

Surfing in San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua

Looking for some adventure? Do you like the thought of going to a third world country and surfing un-crowded waves in warm, tropical waters? Then you must think about the newest destination of a surfer's map, San Juan Del Sur Nicaragua!

In a world where surfers are looking for the next uncrowded wave, most think of heading down to the South Pacific to places like Tahiti or Fiji or maybe some place in the middle of Indian Ocean. Think again...Nicaragua is fast becoming an international destination for surfers as the waves of Costa Rica and neighboring countries become more crowded. Lying on the southern Pacific coast of Nicaragua is the up and coming beach town of San Juan Del Sur. This little town is the center of surfing in Nicaragua. With warm, tropical water, constant offshore winds, and epic waves this little spot is heaven! The main breaks in the area are Yankee Beach (made famous by the taping of CBS's Survivor series), Colorados, and Popoyo. You can find a plethora of eco-friendly surf camps dotted up and down the coast for very reasonable prices. San Juan Del Sur has all the amenities one would be looking for in a small beach town. Hotels ranging from 1 star hostels to glamorous swanky lodging, plenty of nightlife, an abundance of internet cafes, surf shops, and restaurants.

My personal choice of hotel is the Hotel Azul Pitahaya in the center of the town. This small 6-room boutique hotel is perfectly located in the middle of everything. It's also attached to the famous Barrio Café when you can grab some good food and drinks for cheap! Get a mojito! Where else can you get a one for \$1.25! For the nightlife head over to Henry's Iguana on the beach. This is the epicenter of San Juan's nightlife and famous for it's strong rum and Coke!

Getting to San Juan Del Sur is quite easy. Hop a plane to Managua (many US carriers such as Continental, Delta, Spirit, American have daily non-stops from Miami, Houston, Ft. Lauderdale, and Atlanta) and then either rent a car or take a taxicab to San Juan Del Sur. It's about a 3-hour drive from Managua. You can get a taxicab for about \$60USD each way. Renting a car can be a task if you have never driven in Central America. I would recommend just taking a taxi as the road is confusing and sometimes not in the best of conditions depending on the weather. On the way to San Juan Del Sur, I would definitely recommend stopping off in the colonial city of Granada to see the spectacular cathedrals and architecture of this amazing city.

While some still think Nicaragua is at war or the country is violent and not tourist friendly, think again! The CIA has ranked Nicaragua the second safest country in the western hemisphere next to Canada. The revolution has been over since the late 80's. The government is encouraging tourism and every year the number of tourists continue to increase. While traveling through the country you will see poverty and some unpleasant sites, this is typical for a third world country, you will soon get a feel of how magnificent and beautiful Nicaragua is. I have traveled to Nicaragua many times over the years and have never felt threatened or unsafe. I encourage

anyone looking for un-crowded waves and adventure to go to Nicaragua and experience this place for themselves.

Scott Beebe is a freelance travel writer and lives in Los Angeles with his wife Gwen and three dogs.