



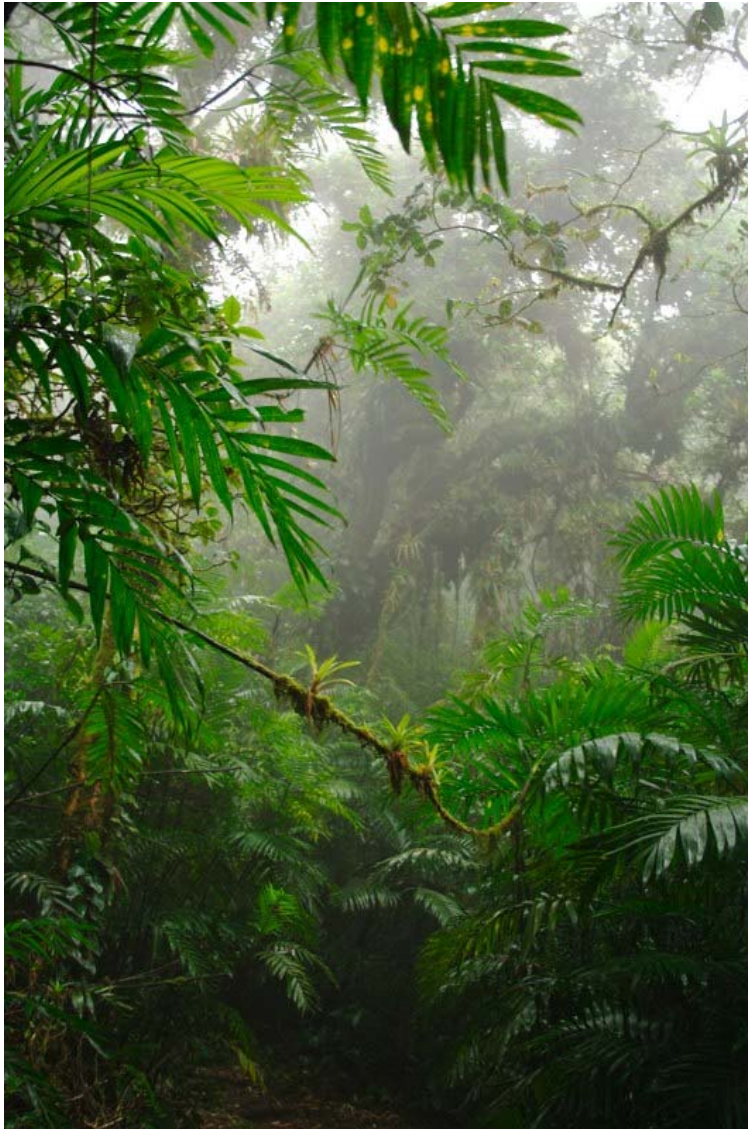
Dear FNPS Member,

*Thank you for choosing to travel with **Latin American Adventures LLC**. I want to personally welcome you to a world of flora and fauna in Nicaragua. The trip begins July 16, 2009. Please take care of any vaccinations and passport concerns as soon as possible. I will periodically send e-mails or phone you for any important information. The next several pages are your itinerary and some helpful travel information. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or comments.*

Sincerely,

Elston Raimundo Chavarria
Latin American Adventures LLC
www.latinamericanadventuresllc.com
raimundochavarria@yahoo.com
954-662-1539

**NICARAGUA:
Land of Lakes and Volcanoes**



**July 16 – 26, 2009
(2) day extension July 26-28, 2009**

**Tours by Latin American Adventures LLC.
Owner: Elston Raimundo Chavarria**

Florida Native Plant Society Itinerary Nicaragua – 10 Day (or 13 Day) Excursion

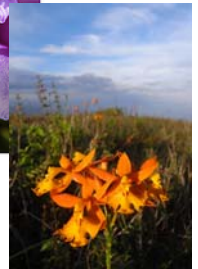
Trip Dates: July 16 –26, 2009 or July 16-28, 2009

Guides: 4 Guides

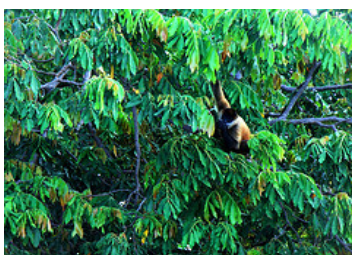
Degree of Difficulty: Moderate

Day 1, Thursday, July 16, 2009: Arrive in Managua and meet guide. Drive to Volcan Mombacho and visit Biological Research Station. *Stay overnight in Research Station.*

Day 2, Friday, July 17, 2009: VOLCAN MOMBACHO CLOUD FOREST & GRANADA – We will travel from the lowlands of Managua via a hike to the top of an ancient and dormant volcano nestled in the clouds. The air will be cool and misty, *Volcan Mombacho's Cloud Forest*, 850 meters above sea level, is protected as a nature reserve. Afterwards, we will visit Granada, the oldest city in the Americas. Full of bright colors, violent history, lake breezes, and horse-drawn carriages, this charming colonial city is complimented by the surrounding towns of Pueblos Blanco's, San Juan de Oriente, and Catarina, which are full of rich and colorful artisan markets. *Stay overnight in Granada.*



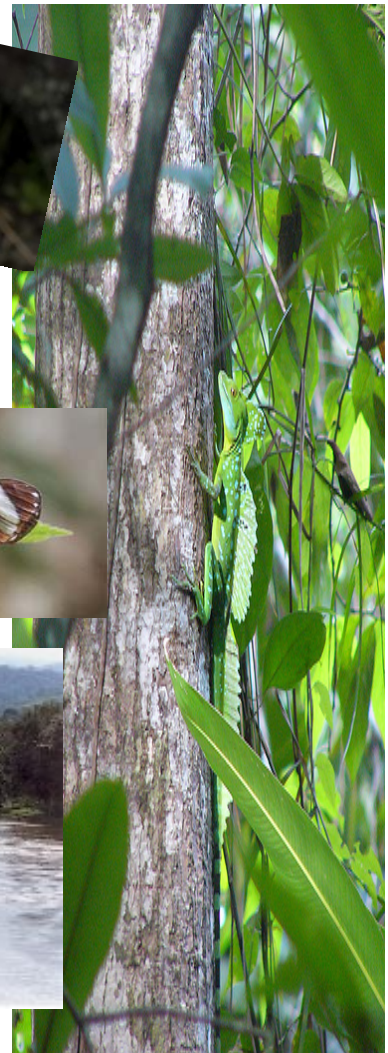
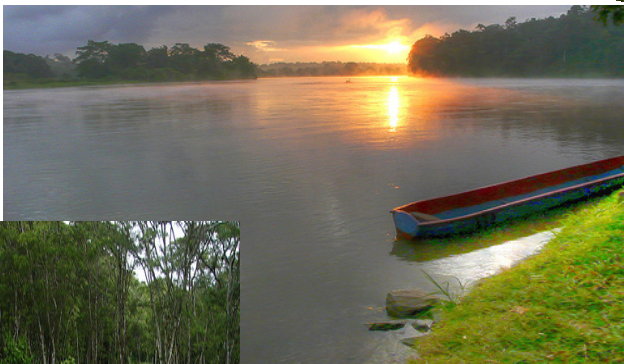
Day 3, Saturday, July 18, 2009: ISLA DE ZAPATERA. Take a boat ride followed by a full day hike up a dormant volcano in this 45 sq. km Island of Parque Nacional Archipelago Zapatera, designated to protect not only the remaining swaths of *virgin tropical dry forests and wet forests*, but also the unparalleled collection of petro glyphs and statues left here between 500 and 1500 years ago. *Stay overnight in Granada.*



Day 4, Sunday, July 19, 2009: DOMITILIA WILDLIFE RESERVE. Drive to southwestern Nicaragua to Domitilia Wildlife Reserve. Frequented by scientists and tourists alike, this eco-savvy private wildlife reserve, consists of 230 hectares of tropical dry forest and lakeshore. Experience a private wildlife reserve with tree nurseries, hiking trails, and tons of wildlife. **Stay in Granada.**



Day 5 to Day 6, Monday & Tuesday, July 20,21 2009: LOS GUATUZOS WILDLIFE PRESERVE Take short flight to San Carlos followed by a boat ride along Nicaragua's San Juan River and arrive to this protected area consisting of **tropical wetlands, rainforest, and wildlife refuge**. Los Guatuzos is the only internationally registered tropical wetland area in Nicaragua. Take an adventurous hike through this reserve replete with myriad species of animals. **Stay in Centro Ecologico de Los Guatuzos**



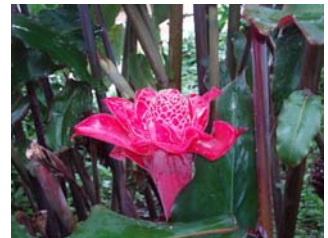
Day 7

to

Day 8 Wednesday & Thursday, July 22,23 2009: EL CASTILLO & GRAN RESERVA BIOLÓGICA RIO INDIO-MAIZ. Follow along the San Juan River and spend today exploring this Spanish fortress used to repel English pirates and continue downriver to nearly 264,000 hectares of *virgin rainforest*. This reserve is one of the last remaining areas in the Americas where you can experience virgin tropical rainforests as it was 200 years ago. **La Gran Reserva Biológica Rio Indio-Maiz** is part of



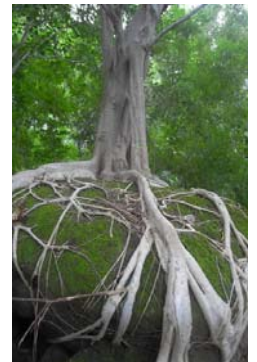
Unescos' San Juan River Biosphere, which contains one of the largest protected areas with a variety of ecosystems and great biodiversity at a level unmatched by any other the same size in Mesoamerica. This reserve acts as an excellent base for exploration as we take an unforgettable 4-6 hour hiking adventure deep into the heart of this virgin rainforest. **Stay in Refugio Bartola in Gran Reserva Biológica Rio Indio-Maiz**



Day 9 to Day 10 Friday & Saturday, July 24,25 2009: CATARINA AND LAGUNA DE APOYO. Fly back to Managua and get settled in Catarina, the perfect base to explore perhaps Nicaragua's' most beautiful pueblos. View the impressive panorama of **Catarina Mirador** and chose from optional activities like hiking, swimming, horseback riding in spectacular Laguna de Apoyo, an unspoiled



crater lake; or relax by viewing the lush plant nurseries and visiting shops of local artisans and basket-makers lining Catarinas' streets. Nicaragua's bluest and deepest swimming

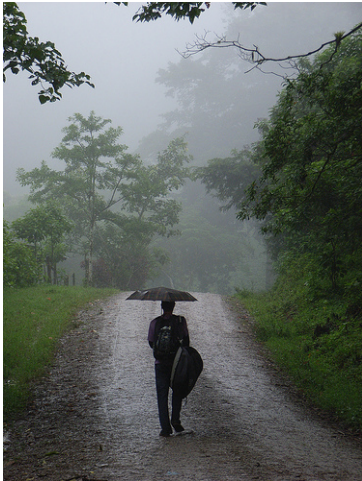


hole, **Laguna de Apoyo** is a water-filled crater lake stretched 48 square kilometers across the rim of Apoyo Volcano and surrounded by *tropical dry forests*. The deepest point (200 meters) is the lowest point in all Central America. **Stay overnight in Catarina.**

Day 11 Sunday, July 26, 2009: RETURN TO FLORIDA

Optional: 2 Day Extension of tour

Day 11 to Day 12 Sunday & Monday, July 26,27 2009: MIRAFLOR NATURE RESERVE. Drive north to the state of Jinotega and visit Nicaragua's version of Costa Rica's' Monteverde Cloud Forest, except better. Welcome to wildflowers galore. This reserve contains some of the most pristine and rustic **cloud forest** settings of Central America, as well as one the richest and most unexplored orchid viewing regions anywhere. **Stay overnight in Mirafior Nature Reserve.**



Day 13 Tuesday July 28, 2009: RETURN TO FLORIDA

LODGING



Accommodations are rustic and eco-friendly cabins, cabanas or hostels. On a few nights we will stay in unique places like the Biological Research Station which are primitive (mattress only) deep in natural ecological areas. Prices are based on double or greater occupancy. Passengers traveling alone will be paired-up with compatible roommates. Travelers requesting single accommodations, if available, will be charged \$100.

Refugio Bartola – Gran Reserva Biologica Rio Indio-Maiz

Hotel Refugio Bartola is truly a unique hotel at a unique place. Refugio Bartola is the name of a natural reserve that borders the large Indio Maiz Biological Reserve. These two reserves are separated by the Bartola river, and the flora and fauna is abundant and spectacular. Hotel Refugio Bartola is located on the Bartola Reserve, set on the banks of the impressive San Juan River.

In addition to providing a superb view of the river and the surrounding forest, the hotel also offers simple but very comfortable cabins. The spacious, well-maintained rooms make staying in this remote location a delight. The hotel provides a great place for visits to the Bartola reserve or to the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve. Scientific studies, both botanical and wildlife oriented have been conducted from this location. Well ventilated rooms have electricity, mosquito nets on the beds and private baths with lukewarm water. www.vianica.com/hotels179/refugio-bartola



Centro Ecologico de Los Gautuzos – Los Guatuzos Wildlife Preserve

The 438-square-kilometer strip between Nicaragua's southern border and Lake Cocibolca is a protected wetlands and wildlife reserve replete with myriad species of animals and inhabited by some 1,700 fishermen and subsistence farmers in 11 small communities. The locals are descendants of the Zapote and Guatuzo (or Maleku) peoples as well as the mestizos who arrived in the late 19th century to cultivate rubber. These same *huleros* reverted to the slave trade when the world rubber market crashed, selling Guatuzos for 50 pesos a head to the gold mines of Chontales. Today, only a handful of full-blooded Maleku exist, mostly over the border in Costa Rica.



In the 1930s, settlers introduced cacao to the region, which, because of the crop's need for shade, preserved much of the area's original forest canopy. When plummeting cacao prices and a deadly fungus wiped out the industry in the 1970s, hardwood logging ensued. Only military conflict in the 1980s stopped the logging, but it also drove nearly the entire population of Los Guatuzos into Costa Rica. When families returned in the early 1990s, the area's ecosystem was still largely intact, and the new government quickly acted to protect it from destruction. Today, residents count on the richness of their natural surroundings to attract visitors and scientists. No

fewer than 389 species of birds have been observed here, and between February and April, flocks of migratory species fly through in spectacular concentrations. Los Guatuzos contains dense populations of crocodiles, caimans, feral pigs, jaguars, and howler, white-faced, and spider monkeys. This is also home to a rare, ancient species of fish called the gaspar (*Actractoseus tropicus*), a living, armored relic of the Jurassic age that uses its snout and fangs to eat other fish, crabs, and even small turtles.

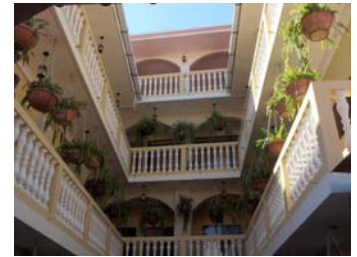
The research center and guest facilities are located 40 kilometers from San Carlos, up the Río Papaturro, which drains the slopes of Costa Rica's northern volcanoes. The narrow river's fauna-rich jungle gradually swallows you as you approach the community of Papaturro. Research station, nature center, and isolated backpacker's hideaway, the Centro Ecológico offers a full list of activities, including photo/bird-watching safaris, fishing trips, horseback rides through the woods, boat trips in the wetlands and lake, excursions to Solentiname, alligator night hikes, and tours of local villages. There is also an orchid display (92 species) and butterfly farm. Two to three large hostel type dormitory rooms have electricity, mosquito bed nets, shared bathrooms, fans and no hot water. www.fundar.org.ni/centroecologico



Hotel Casa Catarina



Casa Catarina was originally built in 1929 by the Arguello Guerrero Family as an old summer house, due to the pleasant weather in the town of Catarina. It was a typical one-story colonial house, with a patio in the middle and corridors surrounding it. The family would inhabit the house during the hottest months of the year, when life in Granada was most unpleasant; the rest of the year the house served as a mission post for priests and nuns, who would prepare both children and adults for



receiving the sacraments of the church.

Early in the year 1979, the house was taken over by Somoza's National Guard and was used as their headquarters. The toughest times of the war left its mark in the east wall of the house, where you can still see the bullet holes that give testimony of a fierce battle between the National Guard and the Sandinistas, who took the house in the middle of the year.



In 2004, the owners decided to remodel their now historic house into a hotel and a restaurant, keeping its colonial style as well as the typical hospitality that



characterizes Nicaraguan people. They set out to offer a new and exciting option for the thousands of tourists that flock to this little town, providing at the same time the best service possible.

The hotel opened its doors in December 2006. Rooms have electricity, hot water, air-conditioning, and private baths. www.hotelcasacatarina.com

Volcan Mombacho Biological Research Station

This is the extremely large volcano with the blown top that serves as the perfect exotic backdrop for your photos of Granada's cathedrals and tile roofs, and it is definitely worth a visit. Every bit mysterious and misty, Volcán Mombacho's cloud forest higher than 850 meters above sea level. The reserve is approximately 700 hectares large, rising to a peak elevation of 1,345 meters, and comprising an incredibly rich, concentrated island of flora and fauna. Thanks to the Fundación Cocibolca, the reserve is accessible and boasts the best-designed and maintained hiking trails in the Nicaragua.



Overgrown with hundreds of orchid and bromeliad species, tree ferns, and old-growth cloud and dwarf forests, Mombacho also boasts three species of monkeys, 168 observed birds (49 of which are migratory), 30 species of reptiles, 60 mammals (including at least one very secretive big cat), and 10 amphibians. The flanks of the volcano, 21 percent of which remains forested, are composed of privately owned coffee plantations and cattle ranches. Maintaining the forest canopy is another crucial objective of Fundación Cocibolca, since this is where more than 90 percent of Mombacho's 1,000 howler monkeys reside (the monkeys travel in 100 different troops, and venture into the actual reserve only to forage).



There is a short (half-hour) trail through the coffee farm at the bottom of the volcano, where you wait for your ride up. Once on top, there are two main trails to choose from. Sendero el Cráter, which



encircles the forest-lined crater, and features a moss-lined tunnel, several lookouts, and a spur trail to the fumaroles (holes in the ground venting hot sulfurous air). The fumaroles area is an open, grassy part of the volcano with blazing wildflowers and an incredible view of Granada and her Isletas. The whole loop, including the spur, is 1.5 kilometers, with a few ups and downs, and takes a casual hour to walk. The Sendero la Puma is considerably more challenging—it is a four-kilometer loop with several difficult climbs that lead to breathtaking viewpoints. It begins at a turnoff

from the fumaroles trail, and you should allow a minimum of three hours to complete it. Volcán Mombacho Biological Center located at the base of one of Mombacho's 14 communications antennas, on a small plateau called Plan de las Flores at 1,150 meters, the research station is also an interpretive center, *hospedaje*, *cafetín*, ranger station, and conference center. The center was completed in 2000 and is still growing. Room is large hostel-like dormitory with electricity, shared baths, fans, with hot water. Accommodations are primitive and include bunk beds and mattress-only beds. fcocibol@ibw.com.ni



Hotel Colonial - Granada

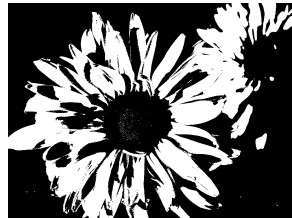
Located 27 miles (45 Km) from Managua on the north shore of Lake Nicaragua; the main highway from Managua to Granada is a very scenic route like most of them in the country. Once you arrive to this colonial city you have so many different attractions during the day as well as for the night that makes this unique city a must.



Founded in 1524 by the Spanish conqueror Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba it stands at the foot of Volcan Mombacho on the northwestern shores of Lake Nicaragua. Since then Granada was attacked three times by French and English Pirates, and in 1856 Granada was torched by the infamous American William Walker.

Today, Granada is still a prosperous port and community set amidst to an astonishing landscape. It offers a trip back in time with all its colonial structure as well as for its folkloric heritage. Rooms have air-conditioning, fans, hot water, electricity and private bathrooms. www.hotelcolonialgranada.com

TRIP COST



Cost:

Cost is \$2995/person. **Includes all lodging, all ground and air transportation to and from Nicaragua, as well as within the country. In addition, all meals and all activities are included (entrance fees to parks, reserves, preserves).** An additional \$395/person for those wishing to extend their stay for 2 days. **Does not include alcoholic beverages; telephone calls, e-mails or faxes, laundry or other personal items, or departure taxes.**

Deposit:

To make a reservation a **\$500** deposit is required per person with your registration form. The maximum number of attendees will be limited to **20** on a first come first serve basis. The due date for deposits is by **4/1/2009** with the remaining balance due by **4/15/2009**. *The Nicaragua 10-Day trip is \$2995/person, The trip and the addition of the (2) day excursion is \$3,390.00*

Cancellation Policy:

On or before 4/1/2009 = forfeit \$500 (Deposit); 4/1/2009 to 6/1/2009 = forfeit 50% of tour cost including deposit; 6/1/2009 to 7/16/2009 = forfeit 100% of tour cost including deposit.

NICARAGUA TRAVEL INFORMATION



Tipping:

Tipping is not required. However, it is customary to tip each guide whatever the customer feels is appropriate. Usually anywhere from \$10 - \$20 for each guide is good.

Passport Requirements:

All U.S citizens are required to have a valid and current passport. A visa is not required for U.S citizens; however, **a tourist card** must be purchased upon arrival and usually cost around **US \$5**. If you do not have a passport, go to www.travel.state.gov to file an application. The cost will be about \$100 and take about a month to process. Please get started on this now so as to not wait till the last minute.

Health Information for Travelers:

All travelers are recommended to have their vaccinations before departure. Specifically, routine vaccinations like, measles/mumps/rubella shots, diphtheria/tetanus shots, etc. Moreover, Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, Rabies and Malaria are recommended. Please refer to www.cdc.gov for more information.

Recommended gear and equipment:

Medium size travel pack or back pack	
Small Day pack	4 pair casual pants
Lightweight hiking shoes	3 pair of nylon quick-dry shorts
Medium insect repellent (30%-50% Deet)	3 long sleeved quick-dry shirts
Rain poncho	6 T-shirts or casual shirts
Lightweight blanket	12 pair underwear
Washable tennis, running or walking shoes	Lightweight jacket or windbreaker
Sandals	Sun hat or cap
Sweater/Thermal	Swimsuit
10 pair cotton socks	1 pair sunglasses
5 pair of cotton-polypropylene socks	Sun block, medications and toiletries.
4 pair of nylon, quick-dry field pants	*REI is highly recommended outdoor equipment that's available on-line at www.rei.com/

Meals and Airline Tix:

Airfare to and from Nicaragua is included as well as all meals. On occasions where the group will be in remote locations, such as hikes, a packed lunch will be provided.

The following reservations will be blocked out for FNPS through American Airlines. **Therefore, passengers are strongly encouraged to make their reservations for the tour asap in order to block out seats for the entire group. Keep in mind 1 piece of luggage is permitted per person plus 1 carry-on.**

Departure:

7/16/09 Flight #969 Miami to Managua, Nicaragua 1:10 pm – 1:45 pm Duration: 2hr 45min

Return:

7/26/09 Flight #986 Managua, Nicaragua to Miami 7:40 am – 12:15 pm Duration: 2hr 35min

Extra 2 days

Return:

7/28/09 Flight #986 Managua, Nicaragua to Miami 7:40am – 12:15 pm Duration: 2hr 45min

Departure Tax:

USA departure taxes are prepaid on your international airfare. However, the **Nicaraguan departure tax**, at this time is **US \$32 and must be paid in cash**. All taxes are subject to change.

Nicaraguan Currency and Money Concerns:

Currently the dollar is at 18 Cordobas. **Passengers are advised to exchange currency once at the airport at the currency exchange office to receive better rates.** For those who have not traveled much internationally, it is also advisable to carry different sources of money. For example, one major credit card, one debit card, US \$300 cash, \$5400 Cordobas (equivalent to US\$300), and maybe \$300 in travelers checks. All cash and travelers checks, as well as documents should be carried in a money belt, except for any cash on hand you.

Weather Conditions:

Dry season is officially from **November to April** and **Rainy season** is officially from **May to October**. However, **mid July** is considered a **mini-summer** during the rainy season. Precipitation will hover around 4" during this month, especially along the Rio San Juan. Keep in mind the Rio San Juan is a rainforest and virtually always gets rain no matter what time of the year.

Travelers Insurance:

Passengers are also recommended to carry travelers insurance for any medical issues that arise. World Nomads, (www.worldnomads.com) who is also Lonely Planet's provider is an excellent choice. The average cost/person is around \$60.

Travel Route



**Latin American Adventures LLC
Registration Form**

(to be mailed in with deposit payment, one passenger per registration form)

Passenger(s) country of residence:

Title (Mr./Mrs./Ms):

Last name (as in passport):

First name (as in passport) :

E-Mail (if applicable) :

Day time Telephone Number :

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Nationality:

Passport Number:

Passport Expiration Date:

Date of Birth:

Emergency Contact Name:

Emergency Contact Telephone Numbers:

Medical Notes:

Any specific meal needs?

Nicaragua Trip - Deposit Payment Due Dates:

Full Payment: \$2,995.00

Deposit due with Registration Form: \$500.00 - to reserve a place on the trip

Remainder of Payment: \$2,495.00 - **Due by April 15, 2009**

Passengers who chose the (2) day trip extension:

Full Payment: \$3390.00

Deposit due with Registration Form: \$500.00 - to reserve a place on the trip

Rest of Payment: \$2,890.00 - **Due by April 15, 2009**

Payment should be in the form of check or money order only.

Payable to: Latin American Adventures LLC

**Send to: Latin American Adventures
C/O Elston Chavarria
2526 NW 99th Ave.
Coral Springs, Fl. 33065**

***Upon receipt of your deposit an invoice will be sent showing your balance and due date.**

****Terms and Conditions****

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) and Latin American Adventures LLC and its associates are not responsible for loss due to theft, personal injury, negligence of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. Latin American Adventures LLC and its associates are not responsible for delays or changes in travel plans due to weather, natural events, or other unforeseen circumstances, or in Latin American Adventures LLC., responsible for medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Latin American Adventures LLC. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the tour. Cancellation fees per person are: **On or before 4/1/2009 = \$500 (Deposit), 4/1/2009 to 6/1/2009 = 50% of tour cost including deposit, 6/1/2009 to 7/16/2009 = 100% of tour cost including deposit.**

Passenger Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date: _____