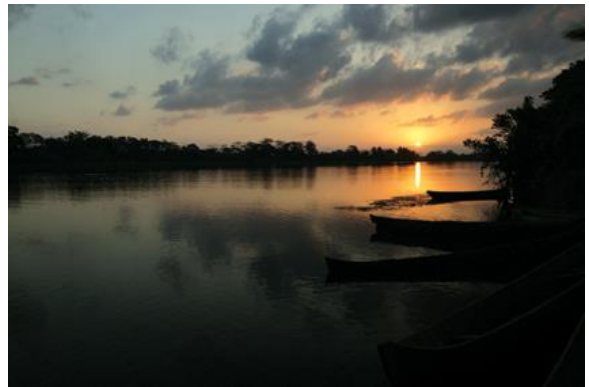


Nicaragua, Tarpon, snook and tropical gar in the jungle

Area

Lake Nicaragua is the largest lake in Central America. With over 8,000 km² of surface area, it is an area six times the city of New York! Through centuries an exceptional ecological system has developed here. The lake flows via the San Juan River over a length of more than 190 kilometres to the Caribbean Sea in the east of Nicaragua. The river lies in the middle of the tropical rainforest and is a very important lifeline and source of food for humans and animals.

The lake, and therefore also the river, contains sawfish, snook, piranha's, guapote, bull shark, tropical gar and also tarpon. A special combination that in earlier years was thought to have been locked up in the lake. After marking the different species, a number of them were found in the ocean and it has been shown that they are indeed these regular species and that they swim up and down the San Juan River.



Besides the special species in the water, there is also an abundant bird and animal life in the jungle around the lodge. You are short of ears and eyes. In the immediate vicinity of the lodge alone more than 150 different species of birds have been found. But also think of ocelot, monkeys, iguanas, turtles, caimans, snakes, squirrels, reptiles, lizards, otters, deer, ant-eaters etc.



The lodge is located at the entrance of the private game park Silvestre, which is well worth a visit on foot or even on horseback. Other options are kayaking, nocturnal caiman trips, or a visit to El Castillo. This Spanish fort from 1773 stands on the banks of the San Juan River and only a few kilometres from the lodge. The fort gave protection against pirates who wanted to sail from the Caribbean Sea to the rich trading town of Granada on Lake Nicaragua.





Not only is the location unique in terms of flora and fauna, but also the lodge itself is a gem in the jungle. The lodge can accommodate up to 24 guests.

This location guarantees a unique experience. Hidden in the jungle and directly at the river San Juan. The lodge is an eco-lodge and that means that people want to treat nature as good as possible and want to preserve it. Not very strange considering the impressive surroundings. The lodge was built in 1999 and can accommodate up to 24 guests through twelve double apartments. There is also a bar / restaurant where meals are served and in the evening, while enjoying a beer, you can tell your (fishing)stories. During the stay all meals are included.



The breakfast buffet includes eggs, omelette, fresh fruit, toast, fruit juice, bread, etc. For dinner there is a wide choice of different types of meat such as chicken, beef and pork but of course also fish, side dishes such as rice, potatoes and lots and fresh vegetables. You will need it at this place where you fish many and long days from sunrise to sunset.



Electricity and hot water is generated by solar collectors and the lodge has its own small marina / pier from where the boats depart. There are no mosquito nets in the apartments because they are not really needed. A little mosquito repellent is sufficient here in combination with the ceiling fan.



Fishing

Fishing is based on catch & release and a normal fishing day is from sunrise to sunset. This means that fishing starts around 5 o'clock in the morning! Around 8 or 9 o'clock you go back to the lodge and have breakfast. After breakfast the fishing continues until lunch. If the fishing is good you have lunch on or near the river.

Otherwise there will be a change of fishing location after lunch and in the afternoon there will be a moment of rest in the hammock of the lodge. In the afternoon until sunset there will be fishing again. This way maximum use is made of the best periods for fishing.

Most of the fishing takes place trolling. But also casting is done from the boat especially for snook and machacas but also when the tarpon shows itself on the surface.

It is not easy fishing and at times can be frustrating. Catching a tarpon is a time-consuming business. You will get several strikes while fishing. As soon as a tarpon strikes it jumps right out of the water and shakes its head wildly. Together with the fact that it has a very hard mouth, it is therefore difficult to set the hook properly. But keep at it and you will become successful in the end because of the number of strikes here the chance of catching one or more tarpons is high.



Next to tarpon there is also a lot of snook and Guapote (rainbow perch).



The Tropical Gar. This spectacular fish species is only a bycatch in Nicaragua. It is not fished for by the local people. They are caught as bycatch during fishing for tarpon. However, it is very well possible to target them here and improve the camp record considerably. For this fishing you use the same material when fishing for tarpon. The difference is in the steel wire leader and hook system you use to fish with dead or life bait. With a catfish float above it, you can offer the baitfish at a constant depth.



As bait, mainly Rapala lures are used as Super Shad Rap, Shallow Shad Rap, from 14 inches in multiple colors for tarpon and snook. For the Guapotes, Manchaca's and smaller snook the somewhat smaller versions of the Fat Rap are also used in different colours. As a leader we recommend a fluo carbon line of about 1 to 1.5 meters with a breaking force of 50 to 60 lbs.

Only by way of exception or damage does a fish end up on the bbq. So catch & release is stimulated.

The current state of the camp records is as follows:

Tarpon	: 180 lbs	Tropical Gar	: 45 lbs
Snook	: 25 lbs	Guapote	: 5 lbs
Machacas	: 16 lbs		

As there is no focus on Tropical Gar here, it will not be long before the camp record of this species will be quickly adjusted upwards.

Material

The lodge has six boats of 5.5 to 7.5 metres. Four of the boats have 70 HP 4 stroke Suzuki engines. One boat has a 30 HP and the last boat has a 140 HP engine. All in all more than enough to sail up and down the river comfortably and quickly. They are open models and simply furnished.

There is fishing with two people per boat and a guide where the largest boat can also be used for 3 people.





Season / Weather

The season for fishing here is endless. Depending on the season, you can catch a wide variety of species here. This location has a rainy season from May to October where it usually rains hard in the evening. This does not detract from the fishing. In fact, because of the dirt washed away by the mountains and rivers, the fishery is very good and there is a lot of bait.

The figures below are based on registered long-term weather data and apply to San Carlos:

	Average max temp (°C)	Average min temp (°C)	Average hours sun per day	Average days rain per month	Average rain per month in mm
January	26	18	7	8	☔
February	27	18	7	4	none
March	28	19	7	5	☔
April	30	19	7	7	☔☔
May	30	19	7	18	☔☔☔☔☔☔
June	28	19	7	21	☔☔☔☔☔☔☔
July	28	19	6	22	☔☔☔☔☔☔☔☔
August	28	18	6	23	☔☔☔☔☔☔☔☔☔
September	27	18	6	21	☔☔☔☔☔☔☔☔
October	27	18	6	22	☔☔☔☔☔☔☔☔
November	26	17	6	18	☔☔☔☔☔☔
December	26	17	6	14	☔☔☔☔

none= 0-5 mm • ☔ = 6-30 mm • ☔☔ = 31-60 mm • ☔☔☔ = 61-100 mm • ☔☔☔☔ = 101-200 mm • ☔☔☔☔☔☔ = more than 200 mm

The dry season is from November to May and then the daytime temperature is around 30 ° C.

It is not necessary for this location to be vaccinated. Only if you come from a yellow fever area you should be vaccinated against it. Hepatitis A and DTP are recommended. However, always inform with your general practitioner, hospital or other healthcare institute about the latest state of affairs

Travel & Price

Depending on the available flights, the trip goes to Managua. You will arrive in the afternoon / evening and then you will stay at a hotel next to the airport. The hotels shuttle buss will take you there. In the morning you will be picked up by a private taxi driver at the entrance of the hotel. Recognizable by the logo of WBFT the private taxi will take you through the jungle and along Lake Nicaragua which will take about 4 to 5 hours. This is your first experience with the country and its people. We highly recommend this option but those who like comfortable travel can also travel by plane from Managua to San Carlos.



In San Carlos you will be picked up by boat and taken to the lodge. For the return journey the set-up is exactly the same but in reverse order. If you leave on time on your return journey, you will have plenty of time to look around in Managua and visit interesting locations. Also for this we can easily schedule one or more extra days.



The cost of the trip is determined by the number of persons and the length of stay. Assuming a stay of 6 nights with 5 days fishing, full board, 2 nights stay in a hotel in Managua in a double room with breakfast, transport on the spot based on two persons, the cost of this trip is approximately € 1.995,- per person.

Additional costs are the international flights, drinks, tips for staff and US\$ 10,- arrival tax and US\$ 32,- departure tax pp to be paid at the airport in Managua. This can be done by credit card or cash. In some airline tickets the departure tax is already included and that depends on the airline company. Any extra costs at the lodge can also be paid with credit card or cash.

We strongly advise you to take the opportunity to include a few extra days in the program to at least give the poor arms some rest and to undertake an excursion in the region. Let us inform you about this on the spot or ask us for assistance. This trip can be tailor made according to your wishes.





Also for this trip there is a lot of service and interaction with the guides, the staff at the resort etc. And in countries like this it is normal that tips are given. The following amounts are guidelines and depend on personal feelings and experience of the trip and the service provided. For a period of five days fishing a tip of US\$ 100 is an appropriate amount for the fishing guide. For lesser or better results you can apply a higher or lower amount if desired. For the service staff and kitchen it is a group amount that, depending on your own group size and service provided, is between US 50 and US 150 dollars.



Things that are important to take with you:
sunglasses, sun lotion (min. 30 +), lip balm, mosquito repellent, long sleeve T-shirts to protect against the sun, rain/wind jacket, first aid kit, binoculars, flashlight / headlight and batteries, plastic zip pockets for protection of photo / video cameras, electricity adapter and multi standard socket.

Would you like to inquire about the availability of this location or would you like a quote, please contact us:

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