



# Caribbean Coast

## Includes ➔

Bilwi (Puerto Cabezas) .....	206
Miskito Keys .....	210
Waspám & the Río Coco .....	212
Managua-El Rama Road .....	213
El Rama .....	220
Bluefields .....	221
Pearl Lagoon .....	224
Around Pearl Lagoon ..	227
Pearl Keys .....	228
Corn Islands .....	230

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Habana Libre (p238)
- ➔ Casa Ulrich (p227)
- ➔ Desideri (p239)
- ➔ Sea Side Grill (p234)
- ➔ Restaurante Faramhi (p209)

## Best Beaches

- ➔ Long Bay (p231)
- ➔ Grape Key (p229)
- ➔ Monkey Point (p225)
- ➔ Otto Beach (p236)
- ➔ Maroon Key (p229)

## Why Go?

An overland ramble to Nicaragua's Caribbean coast would be the perfect terrain for an epic novel. Your settings would include wide, muddy rivers surrounded by thick jungle, a fascinating tropical port town and an expanse of mangrove-shrouded black water, home to more than a dozen ethnic fishing enclaves. And we haven't even got to the pristine offshore islands ringed by white sand with a turquoise trim.

Your cast will feature tough and insightful characters from English-speaking Creole towns and indigenous Miskito, Mayangna, Rama and Garifuna communities. And there will be plenty of action too, with scuba diving, epic treks through dense rainforest, beachcombing, and fishing in the mangroves.

But even the most skilled author would struggle to capture the essence of the region, a vibrant mix of indigenous, African and European cultures that you'll only really get a feel for if you check it out for yourself.

## When to Go

- ➔ From February to April visitors are greeted by clear skies and perfect beach weather, although you may be sharing your patch of paradise and accommodations prices tend to increase.
- ➔ The region's strong winds drop off significantly from March to April, bringing the best conditions for diving around the Corn Islands and snorkeling in the Pearl Keys.
- ➔ While technically in the middle of the wet season, during September and October the heavy rains ease off, prices are low and beaches are empty.
- ➔ For a high-energy full-color carnival experience, head to Maypole in Bluefields in May for a full month of partying, culminating in the colorful Carnival and Tuluululu.

## Caribbean Coast Highlights

- 1 Little Corn Island** (p235)  
Diving with hammerheads and stingrays in crystal-clear waters.
- 2 Pearl Lagoon** (p224)  
Experiencing true Caribbean food and culture in this laid-back town.
- 3 Pearl Keys** (p228)  
Chartering a speedboat to visit the luscious, snow-white islands and snorkeling with magnificent sea turtles.
- 4 Great Corn Island** (p231)  
Grooving to classic reggae while sipping a drink by the water's edge.

