



Managua

POP 1,028,800 / ELEV 90M

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Best Places to Eat

- Doña Pilar (p52)
- Tercer Ojo (p52)
- La Casa de Los Nogueras (p53)

Best Places to Stay

- Managua Backpackers Inn (p51)
- Hotel Contempo (p51)
- Hotel Europeo (p50)

Why Go?

Managua is a shambles. It is chaotic and broken, poetic and mesmerizing, all at the same time.

And while most travelers are now skipping the city altogether – and arranging quick airport transfers from nearby Granada – stay a day or two and you will see that big, bad Managua ain't so bad after all, and that this truly is the heartstring that holds the nation's culture, commerce and conscious together.

Aside from diving into the whirl of a magnificent beehive of honking horns, sprawling markets, garbage and rancor, this low-rise city with its improbable trees, remarkable street art and spirited monuments also gives you easy access to nearby lagoons, nature reserves at Montebelli and Chocoyero-El Brujo, a smattering of fun beaches like Pochomil, and the hot springs at El Trapiche.

When to Go

September through April is the best time of year for bird-watching. It is also good for turtle tours at nearby beaches and wild encounters in the lagoons and natural attractions just outside the city.

December through April are the dry months. Coming around now makes plying the city's streets easier, market days drier and chance encounters just a little more pleasant. Hotels can be a bit pricey during this time and during Semana Santa, so book ahead.

The best festival days are for the annual Taxi Grand Prix, the last week in March, the Day of the Revolution on July 19 or the Festival of Santo Domingo, the first 10 days in August.

