

Photography & Cultural Tour of Nicaragua

January 7 - 16, 2013

Each year, Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc. hosts a variety of travel groups which allow volunteers the opportunity to visit the beautiful country of Nicaragua. Without a doubt, participants return with a better understanding of how one person really does make a difference.

An average of 15 volunteers travel in a group, estimated cost is \$1200 plus airfare and includes:

- Coordination of airline tickets
- Hotel accommodations with private facilities
- Two group meals per day
- Museum, park entrance fees and entertainment
- Travel Guard Health Insurance
- Daily Cultural excursions
- Ground transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Intelligent and informative bilingual tour guide
- Contact W/NP for registration form, or print from website
- Deposit of \$200 will hold your reservation,
- Remaining balance due prior to departure



A well planned, full itinerary includes time to enjoy Nicaragua, a fabulous country to explore, discover special sites of interest, cultural centers, see traditional dancing, experience the exciting markets and home workshops, and meet everyday people much like yourself. We will stop to see the artisan shops, view beautiful volcanoes, lagoons, reside at very accommodating hotels, and enjoy distinctive and traditional Nicaraguan food. Travel provided by air-conditioned bus with panoramic views, accompanied by a fluent English speaking guide.



HOW TO REGISTER

Contact W/NP for registration form, or print from website
Deposit of \$200 will hold your reservation,
Remaining balance due prior to departure
Payable to: Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners
Room 129, Nelson Hall, UWSP
Stevens Point, WI 54481
By email: wnp@uswsp.edu
Phone: 715-346-4702



W/NP is one of the few organizations that has had a strong and continuous presence in Nicaragua over the last tumultuous decades; nearly 50 years of people-to-people exchanges and institutional linkages which have successfully and continually carried out the primary mandate of promoting economic and social development through many projects. As a non-partisan organization, W/NP is well accepted throughout Nicaragua because it has no political agenda and is not affiliated with any political party. W/NP is a unique organization that encourages an active open-ended exchange of ideas.

Post travel comments.....

"I loved the trip so much, especially the unknown. We had a general idea of what we would be doing in Nicaragua, but every experience I had was so different that what I expected. Having my expectations exceeded every day was an amazing part of the trip. Like you said, there is nothing to do to prepare us for what we would be experiencing while we are there-which was half the fun! Also, I loved each and every member of the group and got to feel connected to W/NP in various ways. Thanks for making this trip unforgettable." - Melanie



"The trip was absolutely incredible!!! It was all I could have possibly imagined it would be plus a million times more. When my family and friends ask me how the trip went, I don't even know where to start in describing it to them. I liked how the itinerary was set and planned, but there was room for adjustments in the schedule (such as making a surprise trip to the beach!!). That was very exciting. I also liked how we got to experience many different lifestyles within Nicaragua, my favorite being the home stays. I didn't realize how little these people have, and how they've adjusted to living quite happily. Also, making stops at the various learning centers gave me a good picture of what the Wisconsin-Nicaragua Partnership does for developing communities. It was great to see what your organization has done and continues to do, and your mother was an amazing and inspirational woman. Going on this trip was the best decision I could have possibly made because now I know I want to dedicate the rest of my working life to helping others, whether it be doing volunteer work or something in the field of Psychology. Thank you for giving us students the opportunity of going on this adventure" - Cortney

"As I said before, I had a GREAT time and can't thank you and the others involved in the planning and execution enough for a fabulous introduction to Nicaragua. I appreciated all your efforts and your presence." - Jutta

Have your thoughts about Nicaragua, its people & tourism in Nicaragua changed? If so, how?



- I learned something about the country. Have to admit my complete ignorance prior to the trip. Juan Carlos was a walking encyclopedia and a great teacher. Loved his sense of humor. Never boring. I have a better appreciation of the beautiful country of Nicaragua.
- Yes, lovely people, happy and willing to learn.
- I find that I miss the country more and more after I return. Upon entering the US I notice that our society is rude and unfriendly compared to the Nicaraguans
- I don't know if my thoughts have changed....I just never thought too much about it...even seeing the Survivor show....I just didn't care.

Now I want to be a part of helping. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of this trip and for all your hard work in preparing and herding us wandering chicks (tourists)





Cultural Tour of Nicaragua January 7 - 16, 2013

Day 1 Travel to Nicaragua

(Lodging: Las Mercedes)

<http://www.lasmercedes.com.ni/>

Welcome, orientation & overview of upcoming week

Tentative Schedule



Day 2

(Lodging: Las Mercedes)

Morning – Chepita’s Learning Center



Afternoon – Luncheon at the Managua Office

Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners office, Managua - Luncheon at the office, meet the staff, learn how W/NP incorporates international volunteerism, see lending library in action (including cultural dances by the library kids), meet the children who use the library, add the books we bring to their collection, observe the classes being offered at the Learning Center in the office and have dialogue with the participants learning how/why they are there.



Day 3 & 4

(Lodging: Hotel Colonial, Granada)

www.hotelcolonialgranada.com

Masaya Volcano & National Park:

This is a great way to get oriented and build appreciation for the geography of



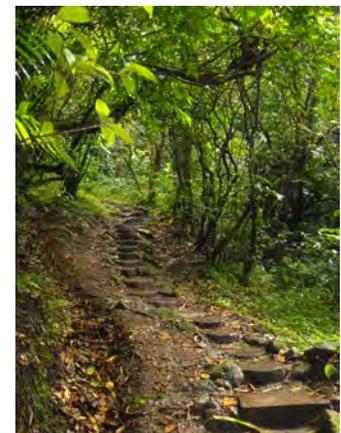
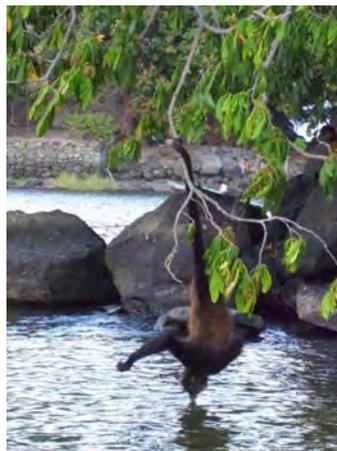
Nicaragua. Halfway up the Volcano we will stop at the well-equipped visitor's center that will illustrate the topography of the country you will be covering and how the chain of volcanoes affects the people/history of Nicaragua. The eruptions have had a dramatic impact on the surroundings. The park includes two volcanoes and five craters. There will be time to hike to the top and have a look inside the active crater, which is continuously emitting smoke and sulfur gases. The view from the top is fascinating and breathtaking.

Masaya Market on the way where locals craft beautiful hammocks, pottery and furniture, also, see the traditional food market shopping.

Day in Granada (Tour the majestic city of Granada, visit churches, beaches, shops, etc.)



Islands of Granada Boat Trip with Luncheon Optional Hikes up Mombacho Volcano National Park



Day 5 & 6

(Lodging: Ometepe Island)

<http://www.villaparaíso.com.ni/>

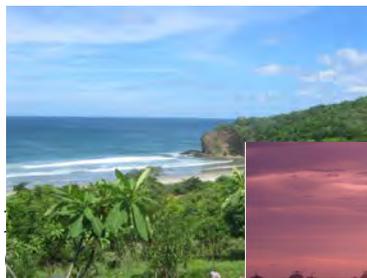
Visit Learning Center, Horseback Riding, Volcano Hikes, swimming in natural hot springs



Day 7 & 8

(Lodging: San Juan del Sur)

Optional trips to Playa el Coco Beach & local activities in San Juan del Sur *Explore the attractions of San Juan del Sur including beautiful beaches, snorkeling, shops and food.*



Day 9

Catarina and San Juan del Oriente



Day 10 Depart for Wisconsin