

## 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

11/26/2021 - 12/11/2021 16 days

12/17/2021 - 01/01/2022 16 days

03/18/2022 - 04/02/2022 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. Here there are still many quiet and unpaved roads "off the beaten track". It offers a lot of variety in a relatively small area.

Start and destination of our trip is the oldest city of Central America, Granada. A beautiful colonial city with beautiful cobblestone streets, impressive churches and cathedrals, countless restored colonial buildings and cosy plazas. We visit the active volcano Masaya and look into its smoking throat, ride along crystal clear lakes and volcanic chains and through dusty villages.

After several days in the cooler mountain region of Nicaragua we head south. We meet cowboys, ox carts, fog and primeval forests, wide rivers and - not to forget - the beautiful beaches on the Pacific coast, where turtles like to lay their eggs.

### PROGRAM:

#### DAY 1: ARRIVAL GRANADA

Arrival in the capital of Nicaragua, Managua. You will be picked up at the airport and transferred 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 journey. We ride directly to Masaya to the crater rim of the volcano. Here you can look into the crater throat of the year-round active volcano. One sees and smells the fumes and smoke clouds, which rise from the volcano. Then we continue in the direction of Mateare. Although we are not far from Managua, we are hectic away from the big city. We ride over a small mountain ridge, on sandy roads and through quiet villages, where we meet fully loaded ox carts and riders on the way. When we are back on the paved

road, we get a wonderful view of the Momotombo volcano at Lake Xolotlan. In the village of La Paz Centro we take a shortcut again and arrive in the beautiful city of León, the cultural, religious and intellectual heart of Nicaragua.

#### DAY 3: LEÓN (100 km)

Today's a day off. You have time to visit the old colonial city. If you prefer motorcycling, you can take a tour of the volcanic chains from León, as well as a detour to Chichigalpa, where the world-famous rum comes from. The beaches near León are absolutely worth the effort. A boat tour through the Isla Juan Venado nature reserve takes you through mangrove forests with many animals 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 make an effort, it is worth climbing the volcano Cerro Negro. The view from the top is great and with a boogie board you can quickly surf down again.

#### 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. It continues northwards towards La Pancha, where it already becomes hilly. Motorized traffic is a rarity here. 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 made of rice and beans. A breathtaking route along a good dirt road takes us to Estelí, famous for its tobacco growing 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 around Cerro Tipiscayan. Here in the surroundings you can still find rock

paintings. We visit the beautiful Somoto Canyon, one of the oldest rock formations in Central America. This is where the longest river in Central America, the Coco (or Wangki), rises.

#### DAY 6: SOMOTO - LA DALIA (185 km)

Today we ride to the remote mountain region in the north. Here we are away from tourism in a landscape that a normal tourist does not 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 rainwear with you. The hotel is located in the middle of a nature reserve. If you like, you can make guided hikes with the German owner. He also explains coffee cultivation and processing.

#### DAY 8: MATAGALPA (100 km)

Today we make a day tour in the magnificent surroundings, around the Lago Apanas reservoir. On the way we have lunch with fresh fish from the lake, which is prepared over a wood fire. But of course there are also other possibilities for an excursion, e.g. to the impressive Penas Blancas massif, part of the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. You will find here one of the highest mountains of Nicaragua (1745 meters). But of course you can also leave your motorbike and go hiking or horse riding in the surrounding area or visit the small 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 its way alternately along small paved and unpaved paths. We visit a colourful local market on the way. Our goal today is the authentic Juigalpa. This small town is situated on a high plateau with a view over the valley crossed by an idyllic river.

#### DAY 10: JUIGALPA - SAN JORGE (165 km)

We leave the green hills behind us and ride into the hot lowlands. We are on our way through open fields on beautiful wide sand roads and cross the Rio Tipitapa by ferry. We continue along Lago Nicaragua to Granada. We pass the north side of the volcano Mombacho. Since the soil here is very fertile, there is a variety of agricultural areas. We spend the night at the Lago Nicaragua located port towns San Jorge, from where one has the best view of the island Ometepe.

#### DAY 11: SAN JORGE - OMETEPE (100 km)

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

#### DAY 12: OMETEPE

The beautiful and relaxed island of Ometepe offers the opportunity for numerous activities. Depending on the weather, you can rent a kayak and paddle to various islands

or river delta, or you can opt for cycling, hiking, kitesurfing or horseback riding. But you can also go around the island on a motorbike, but on an unpaved and adventurous way. Just do nothing and lounging on the beach is also an option.

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

We continue to the south, turn into the one near the Costa Rican border and ride along a little used gravel road towards the Pacific Ocean. We explore the lonely beaches south of San Juan del Sur and pass small, quiet fishing villages where life is still very natural and easy. There are two important breeding sites for sea turtles here. We spend the night in the centre of the most famous seaside 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 other beaches on small gravel roads, for example Playa Maderas. These beaches are world famous for their good surfing facilities, but it is still quiet here. If you want to leave the bike 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 lookout point at the huge statue of Christ for a last view 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 today. There are numerous restored colonial buildings, from town houses to churches and cathedrals. It's nice to sit in the Parque Central and look at local life.

#### DAY 16: DEPARTURE

You'll get a transfer to the airport. Individual return flight to Europe.

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

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.
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

## Features

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 security note

travel guide

## Not included features

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

gas

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: 8

Maximum number of participants: 12

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.