



Estamos Unidos

The United States Embassy
Managua, Nicaragua

American Citizen Services Managua Newsletter

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Passport Photo Booth Returns to the U.S. Embassy

The Consular Section recently contracted with a photography company to provide onsite photos for consular applications. As of Monday, July 18th applicants for passport services and visas may now obtain their photos directly in the Consular Section's outdoor waiting area. The cost for a set of two 2X2 photos is 5 USD and comes with a guarantee of a complimentary reprint if the photos fail to meet the proper criteria. The waiting area also now has a Lafise ATM machine.

Follow us on the web:



EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Deaths, abductions, robberies, arrests, etc. will be attended to promptly. Please call (505) 2252-7104 and ask for the American Citizens Services Unit during Embassy office hours. If the Embassy is closed, please call (505) 2252-7100 and ask to speak with the Embassy duty officer.

The United States Embassy in Managua is located at: Kilómetro 5 1/2 (5.5) Carretera Sur, Managua, Nicaragua. **Main embassy phone:** (505) 2252-7100 **Consular Section:** (505) 2252-7104 **Customer Service:** (505) 2252-7888, **Fax:** (505) 2252-7250 **Email:** ACS.Managua@state.gov Consular services are available Monday thru Friday except for official U.S. and Nicaraguan holidays. Routine services such as passports and notarial services require an appointment; you can schedule an appointment on-line: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=MNG&appcode=1>. For questions about visas DO NOT CALL ACS or make an appointment for ACS services. Instead, please call (505) 7877-7600 (Movistar number), options available in English.

**Ambassador
Laura F. Dogu**

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY FROM AMBASSADOR DOGU



Thank you to everyone who celebrated the United States' Independence Day, either with your family or in a group. It was my honor and privilege to share one of the most important days in U.S. history with you, even if we could not do so all gathered in one place this year.

Independence Day is celebrated as the day the Declaration of Independence was officially adopted by the thirteen colonies who claimed their independence from England. Celebrated each year on the 4th of July, this day represents the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. Americans all around the world celebrate this holiday in many different ways: with parades, fireworks, family barbeques, and outdoor concerts. I was privileged to gather this year with members of our American Legion chapter in Nicaragua, and to host an official reception for Embassy contacts from many different sectors of Nicaraguan society.

While there are many different ways that Americans celebrate our Independence Day, one thing that remains constant is the spirit of the famous quote taken from the Declaration of Independence, that "All men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This belief formed the basis of our nation's values and continues to inform our decision making today.

I hope each of you kept this belief alive in your own celebrations of Independence Day this year, and will continue to keep it in your thoughts and actions in the coming year.

As we do each year on the 4th of July, I also take this opportunity to remind all of you to register to vote in our national elections in November. (see page 9)



Nicaragua Travel Alert

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LAST UPDATED: JUNE 29, 2016

The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens about increased government scrutiny of foreigners' activities, new requirements for volunteer groups, and the potential for demonstrations during the upcoming election season in Nicaragua. This Travel Alert expires on November 30, 2016.

Nicaragua is conducting Presidential and National Assembly elections on November 6, 2016. During the period leading up to and immediately following elections, U.S. citizens in Nicaragua should be aware of heightened sensitivity by Nicaraguan officials to certain subjects or activities, including: elections, the proposed inter-oceanic canal, volunteer or charitable visits, or other topics deemed sensitive by or critical of the government.

Nicaraguan authorities have denied entry to, detained, questioned, or expelled foreigners, including U.S. government officials, academics, NGO workers, and journalists, for discussions, written reports or articles, photographs, and/or videos related to these topics. Authorities may monitor and question private U.S. citizens concerning their activities, including contact with Nicaraguan citizens. This situation may persist in the post-election period.

The Government of Nicaragua has indicated it is worried about the safety and security of travelers. The government began requiring special notification for official U.S. travelers holding diplomatic or official passports. Additionally, Nicaraguan authorities now require advance coordination for any volunteer group, charitable or medical brigade, or any other assistance visit organized by NGOs, religious groups, schools, or any other group doing this type of work in Nicaragua, regardless of whether the group has worked in Nicaragua previously or has a local office. To coordinate visits from the United States contact the Embassy of Nicaragua in Washington, DC. To coordinate visits from Nicaragua, contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX). [See below box for more on this new requirement.]

During previous election cycles, violent demonstrations occurred involving tear gas, fireworks, rock-throwing, road blocks, burning of vehicles and tires, as well as physical altercations between law enforcement and protesters or rival political parties/individuals. Activities tend to intensify in violence beginning in the early afternoon. Stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid demonstrations and exercise caution around large gatherings near government buildings and major intersections or roundabouts.

For further information:

See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information for Nicaragua](#).

To coordinate visits from the United States contact the **Embassy of Nicaragua in Washington, DC** by email to asistente.emb@embanic.org. To coordinate visits from Nicaragua, contact the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX)** by going to the **Cancilleria in Managua** – to provide information about your organization, how many people are coming, and any details concerning when and what they plan to do while in Nicaragua. This is the most recent guidance we've received from the Government of Nicaragua, but their requirements may have changed since that time. Therefore, please be sure to confirm the requirements with the Nicaraguan Embassy or MINREX when corresponding about your group's travel plans.

Embassy of Nicaragua in Washington, DC.
Address: 1627 New Hampshire Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 939-6570
Email: asistente.emb@embanic.org

Ministry of Foreign Affairs/ Cancilleria in Managua
Address: Dirección : Del Antiguo Cine González 1 c. al Sur sobre
Avenida Bolivar. Managua.
Phone: (505) 2244-8000 / 8007
Contact: Arlette Marengo
enlace@cancilleria.gob.ni

Cute Animals — Ugly Business

We're on the Web at
Nicaragua.usembassy.gov

Buying a Wild Animal as a Pet Supports an Abusive Criminal Trade

The protection of wildlife and conservation of natural resources is a priority for the U.S. government. Everyone who lives in or visits Nicaragua can play an important role in this effort.

It is against Nicaraguan law to own any species of animal that is protected by an international convention or treaty. This includes thousands of species of monkeys, birds, and mammals. Yet, it is easy to find these animals for sale on street corners or along highways in Nicaragua. Most people who buy an exotic pet probably do not realize that they are committing a crime or that their purchase directly supports a multibillion dollar criminal enterprise. But in Central America, the same criminal networks are involved in smuggling both illegal wildlife and drugs.

Although seeing a distressed animal for sale can be painful, purchasing that animal only contributes to the illegal trade in wild animals. Those who are concerned about animal welfare should consider contributing time or money to one of the many excellent local or international NGOs working to address this problem systematically.

Thank you for being part of our global fight against wildlife trafficking!



Want to work at the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua?

Starting soon, job applicants will be able to view and apply for jobs online at <https://managua.usembassyjobs.us/>

In the meantime, you can check at http://nicaragua.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html for the current listing of vacant jobs at the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

Please refer to the application instructions and closing dates contained in the job listings above. **Interested candidates should send their application and proof of qualifications to the following email address: managuajobs@state.gov. Paper applications will not be accepted.**

“The United States promotes a prosperous, secure, and democratic Nicaragua that is an integrated and constructive bilateral, regional, and global actor.”

Diplomacy in Action

EMBASSIES HELP AMERICAN CITIZENS in many ways. Some of these efforts are in plain sight, such as the issuance of visas to promote international visits to the United States while maintaining our border security. Others are less obvious but can have an even more direct impact: a trade agreement worked out at the U.S. Embassy in Japan, for example, might affect you personally in the lower cost of a car, but you would probably never know it. Close consultations with foreign governments and international organizations can stop an illness from becoming a pandemic. Skillful negotiations can prevent a small conflict from spiraling into a war.

While Consular officers provide immediate and personal assistance to American citizens every day around the world -- replacing lost passports, assisting injured or ill travelers, and assisting with marriages, births, and adoptions, other sections of the embassy provide more specialized assistance.

The Foreign Commercial Service or Foreign Agricultural Service helps American businesses connect with local counterparts to increase American exports or provide needed food aid. The Economic Section works with local political leaders to ensure that finance laws and regulations remain friendly for American businesses. The Public Affairs Section presents U.S. policy, values and culture to local media and people and helps visiting American journalists get background, official interviews, and information for their stories. The Political Section helps shape U.S. policy toward countries through its reporting on local conditions, while the U.S. Agency for International Development works with host country institutions to foster economic growth and good governance. Military attaches and drug and law enforcement agents manage programs and conduct exercises to create better coordination between army and police services.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Did you know that Nicaragua is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

In Nicaragua, temperature increases, extreme weather, and sea level rise will likely decrease agricultural productivity, cause drought, increase coastal flooding, hurt biodiversity, and harm public health. All of these effects in turn pose a significant challenge to Nicaragua's efforts to grow its economy and reduce poverty. For this reason, it is crucial for everyone to be part of the global fight against climate change.

What is the U.S. Government doing to help combat climate change in Nicaragua?

We are building the capacity of local organizations to participate in national climate change planning. With our assistance, Pearl Lagoon and Corn Island will have the country's first municipal plans for climate change. Other U.S. programs focus on strengthening potable water committees, protecting the Bosawás Biosphere Reserve, and helping farmers become more resilient and productive in the face of climate change. Through these and other efforts, the United States is committed to helping Nicaragua achieve its climate change priorities. We are proud to support efforts that emphasize the need for a collective response to climate change.

What can you do?

We encourage all U.S. citizens living in or visiting Nicaragua to think about ways to reduce their carbon footprint and be part of our common effort to fight climate change.

There are many simple steps you can take right now! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Use less energy and water. Turn off everything when it's not in use, such as the water when brushing your teeth or the lights in an empty room. Plant trees. Use energy efficient light bulbs. Reuse your shopping bags. Buy fresh food not frozen. Carpool. Reduce waste. Be careful what you burn because it could release harmful chemicals into the air. Support sustainable businesses. Educate yourself. The more you know about the problem, the easier contributing to the solution will be. Support other groups working hard to find solutions.

KNOW THE LAW

While you are traveling in Nicaragua, you are subject to its laws. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from those in the United States. Persons violating Nicaraguan laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Nicaragua are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. Under current law, possession of 5 to 20 grams of marijuana can carry a sentence of 6 months to 3 years in prison; possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana can carry a sentence of 3 to 8 years in prison.

Trafficking in illegal drugs, distributing or selling drugs inside the country can carry a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison. It is not uncommon for someone to be charged with trafficking when found to be in possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana.

For more information, please click on the below link to the Nicaraguan penal code 641 articles 348-362 (in Spanish):

https://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/sp/nic/sp_nic_Nuevo_Codigo_Penal_%20Nicaragua_2007.pdf

Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika Viruses

B Zzzz.



Aside from being itchy and annoying, the bite of an infected female mosquito (*Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus*) can spread dengue, chikungunya, or Zika viruses. People become infected with dengue, chikungunya, or Zika after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

- Female mosquitoes lay several hundred eggs on the walls of water-filled containers. Eggs stick to containers like glue and remain attached until they are scrubbed off. When water covers the eggs, they hatch and become adults in about a week.
- Adult mosquitoes live inside and outside.
- They prefer to bite during the day.
- A few infected mosquitoes can produce large outbreaks in a community and put your family at risk of becoming sick.

Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Community from Mosquitoes

1.

Eliminate standing water in and around your home:

- **Once a week**, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers. Check inside and outside your home.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.
- For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

2.

If you have a septic tank, follow these steps:

- Repair cracks or gaps.
- Cover open vent or plumbing pipes. Use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

3.

Keep mosquitoes out of your home:

- Use screens on windows and doors.
- Repair holes in screens.
- Use air conditioning when available.



Put plants in soil, not in water.



Drain water from pools when not in use.



Recycle used tires or keep them protected from rain.



Drain & dump any standing water.



Weekly scrub vases & containers to remove mosquito eggs.

4.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated to make sure they are safe and effective.

Active Ingredient Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection	Some brand name examples*
DEET	Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Ultrathon
Picaridin , also known as KBR 3023 , Bayrepel , and icaridin	Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, Autan (outside the United States)
IR3535	Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition, SkinSmart
Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD)	Repel
* Insect repellent brand names are provided for your information only. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cannot recommend or endorse any name brand products.	

- Always follow the product label instructions.
- Reapply insect repellent every few hours, depending on which product and strength you choose.
- Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
- If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- Treat clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents) with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated clothing and gear.
 - Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See product information to find out how long the protection will last.
 - If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully.
 - Do **not** use permethrin products, intended to treat clothing, directly on skin.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.



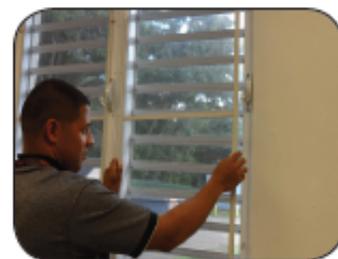
Keep rain barrels covered tightly.



Weekly, empty standing water from fountains and birdbaths.



Keep septic tanks sealed.



Install or repair window & door screens.

For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/denque, www.cdc.gov/chikungunya, www.cdc.gov/zika



The U.S. Embassy is not a voting precinct. We simply collect your ballots and send them to the place where you are registered to vote. You must be registered to vote in one of the many voting precincts in the U.S.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE OVERSEAS

For the 2016 Presidential elections:

- Go to www.FVAP.gov
- Provide your local address and receive voting materials at your Nicaraguan residence.
- **You may not** use the Embassy address to receive voting materials.
- Once you vote you can bring your unsealed envelope to the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section.
- You can seal the envelope **after you enter** the Embassy compound.
- We will send this for you via Diplomatic Pouch.
- You must keep in mind that every state has different deadlines you must comply with. If you send your voting ballot after the mailing close date they might not count your vote.
- **It is your responsibility** to be informed on all voting measures and candidates.

How to Register with the U.S. Embassy—STEP

The Embassy encourages all U.S. citizens to enroll their trip to Nicaragua or their residency in Nicaragua through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP allows you to enter information so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.

It also allows U.S. citizens residing in Nicaragua to get routine and emergency information from the Embassy. To enroll, click [here](https://step.state.gov/step) or type <https://step.state.gov/step>.

You can also download the Smart Travel Program App for your Smartphone.

Your input and/or suggestions about possible newsletter topics are always welcomed. Please see our contact information on the front page or write to us at ACS.Managua@state.gov