



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Nicaragua – Isla de Ometepe

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 276
- ✓ **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												
Wet												
Best												
Budget												

Climate: Tropical savannah.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Visit the petroglyphs, some can be visited for free just before Finca Porvenir.
  - ☺ Take a bus to Santo Domingo and swim in the lake while enjoying the view on Volcán Maderas.
  - ☺ Punta Jesus Maria: At dry season it's sometimes possible to walk pretty far on a sandbank.
- All destinations can be reached with a rented motorbike, car or via a tour. Due to a very unreliable bus 'system' it's inadvisable to take public transport.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Climb Volcano Maderas or Concepcion. Check the safety conditions. Arrange early transport (and/or a guide) up front.
- 👍 Visit Charco Verde and Ojo de Agua (pool).
- 👍 Hike to Cascada San Ramon or kayak Río Istián.
- 👍 Museums: Museum El Ceibo, Museo de Ometepe.
- 👍 Canopy Sendero Los Monos.

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Farmers sell fruit and vegetables on the street.
- ⌘ The island has only small limited supermarkets.
- ⌘ 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.

## Mama Said

- ☠ Bring enough cash. There are some ATM's, but they might not work.
- ☠ Bring bug spray and sunscreen.
- ☠ Don't walk around by yourself at night, not even on this island.

## Free-Riding?

- To get here, check the [ferry schedule](#).
- Only within the villages things are walkable.
- Tuktuk's and taxi's usually only leave from Moyogalpa. It's almost impossible to find one elsewhere.
- Buses go... whenever they want to leave or don't break down. There are schedules, but only the Moyogalpa-bound buses tend to be reliable (and overcrowded).
- It's possible to rent a bike, but be prepared to sweat a lot.
- Conclusion: Rent a motorbike! It seems to be the only efficient way to explore the island by yourself. Not cheap.

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.

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hotel Central, +50525694426, Altagracia.
- ❖ Hostal Lazy Crab, +50582212382, Balgue.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Find an extensive list [here](#).

## Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Hable español: [Altagracia Spanish School](#).
- 📖 Inner growth: [Inanitah](#).

## Festivals

- ⚙ Independence festivities: 14-15-Sept.
- ⚙ Fiestas Patronales: 12-18-Nov.
- ⚙ Magma Fest: Dec.

## Next?

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

The Earth Becomes My Throne