



Corinto

Photo: Mark Harpur/Unsplash

A small but bustling tropical town blessed by the refreshing waves of the vast Pacific: Corinto is a gateway to a treasure trove of rich natural reserves, mighty volcanoes, fertile lands and centuries of colourful traditions, which are only the beginning of what awaits you in northwestern Nicaragua.



Intricate Explorer/Unsplash



ROBERTO ZUNIGA/Pexels



roberto zuniga/Unsplash

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Isla El Cardón
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Playa Corinto
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Railway of Corinto
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Mercado Municipal
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Cathedral of León
Also known as the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, th...



CORINTO



Kelly Sikkema/Unsplash

Corinto is located on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, in the province of Chinandega. Founded in the 19th century, it was a small town of great importance from the beginning thanks to its favourable geographical position.

Like the rest of the country, Corinto over the centuries was shaped by a rather tumultuous history involving the Spanish conquest, a brief occupation by the British, and a series of wars and revolutions in the 20th century. This has also contributed to the development of different forms of artistic expression, including primitivista paintings and the UNESCO-protected Güegüense.

However, nothing shapes life more in Nicaragua than ubiquitous rainforests, volcanoes — a total of 19 — and vast bodies of water, giving the country the nickname "the land of lakes and volcanoes." Fortunately for visitors to Corinto, the town is a great base for exploring some of the country's most stunning landmarks.

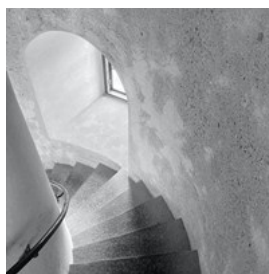
DO & SEE



Mark Harpur/Unsplash

Corinto may have a modest selection of sights compared to the larger cities of Chinandega and León, but it is nonetheless a great place to spend a pleasant day. Wander the streets as you explore interesting local stories, or enjoy some beach time with flavourful seafood and spectacular sunsets.

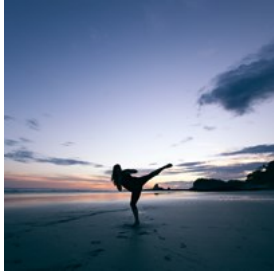
Isla El Cardón



With a length of just under a mile, El Cardón is a small rocky island off the coast of Corinto. It was once the home of Rubén Darío, Nicaraguan poet whose poems do not lack depictions of this small paradise. Today, the only sign of man is the iconic white lighthouse, so anyone visiting by boat will mostly encounter unspoilt nature, with the backdrop of crashing waves and squawking seagulls.

Photo: Lexi Schupbach/Unsplash

Playa Corinto

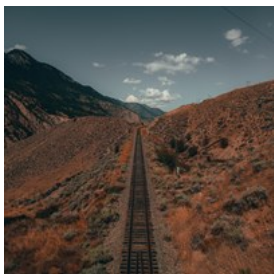


Stretching for several miles, Corinto's sandy beach provides ample space for riding the waves of the Pacific, or wading through the water

as you look for the best sunset-watching spot. There are several bars, restaurants and shops along the beach to attend to your needs.

Photo: Jason Briscoe/Unsplash

Railway of Corinto



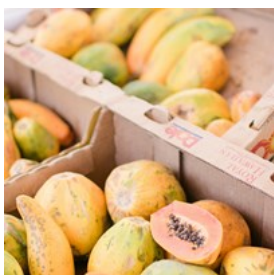
In the 19th century, Corinto was a central element in the first projects by the Nicaraguan government to construct rail lines in the country. As a result, León and Corinto were among the first cities connected by rail, with the port as the terminus of the line. In today's Corinto, a well-kept locomotive bears witness to that era, standing adjacent to the Museo Municipal, where further relics are on display.

Photo: Pietro De Grandi/Unsplash

Address: North of Parque Central, Corinto

Phone: +505 342 2383

Mercado Municipal



With such close proximity to the ocean and fertile tropical farms, you'll find some of Nicaragua's real treasures along the stalls of this market. It is also a great place to mingle with locals and get a true glance at local daily life.

Photo: Marissa Rodriguez/Unsplash

Address: Avenida Central, Corinto

CHINANDEGA & LEÓN



Tim Foster/Unsplash

With colourful patches of nature reserves, regularly smoking volcanoes and shores washed by the Pacific, northwestern Nicaragua is a place unlike anything else, boasting not only lush nature but also interesting stories of history and culture.

Cathedral of León



Also known as the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this eclectic cathedral is one of the most notable

attractions in Nicaragua, which bears the influence of several nations and architectural styles. Built in the 18th and 19th centuries, it is the largest cathedral in Central America, where you can admire not only various works of art but also stunning views of the city of León.

Photo: Jose Bárcenas/Unsplash

Address: Next to Parque Central on Calle Rubén Darío

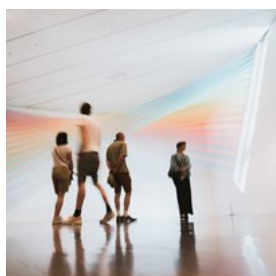
Cerro Negro



Standing 24 kilometres (15 miles) from the city of León, Cerro Negro is one of Nicaragua's youngest volcanoes. It appeared in the 1850s and is only 728 metres (2,388 feet) high, which makes it a popular choice for moderate hikes. And when it comes to the way back, why not slide down on a sandboard while cutting through the fine, black dust of this outlandish terrain — you won't be alone.

Photo: Ubu Komarova/Unsplash

Fundación Ortiz-Gurdián



A well-frequented cultural centre with an extensive selection of artworks, made by local and foreign artists — including Picasso and Andy Warhol — who created in a wide range of styles and periods. Along with its courtyards, the building complex is also a fine example of Leonese architecture from the 18th century.

Photo: ian dooley/Unsplash

Address: Avenida 3 Poniente, León

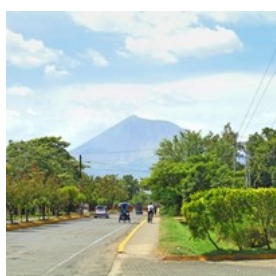
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-5pm

Phone: +505 2264 1178

Internet: fundacionortizgurdián.org

Email: cultura@fundacionortizgurdián.org

San Cristóbal Volcano



San Cristóbal is Nicaragua's highest volcano, rising to 1,745 metres (5,725 feet) as part of a volcanic complex. Although still active today, it serves as an exciting destination

for a range of popular activities. Organized tours are usually available from León and Chinandega, allowing you to explore the nature reserve in the comfort of a vehicle or during a strenuous but all the more rewarding hike.

Photo: [jus431/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:jus431)(image cropped)

Address: Reserva Natural Complejo Volcánico Cristóbal Casita

Flor de Caña Rum Distillery



Operational since the late 19th century, the first distillery of Nicaragua's award-winning rum brand is located in Chichigalpa, at the foot of the mighty San Cristóbal volcano. There are a variety of tours available to guide visitors through the secrets of rum production, which also include some tasting as an essential part of the experience.

Photo: Liz Weddon/Unsplash

Address: Chichigalpa

Phone: +505 8966 8200

Internet: www.tourflordecana.com

Email: tour@flordecana.com

Finca Emma Banana Plantation



A little over 32 kilometres (20 miles) from the port of Corinto is one of the world's largest banana plantations, covering 300 hectares (741 acres) of land. Organized tours are available, where visitors can get a glimpse into the secrets of banana and plantain production. They usually also include a visit to Hacienda San Jerónimo, a famous sugar plantation from the colonial era.

Photo: Photo by Arminas Raudys/Pexels

Address: San Jerónimo

Chorotega-Nicarao Archeological Museum



A small but well-endowed museum in the eastern part of Chinandega, with a remarkable selection of pre-Columbian artefacts.

Due to its location in a residential area, it is also a good place to observe everyday life in a city whose history began well before the arrival of the Spanish.

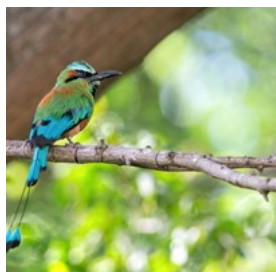
Photo: Elissa Capelle Vaughn/Public Domain Pictures

Address: 2 Calle Norte, Chinandega

Phone: +505 2341 4291

More Info: Information and guides are available only in Spanish, so those not speaking the language are advised to visit with a tour guide.

Birdwatching



In a country which is home to over 700 species of birds — including the national bird, the turquoise-browed motmot — and natural reserves

covering 20% of its land, birdwatching is an activity of ever-growing in popularity. In the northwest, León is generally a popular base for such trips due to its proximity to areas such as the Isla Juan Venado Natural Reserve and the Volcan Telica Rota Natural Reserve.

Photo: roberto zuniga/Unsplash

Internet: theculturetrip.com/central-america/nicaragua/articles/the-best-birdwatching-spots-in-nicaragua-and-where-to-find-them

RESTAURANTS



C T Johansson/CC BY 3.0/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

The Pacific coast provides a great base for delicious seafood in Nicaragua, but when visiting local restaurants it's worth keeping an open mind for other specialties — gallo pinto is only the beginning.

Restaurante El Espigón



El Espigón is a thatched-roof restaurant with the atmosphere of nearby beaches and a wide selection of seafood dishes. The menu usually

features seafood cocktails, lobster, ceviche but also chicken strips and steak, all richly garnished with vegetables. Beyond the seafood, El Espigón attracts crowds with its waterfront location and very good sunset potential.

Photo: Jele Boscan/Pxhere

Address: Corinto

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 11am-8pm, Sun & Mon 9am-8pm

Phone: +505 8880 7225

Internet: www.instagram.com/restaurante_el_espigon

Restaurante Costa Azul



Located on the southern tip of Isla Corinto, Costa Azul stands out with its stunning views of the sea including the silhouette of Isla del Cardón. It has tables on a gazebo-style terrace, which provides an elegant setting to enjoy great seafood, from sopa de pescado to grilled dishes like as lobster with tostones.

Photo: Clint Bustrillos/Unsplash

Address: Corinto

Opening hours: Mon & Wed-Sun 10am-7pm; Tue closed

Phone: +505 2342 2888

Restaurante El Español



A popular seafood restaurant located only a 10-minute drive away from the cruise port, in the municipality of Paso Caballos. The place is easy to overlook when on the way to the heart of Nicaragua, but it's worth the stop. El Español serves sizeable and fresh fish-based meals, and lies by the foot of a bridge crossing a spectacular estuary.

Photo: Patrik Kay/Unsplash

Address: Paso Caballos

Opening hours: Daily 11am-8.30pm

Phone: +505 8887 7740

El Nogal Restaurante & Buffet



An elegant but affordable steak house in the heart of Chinandega, with a wide choice of grilled beef as well as fresh seafood dishes, and a variety of platters available for larger groups.

Photo: Vladimir Gladkov/Unsplash

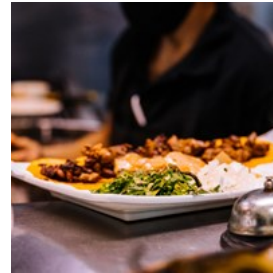
Address: 4 Calle Sur, Chinandega

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 7am-10pm, Fri & Sat

7am-10:30pm, Sun 8am-10pm

Phone: +505 2346 8918

El Bodegón



A laid-back restaurant with great vibes in the heart of León, El Bodegón offers brunches, concerts, happy hours and generous portions of colourful Central American dishes.

Photo: Jeswin Thomas/Unsplash

Address: Just north of Parque Rubén Darío, León

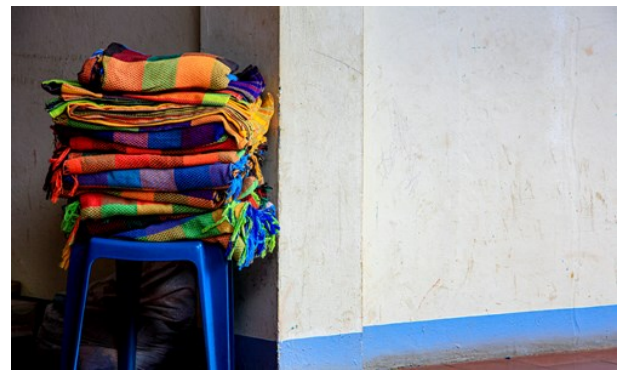
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 1pm-10pm, Sat 1pm-11pm, Sun

1:30pm-10pm

Phone: +505 7530 9788

Internet: www.instagram.com/elbodegonleon

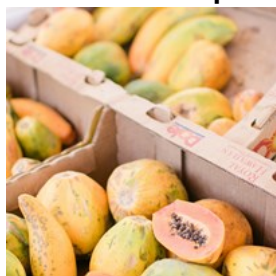
SHOPPING



Wilhelm Gunkel/Unsplash

From rums to hammocks, Nicaragua is a haven for collectors of good-quality products — and the famous local hospitality ensures that your treasure hunt is also a great social experience.

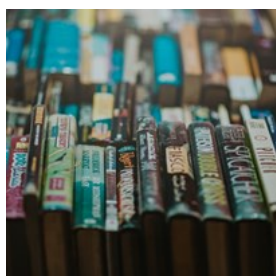
Mercado Municipal



With such close proximity to the ocean and fertile tropical farms, you'll find some of Nicaragua's real treasures along the stalls of this market. It is also a great place to mingle with locals and get a true glance at local daily life.

Photo: Marissa Rodriguez/Unsplash
Address: Avenida Central, Corinto

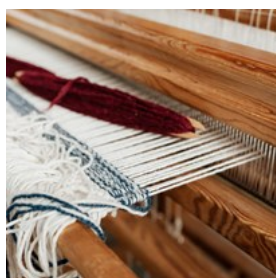
Búho Books



A cosy bookstore in León with a wide selection of old and new books in multiple languages — a must-visit place not only for avid readers but also for those who are looking for souvenirs beyond the magnet-postcard axis. In addition, it is only a few minutes' walk from the museum dedicated to the nation's poet, Rubén Darío.

Photo: Min An/Pexels
Address: Calle de Rubén Darío, León
Opening hours: Tue & Thu-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun, Mon & Wed closed
Phone: +505 2311 3306
Internet: buhobooksblogg.blogspot.com

Telares La Fé — Artesanía de León



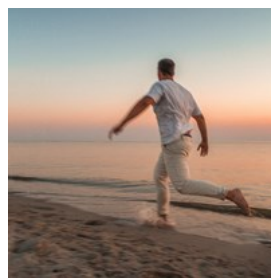
Just a quick drive from León's lively centre, you'll find Telares La Fé, a family-run weaving business dedicated to crafting eco-friendly and traditional textiles. As you browse, witness the captivating process of coloured threads being woven into striking rugs, bags and more. From robust blankets to elegant table runners and

placemats — there's a variety to suit everyone.

Venture to this charming workshop and appreciate the personal touch the artisans bring, explaining patterns and guiding you through the array of handmade products. By shopping here, you'll not only find a memorable keepsake from Nicaragua, but also support a local, women-led co-op that has earned high praise from both travellers and guidebooks.

Photo: Karolina Grabowska/Pexels
Address: 1ra Avenida NE, 6.5 blocks north from Parroquia la Recoleccion, León
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-noon / 1pm-5pm; Sun closed
Phone: +505 8724 1601

Artesanias Amanda



A quaint little souvenir shop in the heart of Chinandega with a decent collection of Nicaraguan souvenirs, such as clothes, bags, drinks and ceramics, inspired by the country's unique landscape and traditions.

Photo: Iurii Laimin/Pexels
Address: 4 Avenida Este, Chinandega
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun closed
Phone: +505 2341 0135

TOURIST INFORMATION



Tobias Tullius/Unsplash

Best Time to Visit



The dry season in Nicaragua runs from November to May. This time of year is preferred by most tourists over the wet season that follows, especially if your itinerary includes hiking and visiting volcanos. From June to October, the crowds are usually smaller and occasional downpours do not mean that your stay will not be enjoyable.

Photo: CC0/PxHere

Passport & Visa



All visitors to Nicaragua must hold a passport valid for at least six months. Generally speaking, citizens of countries in the Global North and Latin America can visit Nicaragua visa-free. Holders of passports of from 91 jurisdictions can visit Nicaragua without a visa for up to 90 days, provided they show proof of sufficient funds to cover their stay and documents required for next destination.

Citizens of 74 more countries and territories can visit Nicaragua by obtaining a visa on arrival. Passport holders of many African and Asian countries are granted a visa on arrival for US\$50 provided the passport contains a credible US, Canada or Schengen visa.

For complete information on entry requirements, please consult the immigration website of Nicaragua or the embassy in your country.

Photo: Kira auf der Heide/Unsplash

Internet: www.migob.gob.ni

Augusto C. Sandino International Airport (MGA)



Nicaragua's largest international airport is located in the capital, Managua, around 160 km (100 miles) from Corinto, with the major cities of León and Chinandega on the way. Travelers can avail of a range of services at the airport, including car rental, shops, ATMs and hotels.

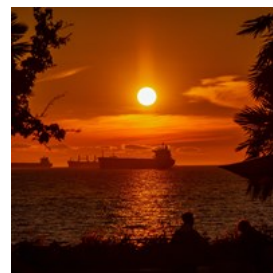
Photo: Verde562/CC BY-SA 2.0/Wikimedia (upscaled)(image cropped)

Address: Aeropuerto Internacional Augusto C. Sandino, 11 Carretera Norte, Managua

Phone: +505 2276 9180

Internet: www.eaai.com.ni

Puerto Corinto



As the largest port in Nicaragua, Puerto Corinto handles not only significant passenger traffic but is also a major hub for cargo. It is located in the southeastern part of the city, and is a good starting point to explore Corinto on foot, or to visit cities like León, which are a little

farther but have more to offer on the tourism front.

Photo: Andre Furtado/Pexels

Address: Muelle de Puerto y Ciudad de Corinto

Internet: www.epn.com.ni

Getting Around



Those not joining any excursions to visit nearby landmarks can quickly explore Corinto on a rickshaw ride. These are available at the port, but

be sure to pick one with a registered number on it. A standard ride is about an hour long and will set you back \$20. Away from the port area, the same ride can cost \$5.

Photo: David Amsler/CC BY 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Pharmacy



In Corinto, Farmacia La Principal is only a few minutes' walk from the cruise port. Larger cities like Chinandega and León have numerous

pharmacies in their central areas.

Photo: Mika Baumeister/Unsplash

Address: A few buildings to the west of Parque Central

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-9am; Sun 8am-noon / 4pm-8pm

Population

18,552 (Corinto, 2021)

Currency

Nicaraguan Córdoba (C\$), 1 NIO = 100 centavos

Opening hours

Business hours are usually from 8 am to 9 pm Monday through Friday. Some retail shops tend to close for a few hours in the afternoons. Most stores are open on Saturdays too, although with shortened hours.

Internet

www.visitnicaragua.us

Newspapers

Today Nicaragua — www.todaynicaragua.com

Confidencial — www.confidencial.digital

100% Noticias — www.100noticias.com.ni

Emergency numbers

General: 911

Police: 118

Fire department: 115

Tourist information

Instituto Nicaragüense de Turismo

Hotel Crowne Plaza, 8 Calle Suroeste, Managua

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