



Edwin Ruiz Fuentes

Owner | Operations Manager

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Transportation to and from Costa Rica

The border crossing between Costa Rica and Nicaragua can be extremely busy and frenetic/hectic. There are lots of Nicaraguan people commuting back and forth for work and it's even crazier during the high tourist season (to say nothing of the December 7th-January 9th Holiday Season).

If you do it on your own (especially not knowing the ins and outs) – all this can take hours to say nothing of the frustration and more.

Add that to all the chaos - people offering to convert your money (at a much lower rate of exchange and not always giving you the correct change back [FYI – U.S. dollars are accepted in Nicaragua but bring lots of small bills – like \$1's, \$5's and \$10s and you will almost always get change back in Nicaraguan Córdobas), beggars, all the refugees trying to permeate the border heading towards the U.S. to live the “American Dream” (they're now part of the new beggars), people offering to “hold your bags” while you fill out your paperwork or “help you with your bags” on the Nicaragua side when you take them out of the bus to go through Customs). You have the people offering to “assist you” (by giving you forms and then getting nasty if you don't give them a nice tip when it's something you could have done on your own if you only knew what was next/you were doing), and thieves in general that tend to engulf you as you're getting ready to do something “official” (like when you need to be showing your passport so you're more focused on the Immigration official than what's going on around you). Add all that to if you do not speak much Spanish (most border employees mainly just speak Spanish).

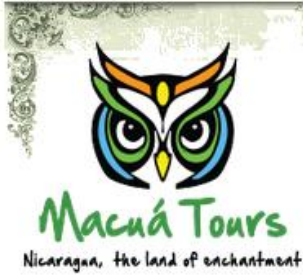
All this can be very overwhelming and intimidating, even for the most seasoned strongest traveler.

Let Macuá Tours and Transportation take the nightmare out of all that for you!

We have really good relationships with **NICARAGUAN IMMIGRATIONS** and we can speed up the immigration/customs formalities on the NICARAGUAN side if the lines are long.

We only operate PRIVATE Transfers between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

(Taking buses and other group shuttles prolongs your time at both borders waiting for everyone with you to be processed thru immigration/customs or the potential of passengers that might have problems crossing)



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THE CUSTOMIZED PROCESS - SERVICES INCLUDED

Our Costa Rican English-speaking assistant will pick you up at Liberia Airport in a comfortable Air-Conditioned vehicle at whatever time YOU request (to be safe, it's best to be at the border after 6am but having cleared Costa Rica's Migración BY 8pm [the Nicaragua side of the border sometimes randomly closes much earlier than it's scheduled midnight]. NOTE: There are days of the week and times of the day when the border is not as busy. Tuesdays and Wednesdays tend to be the slowest days).

Then you'll drive approximately 1-1/2 hours to the border. Your driver will already have the forms you need to fill out so you can complete them while you're driving.

If you have not already pre-purchased your Costa Rica Exit Tax, not to worry – your driver/guide will take you to do that (if there is a line at Immigrations and you are multiple people, one person can stand in the line while your driver will take one of your members along with all the passports and \$8 for each person (\$7 for the Exit Tax plus \$1 that the company processing the Exit Tax charges) to a nearby place that processes the Costa Rica Exit Tax.

You'll then get stamped out of Costa Rica and your assistant will then walk you to the border and turn you over to our Nicaraguan guide who will assist you from there with all the Check-Points, Medical Check-Point, steps at Nicaragua's Immigration building from paying the Municipality Tax and the Immigration process including paying the Nicaraguan Immigration Entry Tax. Then he'll take you to the Customs X-ray machine (if it's working) and/or inspection of all bags/luggage.

You will then get into another air-conditioned vehicle and on your way to San Juan del Sur (about a 40 minute drive), on your right you will notice the shoreline with windmills used to generate power for other countries and the 2 volcanoes that make up Isla Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua!

Throughout the process you will be assisted by an Experienced and Qualified bilingual assistant and you will NEVER BE ALONE TO FEND FOR YOURSELF!

(Nicaragua is still one of the SAFEST Countries in Latin America!)



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NOT INCLUDED

COSTA RICA TO NICARAGUA

- Costa Rica Exit Tax - \$7 (+ \$1 fee the company that processes the tax charges) = \$8 per person (this can be paid in U.S. \$s or Costa Rican Colones)
- Nicaragua Immigration Entry Tax (\$12) plus a local Municipality Tax (\$1) = \$13 per person (this can be paid in U.S. \$s or Nicaragua Cordobas)

TOTAL: \$21 per person (please give as close to the price for each as they don't like to break large bills).

NICARAGUA TO COSTA RICA

- Nicaragua Immigration Departure Tax (\$2) plus a local Municipality Tax (\$1) = \$3 per person (this can be paid in U.S. \$s or Nicaragua Cordobas)
- Proof you are leaving Costa Rica within 90 days (if you have an airline ticket – that is sufficient. Otherwise you can purchase an International bus ticket at the border or online = around \$28)

NOTE: According to the Nicaraguan and Costa Rica Immigration Law, you must have at least 6 months remaining on your passport or you will be refused entry.

TRANSFER RATES

LIBERIA AIRPORT to **Downtown San Juan del Sur**

TIME: Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes drive + time at the border

Sedan - 1- 3 people = \$200 (each way) **total** (not per person)

Van - 1-12 people = \$250 total (not per person)



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Prices are in U.S. \$. Please ideally have the exact change. Please let us know in advance how much luggage you have so we can make sure the vehicle can accommodate it. All payments for Macuá Tours services are made in Nicaragua.

These rates are subject to change during Christmas, New Years and Easter/Semana Santa.

OTHER SERVICES AND TOURS

To learn about other services and tours we offer click at: www.macuatours.com.

We are in the process of enhancing our tour section on our website so if you are interested in visiting other destinations please inquire.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any more questions and we look forward to helping you with your Border Crossing into Nicaragua and any other tour or transfer needs you may have!

Have a great DAY!