



WHAT TO EXPECT:

NICARAGUA-RIVAS TRIPS

SO YOU'RE GOING ON A SHORT TERM TRIP TO NICARAGUA IN RIVAS AND WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT? HERE ARE SOME DETAILS OF WHAT YOUR TRIP WILL LOOK LIKE.

REGION AND PURPOSE:

Living Water International Nicaragua is currently working in and around the cities of Rivas and León. Each year the Living Water team partners with groups from North America to make generational change through the gift of clean water and through the grace of the living water that is Jesus. Team members will invest in a specific community as they use an LS300 drill rig with our in-country drillers and work alongside our hygiene team to teach proper sanitation techniques and Bible stories. Our hope is that during the trip you will make meaningful relationships, experience a slower pace of life, and witness the faithfulness of God, returning home transformed.



WEATHER:

Teams can expect warm and coastal weather, with highs in the 90s and lows in the 80s. If traveling during the rainy season (May to November), be sure to pack a light rain coat. Drink lots of water and take time to rest in the shade to avoid heat exhaustion.



LODGING:

Teams will stay in Granada (a city near Rivas) at the Living Water Team House with Jorge, the in-field director, and his family. The house also serves as the Living Water headquarters with offices, housing, and a workshop for our staff. Team members will stay in three air-conditioned bedrooms, each with a bathroom. Sheets and pillows are provided, but please bring your own towels. Expect to enjoy a relaxing atmosphere after a long day's work in the village.



FOOD:

If you're expecting to lose a few pounds on your mission trip – don't! Our wonderful cooks won't allow it. Team members should expect to eat plenty of black beans, rice, tortillas, chicken, and eggs.

CULTURE

It cannot be stressed enough that the time spent in Central America is primarily about relationships. When establishing a relationship with a Nicaraguan resident, it is very important to be sensitive to their culture. Nicaraguans are kind and giving. Respect is an important element in relationships, and Nicaraguans can be formal when showing respect. Team members will experience the hospitality, goodness, and friendliness of the Nicaraguan people as they live and work with them throughout the week.

💧 SPECIAL CULTURAL ISSUES TO NOTE:

- » Latin American culture is generally very proper, so be polite and use good manners. Do not be abrasive, aggressive, or demanding. Body language communicates much more than we realize – seek to communicate what is in your heart with your face and your actions.
- » Latin America is a male-dominated culture. Whether we agree with it or not, as we are coming into their country, we must respect that. Women will need to dress extra modestly. Do not hold extended eye contact with men, and do not allow your body orientation to become too close as the wrong intentions may be communicated. Men can set a great example through their interactions with female team members and the local women. These interactions will be watched and can effect positive change.
- » Morality is very important to Nicaraguans and

they have very high standards for Christians. A Christian witness can easily be hurt by something that might not be considered offensive to North American Christians. For this reason, it is very important that there is no consumption/use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco; no use of profanity or innuendos, or inappropriate displays of affection.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

(Subject to change)

💧 SATURDAY / SUNDAY:

» Arrive in Granada

Our field staff will pick up the team at the airport in Managua and drive to the team house in Granada. There will be various opportunities to relax and sight-see, depending on the circumstances of your specific trip.

💧 MONDAY:

» Community walk (see existing water source, meet villagers)

» Begin drilling and take soil samples

» Hygiene, Bible stories, crafts, games

The team will arrive at the village, meet its residents, and be greeted by the mayor, pastor, and/or teachers. This is vitally important relationship-building time. Shake hands with everyone and smile; even if you do not speak Spanish this shows you care. After introductions,



our field staff will pray and the drill and hygiene teams will start their projects. The drill team will prep the site in the morning. The drill team will begin drilling and taking soil samples in an effort to explore for water aquifers. The team may use mud-rotary, compressed air, or a combination of both drilling methods. The hygiene team and hygiene coordinator will walk to see the existing water source(s) and meet with the women of the village. Teams will often visit the homes of the villagers. Finding ways to compliment the women and their homes is a great way to build relationships. Team members have the opportunity to encourage and communicate worth even if they don't speak Spanish. Teams can be warm and welcoming with body language and our staff is happy to help translate.

💧 TUESDAY:

» Drill, case, flush, gravel pack

» Hygiene, Bible stories, crafts, games

Today, the drillers will drill the hole wider, insert PVC casing, flush the well, put in gravel pack, and may start developing/cleaning the well. The hygiene team will meet with the women and children, deliver hygiene and Bible lessons and deepen relationships.

💧 WEDNESDAY:

- » Develop well, clean and pack equipment
- » Hygiene, Bible stories, crafts, games

On this day, drillers will have more time to play with the kids. Take advantage of this time! If you are on the hygiene team you will also want to take advantage of this day. It is your last full day with the community - be intentional about solidifying the relationships you've been fostering throughout the week. The hygiene teams will meet with the women and children. In the morning the drill team will work on developing the well, and in the afternoon will clean the equipment and tools. While the well should be almost complete by the end of the day, wells occasionally take longer than planned; be patient, flexible, and cover everything in prayer. When in doubt, remember: our field staff are the expert drillers. Never take action without their permission and always follow their lead. With God's blessing, the team will see a successful well. In the unlikely event that teams are unable to bring water, rest assured that our in-field staff will return to the community to attempt another well. We will always try every option to assist a community.



💧 THURSDAY:

- » Complete pump installation
- » Dedication ceremony

The drillers will put the final touches on the well and there will be a dedication service. This is a time for the community to thank God for the well and thank the team for its part in bringing water and loving them. This can be an emotional day, and it can be difficult to say good-bye to people who have become very special



to you. However, please do not leave behind any gifts or make promises. While this feels instinctual, it can be damaging and the relationship should not be about what the community does/does not receive. Please do not provide contact information except email, and only do so if willing to write bilingually. Be aware that this may initiate requests for money or travel to the states, which is something Living Water does not support. We recommend journaling when arriving back at the team house while the feelings, thoughts and images of the trip are still vivid.

💧 FRIDAY:

- » Tourist day
- » Pack

Various activities will be offered and it is nice after a hard week to relax and enjoy some down time. Please continue to pray for the village and remember that they are in God's hands. He was

there before you came and He will remain there after you leave.

💧 SATURDAY:

» Leave for home

Team members will get up early and head to the airport.



NICARAGUA STAFF

💧 RITA HOUGH

Rita Hough is the Living Water staff coordinating your trip to Rivas. She is blessed by the opportunity to connect US mission trip teams with the ministry in Nicaragua. She loves working with her husband, Lew, and spending time with her grandchildren.



💧 JORGE & KARLA

Jorge is passionate about bringing water and the Word to the people of Nicaragua. Jorge is our in-country director for Rivas, supervising all of the drilling activities there. He has a great sense of humor and enjoys getting to know the teams. He and his wife, Karla, have been married for 13 years, have 3 boys (Jorge, Brian, and Carlo), and just had their first baby girl (Sophia)!



💧 ADRIAN

Adrian assists Jorge and teams to drill wells. Adrian loves creating relationships with people on the team and in the community. He's also a musician and loves riding his motorcycle to his hometown in northern Nicaragua.



LIVING WATER HISTORY:

Living Water began sending drill teams to Nicaragua in August of 2005. Since then, the program has grown tremendously. When Jorge took over, our trips began to have a very Nicaraguan flavor – and everyone who went wanted to go back again! Now, we send over sixty trips a year to Nicaragua. We work in Rivas, León and help with Pump Repairs in various locations. We are thrilled that you will soon be a part of our story in Nicaragua; get ready for an amazing trip!