



The Republic of Nicaragua (GMT - 6 hours)

Geographic Overview: Nicaragua is the largest Central American country and borders with Honduras and Costa Rica. The country's attractions include wild-life rich rainforests, volcanoes, beaches and colonial era architecture.

Area: 130,688 sq km; 50,446 sq miles

Capital City: Managua

Language: The official language is Spanish. Other languages spoken include English, Miskito, Creole, Mayanga, Garifuna, and Rama.

People: Mestizo (mixed European and indigenous) 69%, white 17%, black (mainly Jamaican origin) 9%, indigenous 5%

Religion: Roman Catholic 75%, Evangelical Protestants 15%

Currency: Gold Cordoba (NIO)

Major Political Parties: Liberal Constitutionalist Party (PLC); Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance-Conservative Party (ALN-PC), Sandinista Renovation Movement (MRS) Blue and White Faction of PLC

Government: The 1987 Sandinista-era constitution was changed in 1995 to provide for a more even distribution of power among the four branches of government. It was amended again in 2000 to increase the number of members of the Supreme Court and the Controller General's Office and to make changes to the electoral laws.

International Direct Dialling Codes

Nicaragua 00 505; Managua 00 505 2

Fixed Date National Holidays

1 January, 1 May, 19 July, 10 August (Managua), 14-15 September, 2 November, 25 December

Variable Date National Holidays

Easter Week

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Nicaragua Newspapers

<http://www.laprensa.com.ni> - La Prensa

<http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/> - El Nuevo Diario

<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/> - Confidencial

Nicaragua - other useful sites

<http://www.bcn.gob.ni> - Central Bank of Nicaragua

<http://www.inec.gob.ni/> - National Institute of Statistics and Census