

Nicaragua Adventure

Monday 24 February to Sunday 08 March 2020

The Booking process

Thank you for your interest in joining this trip. Please follow these steps to book your place:

Fully complete and submit the trip booking form.

- Each and every participant needs to complete a form.
- You will be asked to confirm you have read and understood the essential information given below during form completion.

Once you have submitted your booking form you will receive an email from us confirming we have your information. This email will include two links which you will need to follow to complete the booking process.

- The first link will take you to a payment page to pay the deposit for the trip.
- The second link will take you to a code of conduct form which every participant needs to accept.

Once we have received the details from your form, your deposit payment, and your acceptance of the code of conduct we will add your name to the list of trip participants.

Note that we only have 20 spaces available so please complete your form immediately to avoid disappointment.

We may contact you for further clarification in response to the information you give on your booking form.

Essential Information

How much does the trip cost?

- £1,600 per person

What is included in the price?

- Flights (on group flights booked by Amos Trust)
 - Accommodation (based on sharing a twin or double room)
 - Meals (there may be two or three lunches (allow around 10\$ per lunch) during free-time in the itinerary where you will need to buy your own lunch)
 - Group transport in Nicaragua
 - Local translators and tour guides
 - Entrance fees & donations to the organisations we visit
 - Tips to accommodation, translators, guides and drivers
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What is not included in the price?

- Travel to/from UK airport
- Personal travel insurance (you need to obtain your own.)
- ESTA visa for passage through US airport (see below)
- Inoculations (see below)
- Hot drinks (apart from with breakfast at the accommodation), all alcoholic and soft drinks
- Bottled water.

Can I have a single room?

Yes, at an additional cost of £300 to cover the single supplement charged by the accommodation providers.

What are the Group flight details (all times local)?

Outbound 24/02/2020

- American Airlines AA039 London Heathrow to Miami departs 10:35 arrives 15:35
- American Airlines AA993 Miami to Managua departs 18:03 arrives 19:50

Return 07-08/03/2020

- American Airlines AA928 Managua to Miami departs 13:53 arrives 17:40 on 07/03/2020
- American Airlines AA038 Miami to London Heathrow departs 19:40 on 07/03/2020 arrives 09:15 on 08/03/2020

Each passenger can bring one item of hold luggage weighing no more than 23kg plus one item of hand luggage. See <https://www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/baggage/baggage.jsp>

Can I arrange my own flights to arrive early, stay later or travel from/to a different airport?

Yes.

If you choose to do this:

- You need to confirm this on the booking form.
- The cost of joining the trip will be £900.
- We will confirm with you a date, time and location for you to meet the group.
- We cannot help you make any arrangements outside of the group itinerary and you will be responsible for all of your costs prior to joining and after leaving the group.

What is the time difference?

Nicaragua is 6 hours behind GMT in February/March.

What will the accommodation be like?

We will stay in comfortable tourist hotels for most of the trip, we will also stay with a local community for one night and also at the CEPANA training farm. This will be in much more basic accommodation. Towels are provided by the hotels. There will be an opportunity to go swimming so please bring your swimwear.

And the food?

- We will be eating in a wide variety of places, which will be recommended to us by our local partners. We will also share meals with the local communities we are spending time with.
- In Nicaragua the basic staples are rice and beans, we will also eat quite a lot of chicken and plenty of fresh fruit and veg.
- An upset stomach is not uncommon when travelling. You should reduce the chances of suffering one by thoroughly washing your hands and using anti-bacterial hand gel before and after meals.

Can I drink the water?

- It is essential that you stick to bottled water, which is widely available, at all times during the trip, even when cleaning your teeth.
- Don't have ice in drinks.
- It is important to avoid becoming dehydrated so make sure you have enough water to drink; we will make sure there are enough toilet stops when travelling.

Do I need any inoculations?

- You should make an appointment with your GP surgery 6 weeks prior to the trip for individual medical advice.
- A general overview of specific advice and requirements for Nicaragua can be found [here](#).
- We will let you know the areas we will be visiting in Nicaragua in good time for you to pass on this information to your GP.

Do I need a visa?

- British nationals can visit Nicaragua for up to 3 months without a visa. If you do not have a British passport, please check if you need a visa to enter Nicaragua.
- You will need to obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) as this is required for travel via the USA and we will be changing flights in Miami.
- You can apply online for an ESTA [here](#).
- The current cost is \$14.

What will the weather be like?

- Hot! It will be around 30 degrees C during the day and will only drop to the mid 20's at night.
- There will be a very, very tiny chance of rain, however, due to climate change, the weather in Nicaragua has become less predictable.
- Make sure you bring a hat and plenty of high factor sun screen. You should also bring insect repellent plus long sleeved shirts and long trousers/skirts to wear in the evenings to minimise insect bites.

What currency do I need to bring? And how much?

- The local currency is the Nicaraguan Cordoba although US dollars are also widely accepted.
- You will need to purchase your Cordoba in Nicaragua.
- You will need enough money to cover 2/3 lunches during the trip and your own beverages, alcohol and bottled water plus any souvenirs you wish to purchase.
- There are cash machines in Managua but be aware of conversion charges.

Will there be wifi?

Wifi probably won't be available during the trip.

Mobile phone usage

- Please check the costs of calls, texts and data usage in Nicaragua with your mobile phone provider before the trip.
- Ensure you know how to avoid unwanted roaming charges by adjusting your phone settings.

Will it be safe?

- The safety and wellbeing of our groups is always Amos Trust's number one priority. We have been taking groups to visit Nicaragua for almost 15 years and have built deep and trusting relationships with our local partners
- Our trips are hosted by our partner, CEPAD, a national church organisation based in Managua, who run community development projects in rural areas nationwide. CEPAD arrange all of the local logistics during our trips to Nicaragua.
- We are looked after by experienced and knowledgeable local guides who are mindful of safety, weather and road conditions. We keep the itinerary and day-to-day timetable flexible to allow for changing circumstances.
- We will take careful guidance from our local partners and the relevant [UK FCO travel advice](#) before proceeding with the trip.

How fit do I need to be?

- We aim to make our trips as inclusive as possible. The itinerary for this trip includes visiting projects in rural areas where buses are not able to drive, so there will be a fair amount of walking on stony, unmade roads.
- We would suggest you give us a call if you have concerns over your physical fitness to join the trip.

Shall I bring gifts?

Do not bring gifts. The reasoning for this is that it isn't fair if some get and some don't. We've seen gifts given to some but not all provoke bullying and minor violence among children.

Climate Justice and flights

- We are keenly aware of the dilemma of campaigning for climate justice whilst flying groups of supporters around the world to visit our partners.
- Our [environmental impact statement](#) outlines our considered response to this dilemma and confirms our commitment to donate 5% of the total amount that Amos Trust spends on flights each year to our climate justice work in Nicaragua. This meets the bulk of our offsetting costs over the course of a year.
- [Myclimate.org](#) calculates the carbon cost of return flights from London Heathrow for this trip to be 3.3t of CO2 per person for the 17,500km round trip. The offset cost for this is approximately £70.
- The confirmation email you receive when you have submitted your booking form will contain a link to a payment page for you to make a donation towards the carbon offsetting costs of your flights.
 - A £35 donation would match Amos Trust's 5% donation.
 - A £70 donation would fully offset the carbon for your flights.

Consent for photography/filming

Amos Trust is a creative organisation and we love telling stories. One of the ways we do this is through photography and film. There may be an 'official' Amos photographer and/or filmmaker on your trip to help us 'tell the story', so that we can share it with other Amos supporters and new audiences across Amos' print and digital media, including print publications (such as our 'Words of Hope' newspaper), websites, e-marketing, posters, banners, advertising, film, and social media channels.

By confirming that you have read and understood the essential information for this trip:

- You consent to Amos Trust using photographs and/or video recordings, including images of you, to promote our work.
- You understand that images on websites can be viewed throughout the world and not just in the United Kingdom and that some overseas countries may not provide the same level of protection to the rights of individuals as EU/UK legislation provides.
- You understand that some images or recordings may be kept permanently once they are published and be kept as an archive of Amos Trust.

Your rights

If you feel uncomfortable being photographed or filmed while on your trip, please inform the photographer and/or filmmaker and they will happily stop photographing/filming you. If you prefer, simply ask your trip leader to ask the photographer and/or filmmaker on your behalf.

You can ask Amos Trust to stop using any images that you appear in at any time, in which case it will not be used in future publications but may continue to appear in publications already in circulation.

Payments

The due dates for making payments for the trip are as follows:

- Deposit of £600 per person – due on booking (follow the link on the booking form submission confirmation email to make the payment)
- Payment 1 of £500 per person – due by 11 October 2019
- Payment 2 of £500 per person – due by 13 December 2019
- Single supplement of £300 (if applicable) – due by 13 December 2019

Please make sure that your payments reach us on or before the due dates. We will send you email reminders beforehand with links to make payments online with a credit or debit card.

You can also pay by cheque (Payable to Amos Trust and posted to the address below) or phone the office (0207 5882638) during working hours to make a payment over the phone with a credit or debit card.

Cancellation

Cancellation by Amos Trust

If Amos Trust cancels the trip we will issue a full refund of all monies paid by all participants.

Cancellation by participant

If you need to cancel your place on the trip after your participation has been confirmed, please let us know as soon as possible.

Refunds:

- We purchase flights as early as possible to ensure availability and value. Your deposit payment is calculated to cover the average cost of a return flight to Nicaragua at the time of booking. It will not be refundable unless the total cost of the flight booked in your name is less than the deposit paid in which case Amos will refund the deposit paid less the actual flight cost.
- If you have paid your deposit plus one or more of the scheduled payments prior to cancelling your place you will be refunded the amount you have paid up to that date less the cost of your flight plus any other non-refundable expenditure Amos Trust has made.

Notes

- Amos will supply evidence of the amount paid for your flight and any other non-refundable expenditure.
- If Amos is able to fill the space on the trip made available by your cancellation, we may be able to further refund the amount you have paid less the amount charged by the airline to change the name on the flight reservation. We may also be able to obtain a refund for airport taxes due on your flight costs.