



## **Tailor-Made Itinerary – Brandi**





## Introduction

Nicaragua, the “Land of Lakes and Volcanoes,” invites you to experience its lush rainforests, colonial cities, and Pacific beaches in style. This refined itinerary for Brandi and partner blends eco-lodge comfort, authentic culture, and inspiring nature—crafted for discerning travelers seeking both adventure and relaxation. Your budget of €1500 per person is well-matched to high-end, sustainable stays and private logistics.



## Why Nicaragua?

Nicaragua’s compact geography allows you to enjoy volcano hikes, wildlife reserves, colonial towns, and tranquil beaches in one seamless week. Its eco-lodge scene is exceptional, with boutique and luxury options set in spectacular natural settings. The country’s authenticity, warm hospitality, and well-developed infrastructure make it ideal for high-end, responsible travel.



## Custom Program



### Day 1: Arrival in Managua & Transfer to Granada

- **Private transfer: 1h** from Managua Airport to Granada. Early check-in available at select lodges.

- Settle into your eco-lodge. Stroll Granada's colonial streets and central plaza.
- Dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the cathedral.
- **Activity:** Sunset walk along Lake Nicaragua's waterfront promenade—watch fishermen and local life unfold.
- **Hotel options:**
  - **Jicaro Island Lodge** (Luxury eco-lodge, private island in Lake Nicaragua, treehouse casitas, National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World; from €220/night)
  - **Hotel Plaza Colón** (Boutique, central Granada, colonial elegance with pool and city views; from €140/night)
  - **Tribal Hotel** (Design boutique, quiet residential area, chic tropical style; from €120/night)

**TIP:** Granada is walkable; bring comfortable shoes for cobblestone streets.

## **Day 2: Granada & Isletas Kayaking**

- **Private transfer: 15 min** to dock. Guided kayak tour through Isletas de Granada (3h), spotting monkeys and birds among volcanic islets.
- Afternoon: Visit Granada's chocolate museum or artisan markets.
- Dinner with Nicaraguan specialties—try vigorón or fresh lake fish.
- **Activity:** Chocolate-making workshop at ChocoMuseo (learn about cacao from bean to bar).
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.

**TIP:** Early morning is best for kayaking to avoid midday heat.

### **Day 3: Mombacho Volcano & Coffee Estate**

- **Private transfer: 30 min** to Mombacho Volcano Reserve. Guided cloud forest hike (easy/moderate, 2–3h), canopy walk optional.
- Lunch and coffee tasting at Hacienda El Progreso (local estate with panoramic views).
- Return to Granada for artisan shopping or lakeside drinks.
- **Activity:** Canopy zipline tour (optional, thrilling ride through the forest canopy).
- **Hotel options:**
  - Same hotel options as Day 1, or upgrade to **Pacaya Lodge & Spa** (Volcano-view eco-lodge, Laguna de Apoyo, contemporary Nicaraguan design; from €160/night)

**TIP:** Mombacho's summit can be misty and cool—bring a light jacket.

### **Day 4: Masaya Volcano & Local Markets**

- **Private transfer: 40 min** to Masaya Volcano National Park. Visit active crater and interpretive center.
- Explore Masaya's artisan market—shop for ceramics and hammocks.
- Optional night tour to see lava glow (seasonal/weather dependent), or return to Granada for dinner.
- **Activity:** Night lava tour (if available)—see the "Mouth of Hell"

glowing red after sunset.

- **Hotel options:**

- Same hotel options as Day 3, or **Hacienda Puerta del Cielo** (Rural eco-retreat near Masaya, panoramic volcano views, tranquil gardens; from €130/night)

**TIP:** Night volcano tours are popular—reserve in advance and check for park closures due to volcanic activity.

## **Day 5: Transfer to Ometepe Island**

- **Private transfer: 1.5h** to San Jorge. **Ferry: 1h** to Ometepe Island (check wind conditions in rainy season).
- Settle into an eco-lodge; relax by the lake or walk to nearby villages.
- Farm-to-table dinner at your lodge, with views of twin volcanoes.
- **Activity:** Guided permaculture tour at the lodge (learn about sustainable farming and local produce).
- **Hotel options:**
  - **San Juan de la Isla** (Lakefront eco-lodge, volcanic sand beach, rustic-chic bungalows; from €110/night)
  - **Totoco Eco-lodge** (Hilltop eco-lodge, panoramic views, organic farm; from €90/night)
  - **Xalli Beach Hotel** (Boutique, Playa Santo Domingo, relaxed vibe, direct lake access; from €80/night)

**TIP:** Ferry schedules can change due to weather—confirm times and arrive

early.

## **Day 6: Ometepe Exploration**

- **Private transfer: 30 min** to trailhead. Guided hike to San Ramón waterfall (moderate, 3h round trip), or nature walk in Charco Verde Reserve.
- Swim in the natural spring pools of Ojo de Agua.
- Sunset drinks at the lodge, with optional yoga or massage.
- **Activity:** Ojo de Agua—crystal-clear spring pools in a lush tropical setting, ideal for a refreshing swim.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 5.

**TIP:** Bring water shoes for rocky trails and pools; insect repellent recommended.

## **Day 7: Return to Managua via San Juan del Sur**

- **Ferry: 1h** back to mainland. **Private transfer: 1.5h** to San Juan del Sur.
- Beach time in San Juan del Sur; optional surf lesson or seafood lunch.
- **Private transfer: 2.5h** to Managua for overnight or late-night departure.
- **Activity:** Surf lesson at Playa Maderas—gentle waves, expert instructors, suitable for beginners.
- **Hotel options:**

- **Morgan's Rock Hacienda & Ecolodge** (Luxury eco-lodge, private beach, forest reserve, sustainable farm; from €260/night)
- **Hotel La Posada Azul** (Boutique, central San Juan del Sur, colonial charm, lush gardens; from €130/night)
- **Airport X Hotel** (Managua, modern comfort, ideal for late flights; from €90/night)

**TIP:** If your flight departs early, consider overnighting in Managua for convenience.



## Customizable Options

- Private naturalist guide for volcano and wildlife days
- Cooking class with local ingredients in Granada or Ometepe
- Wellness day: yoga, massage, or meditation at eco-lodge
- Surf lesson or paddleboard rental in San Juan del Sur
- Visit to a community-run conservation project
- Upgrade to premium eco-lodge or private casita for select nights



## Practical Info & Budget

- **Comfort:** Eco-lodge style throughout; focus on sustainability, local materials, and nature immersion.
- **Indicative budget:** €120–€220/night for eco-lodges; private transfers

and guided activities €450–€650 total; meals (mostly included at lodges) €20–€35/pp/day; ferries and local fees €60–€90/pp. Total estimate: €1450–€1750/pp for 7 nights.

- **Included:** Lodging, most breakfasts, guided excursions, private transfers, some meals.
- **Not included:** International flights, personal expenses, tips, optional upgrades.
- **Seasonal notes:** Best travel is November–April (dry season); May–October is green/rainy season with afternoon showers—some hikes may be muddy, but crowds are fewer. Ometepe ferry can be affected by wind in rainy season.
- **Luggage:** Soft bags preferred for ferries and small vehicles; pack for warm days and cool evenings, plus rain jacket if traveling May–October.
- **Budget fit:** Your budget is well-aligned for eco-lodge comfort and private logistics. For more luxury or premium upgrades, consider raising to €1800–€2000/pp or trimming one region.
- **Gaps:** Exact travel dates are TBD; final pricing and availability depend on season and lodge choice.

**TIP:** Credit cards are accepted at most lodges, but bring cash for markets and remote areas.



## Next Steps

- Please confirm your preferred travel dates or at least the month/season.
- Let us know if you'd like a more relaxed or more active pace, or if there's a region you wish to add or skip (e.g., more beach, less volcano).
- Are there any dietary preferences, accessibility needs, or special interests (e.g., birdwatching, wellness, adventure sports)?
- Would you like recommendations for international flights or pre/post-trip extensions?
- Once we have your dates and any tweaks, we'll refine the program and request local partner input for any custom elements.

| Item                               | Estimated Cost (per person) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eco-lodge accommodation (7 nights) | €900                        |
| Private transfers & ferries        | €220                        |
| Guided activities & excursions     | €180                        |
| Meals (mostly included)            | €180                        |
| Local fees & incidentals           | €70                         |

Total Estimated Cost

€1,550

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