

NEWS FROM NICARAGUA - NOVEMBER UPDATE

Nicaragua expects 20% tourist hike for Christmas



(Photo courtesy of lavozdelsandinismo.com)

Nicaragua's Chamber of Tourism, Canatur, projected that Nicaragua could close the year with a growth of 20 percent in the arrival of tourists and obtain income of 700 million dollars, higher than the 642.1 million registered in 2016.

Managua will live be a particular focus given that it will host the XI Central American Sports Games December. (SOURCE: [Forbes México](#))

Nicaraguan hotel awarded at important international event



(Photo Courtesy of INTUR)

The hotel Calala Island Resort of Nicaragua has become the country's first to win an award at the iconic Boutique Hotel Awards, after winning awards in the categories "Best New Luxury Boutique Hotel" and "Best Honeymoon Hotel of the Americas". This event is considered by many to be the most important in the boutique hotel industry around the world.

Hotel Calala is located on the cay of the same name, which is in turn located in in Laguna de Perlas, a paradisiacal region of Nicaragua, composed of 24 cays. The establishment is one of a number of high-end Nicaraguan developments to have taken the tourism industry by storm in recent years.

Bird Watching Promoted at International Bird Festival in Nicaragua



(Photo courtesy of www.elnuevodiario.com.ni)

The third International Bird Festival took place on the 18th and 19th November in Granada, one of Nicaragua's tourist hotspots. The aim of the event was to allow tourists to observe 203 species of migratory birds and about 551 resident birds. The festival brought together hundreds of bird watchers, professionals and amateurs.

Nicaragua's National System of Protected Birds (Sinap), overseen by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Marena), is composed of 74 protected areas, of which 66 are terrestrial and eight marine-coastal, with a total area of 2,330,783 hectares. This is in addition to 63 private wild reserves covering 9,879.23 hectares, for a total of 2,340,617.23 hectares. Overall this is equivalent to 18% of Nicaragua's national territory.

San Francisco-Bluefields highway becomes a reality



(Photograph courtesy of www.lavozdelsandinismo.com)

This month, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure inaugurated the San Francisco-Bluefields section, to unite the Pacific with the Caribbean - a great boost for ease of travelling around the country.

Oscar Mojica, head of the MTI, said "we are fulfilling our promises, delivering a world class highway, which brings more progress. We are working to bring more programs such as energy, drinking water and sanitary sewage, so that tourism in Bluefields grows. In addition to all the advances, work is being done on bidding for works on the port of Bluefields located south of the airport", he said.

Nicaragua's Coffee and Cocoa loved by Visitors



(Photograph courtesy of www.diarimetro.com.ni)

A jury of the prestigious International Chocolate Awards (International Chocolate Awards), was in Nicaragua last week to taste, evaluate and reward the best chocolate in Central America.

The director of that contest, Martin Christy, told reporters that they chose Nicaragua to hold this regional contest, because “this country has a great sense of innovation and quality cocoa”.

"In fact one of the winners who took gold this year in the finals in London, is a producer of Danish chocolate and won using cocoa from Nicaragua," Christy added, in reference to the recent victories in various categories of Danish chocolate maker Mikkel Friis-Holm and his company at the International Chocolate Awards in London in October, using Nicaraguan cocoa.

This latest development is emblematic of an increasing drive by Nicaragua to put its gastronomy - based on world class produce and, increasingly, attractive dishes prepared by internationally trained chefs - at the forefront of its tourism industry. For example, in August this year, the country's tourism board launched the Destinations with Flavor promotional campaign. The initiative is going from strength to strength, with two new localities, Chontales and Boaco, added in in November, with their integration announced at two ceremonies in the respective areas.

As well as cocoa - most famously epitomised by the legendary Chocolate Museum in Granada - Nicaragua is world-renowned for its coffee, rum, seafood, cigars and traditional dishes...best accompanied, of course, by one of the country's award-winning cigar brands.

Coral Princess docked in San Juan del Sur



(Photo courtesy of INTUR)

The Coral Princess, a Bermuda registered cruise ship operated by American company Princess Cruises, was the eighth cruise of the

season to dock in this port, arriving with more than 2,000 people on board, 80% of which disembarked to enjoy the wonders that Nicaragua offers.

Around 30 transport units of national and local tour operators set out to transfer tourists who got off the Coral Princess cruise on Friday morning November 3rd at the port of San Juan del Sur to different tourist destinations in the country.

That's all for this month, please don't hesitate to contact us for further information at tim@brandinglatinamerica.com or 02076501840.