Nicaragua Lakes and Volcanoes

Trip Code: NLV

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY
		3



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the charming historic cities of Granada and Leon
- Explore Lake Nicaragua and its 365 wildlife-rich volcanic islets by boat
- Volcano hike on Cerro Negro and sunset visit to the crater rim viewpoint on Mayasa Volcano
- Explore Ometepe Island rich culture and heritage and hike to the San Ramon Waterfall.
- Canoe through the San Juan River Biosphere Reserve

- Enjoy fascinating tropical wildlife on nature walks with expert naturalist guides

AT A GLANCE

- 4 days Walking
- 5 days Sightseeing
- 1 Canoe journey
- 1 Boat trip
- Max Altitude: 1394m
- Join at Managua

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Join us on a captivating adventure that will immerse you in the breath taking landscapes and teeming biodiversity of Nicaragua. Leaving behind the country's bustling capital, Managua, we head south and set our sights on exploring the enchanting Rio San Juan. This picturesque area serves as a sanctuary for a plethora of wildlife, including the enigmatic jaguar and majestic Harpy Eagle. From the quaint village of El Castillo we travel down the river by boat and canoe to reach the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve, a verdant oasis brimming with lush vegetation and distinctive flora and fauna. Returning to civilisation we enjoy the splendour of Granada, a city steeped in history, where vibrant churches adorned with vivid hues invite us to explore. We then embark on to the tranquil waters of Lake Nicaragua and its Islets, revealing a hidden world of basalt rock cloaked in rich foliage and a profusion of avian life, from elegant egrets to soaring kingfishers.

We delve deeper into Nicaragua's nature with a guided hike through the cloud-kissed Mombacho Volcano Reserve, with panoramic views of Lake Nicaragua before a special sunset visit to the neighbouring Masaya Volcano and its smouldering fiery crater. The mystical Ometepe Island is our next stop, guarded by twin volcanoes, where we explore the southern slopes of the towering Maderas Volcano on a hike to the San Ramon Waterfall.

Before our time in Nicaragua is up we have a unique camping experience in the tranquil sanctuary of La Makina Reserve, where we camp amidst tropical forests, meandering trails, and pristine waterfalls. Lastly, we venture to Leon, a city brimming with creative fervour, intellectual curiosity, and revolutionary spirit. From here we embark on an exhilarating hike up Cerro Negro Volcano, an ancient giant adorned in black sands.

Is this holiday for you?

This adventure is designed to explore the best of Nicaragua with a mix of adventure, cultural and interesting day walks. This is an active holiday where we will be on our feet most days whether exploring historic cities on walking tours, looking out for wildlife in unique nature reserves or being treated to spectacular vistas on a volcano hike.

We have a couple of longer walking days on these volcano hikes, particularly the 1394m Maderas Volcano, but otherwise the itinerary is not intended as a long or challenging walking holiday, with more time given to wildlife spotting and the history of the places visited.

We take to the water on a couple of boat trips and a short canoe journey on the Rio San Juan - no paddling experience is necessary for these flat and calm waters but for those less confident a support boat is available. The majority of the holiday is leisurely, with a number of short and longer walks and other activities.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- A single timed airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land / boat transport required by the itinerary
- All activities/excursions/entrance fees mentioned unless specified as ‘optional’

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Departure Taxes (if applicable)
- Airport transfers other than group transfers
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Tips
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc
- Tourist Card - US$10 per person in cash to be paid directly at immigration on entry
- Airport Tax (Exit) US$45 per person (Note that the exit tax is now included by most airlines in ticket cost; please check with your carrier)

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Managua

A single group transfer from / to Managua Airport is provided.

Hotel and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

12 Breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners are included, with lunches and dinners when in the main towns with plenty of dining options not included. You should budget US$10 - $20 per meal for these non-inculded meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

The cuisine of Nicaragua is a mix of Spanish and Creole. As in many other Central American countries, corn is a main staple, particularly in the form of the tortilla. Many of Nicaragua's dishes include fruits and vegetables such as jocote, grosella, mimbro, mango, papaya, tamarind, pipian, banana, avocado, yuca, quequisque, and herbs such as coriander (cilantro), oregano and achiote. In Granada and Leon there are many restaurants serving local cuisine but international dishes can also be found.

Accommodation

Accommodation on this holiday is in comfortable hotels when in the towns and cities (1 night in Managua, 3 nights in Granada, 3 nights in Ometepe and 2 nights in Leon), some of these hotels have small swimming pools. In the smaller town of El Castillo we spend 2 nights in a more basic hotel.

We spend 1 night camping at La Makina Nature Reserve. All camping equipment is provided.

All accommodation is twin share. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning to extend your holiday, additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate that US$300-400 should be sufficient to cover your spending requirements including the evening meals and lunches which are not included (allowing $10-20 per meal), tips for drivers and guides, tourist card ($10 per person cash on entry), airport tax ($45 if not included in your airline ticket) and other incidental expenses such as snacks and alcoholic drinks.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to you leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We advise you to tip as a group. For full groups we advise around $50-60 per person total.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH THE USA

If your flights pass through the USA, even if only in transit, you will require either a visa or an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation). Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ESTA under certain conditions*. This must be done online via https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov, no later than 72 hours prior to travel and applies whether entering the country by sea or by air. You will need to have a biometric passport to apply for an ESTA. The fee is currently US$40 *(as of 30/09/25).* Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

*If you have visited Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen since 2011 or have dual nationality with any of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. You will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate instead. Additionally, if you have travelled to or have been in Cuba since the 12th of January 2021, you will not be eligible for an ESTA visa waiver and will need to apply for a US visa. You should consult the US State Department website to determine which you will need.

When completing the ESTA application form you will be asked to enter your 'Point of Contact' information. This is not required if you are only transiting through the USA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH CANADA

UK citizens will require an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any Canada-bound aircraft or ship, or entering on a land border. The fee is CAD$7 and you should apply for it at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office

Entry requirements can change regularly so please ensure you have the most up to date information before travelling by checking visa entry requirements at the relevant embassy in your country of residence: (US Embassy in London: http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html)

Visa Nicaragua

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Nicaragua is the Cordoba.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on an adventure holiday by getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. Regular hiking in hill country is the best preparation but running, cycling and swimming are also good.

Climate

Nicaragua has a tropical climate with just two major seasons - dry and wet. The dry season occurs between December and June. The eastern part of Nicaragua receives more rain than the west while the coastal area experiences tropical storms and hurricanes between July and October. Temperatures vary more with elevation than the season. In the lowlands temperatures typically range between 22° C to 30° C, whereas the temperature in the mountains will be up to 10° C cooler. The hottest months are March, April and May. Generally the climate is warm and humid except in the central highlands. Mid-day while climbing on the exposed black ash of the volcanoes, the sun can be very fierce. However, rain and cloud and exceptionally, cooler weather can occur in the mountains and you need to be prepared for this as well as for the hot sun.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- "The Jaguar Smile: A Nicaraguan Journey" by Salman Rushdie

This book is a captivating travelogue by the renowned author Salman Rushdie. In "The Jaguar Smile," Rushdie recounts his journey to Nicaragua in the 1980s, during the Sandinista Revolution. The book provides insights into the political and social landscape of Nicaragua at the time, as well as its history and culture.

- "Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua" by Stephen Kinzer

Stephen Kinzer, a seasoned journalist, delves into the tumultuous history of Nicaragua and the Sandinista Revolution in "Blood of Brothers." This book provides a gripping account of the conflict and revolution, capturing the bravery and sacrifices of the Nicaraguan people in their pursuit of social justice and freedom.

- "Travels with Mr Brown" by Mark Twain

Written by the celebrated American author Mark Twain, "Travels with Mr Brown" is a travel narrative that documents Twain's journey through Nicaragua in the mid-19th century. This adventurous tale explores Twain's humorous encounters, misadventures, and observations of the country's landscapes and people during his travels.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Hiking Boots or trail shoes
- Sandals (like tevas suitable to get wet)
- Socks & underwear
- Trekking trousers
- Shorts
- Shirts / T-shirts / Tops
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & trousers
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 35-45 litres (with rain cover)
- Dry bags
- Headtorch
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre (2 pint) x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent
- Small travel towel
- Small padlock (to lock your bag)
- Basic First Aid Kit, including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),
- painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Trekking poles
- Travel clothes
- Flipflops for casual wear and evenings
- Swimwear (some of the hotels have pools as well as other swimming opportunities)
- Binoculars
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Managua, Nicaragua. A single transfer is included from / to Managua Airport.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Managua, Nicaragua. The flights will depart from the UK in the morning, arriving the later the same day (day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart in the afternoon of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

This 13-day adventure offers a unique and immersive journey through the hidden gems of Nicaragua, taking you off the beaten path and delving into the heart of the country's diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity. Exploring picturesque villages, historic cities, and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, this itinerary promises a deeper connection to Nicaragua's culture, heritage, and pristine environments.With each moment carefully crafted to inspire and delight, this extraordinary adventure delivers unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime. Say goodbye to the ordinary and embrace the extraordinary with this one-of-a-kind journey through the real essence of Nicaragua.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change