

NICARAGUA

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

**Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++ 505**

Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism (INTUR): Hotel Intercontinental, 1 cuadra al Oeste y 1 cuadra al Sur, Managua, Nicaragua tel: 222 2962 or 222 3333 fax: 222 6610 E-mail: promocion@intur.gob.ni web site: www.intur.gob.ni

Capital: Managua **Time:** GMT - 6

Background: Settled as a colony of Spain in the 1520s, Nicaragua gained its independence in 1821. Violent opposition to governmental manipulation and corruption spread to all classes by 1978 and resulted in a short-lived civil war that brought the Marxist Sandinista guerrillas to power in 1979. Nicaraguan aid to leftist rebels in El Salvador caused the US to sponsor anti-Sandinista contra guerrillas through much of the 1980s. Free elections in 1990 and again in 1996 saw the Sandinistas defeated. The country has slowly rebuilt its economy during the 1990s, but was hard hit by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

Location: Middle America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Costa Rica and Honduras

Map References: Central America and the Caribbean

Area: total: 129,494 sq km land: 120,254 sq km water: 9,240 sq km

Climate: tropical in lowlands, cooler in highlands

Terrain: extensive Atlantic coastal plains rising to central interior mountains; narrow Pacific coastal plain interrupted by volcanoes

Natural Resources: gold, silver, copper, tungsten, lead, zinc, timber, fish

Population: 4,812,569 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Nicaraguan(s) adjective: Nicaraguan

Ethnic Groups: mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 69%, white 17%, black 9%, Amerindian 5%

Religions: Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant

Languages: Spanish (official)

Economy: Nicaragua is one of the hemisphere's poorest countries, with low per capita income, flagging socio-economic indicators, and huge external debt. The country has made significant progress toward macro-economic stabilization over the past few years - even with the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in the fall of 1998. International aid, debt relief, and continued foreign investment have contributed to the stabilization process. GDP grew 6.3% in 1999, while inflation remained about 12%, and unemployment dropped. Nicaragua may qualify for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, though aid is conditioned on improving governability, the openness of government financial operations, poverty alleviation, and human rights.

Currency: 1 gold cordoba (C\$) = 100 centavos Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 16,382 km paved: 1,818 km unpaved: 14,564 km (1998 est.)

Waterways: 2,220 km, including 2 large lakes

Ports and Harbors: Bluefields, Corinto, El Bluff, Puerto Cabezas, Puerto Sandino, Rama, San Juan del Sur

Airports: 182 (1999 est.) **Airports - with paved runways:** total: 11 over 3,047 m: 1 2,438 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 914 to 1,523 m: 3 under 914 m: 3 (1999 est.)

Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 171 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 26 under 914 m: 144 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by nationals of the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, China (PR), Cuba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea (Rep of), Lebanon, Libya, Nepal, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Duty Free: 200 cigarettes or 500g of tobacco; 3 litres of alcoholic beverage; 1 large bottle or 3 small bottles of perfume or eau de cologne.

Health: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of all travelers over one year of age arriving from all countries: it is also recommended for all travelers leaving Niger. Malaria risk, predominantly in the malignant falciparum form, exists all year throughout the country. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

MANAGUA

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, MANAGUA, OCTAVA CALLE SUROESTE 101, MANAGUA., NICARAGUA, Hotel Reservations: 0870 400 9093, Hotel Front Desk: 505-2283530, Hotel Fax: 505-2283087, Email: managua@ihg.com, www.crowneplaza.co.uk

HILTON PRINCESS MANAGUA HOTEL, KM 4.5 Carretera a Masaya Managua, Nicaragua, Telephone: 00 505 255 5777, Fax: 00 505 270 5710, Email: reservations.managua@hilton.com, www.hilton.co.uk/managua

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HOTEL CAMINO REAL , Nicaragua - Managua, Nicaragua, C.A. - P.O. Box C-118, Sales (505) 255-5900 - Sales Fax (505) 263-1690 - Reservations (505) 255-5901, info@caminoreal.com.ni , www.caminoreal.com.ni

HOTEL EUROPEO.Phone: (505) 268-2130 / 31 • 268-4930 / 33 Fax: (505) 268-5999, Address: Del Canal 2, 75 vrs abajo Residencial Bolonia Managua-Nicaragua C. A., europo@ibw.com.ni www.hoteleuropeo.com.ni

INTERCONTINENTAL, REAL METROCENTRO MANAGUA, COSTADO SUR CENTRO COMERCIAL METROCENTRO CARRETERA MASAYA, MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, Hotel Front Desk: 505-2-784545 | Hotel Fax: 505-2-786300, www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hotel

THE BARCELÓ MONTELMAR BEACH RESORT AND CASINO, PO Box 1262 (Managua), Playa Montelmar Nicaragua, Phone no.: +505 2696769 Fax: +505 2696754 | E-mail: montelmar.beach@barcelo.com, www.barcelo.com

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

MNICARAGUA

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