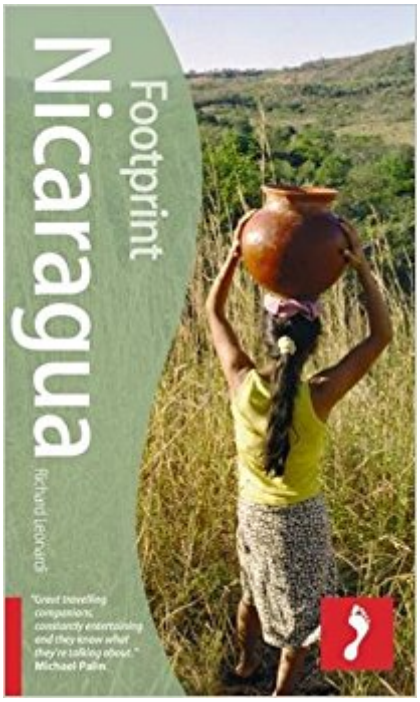
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Footprint Nicaragua (Nicaragua Guidebook) (Nicaragua Travel Guide)



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Synopsis

Central AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best preserved secret.Ã Â Sleepy towns and active volcanoes.Ã Â Where to go and what to see.Ã Â Deserted beaches and pristine rainforests.Ã Â Where to eat, drink and sleep, from beach huts to elegant colonial haciendas.Ã Â A nation of poets and comedians.Ã Â Rum, reggae and revolution.Ã Â Full colour maps.Ã Â Kamikaze parrots, fishing bats and iguanas that can raise the deadÃ¢â ¬Â|Ã¢â ¬Â|Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

"My favourite series is the Handbook series published by Footprint... They have better maps and trail advice (than the "Lonely Planet") as well as tips for travelling in a particular culture, and advice for women travelling alone." Boston Globe (Daily) MA; "Head, shoulders and spine ahead of the rest." Adventure Travel"

Recently I took this book and the Moon Handbook Nicaragua on a short trip to Nicaragua. Both books provided very good information for our travels.

This was an excellent book!!! Went on our first trip to Nicaragua and this book was invaluable!!! It is so well written that we read it cover to cover and is organized in such a manner as to make it very easy to find what you’re looking for. Would highly recommend it!!!

If you are planning a trip to Nicaraqua, this is a very important tool in your planning. Do yourself a

favor and order this book. I did!

I used this guide during my three weeks in Nicaragua and enjoyed Leonardi's informative writing style. This handbook is more exhaustive, and more up to date, than "Footprint's Central America & Mexico Handbook".This handbook's recommendations for accommodations/restaurants are right on the money and valuable. This guide is up-to-date and I found his recommendations to always be valid. In fact, his is one of the few guides that will tell you, candidly, no punches pulled, what he thinks: very good seafood, bad paella", "attentive service, mediocre food".Richard Leonardi's writing is succinct and unencumbered by the superfluous. He gives you a solid mental picture, within a paragraph or two, of what to expect and how you can enjoy it.I really enjoyed his "Further Reading & Cinema" and the history, economic, culture and environment sections are sufficient, but I would encourage you to also take with you the excellent book, "In Focus Nicaragua" (see my review).Frustrating, and found in all Footprint guides, is the cost guide they use for accommodations. Instead of just stating what the price per room is, in dollars, they complicate it and give you a code table that you will often have to flip back and consult to remember what the cost represents. For example, a hotel that is LL=$150+, A=$46-$65. There is a better way than codes.Leonardi mentions safety in his introduction to Nicaragua, but I found no mention of the rising problems with crime and gangs in Managua (Capital of Nicaragua). For the past few years... the area around `La Catedral Vieja' has become dangerous, an area for violent crime. In fact, when I asked to go to this area in the daytime, the taxi drivers told me be careful, using the words: "peligroso, peligroso". While I at the Old Cathedral's I talked with the resident shoe-shine man, and he also told me that this area was now very dangerous at night. He said he leaves every day at 5pm because, "me gusto mi vida."That said, this is a very impressive guide which I strongly recommend. For those going to various Central American countries I would recommend "Footprint's Central America & Mexico Handbook". Strongly Recommended 4.5 stars

Richard Leonardi's travel guide on Nicaragua as part of the Footprint series is not only the best English language guide that I have ever read, it is also the best travel companion and resource that I have ever used punto finale.I was four years in the Merchant Navy and in my current life as a film maker and journalist for the BBC and Irish television I have travelled extensively. What this means is that I have had continual need of practical, up to date and accurate information on the countries I have visited like Japan, Mexico, the Faeroe Islands or elsewhere. Practical help in a travel book is usually the first refuge of the traveller who is stuck and the last refuge of that scoundrel author who

does not check and check again the details he or she is tasked to provide for an extremely dependent audience. In this regard Richard Leonardi is on the side of the travel guardian angels. In fact his book is so good that in my five week stay in Nicaragua I sought him out to tell how much I appreciated his "companionship" whilst myself and my partner were on the road. I never do things like that!The author actually lives in the country and takes a passionate interest in the life of Central America generally and this commitment shines through the book. Indeed, we found only one mistake in this book of some 300 pages if the excellent maps at the back of the book are included. The mistake is forgivable and occurs on page 134 in a reference to the beautiful town of Rivas. We were looking for a place which would change American Express travellers cheques and the book refers us to El Banco de Finanzas which is correctly described as being near the fire station in the town. The only problem is that the staff there firmly denied any policy of changing American Express cheques. On the immediate plus side, however, the book refers the weary traveller to a nearby restaurant the Rayuela which more than makes up for the recalcitrant bank staff with its well made, cheap and entirely fresh fare. Indeed, accurate descriptions and honest assessments of restaurants and eateries is a feature of the book. The best restaurant and craic (an Irish phenomenon including talk, song and dance) from Leonardi’s extensive research was found at Dona Conchi’s in Granada where I came away in the early hours with a singing palate and a mortero or mortar and pestle made of volcanic lava. This gift from the gracious Dona Conchi herself now has pride of place in my house. The only other quibble I have with the book is that the description of the route to the fascinating El Fortin in Leon could be made clearer as one risks approaching the historic fort via the municipal dump which is very unhealthy and possibly dangerous. The images of people scavenging through the detritus and residue of once revolutionary Leon’s inhabitants will stay with me for ever.Those two slight complaints aside, I cannot praise Footprints travel guide to Nicaragua highly enough. Quite apart from the author’s diligence in ensuring the accuracy of his information, his descriptions of the political and cultural importance of Nicaragua are second to none. We climbed three volcanoes whilst in Nicaragua and we felt much closer to the history, legends and physical aspects of these sometimes fiery mountains from digesting the contents of the guide book. The best example of this comes in the descriptions of angry Concepcion and earth mother Maderas on the beautiful island of Ometepe. Ometepe and El Mar Dulce (the huge fresh water sea which surrounds the island) was the highlight of our trip. On page 139, Leonardi tells the ancient story of how a beautiful princess called Ometepetl met with Nagrando a warrior prince and the pair fell in love. Their respective tribes, however, were at war and this led to a suicide pact between them. This destruction of a match made in heaven led the angry Gods to flood the land producing the vast

fresh water lake which exists to this day.There is one other aspect which pleases me personally. Leonardi never patronises his leadership by being bland. He offers his opinions on many aspects of life in Nicaragua and bases these opinions on extensive research. It is this exciting mixture of hard facts and general cultural information which makes the book such a success. In fact you could never set foot in Nicaragua and still buy the book because you would feel you knew the country so well after reading it. The layout is easy to handle with boxed sections for particular pieces of information and a regular format for each of the geographical areas so you know, for example, that there will always be a food section at that certain point in the sector in which you are interested. The pictures are reflect the Nicaragua we saw and have been composed by people who liked taking photographs which helps. Go out and buy it. Treasure it as you use it as a resource in Nicaragua linda and guard the book well as other travellers will ask or borrow it and then quietly slip away in to the balmy Nicaraguan night never to be seen again.

I am a Foreign Service Employee stationed at the American Embassy in Managua. This book has proved to be invaluable resource for travel; both official and unofficial. I admit that I may be predudested because I met Richard on a tour in a very remote part of Nicaragua, that was desolate and without normal tourist type facilities, he assisted as a guide and exteremely impressed me with his knowledge and the respect he had with and for the locals and how they responded to him. I later found out about his book and purchased it. He has truly and honestly done outstanding research in his writing; he has lived there close to 7 years and developed close connects with the people and facilities with whom he deals and writes about. I can truly vouche for his recommendations; which I have found to be true and honest appraisals. I highly reommended this book if you decide to try Nicaragua!!D Ijames

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