

Center for Global Education (CGE)
Travel Seminar Program Planning Checklist
Nicaragua

Mission of CGE:

The mission of the Center for Global Education (CGE) at Augsburg College is to provide cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place, leading to a more just and sustainable world.

Pedagogy of CGE:

The pedagogy of CGE is rooted in experiential education and Freirian theory. Our travel seminar programs are organized to give participants the opportunity to learn through experience, and then reflect upon and analyze these experiences. The basic principles of CGE educational philosophy include process (learning how to learn), community (learning in the context of community), content (engaging students holistically), critical analysis (reflecting), and action (encouraging students to be agents of change.)

CGE in Nicaragua

CGE has permanent staff, an office and guesthouse in Managua.

Programming at CGE Nicaragua:

In light of our mission, all travel seminars include the following components: country orientation, including history and economy; health, safety, and cross-cultural adaptation; analysis/reflection every 2-3 days; and re-entry discussion before returning home. Programming is planned to include dialogue with leaders at both government and grassroots levels, plus visits, activities and speakers based on your themes and goals.

Central America themes/topics:

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| ▪ globalization | ▪ U.S. relations | ▪ ecotourism |
| ▪ trade & Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) | ▪ poverty | ▪ education |
| ▪ women/gender issues | ▪ human rights | ▪ health |
| ▪ environment | ▪ fair trade | ▪ liberation theology, base Christian communities |
| ▪ sustainable development | ▪ migration | |

Additional, specific Nicaragua themes/topics:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ▪ Revolution and civil war | ▪ earthquakes, Hurricane Mitch |
| ▪ peace & reconciliation | ▪ foreign-owned factories (<i>maquilas</i>) |
| ▪ coffee industry | ▪ worker-owned cooperatives |

Program Planning

In order to help us to plan activities, visits and travel that support the goals of your travel seminar, please complete the following checklist with as much detail as possible. The map on the reverse side will help orient you to the geography of the region, and to the location of possible visits. Most groups plan for some time outside of Managua. Key cities and destinations are described on the last page. You will be working directly with our in-country on your program – we will provide you with the contact information.



Map No. 3932 Rev. 3 UNITED NATIONS
 May 2004

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
 Cartographic Section

Nicaragua Checklist:

All of our trips are customized to your interests. Visits are grouped by theme or topic area. Recommended visits for general interest trips are indicated with an asterisk (*). We recommend 2 visits per full program day. This is just a sample of the visits that can be arranged! **Check one or more circles** for the MAIN focus of your trip. **Mark any of the boxes** for your visits - 1 for a priority visit and 2 for a preferred visit. Please leave blank the visits that hold limited interest. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and let us know if you would like something not included here.

○ Agriculture, Sustainable Development

- Field trip to the countryside to experience life on a cooperative, visit private farms *
- Meet with the Association of Coffee Growers
- Meet with indigenous people's associations to discuss communal land issues
- Meet with environmental organizations

○ Education

- Visit to primary or secondary school
- Meet with teachers and unions *
- Visit NGO working on popular education
- Visit to a college or university
- Meet with NGO's and government entities working on children's rights
- Meet with university students

○ Globalization and Trade

- Discuss CAFTA with government officials and opposition grassroots movements
- Visit to a women's sewing cooperative
- Meet with representatives from World Bank, IMF
- Visit with unions and workers in Free Trade Zones
- Discuss debt and poverty reduction
- Discuss National Development Plan

○ Health

- Visit to a women's clinic *
- Visit to a hospital
- Meet with Federation of Health Workers Union
- Visit a nursing school
- Visit a maternity home
- Meet with non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS *

○ Human Rights

- Visit with groups involved in children's rights
- Visit with groups involved in indigenous rights
- Visit with groups involved in gay and lesbian rights

○ Politics

- Meet with leaders of the major political parties
- Visit the National Assembly
- Meet with local government authorities and judicial branches

○ Religion

- Attend church service
- Meet with Christian Base Communities
- Visit with faith-based NGO's working on development
- Discuss state-church relations and the role of hierarchy of the Catholic Church

○ U.S. – Nicaragua Relations

- Visit to the U.S. Embassy *
- Discussion with government officials
- Meet with a USAID Officer

○ Women's Issues

- Networks against violence
- Meet with reps from women's movements *
- Meet with peasant women's organizations
- Meet with reps of emerging women's organizations
- Meet with UNDP and learn about the situation of women in the country

○ Other Options

- Trip to the beach *
- Visit the crafts market in Masaya *
- Excursion to an active volcano
- Attend a baseball game (if in season)
- Experience folk music
- Homestays
- Language classes

Key Cities and Destinations:

- ◇ **Managua:** Capital of Nicaragua and home to the Center's guesthouse and learning center. Most government ministers, leaders of political parties and many social movements are located in Managua.
- ◇ **León:** Quiet provincial city, 90 km north of Managua. Country's premier academic institution, the National University. Largest cathedral in Central America, containing the tomb of Rubén Darío. Murals.
- ◇ **Matagalpa:** town near number of peasant-owned coffee cooperatives and coffee-growing associations for large landowners.
- ◇ **UCA Miraflores Cloudforest Reserve:** Community of peasant farmers engaged in organic agriculture, fair trade coffee projects and eco-tourism project. Possible to arrange overnight stays on the reserve. Near the city of **Estelí**, site of intense FSLN-Contra conflict in the 1980s.
- ◇ **Granada:** Large, colonial town and oldest city in Central America. Situated on Lake Cocibolca. Home to historical buildings, museums and the conservative party of Nicaragua.
- ◇ **Atlantic Coast:** Relevant destination for seminars based around environmental/land conservation themes as well as questions of ethnic diversity and the African Diaspora. Program opportunity includes river travel on open-air boats, conversations with Miskito and Creole community leaders and hikes through rain forest buffer zones. Internal flights generally required for Atlantic Coast programming.
- ◇ **Poneloya:** Most impressive beach in Nicaragua, 20 km west of Leon. A good place for group reflection and relaxation.