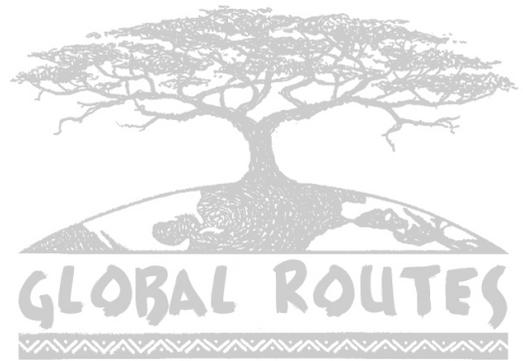


NICARAGUA

AGRICULTURA Y SERVICIO



Global Routes is excited to partner with Equal Exchange and Project WOO (Wave of Optimism), among other partners, for this new program combining adventure, service, farming and public health.

The program will include extensive travel around Nicaragua's lush landscapes; from the Northern coffee and tobacco highlands to the tropical dry coastal climate of the Pacific Southwest. Get to know your group a high-altitude lake, where you will learn about a sustainable coffee farming initiative and practice your Spanish. From there, travel south to Gigante, home base for Project WOO's community development work. While living in the host community, volunteer alongside Project WOO, engaging in their work with a focus on public health issues: learn about their health clinic, healthy gardening and surfing programs. This will also be an opportunity to fully immerse yourself in Spanish language learning, as you spend time with your host community conversing and learning about local life. At the end of the you will have the opportunity to explore la Isla de Ometepe, a unique island formed by two volcanoes rising from Lake Nicaragua. Here, join forces with the volunteer sustainable farming initiative at Project Bonafide. Enjoy some down time with your group on the water and hiking through new landscapes, including a banana plantation! This program will give you a unique look at where our food comes from and you will meet the farmers and their communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Master Spanish as you work alongside Project WOO and other great organizations engaging in programs to promote healthy lifestyles.

Explore Nicaragua's beautiful landscape from lush highlands to volcanoes rising from Lake Nicaragua.

Develop a deeper understanding of sustainable agriculture and the impact it makes on the lives of people making their livelihoods farming and working the land.

Relax, swim and take surfing lessons in the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean.



NICARAGUA DETAILED ITINERARY

IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION

Spend your first few days in Nicaragua exploring the Apanas Lake region in the north. At 3,000 feet elevation and surrounded by mountains twice as high, Apanas Lake is the greenest area of Nicaragua and the perfect location to grow one of the countries main exports: coffee. Learn about organic and sustainable agriculture that is protecting this important ecosystem by working side by side with your new friends and local farmers. Visit coffee farms and other sustainable agriculture organizations and support local organizations and their communities. Pick your own mango, avocado, banana, papaya, and coconut from organic orchards, hike local trails, and explore everything this lush corner of Nicaragua has to offer.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

For the next two weeks you reside in the small traditional fishing village near Gigante, home of our partner organization Project Woo. In this remote fishing village, you will work side by side with Project WOO and other affiliated organizations on the construction of a community health clinic, and/or other projects serving hundreds of families and promoting sustainable development. Live with community leaders as you construct an additional schoolroom at the local elementary school, design and create a mural with local students, expand the school garden, and teach English classes while you improve your Spanish. Take surfing lessons and learn traditional games from your host community friends as you become part of your new community. Share in the joy of daily life and know you are a valued member of your new community.

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

You depart your village after a big farewell celebration, and continue on to the lakeside town of Nicaragua. Explore Nicaragua's archipelago of more than 300 islands, explore local markets, and visit the local community center as you continue to expand your knowledge of sustainable community development. Travel on to Isla de Ometepe, where you will hike over volcanoes, pass through the cloud forest on your way to the crater lake, and kayak on Lake Nicaragua. Visit banana plantations, local waterfalls and hot springs, as you debrief with your group on all you have learned during your four weeks in Nicaragua.

THE BASICS

Dates: TBD.

Starting/Ending Point: Managua, Nicaragua

Program fee: TBD, depending on group size.