

CFCA AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2014** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host an awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

NICARAGUA

Trip Dates:

Feb. 22-March 1, 2014

Visits subprojects near Managua and to the north
Optional trip to Bluefields March 1-4*

Aug. 2-9, 2014

Visits subprojects near Managua and to the west

Trip Size: 12-30 participants

Sponsors will have the opportunity to meet their sponsored friend on either of the trips. However, we encourage you to choose the trip that corresponds with your sponsored friend's subproject. Please refer to page three to help you select the trip that will visit the region nearest to your sponsored friend. Please register by 60 days in advance to reserve your spot. If you still wish to register after this date, contact a trip coordinator regarding availability.

Trip Fee: \$500

Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is **not** included.

*For an additional fee of \$300, an optional trip will be offered to Bluefields after the February trip. Refer to the following pages for details.



On your trip to Nicaragua you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Be welcomed by the local CFCA staff who will be your hosts for the week, ensuring that your visit is enjoyable
- Spend time with your sponsored friend and possibly the family
- Visit the homes and communities of CFCA sponsored friends and their families, where you will learn about their joys and challenges
- Observe the beauty of Nicaragua's volcanoes, lakes, mountains and people
- Witness the blend of colonial history and present-day Nicaraguan society

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay is required to enter Nicaragua. U.S. citizens do not need a visa and are issued a tourist card upon arrival for a fee of \$10, payable in U.S. Dollars in cash. The card is valid for 90 days. A **departure tax of \$32** must be paid when exiting the country. This may or may not be included in the price of your plane ticket. *All fees are subject to change.* While in Nicaragua, travelers should carry their passport or a photocopy of it at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact a CFCA trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Travel Arrangements

Make your airline arrangements only after your registration is confirmed and you receive the CFCA trip coordinator's written instructions for scheduling your flight. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines or via the Internet. The Florida based agency, Vista Travel, may be contacted regarding airfare at (800) 537-5066. This agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

All trip participants will fly into **Augusto C. Sandino Airport in Managua (MGA)** on the first date listed for the trip and will fly out of the same airport on the last date listed for the trip. **The CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept offers of transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team.**

Accommodations and Food

All trip participants stay in simple accommodations, usually at some type of a retreat center or modest hotel. Private rooms are available for married couples and families. Individuals will be assigned a roommate. Running water for showers is readily available, but it may not be heated. **Tap water is unsafe for drinking.** The project will provide bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip fee.

Participants will eat simple meals that reflect the local cuisine. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

The **electrical current** in Nicaragua is the same as in the U.S., but you will need to bring an adapter for a Type A plug if you wish to use a personal electronic device. Diagrams of the outlets are available as www.electricaloutlet.org.

Climate

Nicaragua has a predominantly tropical climate, alternating between two seasons: rainy and dry (winter and summer). In Managua and the surrounding areas, the average temperature in the month of February ranges from the high 60s to the high 80s, and in August, from the low 70s to the low 90s. In the Central Region, the rainy season lasts from May to October. The dry season occurs from November through April. The warmest months are March, April and May, Nicaragua's "sea season". The weather is much more temperate in the Central and Pacific regions. Participants should be aware that minor tremors may occur. The group also travels along winding, mountainous roads, which can cause motion sickness.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. You may also contact them by phone at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636). CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations.

You should also consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. **If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** Many insurance plans, including Medicare, do not cover treatment outside of the U.S. You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

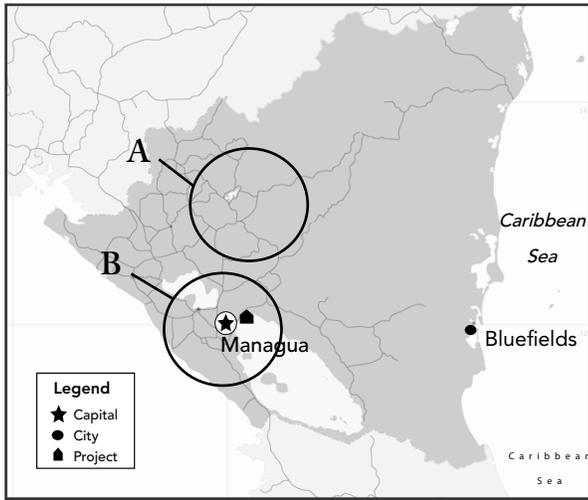
Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Nicaraguan **córdoba** (NIO). Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip fee. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry and exit fees. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because they may be difficult for local banks or vendors to exchange. Do not bring torn or severely worn currency. You can bring U.S. dollars into the country. You will be provided with an opportunity to exchange money upon arrival either at the airport, at the lodging, or another method. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.

CFCA AWARENESS TRIPS

choosing a nicaragua trip nearest to your sponsored friend

The two Nicaragua trips hosted by Christian Foundation for Children and Aging in 2014 will each visit different regions of the country. Trips are open to anyone, but those with sponsored friends in Nicaragua should choose the trip destination closest to where their sponsored friend lives. See the mailing labels that accompany your sponsored friend's letters to determine your friend's subproject location. There is an optional trip to Bluefields, Nicaragua, following the February trip.



(SAMPLE LABEL BELOW)

Sonja Pac Luisia	Subproject Code
Managua FDS	
CH00525477	Project Name
Sarah Smithson ASC02839203	

Sponsors will have the opportunity to meet their sponsored friend on either of the trips. However, we encourage you to choose the trip that corresponds with your sponsored friend's subproject.

Nicaragua - A Feb. 22-March 1, 2014

Choose this trip if your friend is in one of the following Managua subprojects:

ARM*	MRM*	PRM*
BAC	MSD	SE
BDN	MSD - A	SJC
BNS	MTG	SLS
MDM	MTG - A	SRM*
MDM - A	MUY	SSL
MES	MUY - A	TRM*
MES - A	MZU*	

Optional trip to Bluefields, March 1-4 visits BAC, BDN, BNS

Nicaragua - B Aug 2-9, 2014

Choose this trip if your friend is in one of the following Managua subprojects:

ABS	DNC	SPC
ARM*	JNA	SRM*
BAC	MRM*	TRM*
BCC	MZU*	USD
BCC - A	PA	VFM
BDN	PRM*	
BNS	RFA	
BSL	SNB - A	

* Both trips will visit these subprojects.

**SIDE TRIP TO BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA
MARCH 1-4, 2014**



Located on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, Bluefields is an ethnically and linguistically diverse port city. The climate boasts of high temperatures and humidity. The population of approximately 50,000 people includes many immigrants searching for a better life. Extreme poverty and unemployment are high, forcing many children to work to support their families. CFCA in Bluefields is helping to provide education and nutrition for these children and teaching families to support and care for each other.

Sponsors attending the Bluefields side trip will only see their sponsored friends in Bluefields. Otherwise, the sponsored friends from Bluefields will travel to the Managua area to meet their sponsors.

DATE: You will fly from Managua to Bluefields on March 1. You will spend 3 nights and 2 days in Bluefields. Arrange your return flight to the U.S. from Managua early on March 4, 2014.

FEE: \$300 (Includes round-trip flight between Managua and Bluefields, food, lodging and ground transportation.) Due Jan. 1.

NEXT STEPS: Complete the form below and return it with your application to CFCA.

OPTIONAL TRIP TO BLUEFIELDS RESPONSE FORM

___ Yes, I am interested in participating in the optional trip to Bluefields in 2014.

___ No, I am not interested in participating in the optional trip to Bluefields in 2014.

Printed Name

CFCA ID: ASC _____

Signature

Date

Return to: CFCA, Attn: Trip Coordinator, 1 Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103