



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Nicaragua - Playa Gigante

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Managua
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 591
- ✓ **Population:** ± 184,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Cordobas / Dollars
- ✓ **Country code:** +505
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)  
Because of the C4-agreement you get only 90 days for Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador all together. Extensions can be made in the capitals.
- ✓ **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. Check surf-forecasts [here](#).

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ A walk down the coastline is the obvious #1 top-activity. Bring a towel and enjoy a quiet, non-touristy beach day.
- ☺ Take a drive to the local hot springs (15 minutes away).
- ☺ Hike to the top of the Giant's Foot.
- ☺ Surf Playa Amarillo, Playa Colorado, Panga Drops, (all within walking distance).

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Snorkelling, boat tours, whale & dolphin watching, fishing trips and even a 'booze cruise' are advertised: +505 78522792. ATV tours at Pastora Tours.
- 👍 [Gigante Bay](#) offers catamaran tours, rappelling and horseback riding.
- 👍 Do Massages: +505 84649373.
- 👍 Rent kayaks and head to the jumping rock.

## Budget Bites

Besides a tiny supermarket at the beach there is no food for sale. Restaurants are quite overpriced. Bring some supplies from Rivas.

## Knowledge I'm Taking Home

Hable español: [Pie de Gigante Spanish School](#).

## Nights Best Spent

[Hotel Brio](#) organizes live music and dance nights.

## Free-Riding?

- From Rivas take the bus to Las Pilas, which takes you all the way into Gigante Bay. There goes only one at 2PM! It leaves Gigante at 7:30AM & 3PM. If you miss it, hitch-hiking is a thing here.
- Playa Gigante only has a dirt road and going around by foot is therefore the best way.
- Most hotels rent motorbikes.
- 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). A taxi from Rivas should cost US\$10-15.

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

Many cheap, locally-owned hotels don't have a website and can't be found on booking engines. For the cheapest deals, just head to the beach without a booking and ask around. Options are Mirador, Blue Sol, Sonreir Gigante Bay and Hospedaje Cabañas de Gigante and Cabins The Pelican.

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

## Mama Said

- ☹ Locals don't walk around at night, not even the smallest distances. There are no street lights in Playa Gigante.
- ☹ Bring enough cash as there are no ATM's here.

## Next?

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