

VOLUNTEER WORK AND

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



ABOUT US



At Vapues Travel, we focus on tailor-made experiential travel. Using a signature collection of individually verified and carefully curated experiences we create itineraries that fit any particular interest your clients may have. We fully understand the needs of a discerning individual traveler and craft, cultivate and curate the very best of Panama and Nicaragua.



WHAT MAKES us UNIQUE?



We are all about experiential and sustainable travel, a fair part of our tours contemplates guests sharing with local communities, either through full immersion overnight stays, or day excursions. Our professional staff operates customized tours with inspiring guides and local experts, and our trips are crafted with a fair dose of vicarious learning, creativity, care, and attention; ensuring memorable and enriching experiences.



SUSTAINABILITY



Vapues Travel implements best management practices and promotes sustainable tourism, involving key partners, staff, and the public to perpetuate Nicaraguan- and Panamanian culture, history, and nature; with the aim to contribute to local economies and to preserve the environment. Vapues Travel are partners of Travelife and members of the Panamanian Foundation for Sustainable Tourism.



**OUR
PROJECTS:**

MAP OF NICARAGUA

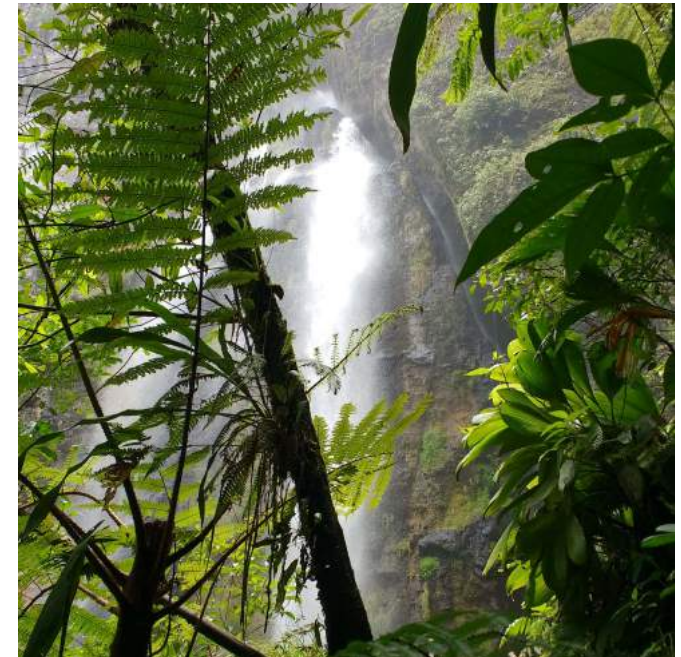
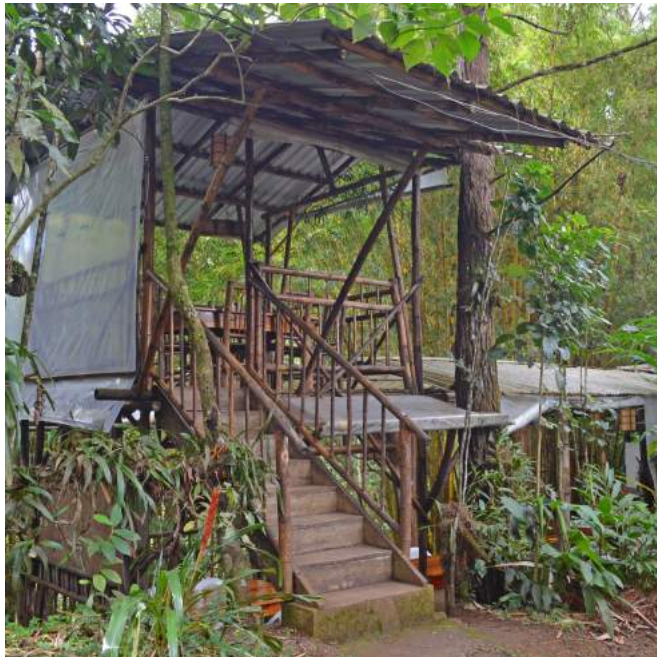


Peñas Blancas Massif, Jinotega

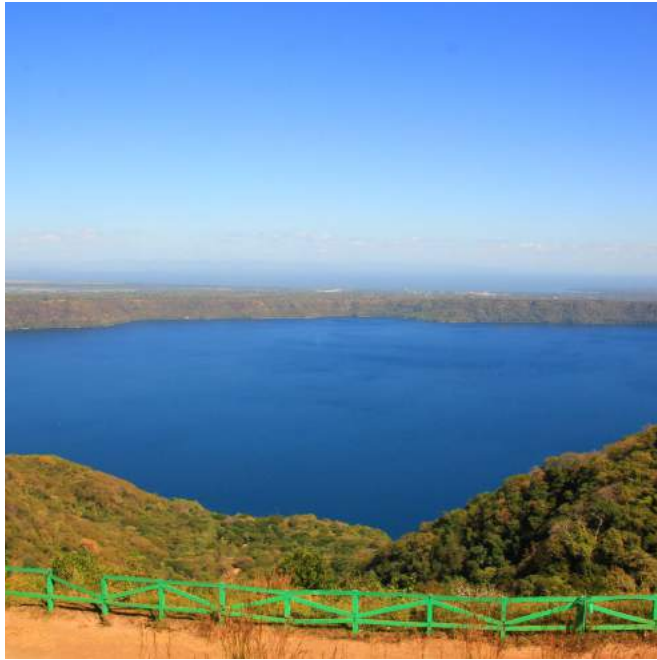


Stay at a Nature Interpretation Center, located in the heart of the northern region, at the edge of the Peñas Blancas Massif, which is the gateway to the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve.

- **Monitoring of resident birds and biodiversity.**
- **Restauration of natural water sources.**
- **Assist with inventory of local floristic species.**
- **Harvest of bamboo, used for furniture and construction.**
- **Constructions (bamboo) of furniture, bridges, signs.**
- **Design of trails focused on environmental education.**

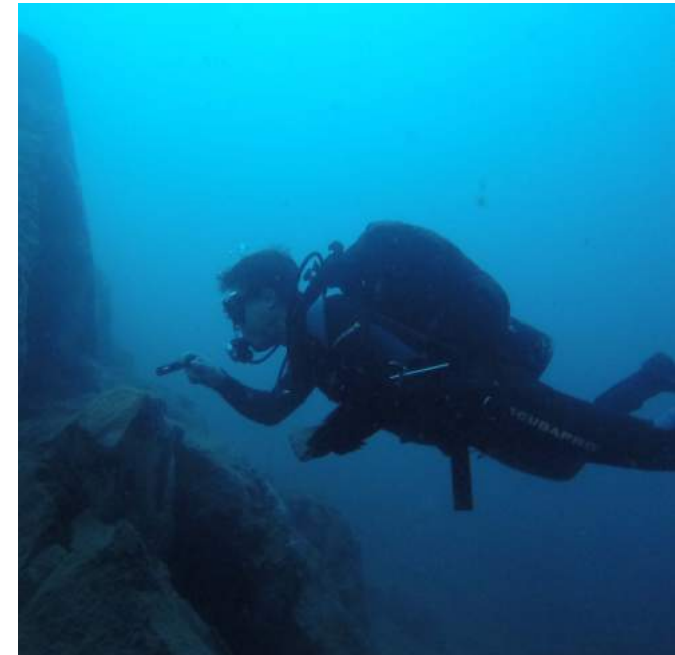


Apoyo Lagoon Nature Reserve



Stay in tropical forest at a crater lagoon reserve, with a significant endemic fish population. The ancient lagoon is the deepest geographical point in Central America, allegedly holding the cleanest water of all fresh water bodies in the area.

- Monitoring of sub aquatic species for future studies.
- Construction of natural coral reefs from clay.
- Sub aquatic cleaning campaign (scuba).
- Design of trails focused on environmental education.

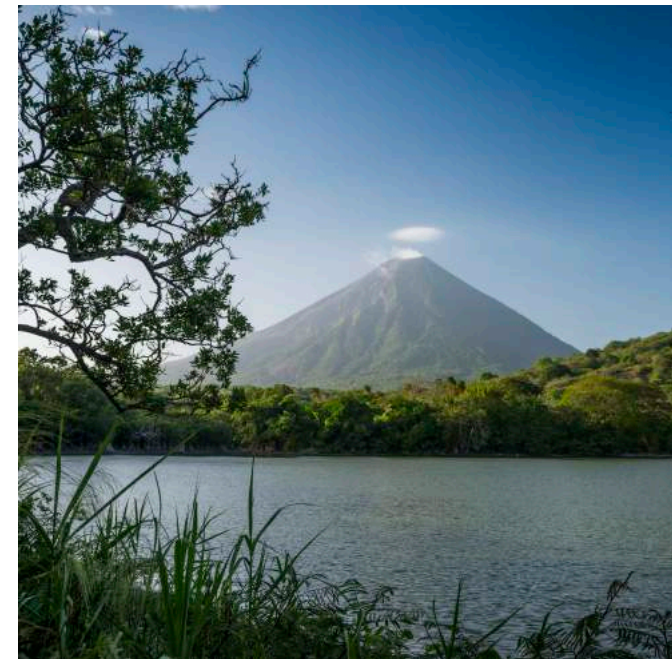


Puesta del Sol, Isla de Ometepe



Stay at the local community run by a women's cooperative, located on Ometepe Island, at a beach at the foot of an active volcano. The cooperative maintains a strong focus on sustainability and community based tourism, opening their homes to travelers and offering hands-on activities.

- Get involved with the community cleaning campaigns.
- Join the women with their daily agricultural activities.
- Make wine and tea out of hibiscus and herbs.
- Work in herb garden.
- Assist with marketing of Community Based Tourism (CBT).



San Ramón, Matagalpa



Imagine being part of a cooperative of coffee producers, located in an isolated rural area. The experience gives you an insight in the daily lives of the producers and their families. An initial presentation by Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) UCA San Ramon induces clients to community living and goals.

- Join coffee producers in their daily routine.
- Build a nursery or biological garden.
- Learn to cook typical Nicaraguan dishes.
- Design of trails focused on environmental education.



Casa Xalteva, Granada



At this language- and cultural center you can learn Spanish with locals, and support educational-, social- and communal work. Casa Xalteva supports dozens of children through a program, which aims to extract them from situations of risk and vulnerability, to prevent and show alternatives, generating positive change in their lives and communities.

- Total immersion Spanish lessons.
- Sharing with the kids: A fun afternoon or lunch.
- Donation of books and writing utensils.



Charco Muerto Community, Granada



Stay at a picturesque rural community on the shores of Lake Nicaragua, which can only be reached by boat (45 minutes). The local cooperative consists of almost 120 members, working in agriculture, with livestock and fishing. About a decade ago they embraced Community Based Tourism, providing accommodation and outdoors activities as hiking, fishing and horseback riding.

- Maintenance of the communal house and trails.
- Reforestation of communal property.
- Painting of local school (group activity).
- Join producers in their daily routine.
- Assist with marketing of Community Based Tourism (CBT).



Centro Social Tío Antonio, Granada



Help out at a social center located in the historic city center of Granada, hosting practical projects as a hammock workshop and a coffee shop run by personnel with auditive disabilities; two valuable initiatives that generate jobs for locals with a handicap and limited economic resources.

- Join a traditional hammock workshop, while learning about the project.
- Visit coffee shop 'Café de las Sonrisas' and experience using sign language.



Tejiendo por la Naturaleza, El Astillero



A social- and nature focused project operated by local women, aiming to protect the environment by weaving colorful handbags out the trash found on the beaches. This initiative saves marine turtles and provides an economic alternative for locals that used to make a living collecting turtle eggs.

- Join a recycled plastic bag workshop and learn how the project empowers local women.
- Participate in a beach cleanup campaign, together with the local woman and children.



La Mariposa Spanish School, La Concepción



Stay at this small non-profit Spanish school and eco-hotel, that aims to demonstrate how local communities meet the challenges of climate change through an eco-tourism project, including rustic eco-rooms or homestays, besides volunteer work while learning Spanish.

- Dynamic activities with children, including making piñatas, sewing, painting and crocheting.
- Reforestation of the school grounds and communities.
- Work at the local vegetable garden, adopting traditional methods on compost, and transplanting.
- Support with provision of English classes to local youngsters (starting from 4 years old).



MAP OF PANAMA



La Pollera, Peninsula de Azuero



From the moment the drawings come to life, to the delicate embroidery and the many hands involved in the making of the Polleras and all the regional dresses. The experience is an outlook of the laborious work from the local artisans, an immersion into the local culture and interaction with the artisans.

- Visit local artisans, recognized for their laborious work in making the typical national dress, La Pollera. Understand cultural nuances through vicarious learning.
- Participate in the manufacturing process of mundillos, tembleques, and jewelry that are part of the dress.



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