



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Nicaragua - Somoto

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 466
- ✓ **Population:** ± 35000
- ✓ **Currency:** Cordobas / Dollars
- ✓ **Country code:** +505
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 118
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Malaria prevention



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

1522: Country named after Indian chief Nicarao (by Gonzalez). '24: Granada/León founded by Cordoba. 1821: Independent from Spain. '23: United Provinces of Central America independent from Mexico / '38: fully independent. '55: William Walker in Granada →'56: Battle of Rivas/San Jacinto→'57: Walker pres.: Slavery/ planned canal →'57: defeated by Costa Rican army, executed. 1900: US/UK signed Hay-Pauncefote Treaty: canal rights (expired in '71).'09: US invasion. '12: Civil War (Managua destroyed). '27: Pres. Diaz allows US intervention →Sandino's 5-year war against US occupation / Moncada pres. '31: Earthquake Managua (12000 death). '36: Begin Somoza family presidents. '41: Enters WWII. 49: Friendship treaty Costa Rica (borders). '61: Sandinista front against US-backed dictatorship Somoza's→ '78 attacked/captured León: Somoza starts bombing, tortures/killings. '79: Pres resigned, Sandinista government. '80: Contra rebellion US (financed by drug money). '81: Indigenous Miskitos search autonomy & join Contra rebellion. '84: Ortega pres. '87: Failed US-Nica peace negotiation. '87: Brunei helps Contra. '88: Hurricanes start. '90: Chamorro pres. (non-Sandinista). '97: Aleman pres. '02: Ortega again pres. '04: Free trade pact US CAFTA. '06: Nica wants to build canal (rights: China).

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry		driest										
Wet						wettest						
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 706m (Cañón de Somoto is 200m deep). Climate: Tropical.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 Visit Cañón de Somoto. Without a guide it's only possible to visit a part, up until where the boats take you (C30 2-ways p.p.). You WILL get completely wet (you'll cross rivers by foot), so wear appropriate clothing and only bring waterproof bags. Wear solid footwear (absolutely no flip-flops) as the riverbeds are covered in rocks and the current is strong... you'll thank me later for it.

### Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: In centre, "Mercado Mayoreo".
- ⌘ Cheaper supermarket: Palí.
- ⌘ Nicaragua's streetfood / comedores food: Nacatamales (corn dough with meat), tortilla, corn, vigorón (yuca/pork/salad), baho (yuca/beef/plantain /salad), gallo pinto (rice & beans), quesillo (tortilla with melted cheese & pineapple), tajadas (deep-fried plantain chips), hamburger, hot dog.

# Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Don't book cheap accommodation in advance. There are many basic, dirt-cheap locally owned hotels that don't have a website or Booking.com-subscription.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Mama Said

- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular.
- ☠ Locals don't walk around at night, not even the smallest distances. With a reason.
- ☠ Don't walk to the look-out (*mirador*). The police warns for delinquency and drugs abuse in this area. Foreigners are at extra high risk.

## Next?

- ➔ In Nicaragua: Estelí, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Yali, León, Managua, Masaya.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador.

## Free-Riding?

- Within the centre everything is walkable. The cañón is too far away to walk.
- Biking is perfectly possible here.
- Minibuses (sometimes a covered pick-up truck with plastic chairs in the back) and chickenbuses bring you to the cañón and back, it's the cheapest way. They can be hailed down everywhere on the main road.
- Buses to locations outside town leave from the main bus terminal, although you can also hail them down on the main road and pay the driver.
- Taxi's are quite pricy compared to buses and take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Use only the official cabs. Most cabs are shared and will take other clients besides you.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Nicaragua app for an offline map, offline guide & more. Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

The Earth Becomes My Throne