SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travelers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-traveled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

Visit lonelyplanet.com/contact to submit your updates and suggestions or to ask for help. Our award-winning website also features inspirational travel stories, news and discussions.

Note: We may edit, reproduce and incorporate your comments in Lonely Planet products such as guidebooks, websites and digital products, so let us know if you don’t want your comments reproduced or your name acknowledged. For a copy of our privacy policy visit lonelyplanet.com/privacy.

OUR READERS

AUTHOR THANKS
Bridget Gleeson
Thank you to La Esperanza Granada for providing such a positive first impression of Nicaragua, and to all the local families I worked with there, years ago, for their kindness and patience as I learned Spanish. Thanks to the staff at Rosita's in San Juan del Sur for helping me out of a jam, and to all the travelers and Lonely Planet readers I met on the road – your advice and perspective helped me, and your enthusiasm for Nicaragua inspired me.

Alex Egerton
On the ground in Nicaragua, thanks go out to Juan Lasso, Rafi, Z, Edwin, Stijn, Floris Webers, Rupert Allen, Marjory, Juana Boyd, all the staff at Cuculmeca and Arjen; on the homefront, big thanks to Nicholas and Olga.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover photograph: Boats on San Juan harbour, San Juan del Sur. Matthew Micah Wright/Getty Images©
This 4th edition of Nicaragua was researched and written by Bridget Gleeson and Alex Egerton. The previous edition was written by Alex Egerton and Greg Benchwick, while the second edition was by Lucas Vidgen and Adam Skolnick. This guidebook was produced by the following:

**Destination Editor** Bailey Johnson  
**Product Editors** Kate Chapman, Paul Harding, Saralinda Turner  
**Senior Cartographer** Mark Griffiths  
**Assisting Cartographers** Rachel Imeson, Julie Sheridan  
**Book Designer** Mazzy Prinsep  
**Assisting Editors** Carly Hall, Victoria Harrison, Kellie Langdon, Ali Lemer, Jodie Martire, Anne Mulvaney  
**Cover Researcher** Naomi Parker  
**Thanks to** Joel Cotterell, Andi Jones, Catherine Naghten, Ellie Simpson
INDEX P-S

P
painting 278-9
Palacio de la Cultura y Biblioteca Nacional 43
Palo de Mayo
parks & gardens, see also national parks & reserves
Parque de la Paz 43
Parque Ecológico Municipal 162
Parque El Carmén 44-5
Parque Histórico Nacional Loma de Tiscapa 44
Parque Japonés 46
Parque Las Palmas 46
Parque Rubén Darío 142
Plaza de la Revolución 43
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Zapatero 100-1
Parque Nacional Volcán Masaya 72-3
Pearl Keys 11, 228-30, 11
Pearl Lagoon 224-7
Peñas Blancas 200-1
petroglyphs 262, 278,
Pearl Lagoon
Pearl Keys
Parque Nacional Volcán Masaya 72-3
Parque Nacional Archipiélago Zapatero 100-1
Parque Nacional Volcán Masaya 72-3
Pearl Keys 11, 228-30, 11
Pearl Lagoon 224-7
Peñas Blancas 200-1
petroglyphs 262, 278, see also archaeological sites
Piedra Colorada 215
pirates 83
planning-budgeting 17
business hours 17
calendar of events 22-3
first-time travelers 18-19
highlights 6-7, 6-7
internet resources 17
itineraries 24-31, 24, 26,
29, 32-3
Nicaragua basics 16-17
Nicaragua’s regions 36-8
packing 18
remote areas 30-1, 30-1
transport 17
travel seasons 16, 22-3
plants 283-6
Playa Aserradores 163-4
Playa El Coco 133
Playa Gigante 121-2
Playa Hermosa 133
Playa Jiquilillo 164
Playa Maderas 131, 15
Playa Marsella 130-1
Playa Ocotal 132
Playa Popoyo 13, 122-3, 13
Playa Remanso 132
Playa Santo Domingo 117-18
Plaza Tamarindo 132
Plaza de la Independencia 87
Plaza de la Revolución 43
Pochomil 60-1
poetry 22, 276
politics 260-1
Poneloya 153
Popoyo 13, 122-3, 13
population 261, 273
postal services 295-6
Potosí 166
Pozo El Salto 218
Prinzapolka 213
Procession of the Virgin of Carmen 125
public holidays 296
Puerto Cabezas 206-9, 207
Puerto Díaz 219
Puerto Salvador Allende 42
Puerto Sandino 154-5
Punta Jesús María 114
Q
quesillo 158
Quinn Hill 231
R
Raiti Pura 226
Rama Cay 221, 225
Rama people 257
Refugio de Vida Silvestre La Flor 12, 133-4, 12
Refugio de Vida Silvestre Los Guatuzos 251
Refugio de Vida Silvestre Río Escalante-Chacocente 124
religion 261, 275
Reserva Biológica Golfo de Fonseca 165
Reserva Biológica In-dio-Maí & the River Eastward 255-6
Reserva Ecológica La Maquina 79-80
Reserva Natural Cerro Datanlí-El Diablo 192
Reserva Natural Cerro El Arenal 199-200
Reserva Natural Chocoyero-El Brujo 62-3
Reserva Natural Delta del Estero Real 160
Reserva Natural Estero Padre Ramos 14, 164-5, 14
Reserva Natural Isla Juan Venado 154
Reserva Natural Kahka Creek 228
Reserva Natural Laguna de Apoyo 99-100
Reserva Natural Pilas-El Hoyo 156
Reserva Natural San Cristóbal-La Casita 156
Reserva Natural Telica-Rota 156
Reserva Natural Volcán Cosiguína 165-6
Reserva Natural Volcán Momotombo 155-6
Reserva Natural Volcan Yali 187
Reserva Privada El Quebracho 252
Reserva Privada Hato Nuevo 165
reserves, see national parks & reserves
rickshaws 302
Río Coco 212-13, 213, 26-7
Río Istiam 118
Río Medio Queso 251
Río Pispis 215
Río Piró 251
Río San Juan 11, 240-1, 251-8, 242-3
accommodations 240
climate 240
highlights 242-3, 242-3
history 241
tavel to/from 241
Río Wani 215
Río Waspuk 215
Río Wawa 228
Rivas 103, 106-7, 106
Rosita 215
Ruta de Café 191
S
safe travel 47, 234, 296
San Carlos 241-6, 242-3, 245
accommodations 240
climate 240
highlights 242-3, 242-3
history 241
tavel to/from 241
San Dionisio 216
San Fernando 184
San Jacinto 157
San Jerónimo 69
San Jorge 107
San José de los Remates 216
San José del Sur 115
San Juan de Bautista 23, 74
San Juan de Limay 176
San Juan de Nicaragua 257-8
San Juan de Oriente 75
San Juan del Sur 14, 124-30, 126-7, 15
San Lázaro 22, 68
San Marcos 78-9
San Miguelito 246-7
San Pedro 74
San Rafael del Norte 187-8
San Ramón 197-9
San Sebastián de Yali 187
San Silvestre Papa 74
Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) 260, 265-6
Sandino, Augusto César 51, 263
Sandino, Gregorio 51
Santa Ana 74
Santa Catalina de Alejandría 74
Santa Cruz 117-18
Santa Lucía 216
Santana 122
Santo Domingo de Guzmán 23
sculpture 278-9
Selva Negra 199
Semana Santa 22, 125, 146
Sendero El Trogón 249
Sisle 193
Sistema de Humedales de San Miguelito 246
Siuna 215
smoking 297
snorkeling, see diving & snorkeling
Somoto 180-2
Somoza, Anastasio García 264-5
Sontule 176
Southwestern Nicaragua 102-3, 106-34, 104-5
accommodations 102
climate 102
food 102
highlights 104-5, 104-5
history 103
tavel to/from 103
spas 87-9
sports 273, see also individual sports
surfing 14, 33-4, 144, 15
El Tránsito 155
Pacific beaches 120-34
Playa Aserradores 163-6
Playa Jiquilillo 164
Puerto Sandino 154-5
San Juan del Sur 124
San Juan del Sur area 130-3, 132-4
swimming 34
Isla de Ometepe 109

T
Tarpon Channel 231
taxi services 16, 296
television 297
Templo de El Sauce 157, 279
Termas Don Alfonso Nueva Segovia 185
Tertulia Leónesa 146
Territorio Rama-Kriol 225
time 16, 296
tipping 19, 295
toilet services 296
tola 121-3
tomb of Carlos Fonseca 43
tortillas 27
tourist information 296
tours
Isla de Ometepe 110-11
León 146
transportation 298-302
tavel around Nicaragua 299-302
tavel to/from Nicaragua 298-9
trekking, see hiking
tuks 302
turtles 12, 23, 35, 283, 285, 12
Pearl Keys 228-9
Refugio de Vida Silvestre La Flor 133-4
Refugio de Vida Silvestre Río Escalante-Chacocente 123-4
Reserva Natural Isla Juan Venado 154

V
vacations 296
Villa Sandino 219-20
Virgen de la Candelaria 74
Virgen de Rosario 171
Virgin of Guadalupe 179
Volcán Concepción 114, 115, 10
Volcán Maderas 118
Volcán Masaya 15, 72-3, 15
Volcán Momotombo 147
Volcán Pilas 156
Volcán Rota 156, 157
Volcán San Cristóbal 156
Volcán Telica 156
volcano boarding/surfing 13, 146, 156, 13
volcanoes 20, 155-7, 281-2
Cerro Agüero 156
Cerro Negro 13, 156, 13
El Chonco 156
El Hoyo 156
Loma Los Portillos 156
Moyotepe 156
Parque Nacional Volcán Masaya 72-3
Reserva Natural Pilas-El Hoyo 156
Reserva Natural Volcán Mombacho 97-8
Reserva Natural Volcán Momotombo 155-6
Volcán Concepción 114-5
Volcán Maderas 118
Volcán Masaya 15, 72-3, 15
Volcán Momotombo 147
Volcán Pilas 156
Volcán Rota 156, 157
Volcán San Cristóbal 156
Volcán Santa Clara 157
volunteering 297
Volcán Telica 156
Volcán Telica 156
Fundación Entre Volcanes 113
Isla de Ometepe 110
León 146
San Juan del Sur 125

Y
Yanque 193
Yellowtail 231
yoga 125, 170

Z
Zapotillo 250
zipling 125, 133, 200
walking tours
Granada 90, 90
León 144-5, 145
Waspam 212-13
waterfalls
Cascada La Luna 200
Cascada San Ramón 120
La Bujona 192
Pozo el Salto 218
Salto El Rosario 185
Salto Estanzuela 178
Wawa 210
weather 22-3
weights 297
White Holes 231
Wild Cane Key 229-30
wildlife 14, 35, 20-1, 175-7, 282-3, 14, see also birdwatching, howler monkeys, turtles
wildlife reserves, see national parks & reserves
women 275
women travelers 297
work 297

INDEX S-Z
Map Legend

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography
- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflats
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove