



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Nicaragua - León

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 591
- ✓ **Population:** ± 184,000
- ✓ **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				hottest								
Wet												
Best			semana	santa						turtle	nesting	
Budget												

Altitude: 86m. Climate: Tropical savannah.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Free landmarks: Iglesia Recoleccion, Cathedral & 13 more churches and Parque Central.
- ☺ Take a bus to Poneloya or La Peñitas beach and treat yourself on some Pacific.
- ☺ Visit the market to get to the core of true Nicaraguan culture... watch your bag though!

I did not enjoy: Leon Viejo (far & expensive too), Museo Ruben Dario (free) & Museo de Tradiciones y Leyendas (even though it's located in an old political prison).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Climb the clear white cathedral.
- 👍 Good museums: [Centro de Arte Fundación Ortiz Gurdíán](#), Museo de la Revolucion Sandinista.
- 👍 Surrounding nature: Volcán Momotombo, Cerro Negro (sandboarding), Telica, San Cristobal, Cosiguina and Las Pilas. [Quetzaltrekkers](#) is recommended. Or go turtle watching!
- 👍 Take a bus to Hervidores de San Jacinto (cheap).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Located next to bus terminal.
- ⌘ Cheaper supermarket: (Maxi)Palí.
- ⌘ Nicaragua's streetfood: Nacatamales, (corn dough with meat), tortilla, mais, vigoron (yuca/pork/salad), baho (yuca/beef/plantain /salad), gallo pinto (rice & beans), quesillo (tortilla with melted cheese & pineapple), tajadas (deep-fried plantain chips), taco, hamburger, hot dog.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Paz de Luna B&B](#), +50523112581, 1.5 block from Iglesia Recolectión (mid-range price).
- ❖ [Hostal Calle de los Poetas](#), +50588681569 / +50523113306, 1.5 block up from Museo Ruben Dario.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Knowledge I'm Taking

Home

- 📖 Hable español: [Leon Spanish School](#).
- 📖 Dance like a Latino: [La Isla Foundation](#).
- 📖 Art & music classes: La Casa de Cultura.

Festivals

- ⚙ Holy week: Religion, Apr.
- ⚙ Independence festivities: 14-15-Sept.
- ⚙ Día de la Virgen de Merced: 23-24 Sept.

Mama Said

- 💀 Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets work the centre.
- 💀 Locals don't walk around at night, not even the smallest distances. With a reason.
- 💀 Be careful with taxi's →

Next?

- ➔ In Nicaragua: Granada, Masaya, Managua, Matagalpa, Esteli and the coast.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Solera Bar, 2 Calle SO and 2 Av. SO.
- ◆ Oxygene, 1a Calle SE, Parque Central, ½c O.
- ◆ Disco Bohemios, 1a Av NO, Parque Central, ½c N.

... Seated Down

- ◆ Teatro Municipal José de la Cruz Mena, 2a Av SO, Parque Central, 1c O, 1c S.

Free-Riding?

- In the centre of León everything is walkable... even when the locals say it's '*largo*' (in that case they're usually talking about 8-15 blocks, which is still only a 10-15 minute walk).
- Bicycle-taxi's are cheap and bring you everywhere in town. Negotiate the price up front (per group, not per person).
- Minivans drive around town without a specific schedule. Just hail one down and ask locals which one to take if you're confused. Intercity buses and vans leave from the central bus terminal at the market.
- Biking is possible, but don't expect consideration of car and bus drivers.
- Taxi's are quite pricy compared to buses and take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Use only the official cabs with white-red number plate. Negotiate the price up front (per group, not per person).

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.