managua, we are away from the big city hustle and bustle. We ride over a small ridge, on sandy roads, and through quiet villages, encountering fully loaded oxcarts and horsemen along the way. When we are back on the paved road, we get a magnificent view of the Momotombo volcano on Lake Xolotlan. In the village of La Paz Centro, we take another shortcut and arrive in the beautiful city of León, the cultural, religious, and intellectual heart of Nicaragua.

DAY 3: LEÓN (100 km)

Today is a free day. You have time to visit the old colonial city. If you prefer to ride a motorcycle, there is the possibility to take a tour from León along the volcanic range or take a side trip to Chichigalpa, where the world-famous rum comes from. The beaches near León are absolutely worth the effort to get there. A boat ride through the Isla Juan Venado natural area will take you through mangrove forests teeming with wildlife and along the beach. This is an important breeding ground for sea turtles, which lay their eggs between July and February. If you want to exert yourself a bit, it is worth climbing the Cerro Negro

volcano. The view from the top is great and with a boom-board, you can quickly surf back down.

DAY 4: LEÓN - ESTELLÍ (140 km)

Today a large part of our route is unpaved. On remote and sandy roads we ride along a chain of different volcanoes. We continue northwards towards La Pancha, where it starts getting hilly. Here motorized traffic is a rarity. We wade through the river where people and animals come to cool off. During lunch in El Sauce, we enjoy Gallo Pinto, the national dish of rice and beans. Following a breathtaking route on a good dirt road, we arrive in Estelí, famous for its tobacco cultivation and good cigars.

DAY 5: ESTELLÍ - SOMOTO (135 km)

We follow our route on beautiful country roads towards the charming but dusty town of San Juan de Limay. The town is known for its stonemasons who work mostly soapstone, but also hard stones from the mountains surrounding Cerro Tipiscayan. Rock carvings can still be found in the area. We visit the beautiful Somoto Canyon, one of the oldest rock formations in Central America. This is the mouth of the longest river in Central America, the Coco (or Wangki) River.

DAY 6: SOMOTO - LA DALIA (185 km)

Today we ride to the remote mountainous region in the north. Here we are away from tourism in a landscape that a normal tourist does not get to see. On the well-paved road, we follow a panoramic route to Telpaneca and San Juan del Rio Coco. We cross the river Rio Coco and follow our adventure south. Our destination today is la Dalia where we spend the night in an ecolodge.

DAY 7: LA DALIA - MATAGALPA (65 km)

We leave La Dalia and ride on a paved road the scenic route to Matagalpa. On the way, we can visit a waterfall. We are surrounded by cloud forests and the average temperature here is only 20 degrees and it rains 2600 mm annually. So take fleece and rain clothes with you. The hotel is located in the middle of a nature reserve. If you want, you can do guided hikes here with the German owner. He also explains coffee cultivation and processing.

DAY 8: MATAGALPA (100 km)

Today we will take a day trip in the magnificent surroundings, around the reservoir Lago Apanas. On the way, we will have fresh fish from the lake for lunch, prepared over a wood fire. But of course, there are other possibilities for an excursion, for example to the impressive Penas Blancas Massif, part of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. Here, you will find one of the highest mountains in Nicaragua (1745 m.). Of course, you can also leave your motorcycle and go hiking or horseback riding in the surroundings or visit the town of Matagalpa with its coffee museum.

DAY 9: MATAGALPA - JUIGALPA (175 km)

We leave the cloud forests and coffee plantations and enter an area with rodeos and cowboys. The route winds alternately over small paved and dirt roads. We visit a colorful local market along the way. Our destination today is authentic Juigalpa. This small town is located on a high plateau overlooking the valley, which is cut by an idyllic river.

DAY 10: JUIGALPA - SAN JORGE (165 km)

We leave the green hills behind and head into the hot flatlands. We travel through open fields on beautiful wide

sandy roads and cross the Rio Tipitapa by ferry. We continue along Lago Nicaragua to Granada. We pass the northern side of the volcano Mombacho. Since the soil here is very fertile, there is a variety of agricultural land. We spend the night at the Lago Nicaragua port town of San Jorge, from where you have the best view of Ometepe Island.

DAY 11: SAN JORGE - OMETEPE (100 km)

Early in the morning, we take the ferry to Ometepe Island. It is formed by two volcanoes, Concepción and Maderas, which are connected to each other. Ometepe has a rich pre-Columbian history and is one of the most important regions in the world for rock art/petroglyphs. In 2010, the island was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

DAY 12: OMETEPE

The beautiful and relaxed island of Ometepe offers opportunities for numerous activities. Depending on the weather, you can rent a kayak and paddle to different islands or a river delta, or you can decide to go biking, hiking, kite surfing, or horseback riding. But you can also circumnavigate the island on a motorcycle, albeit via an unpaved and adventurous road. Just doing nothing and lazing on the beach is also an option.

DAY 13: OMETEPE - SAN JUAN DEL SUR (105 km)

Continuing south, we turn off near the Costa Rican border and ride along a little-used dirt road towards the Pacific Ocean. We explore the deserted beaches south of San Juan del Sur and pass small, quiet fishing villages where life is still very natural and simple. There are two important breeding grounds for sea turtles here. We spend the night in the center of the most famous beach resort on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. In the evening you can enjoy the famous sunset, possibly in combination with fresh seafood and fish dishes and a cold beer.

DAY 14: SAN JUAN DEL SUR (80 km)

Today we have plenty of time to explore more beaches on small dirt roads, for example, Playa Maderas. These beaches are world-famous for their good surfing opportunities, yet it is quiet here. If you want to leave the motorcycle for a day, you can surf, sail, dive, fish, or enjoy the view on a canopy tour.

DAY 15: SAN JUAN DEL SUR - GRANADA (115 km)

We ride to the viewpoint at the giant statue of Christ for the last look over the bay of San Juan del Sur. We visit Catarina, one of the Pueblos Blancos. Here we have a beautiful view of the volcanic lake Laguna de Apoyo, Granada, and even Ometepe. We ride directly along the lake and on small roads, we reach Granada where we return the motorcycles. Granada was founded in 1524 and is still a jewel of colonial architecture. There are many restored colonial buildings, from townhouses to churches and cathedrals. It is nice to sit in Parque Central and watch the local life.

DAY 16: DEPARTURE

You will get a transfer to the airport. Individual flight back to Europe where you will arrive the next day.

- Changes to the route can be adapted to the current local conditions -.

Countries	Nicaragua
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Combo On-/Offroad
Vehicle	motorcycle rent incl.
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
Ferry	no, not incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	yes
Level of difficulty	easy medium
Customer payment protection	yes
Special	Winter escape
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

Pricing

per rider in shared twin/double room	€3,350.00
per pillion passenger in shared twin/double room	€2,850.00
per person single room (surcharge)	€350.00

Included

Transfers Managua Airport - Hotel Granada and back
 15 nights in a hotel
 14 days rental motorcycle
 Multilingual tour guide on the motorcycle
 Escort vehicle and luggage transport
 Mechanic
 Ferry Ometepe
 Travel insurance certificate
 Travel guide

Not included

Visa (10 USD for entry into Nicaragua. ESTA Form 14 USD required for a flight via VS)

Petrol

Entrance fees

Optional excursions

Food and drink

Insurances

Pocket money: 350 Euro (This amount is an indication of how much money you will need for this trip). It includes food, drink, souvenirs, optional excursions and gasoline.)

Everything that is not listed under Services

International flight - Managua and back

More details

Minimum number of participants: 4

Maximum number of participants: 10

Maximum number of passengers: 2

Motorcycles :

During this trip we ride on 250 ccm (17.7 hp) Genesis motorcycles with seat height 90 cm (or equivalent).

Tour character:

During the journey through Nicaragua we do not reach considerable heights and do not pass through extremely deserted areas. Day trips are usually short, so there is plenty of time and opportunity to stop, take pictures or visit villages.

Offroad:

About a third of the route we ride on dirt roads. These tracks are not very difficult to ride even without offroad experience. But in bad weather these offroad days could be very exhausting. Offroad experience is therefore recommended. An offroad basic training is very useful as preparation. You learn how best to handle a motorcycle in the country. It will certainly increase your riding pleasure. The motorcycles are light and handy enduros, perfect for unpaved tracks.

Climate:

The climate of Nicaragua consists of three tropical climate zones. The northwest and the east have a tropical rainforest climate, the central part and the southwest have a tropical monsoon and tropical savannah climate. The central part of Nicaragua has a real rainy season, with most rainfall during the summer (May to October) and much drier periods from November to April. When it has rained, the journey becomes much more intense, because beautiful off-road tracks can turn into very difficult paths. On the coast, temperatures around 35 degrees Celsius prevail all year round. This is quite normal. In the mountains it can cool down to 15 degrees especially in the evening.

Clothing:

A helmet is compulsory, as are protective clothing with protectors, good gloves and boots or sturdy shoes. Because of the heat it is recommended to wear breathable protective clothing. In the colder parts of the mountains you can wear extra clothes under your jacket if necessary. Because of the dust we recommend to take a good pair of glasses or a helmet with visor. Furthermore, good sunglasses are practical. We plan our trips preferably outside the rainy season. Since it can rain also in this period from time to time, a light rain suit is recommendable.

Travel documents:

For this trip you need a valid rider's license and a passport, which is generally valid for 6 months beyond the trip.

Visa:

For Nicaragua you don't have to apply for a visa in advance. You pay 10 USD on arrival and get a stamp in your passport with permission to stay 3 months in the country. For a transit flight over the USA you need a US travel permit called ESTA. Further information can be found at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> .

Insurance:

Property damage caused to third parties is covered with a maximum of 5000 USD. Personal injuries caused to third parties are covered up to 5000 USD. In the event of an accident, the insurance does not pay for the damage to the motorcycle. The maximum damage to the motorcycle is 1000 USD. The deposit is 100 Euro per person.