



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Nicaragua - Matagalpa

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 640.65
- ✓ **Population:** ± 542,000
- ✓ **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		driest										
Wet									wettest			
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 700m. Climate: "eternal spring" / always change of showers.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Instead of visiting the Santa Emilia waterfall, go to the free Salta Escondida on the same road (take the bus from the northern bus terminal to Santa Emilia and ask the driver). Walk down the bridge at the right of the only house and go left and down to the river. The surroundings also provide good river bathing.
- ☺ Churches: Cathedral, Molaguina, San Pedro and San Jose.
- ☺ Free museum: Casa Fonseca.
- ☺ Visit the market: True Nicaraguan culture!

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Hiking: [Selva Negra](#) in El Arena National Reserve (take bus to Jinotega from the terminal at the market and ask the driver to stop) / Apante – Sendero Roble (minibuses go up and down from Parque Dario, ask locals which one) / Cerro Frio / Peñas Blancas.
- 👉 Visit the Santa Emilia waterfall, Cascada Blanca or San Ramón.
- 👉 Visit a coffee farm, Museo del Cafe, go rafting ([Matagalpa Tours](#)) or visit El [Castillo del Cacao](#).

Tourist Trap Alert

⊖ Don't go on a tour: If you don't mind public transport and a tiny bit of planning, you can make daytrips for a few dollars.

Nights Best Spent

There's not much of a nightlife here.

... Seated Down

- ◆ [Teatro Municipal](#), no street name.
- ◆ [Guanuca Cultural Center](#), Guadalupe, 1½c S.

Festivals

- ⊙ Celebration week: 1-14 Feb.
- ⊙ Independence festivities: 14-15-Sept.
- ⊙ National Coffee Fair: Dec.

Knowledge I'm Taking

Home

- 📖 Hable español: Matagalpa Spanish School.
- 📖 Dance like a Latino: [INEP](#) (school).
- 📖 Cooking classes: [Colibri](#).

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. Locals mentioned robberies of tourists walking to the look-outs and the El Calvario trail.
- ☠ Be careful with taxi's →

Next?

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

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. Just walk to the centre and you pass by many. Don't stay in the unsafe market / bus terminal area. (My hotel: Dorado, +50527721145, 200 cordobas for a double room).
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Next to bus terminal + Guanuca market.
- ⌘ Cheaper supermarket: Palí, Estrella.
- ⌘ Nicaragua's streetfood (at night available at Parque Central & local *comedores*): Nacatamales (corn dough with meat), tortilla, corn, vigoron (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.

Free-Riding?

- Within the centre (from Morazán to Parque Darío), everything is walkable. Café Girasol sells detailed leaflets for a number of self-guided walks in the Matagalpa.
 - Biking is perfectly possible here.
 - Minibuses take you everywhere in and around town and almost all of them pass by Parque Dario (although you can hail them down anywhere). Ask locals which one to take if you're confused.
 - Buses to locations outside town leave from 2 different bus terminals. Most leave from the southern terminal Cotran Sur at the market (Jinotega & Estelí: every ½ hr, Managua: every hr, Yali, León: 6am/9:30am/3pm/4pm, Masaya: 2pm/3:30pm, Somoto. The northern terminal Cotran Norte serves Santa Emilia, San Ramón, Río Blanca. Buses from Managua leave to Matagalpa from Mercado Mayoreo.
 - Taxi's are quite pricy compared to buses and take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Use only the official cabs.
- 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.