



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Nicaragua - Masaya

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 142,6
- ✓ **Population:** ± 140,000
- ✓ **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												
Wet												
Best												

Altitude: 635m (crater). Climate: Tropical savannah.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ If you're up for tourist shopping, head to Mercado Artesanías. Thursday night there are folkloric dances.
- ☺ Churches: Iglesia San Sebastián, San Jerónimo, San Juan, San Miguel, María Magdalena and Parroquia El Calvario.
- ☺ Head to the Malecón for views on Laguna de Masaya and Volcán Santiago.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Visit the Masaya/Nindirí crater (100c). Take a cab 250-300c both ways) to the crater, or take a bus to Managua/Granada and let the driver know you're going to Volcán Masaya: It's a long hike though!
- 👉 For the enthusiasts: Museo de Folklore (in Mercado Artesanías), Fortaleza de Coyotepe, [Museo y galería de Héroes y Martires.](#)

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Mercado Municipal, next to bus terminal.
- ⌘ Cheaper supermarket: Palí (Parque Central).
- ⌘ 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. Lots of streetfood is available at Parque Central.

## Sleep Cheap

Many cheap, locally-owned hotels don't have a website and can't be found on booking engines. For the cheapest deals, just head into town without a booking and ask around. We stayed at the basic Hotel Regis for \$5 p.p.p.n. in a private room (6 blocks south of Parque Central).

- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Festivals

- ⊛ Holy week: Religion, Apr.
  - ⊛ San Jerónimo: Religion, Sept-30.
- Find a longer list here: [Lonely Planet](#).

## 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.
- ⌘ Be careful with taxi's →

## Next?

- In Nicaragua: Granada, León, Managua, Matagalpa, Laguna Apoyo the coast.
- International destinations closeby: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador.

## Free-Riding?

- In the centre of Masaya 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).
- Minivans to UCA (Managua) leave from the park in front of Iglesia de San Miguel. Other buses and minivans go from the bus station, east of Mercado Municipal.
- 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.

*The Earth Becomes My Throne*