

Kaiyote Tours - 2011 Nicaragua Special

2011: February 15 – March 1

Special 15 day tour

\$2150 per person based on double occupancy

\$2650 per single

Rates are:

Inclusive: One round trip domestic flight, domestic transfers, lodging, breakfast, lunch, dinner, group tours, entrance fees & Access America Deluxe travel health insurance.

Exclusive: International airfare, customs & immigration fees and visas, alcohol, personal expenses such as souvenirs and expenses relating to personal choices during free time, tips for guides.

Day 1: Managua (fly day)

Arrival in Managua; we will try and coordinate our flights to arrive in Managua together. Flights usually arrive in the evening, so we will head directly to Las Mercedes Hotel for a relaxing evening among the pools and gardens.

Day 2: Rio San Juan (travel day)

We will wake early and take a flight (1 hour) to San Carlos, which is a small town on the southeast corner of Lake Nicaragua and the start of the Rio San Juan. From there we catch a boat for a 2 hour ride down river. We will see a lot of birds and monkeys along the way. We will be staying at Sabalos Jungle Lodge.

Day 3: Rio San Juan (birding & adventure day)

The Sabalos Lodge is a sweet place; completely surrounded by nature with cabins directly overlooking the river. There are good walking paths for exploring the area and the neighboring village. There are kayaks at the Sabalos for exploring the rivers and plenty of hammocks. The trees are usually full of monkeys. They will sing you to sleep at night.

Day 4: Rio San Juan (birding & adventure day)

Day trip down river (1 hour) to visit El Castillo with its historic Spanish fort and just past there, Refugio Bartola & Indio-Maiz Preserve. This area is pristine and still very wild!!

Day 5: Managua (travel & leisure day)

An afternoon plane ride back to Managua for some relaxing and birding by the pools and gardens at Las Mercedes Hotel. The hotel is lush with tropical plants and is a great place to watch birds. There are also two nice pools for swimming.

Day 6: Matagalpa (travel & birding day)

It is a 3.5 hour bus ride to Matagalpa and then a 20 minute taxi ride to Selva Negra Lodge. Matagalpa is the coffee region of Nicaragua.

Day 7: Matagalpa (birding & adventure day)

There are numerous choices for activities in this area; hiking, birding, horseback riding, coffee plantation tours or just chillin' by the pond. You can also take a taxi back into Matagalpa to check out the city.

Day 8: Jinotega (travel & birding day)

Just north of Matagalpa is the town of Jinotega. Jinotega is at the edge of some of Nicaragua's most beautiful misty cloud forest mountains. We will be staying at the Jaguar Reserve. It is a 1 hour bus ride and a 1 hour shuttle ride from Matagalpa to the reserve. The Jaguar Reserve is located 4500 feet up in the Isabelia Mountain Range. It is a beautiful place to just to hang out and wonder the trails and dirt roads.

Day 9: Jinotega (birding & adventure day)

A day spent hiking and exploring the trails. 230 different species of birds have been identified here at the Jaguar Reserve.

Day 10: Jinotega (birding & adventure day)

A day trip to Apanas Lake and a pine-oak forest for birding and exploring.

Day 11: Granada (travel, culture & shopping day)

An early morning two hour bus ride will get us back to Managua. Then it is a one hour shuttle ride to Granada. Granada is a beautiful colonial city. It is one of the oldest cities in the Americas having been established in 1524. Granada has great historic buildings, great food and shopping. We will be staying at the historic and wonderful La Gran Francia Hotel, which is one of the original buildings in Granada built in 1524.

Day 12: Las Piñatas (travel & leisure day)

A 1 hour shuttle ride back to Managua's UCA terminal to catch another 1.5 hour shuttle that takes us to Leon. Then a 20 minute taxi ride will find us on the beautiful Pacific coast and beaches of Las Piñatas. We will be staying at the Hotel de Playa Barca de Oro.

Day 13: Las Piñatas (birding & adventure day)

Just across the small inlet from our hotel there is a wonderful mangrove swamp and when the tide goes out there are lots of birds and critters to see. Maybe a good day to walk the beach or maybe learn how to surf!!

Day 14: Managua (travel & leisure day)

An afternoon shuttle and taxi will take us back to Managua and at Las Mercedes we will spend our day relaxing among the gardens.

Day 15: Fly Home (tears & smile day)

Flights usually leave in the morning, so getting to the airport and getting home is our only activity for the day.

Please note: The lodging described in this itinerary is always our first choice based on availability. If we must book with our second choice, the lodging type and style is comparable.

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