



## Country Profile: Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a struggling democracy with a developing economy. On November 5, 2006, Sandinista leader Daniael Ortega won the Presidential elections after sixteen years in the opposition. Many foreign governments and relief organizations provide economic assistance to Nicaragua and numerous individuals (official and non-official) from the United States and the rest of the developed world work on community-based projects throughout the country. Violent crime has not been a historical problem, but the strength of criminal enterprises appears to be growing.

The national language is Spanish, although many residents of the Caribbean coastal areas also speak English and indigenous languages. The climate is hot and humid, with the "summer" dry season running mid-November through mid-May and the "winter" rainy season running from mid-May through mid-November. Terrain ranges from the hilly and volcanic to coastal beaches and tropical jungles.

Nicaragua lacks an extensive tourist infrastructure. Potential tourists may want to obtain information from INTUR, the governmental agency responsible for developing, regulating and promoting tourism in Nicaragua. INTUR's web site is <http://www.intur.gob.ni/> and offers some information in English. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Nicaragua for additional information.

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### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



<b>Country Name:</b>	Nicaragua
<b>Continent:</b>	Central America
<b>Capital City:</b>	Managua
<b>Boundary Countries:</b>	Costa Rica, Honduras.
<b>Recommended Hospitals in Capital:</b>	Clinica Medica Gutierrez Quant, Hospital Bautista, Hospital Monte España, Hospital Privado Salud Integral
<b>Main Cities:</b>	Managua, Granada, Chinandega, Leon, Matagalpa, Esteli, Bluefields
<b>Country Size:</b>	129,494 sq km
<b>Population:</b>	5,675,356

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### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Language:</b>	Spanish 97.5% (official), Miskito 1.7%, other 0.8% (1995 census) note: English and indigenous languages on Atlantic coast
<b>Currency:</b>	gold cordoba (NIO)
<b>Predominant Religions:</b>	Roman Catholic 72.9%, Evangelical 15.1%, Moravian 1.5%, Episcopal 0.1%, other 1.9%, none 8.5%
<b>National Holidays:</b>	Independence Day, 15 September (1821)
<b>Economic Status:</b>	Nicaragua has widespread underemployment and the third lowest per capita income in the Western Hemisphere. Distribution of income is one of the most unequal on the globe.
<b>Security:</b>	Army (includes Navy, Air Force)
<b>US Presence:</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy Managua</a> Kilometer 5.5 Carretera Sur Managua, Nicaragua Embassy Telephone: +(505) 2252-7100

<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 176, Airports w/paved runways: 11 Managua – Augusto C Sandino International Airport (MGA/MNMG) Managua Airport, Nicaragua, Aptdo 5179, Managua DN, NICARAGUA Managua Airport, Nicaragua, KM 11 Carretera Norte, Managua DN, NICARAGUA Tel: +505 (0)2 331624 Fax: +505 (0)2 631072 Website: <a href="http://www.eaai.com.ni">www.eaai.com.ni</a>
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