

Nicaragua

Information for applicants

Nicaragua

At 130,000 km², or roughly one and a half times the size of Austria, Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America. 2 million of the country's roughly 6.7 million inhabitants live in the metropolitan area of the capital, Managua. The capital itself has approx. 1 million citizens. Although economic development has been encouraging in recent years, Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Spanish is the official language.

Climate and sights

The country is located in the centre of the narrow land bridge between North and South America, and borders Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south.

Nicaragua is geographically divided into three regions, which have a roughly north-south orientation: the Pacific region, the central highlands and the Atlantic region.

The climate is tropical with two seasons, the rainy season (May to October) and the dry season (November to April). Temperatures stay between 25 and 35 degrees Celsius all-year round. The hottest months are March and April.

Nicaragua is in a seismically active zone, which means that earthquakes and volcanic activity can occur. That applies in particular in the capital Managua and the university city of León, which are regularly struck by earthquakes. The last major earthquake in 1972 almost destroyed Managua completely.

Medical care

The health care services often do not meet the same technical and hygienic standards as their German equivalents, especially in rural areas. Services in major cities are far better. Though there are many pharmacies that are open around the clock, there can still be some bottlenecks. If you are reliant on certain medication, you should take sufficient supplies with you to ensure you do not run out.

The costs of medical care and medication must generally be paid immediately on-site in cash or by credit card. A list of German doctors is available from the German Embassy.

Accommodation and quality of life

It is relatively easy to rent apartments or houses in Managua. Rents are between USD 700.00 and USD 1,500.00 and depend significantly on the location and features. Houses and apartments are often located in gated complexes with security, known as *condominios*.

Shops and services

A wide variety of goods is available in Managua and the major cities. There are very few conveniences available at home that you cannot get here.

Accompanying partners and children

Pursuant to the TC agreement, accompanying family members are entitled to receive a work permit from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same terms as national personnel.

Schools and childcare: Managua has a German school (*Colegio Alemán Nicaragüense*). In addition to a kindergarten (with its own swimming pool), it has a bilingual pre-school and prepares children in years 1-12 for the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the German International Baccalaureate (GIB) in addition to the national school qualifications. The school has roughly 720 students and 65 teachers. Classes are taught in German and Spanish.

Good to know

The power supply has a mains voltage of 110 V and a frequency of 60 Hz. We recommend that you use a UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) for sensitive equipment (laptops, hi-fi systems etc.) to compensate for voltage fluctuations and avoid damage. The sockets are based on the US standard (two flat contacts), so we recommend that you take adapters for German plugs with you.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/nicaragua-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/396.html>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Eschborn 2017

Responsible/Editor, etc.:
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