



## **Tailor-Made Itinerary – Maëva**





## Introduction

Nicaragua, the “Land of Lakes and Volcanoes,” offers a rare blend of adventure, culture, and nature. This two-week solo journey is crafted for immersive discovery, with local guides ensuring safety and authentic experiences. The program prioritizes charming guesthouses and budget-friendly boutique hotels, maximizing value and comfort for a budget of around €3000. Every detail is designed for smooth logistics, meaningful encounters, and a sense of freedom.



## Why Nicaragua?

Nicaragua is a paradise for solo explorers, offering colonial cities, volcanic landscapes, Pacific beaches, and cloud forests within short distances. Traveling with a local guide unlocks hidden gems and ensures safety, especially in rural areas. Guesthouses and boutique hotels provide warm hospitality and community connections. Whether you seek volcano treks, artisan markets, or tranquil lakes, Nicaragua’s rhythm is ideal for independent yet supported travel.



## Custom Program



### Day 1: Arrival in Managua

- **Morning:** Arrival in Managua; meet your guide at the airport. Private transfer: 30 min to your centrally located guesthouse.
- **Afternoon:** Orientation walk through Managua's historic center and lakeside promenade.
- **Evening:** Dinner at a local comedor; sample gallo pinto and fresh juices.
- **Highlight:** Sunset views over Lake Managua.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Hotel Los Robles (boutique, central residential area; colonial charm and tranquil gardens; from €60/night)
  - Hotel Mozonte (budget, Bolonia; friendly staff, pool, and easy access; from €35/night)
  - Casa Inti (guesthouse, Altamira; cozy, artistic, and locally owned; from €40/night)

TIP: Managua is a practical base for arrival, but most travelers move on quickly—enjoy a restful first night to recover from your journey.

## **Day 2: León – Colonial Charm & Volcano Views**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 2h to León. Check in to guesthouse and explore the UNESCO-listed cathedral.
- **Afternoon:** Guided street art tour and visit to the Ortiz-Gurdián Art Foundation.
- **Evening:** Try local street food at León's night market.

- **Highlight:** Climb the cathedral roof for panoramic city views.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Hotel El Convento (boutique, historic center; former convent with lush courtyards; from €70/night)
  - Casa Abierta (guesthouse, central; artsy, welcoming, and social; from €35/night)
  - Hotel Austria (budget, downtown; reliable comfort and excellent location; from €40/night)

TIP: León is lively and walkable; evenings are ideal for exploring local cafés and music venues.

### **Day 3: Cerro Negro Volcano Boarding**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 45 min to Cerro Negro. Guided hike and volcano boarding adventure—descend the black ash slopes on a sandboard.
- **Afternoon:** Return to León; leisure time for markets or museums.
- **Evening:** Relax in a local courtyard café.
- **Highlight:** Volcano boarding down Cerro Negro—an iconic Nicaraguan thrill.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 2.

TIP: Wear long sleeves and closed shoes for volcano boarding; goggles and gear are provided.

## **Day 4: Nature Reserve – Juan Venado Island**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 1h to Las Peñitas. Guided boat tour through the mangroves of Juan Venado Island. Spot caimans, herons, and (in season) nesting turtles.
- **Afternoon:** Beach picnic and time to swim or relax on Las Peñitas beach.
- **Evening:** Return to León; dinner at a local seafood spot.
- **Highlight:** Mangrove wildlife and, from Sept–Jan, possible turtle nesting at dusk.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 2.

TIP: Bring binoculars and insect repellent for the mangroves; turtle nesting is best viewed with a local guide.

## **Day 5: Matagalpa – Coffee Highlands**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 3h to Matagalpa. Settle into an eco-guesthouse in the lush highlands.
- **Afternoon:** Guided tour of a fair-trade coffee farm with tasting session—learn about sustainable cultivation from local farmers.
- **Evening:** Dinner with host family or at a local cooperative café.
- **Highlight:** Coffee farm visit and tasting in Nicaragua's green heart.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Selva Negra Ecolodge (eco-lodge, cloud forest;

German-Nicaraguan heritage, trails and organic farm; from €55/night)

- Hotel Casa Abya Yala (boutique, city center; artistic flair and local art; from €40/night)
- Hostal La Buena Onda (budget, central; social, sustainable, and traveler-friendly; from €30/night)

ALTITUDE: Matagalpa sits at 700–900 m; cooler nights—bring a light jacket.

TIP: Coffee harvest is Nov–Feb; ask about hands-on experiences if visiting then.

## **Day 6: Selva Negra Cloud Forest**

- **Morning:** Guided hike in Selva Negra Reserve—spot monkeys, orchids, and cloud forest birds with a naturalist.
- **Afternoon:** Visit to Selva Negra's historic coffee estate and organic gardens.
- **Evening:** Quiet evening in the forest lodge; optional night walk to spot nocturnal wildlife.
- **Highlight:** Immersive cloud forest experience with local guides.
- **Hotel options:** Same as Day 5, or Selva Negra Ecolodge for a full forest immersion.

TIP: Early mornings are best for birdwatching; bring a rain jacket for misty

conditions.

## **Day 7: Granada – Colonial Jewel**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 3h 30min to Granada. Check in to a colorful guesthouse.
- **Afternoon:** Guided city tour: cathedral, central plaza, and artisan markets.
- **Evening:** Dine in a courtyard restaurant; live music possible on weekends.
- **Highlight:** Horse-drawn carriage ride through Granada's cobbled streets.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Hotel Plaza Colón (boutique, central plaza; elegant colonial style, pool; from €70/night)
  - Casa San Francisco (guesthouse, city center; warm hospitality, rooftop terrace; from €45/night)
  - Miss Margrit's (guesthouse, quiet street; lush gardens, social vibe; from €40/night)

TIP: Granada's central location makes it a great base for exploring the region's lakes and volcanoes.

## **Day 8: Isletas de Granada & Lake Nicaragua**

- **Morning:** Kayak or boat tour among the volcanic islets of Lake

Nicaragua—explore lush islands and spot monkeys and birds.

- **Afternoon:** Visit to a local fishing community and artisan workshop.
- **Evening:** Leisure time at lakeside café; sunset views over the water.
- **Highlight:** Close-up encounters with island wildlife and local artisans.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 7, or El Maltese (lakeside inn; relaxed, with lake views; from €35/night).

TIP: Kayaking is best in the morning for calm water and wildlife activity.

### **Day 9: Masaya Volcano & Artisan Markets**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 45 min to Masaya Volcano National Park. Peer into the active crater with your guide.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Masaya's vibrant artisan market for crafts and souvenirs.
- **Evening:** Return to Granada; optional night volcano tour (lava glow, weather permitting).
- **Highlight:** Witnessing the lava glow at dusk from the crater rim.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 7.

TIP: Night tours at Masaya are popular—book in advance during high season.

### **Day 10: Ometepe Island – Twin Volcanoes**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 1h 30min to San Jorge, ferry to Ometepe Island (1h). Check in to lakeside guesthouse.



- **Afternoon:** Explore Charco Verde Reserve—lush trails, butterfly garden, and lake swimming.
- **Evening:** Dinner with lake views; stargazing from the beach.
- **Highlight:** Ferry ride with volcano vistas and arrival on Ometepe's tranquil shores.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Totoco Eco-lodge (eco-lodge, Maderas slopes; panoramic views, permaculture farm; from €55/night)
  - Hospedaje Soma (guesthouse, near Moyogalpa; lush gardens, social atmosphere; from €35/night)
  - Finca San Juan de la Isla (boutique, Santo Domingo; historic hacienda, private beach; from €60/night)

TIP: Ferry schedules can be affected by wind—morning crossings are most reliable.

## **Day 11: Ometepe – Nature & Culture**

- **Morning:** Guided hike on Maderas Volcano trails (moderate, lush forest, waterfalls) or visit a local permaculture farm for hands-on learning.
- **Afternoon:** Free time for cycling, kayaking, or visiting petroglyph sites.
- **Evening:** Cooking demonstration with local hosts (if available).
- **Highlight:** Immersion in Ometepe's rural rhythms and volcanic

scenery.

- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 10.

ALTITUDE: Ometepe's hikes can reach 1,300 m—pace yourself and hydrate well.

TIP: For a less strenuous day, opt for a guided petroglyph tour or a swim at Ojo de Agua, a natural spring pool.

## **Day 12: San Juan del Sur – Pacific Coast**

- **Morning:** Ferry to mainland (1h), private transfer: 1h 30min to San Juan del Sur. Settle into a beachside guesthouse.
- **Afternoon:** Stroll along the bay or relax on the sand; optional surf lesson at Playa Remanso.
- **Evening:** Fresh seafood dinner at a beachfront eatery.
- **Highlight:** Pacific sunset over the iconic bay.
- **Hotel options:**
  - HulaKai Hotel (boutique, Playa Maderas; surf chic, ocean views; from €55/night)
  - Rositas Hotel (budget, town center; friendly, steps from the beach; from €30/night)
  - Casa Oro Eco Hostel (eco-hostel, central; social, sustainable, surf-friendly; from €25/night)

TIP: San Juan del Sur is lively on weekends—book ahead for popular

restaurants and surf lessons.

### **Day 13: San Juan del Sur – Leisure & Adventure**

- **Morning:** Optional surfing lesson, horseback riding on the beach, or canopy zipline tour in the hills.
- **Afternoon:** Free time for swimming, exploring local cafés, or joining a fishing trip.
- **Evening:** Farewell dinner with ocean views—try the catch of the day.
- **Highlight:** Choice of adventure or pure relaxation on your last full day.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 12.

TIP: For a unique experience, join a sunset sailing cruise along the Pacific coast.

### **Day 14: Return to Managua & Departure**

- **Morning:** Private transfer: 2h 30min to Managua. Buffer for airport check-in and last-minute shopping.
- **Afternoon:** International departure (timing TBD).
- **Evening:** —
- **Highlight:** Reflect on a journey through Nicaragua's diverse landscapes.
- **Hotel options:**
  - Hotel Globales Camino Real (day-use, near airport; pool,

gardens, reliable comfort; from €35/day-use)

- Hotel Mozonte (day-use, central; flexible check-out; from €25/day-use)

TIP: Confirm your flight time in advance for seamless transfer planning; Managua airport can be busy at peak times.

## Customizable Options

- Private, bilingual guide throughout (ideal for solo travelers).
- Specialist-led wildlife walks or birdwatching in reserves.
- Cooking classes with local families in Granada or Ometepe.
- Surf lessons or yoga retreats on the Pacific coast.
- Night tours to Masaya Volcano (lava viewing, seasonal).
- Community-based tourism experiences (coffee or artisan workshops).

## Practical Info & Budget

- **Comfort level:** Budget hotels, guesthouses, and eco-lodges, mostly private rooms with basic amenities.
- **Indicative budget:** €25–€70/night for lodging; private guide from €40–€80/day; transfers and activities €600–€900 total; meals €10–€20/day. Total for 2 weeks: ~€2200–€3000 (excluding international flights).

- **Included:** Accommodation, guided activities, most transfers, some meals.
- **Excluded:** International airfare, travel insurance, some meals, tips, personal expenses.
- **Seasonal notes:** Best travel is Nov–April (dry season); May–Oct is rainy, some rural roads may be muddy. Hurricane risk is low but possible on the Caribbean coast.
- **Luggage tips:** Soft bags, quick-dry clothing, sturdy shoes for hikes, sun/rain protection.
- **Budget note:** Your budget is realistic for this comfort level and duration, especially with a focus on guesthouses and local experiences. For more private transfers or higher-end activities, consider a small increase.
- **To finalize:** Flight dates, arrival/departure times, and any specific activity or dietary preferences.

TIP: ATMs are widely available in cities, but bring some cash for rural areas and small purchases.



## Next Steps

- Please confirm your exact travel dates or preferred departure period to optimize the itinerary for weather and events.
- Let us know if you'd like to adjust the pace (more relaxed or

intensive), add/remove regions, or focus on particular interests (e.g., more wildlife, less beach).

- Specify any dietary restrictions or accessibility needs.
- Share your comfort with group vs. private activities, and if you'd like to meet other travelers along the way.
- Once you confirm key details, a local partner will refine the program and provide a detailed quote.

Item	Estimated Cost (per person)
Accommodation (13 nights, avg. €45/night)	€585
Private guide (14 days, avg. €60/day)	€840
Transfers & local transport	€400
Activities & entrance fees	€350
Meals (14 days, avg. €15/day)	€210
Contingency & tips	€115
Total Estimated Cost	€2 500

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