



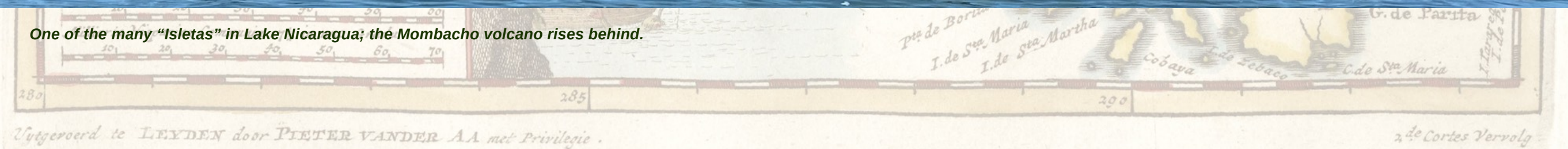
La Carrera Veragua

LA CARRERA VERAGUA

- > Luxurious Touring Journey – Northern Costa Rica & Colonial Nicaragua
- > Classic automobiles provided on site – ready to choose from
- > 14 days, 1,768 km
- > Lonely beaches, 365 islands, endless volcanoes, and maximum colonial flair
- > Our guarantee: 100% south of boredom



One of the many “Isletas” in Lake Nicaragua; the Mombacho volcano rises behind.



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Short & Sweet

- > This is not a sports rally — we cruise in classic cars, carriages, and boats
- > 14 days, not extendable
- > Classic vehicles from us — in rally optic yet comfortable
- > Maximum safety: Costa Rica and Nicaragua are very safe travel countries
- > Escort vehicle with personal rally guide — by your side 24/7
- > Relaxed schedules and pleasant speeds
- > Plenty of time to explore the countries and their highlights
- > Time for convivial evenings with old and new friends
- > We use the best available boutique hotels and lodges
- > No special gear, map work, or licenses required
- > No night driving
- > No visa or vaccination requirements (for most nationalities)
- > No river crossings
- > Small groups for a friendly, relaxed atmosphere
- > Your vehicle can stay at home — no transport costs or hassles
- > IMPORTANT: Drones in Nicaragua require a permit

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How about a touring rally where you leave your own classic at home and simply pick one of ours?
Classic touring made easy: arrive, choose, and drive.

A luxurious rally round-trip through northern Costa Rica and colonial Nicaragua — about 98% by classic car, the rest by carriage and boat.

You still associate Nicaragua with the Somoza dictatorship and the Contra war of the 1980s?
Forget it — that was then.

Now: stunning nature, very safe, wonderfully friendly people, excellent service. Still uncrowded, which makes it authentic. In short: colonial charm turned up to ten.

Veragua — that's what the Spanish called large parts of Central America in the 16th century, before every bay with little gold was worth mapping.

We pick up that thread — not by caravel, but in classics, and instead of missionaries we travel as a small group with curiosity and a sense of humor.



„Paz - Hermano lobo“: the cloister of San Francisco in León; our hotel El Convento (a former monastery) sits just beyond.

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Pura Vida! - Life's great!

In Central America we work **exclusively with the best hotels and lodges** along our route.

We've crafted a fantastic itinerary, bring years of experience, and — not least — provide excellent, rally-prepared classic cars (young- and oldtimers) you'll love.

Choose your favorite, fly in, and drive.

If you prefer to bring your own classic, you're welcome — but you don't have to.

Throughout the journey an escort vehicle and your personal rally leader accompany the group. The focus is squarely on comfort: relaxed timing, pleasant speeds, ample time for sightseeing and good company. And all that in the finest hotels and lodges these countries offer.

No special equipment, no tricky map work, no night stages, and no competition licenses, helmets, or suits required.

Timing: thanks to the regional climate, the Veragua journey runs beautifully from **December through September**.

As a touring-holiday, it's quite different from "regular" rallies and is usually limited to **four vehicles** (+ classic escort vehicle).



One of Central America's finest: NM Culinary Restaurant in Granada.

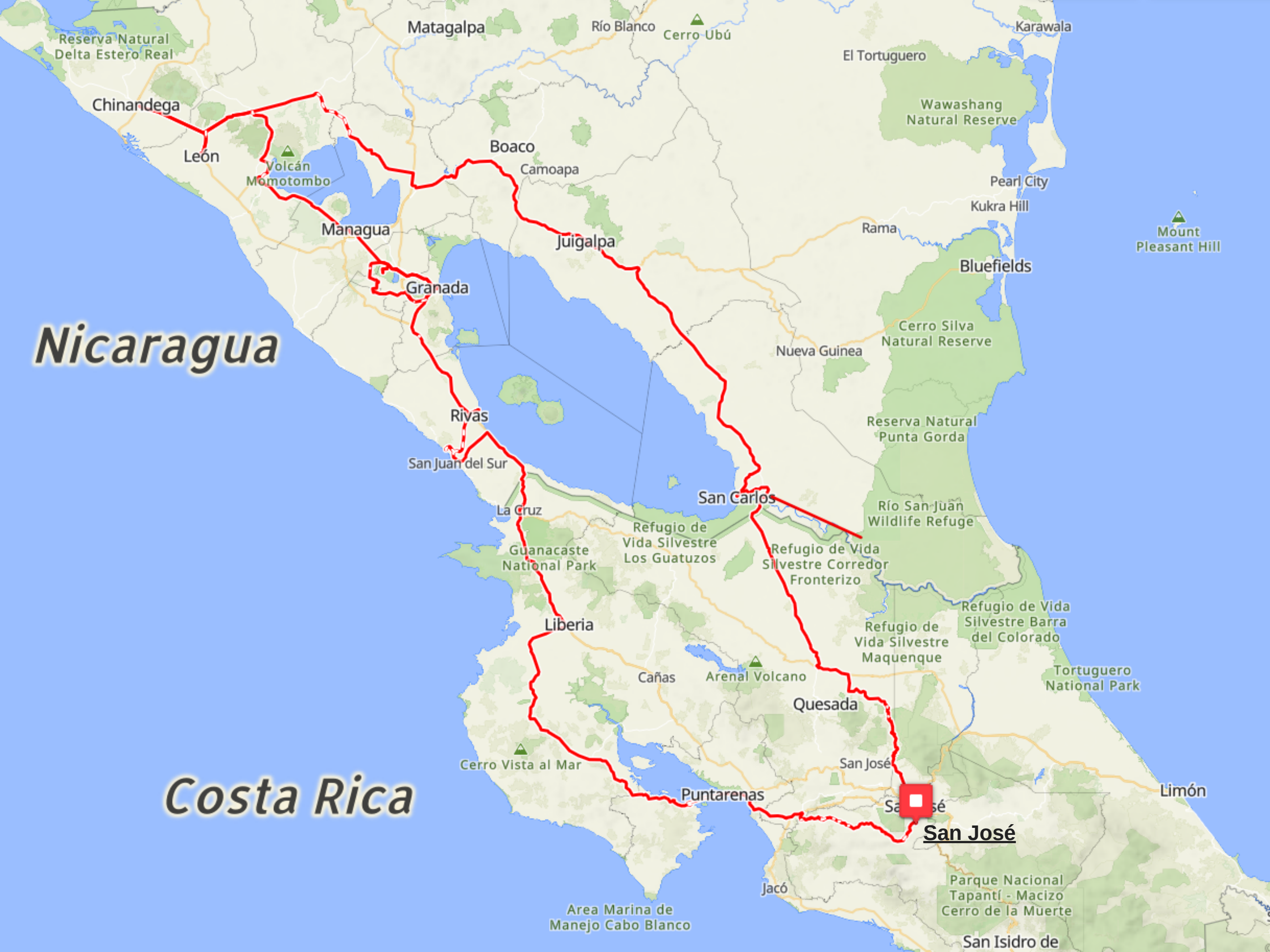
A word on accommodation:

We favor small, character-rich boutique hotels and lodges. When we pick, we look beyond stars: size, location, character, style, charm, ambiance, service — and always the quality of the kitchen.

Hotel links in the brochure are clickable so you can get a feel for the places.



Parque Colón with the Cathedral "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción" in Granada — located right in front of our hotel.



Nicaragua

Costa Rica

LA CARRERA VERAGUA

Day 1

**Arrival at Hacienda Equis
(30–60 minutes from Juan Santamaría Int. Airport)**

Welcome to Hacienda Equis — which, strictly speaking, isn't a hacienda at all. No arcades or columns, but clean lines, natural materials, and modern accents. Mercedes Benz Classic already produced a reportage here — and gave the house its nickname.

Check-in from 15:00.

Settle into your apartment and unwind by the pool with views across the Central Valley, San José, and the northern cordillera's volcanoes.

Meet your fellow travelers over a cocktail.

Address:

Hacienda Equis
Calle Nuñez
última casa
San Rafael Arriba / Aserri
Phones: 8872-1111 und 8873-1111.



Navigation:

Zoom into the QR code and have the taxi driver scan it. Alternatively search in Waze for “Equis Heliopuerto” or “Equis Helipad”. Taxi drivers in Costa Rica all use Waze; Google Maps is comparatively imprecise across Central/South America.



Virginia, thank you so much!

In the evening, a shared dinner awaits us.

The group is small — six to eight fellow travelers, plus us as hosts.

In this intimate setting there's plenty of laughter, and by dessert it becomes clear: you're not sitting at a buffet with anonymous tourists, but with like-minded people who love cars, share stories, and are eager for adventure.

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Day 2 - San José or San Pool

This day belongs to your body clock. Drift in the pool, or head into the capital, San José — no glossy metropolis, but a mix of markets, museums, and a dash of capital-city chaos.

In the evening, our chef and assistant take over the kitchen — not a night for counting calories.



Hotel El Convento in León. The Convent of San Francisco dates back to 1639.

Day 3 – Heading toward Nicaragua

Next, our rally classics climb the central cordillera past the La Paz waterfalls, through Varablanca, and down into the Caribbean lowlands.

Cattle, palms, bananas — then the border to Nicaragua. A small crossing where formalities are surprisingly civil — usually about an hour, provided nobody engages the customs officers in philosophical debate.

Directly on the banks of the Río San Juan lies our freshly restored **Nakawe Lodge** — with **Hacienda Santa Fé**: a gem full of atmosphere.

Nightfall is a chorus of frogs, parrots, and crickets — nature in Dolby Surround.

<https://nakaweresort.com/>

The lodge is intentionally intimate: only four rooms, lots of calm and closeness to nature. Two rooms share a bathroom — part of the place's simplicity and ease that make it special.

Anyone staying here chooses not a standardized hotel, but an authentic experience: birdsong in the morning, hammocks with river views, and the feeling of being close to the “real” Nicaragua.

A perfect spot for guests who appreciate comfort but value atmosphere, originality, and charm even more.

Pro tip: the sundowner in the rancho above the river is a show in itself.

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Day 4 - River Adventure

Morning departure straight from the hotel dock — an upriver boat ride of about 1½ hours (each way). Wildlife is in extralong format here: parrots, herons, iguanas, monkeys — and caimans who look as if they haven't changed much since the Spanish conquest.

Destination: **El Castillo de la Inmaculada Concepción**. The fortress once guarded against pirates and sat on the legendary gold route: from the Caribbean port of San Juan up the river to Granada, and from there by land to the Pacific.

After touring the fort and village, we return to the lodge — this time downstream.

Day 5 - León Santiago de los Caballeros

We leave the river and set course for León — properly: León Santiago de los Caballeros (“León, dedicated to Saint James and the Knights”).

En route we brush past two giants: **Lake Nicaragua** (Lago Cocibolca) — 160 km long, 70 km wide, the world's tenth largest lake — and **Lake Managua** (Lago Xolotlán), the second largest in Central America.

León welcomes us with colonial grandeur. [Our hotel: El Convento](#) — a former monastery, today a luxurious sanctuary steeped in history.



The white rooftop domes of León Cathedral.

Right next door: León Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest cathedral in Central America. Stepping inside, you feel the blend of baroque grandeur and tropical patina.

Day 6 – León in Depth

A full day for this marvelous city.

The cathedral alone can fill hours — including the rooftop terraces with their gleaming domes.

Then a city tour across plazas, museums, universities, and street art.

León reads like an open history book — only you can order a mojito while reading.

A detour with our classics takes us to the storied **Flor de Caña** rum distillery, where we learn that rum isn't “just rum” — but liquid poetry in its purest form.

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Day 7 – On to Granada

We skirt the lakeshore of Lago Xolotlan and pass **Puerto Momotombo**.

The volcanic sand here is so fine that it dares our classics. If you get stuck, at least you've earned a story.

On the horizon rise the volcanoes Momotombo and Momotom-bito, and the site of **León Viejo** — the first Spanish foundation here, today atmospheric ruins.

By afternoon we reach **Granada**, Nicaragua's oldest city. Our [hotel: Plaza Colón](#), right on the central park, facing the basilica.

Colonial style in pure form — with working WiFi, a combination the Spaniards never knew.

Day 8 – Granada & Volcanoes

In the morning we head to **Laguna de Apoyo**, a deep-blue crater lake surrounded by jungle. In the artisan villages of **Catarina**, colorful markets await, selling everything you'd struggle to fit into a classic car - at least the SL's.

In the afternoon, we drive to **Masaya Volcano** — right up to the active crater. And yes, you really can see lava here. If you spot smoke rising, rest assured: that's no mist from the air conditioning.



Doesn't look stuck? Oh yes, it is. Story secured.

Day 9 – Granada in Motion

Granada reveals itself best in style: by **horse drawn carriage** through lanes lined with palaces, churches, and bright facades.

Then a boat tour through the lake's **365 isletas** — each with a story. Some are tiny bird rocks, others fine, private retreats with pools, and a few hold old Spanish forts.

We always keep score — the “Likes”.

All of Central America loves classic cars and shows it: thumbs up, shouts, horn toots, snapshots — each counts one point. Civilians only.

Double points if it's a police officer giving the thumbs up or taking a photo. Don't believe it?

Check the photos on our website.

The current day record is **15 likes**.

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Day 10 – Past Ometepe

We follow the shore of **Lake Nicaragua** toward Puerto San Jorge.

From here you see the twin volcanoes **Concepción** and **Maderas** standing guard over **Isla Ometepe**.

Then on to [Morgan's Rock, a boutique ecolodge](#) on nearly 2,000 hectares along the Pacific — with its own airstrip, for anyone tempted to drop in by private plane.



Lake Cocibolca, the great Lake Nicaragua.
In the background rises Ometepe Island with its volcanoes.



Morgan's Rock - Hacienda & Ecolodge

Day 11 – Beach Day Deluxe

Morgan's Rock is more than a hotel: a deserted two kilometer crescent of sand, deep blue water, abundant wildlife, and profound quiet.

Do nothing but breathe — or paddle a kayak, try yoga, stroll the beach, relax at the beach with a cold beer or surf.

Dinner with a view over the bay; the salt in the air replaces the salt in the shaker.

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Day 12 – Back to Costa Rica

Today we cross back into Costa Rica. A bit of chaos, an hour of waiting, a lot of calm.

After the paperwork we drive onto the Nicoya Peninsula.

Destination: [O'Pacífico at Playa Naranjo](#) — private beach, palms, hammocks, parrots.

Kayak through mangroves, watch birds, or paddle at sunset across the Gulf of Nicoya.

A highlight is the **night tour into bioluminescent waters**.

Yoga and meditation are also on offer.

Some of our teams have even given other hotel guests little demos with our cars.

And they call it... meditation.

Day 13 – Return to Hacienda Equis

Ferry to **Puntarenas**, past the old prison island **San Lucas** — with dolphins if they're in the mood.

Then over the pacific mountains via Santiago back to **Hacienda Equis**.

Evening BBQ under the stars. If you like, share the best mishaps of the trip — and yes, getting stuck in the powder-fine volcanic sand deserves one more mention.



On the ferry to Puntarenas — about one hour and fifteen minutes, sometimes with dolphins along the way.

Day 14 – Farewell

After breakfast it's time to close suitcases and say goodbye to the classics.

Departure with stories packed: Spanish fortresses, colonial cathedrals, volcanoes and lava fields, tropical wildlife, and deserted beaches.

Conclusion

This rally journey isn't a museum piece tracing colonial roads, but a living drive through the here and now — in classics with more soul than any SUV.

Expect fourteen days of history, landscapes, and elegance - seasoned with dry wit and a wink.



DAVILA
Fortaleza San Pablo on an island in Lake Nicaragua.
Built in 1789 to protect Granada from pirates.
We visit it during our islet tour.



LA CARRERA VERAGUA



Pool area - Hacienda Equis

INCLUDED PACKAGE — Our Services	OWN vehicle	OUR vehicle
Welcome dinner	✓	✓
14 days / 13 nights in Costa Rica's and Nicaragua's best hotels & lodges	✓	✓
All breakfasts or breakfast buffets	✓	✓
At Hacienda Equis: all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks & soft drinks included	✓	✓
Escort vehicle (usually Range Rover Classic)	✓	✓
Multilingual rally leader (DE-EN-ES)	✓	✓
Replacement vehicle if necessary	(by arrangement)	✓
Wonderful routes & highlights	✓	✓
Classic rally vehicle (car or motorcycle)	✓	✓
Full-coverage insurance ; deductible US\$ 1,800 (Porsche 911: US\$ 5,000)		✓
All entrance and event fees , national parks, etc. (Fuel is not included!)	✓	✓
Included activities : Río San Juan boat trip, Granada carriage ride, rum tasting, Isletas boat tour	✓	✓
Rally plates, numbers, and stickers	✓	✓
Emergency medical support	✓	✓
Radios and flashlights	✓	✓
Thorough vehicle cleaning at tour's end		✓
Farewell dinner or barbecue	✓	✓

LA CARRERA VERAGUA

Some details

Nice to have — absolutely not required:

For navigation in Costa Rica and Nicaragua we recommend the ultra simple app **Organic Maps**, free for iPhone and Android.

There is no paid version.

After installing, download the free maps — Costa Rica and Nicaragua, of course.

Organic Maps works offline, very precisely, without ads and without tracking, so that:

- a) you always know where you are;
- b) there are **no roaming/data costs**;
- c) you're informed about useful POIs.

We love the app because it's so incredibly easy — even a beginner is up and running in under two minutes.

As noted: navigation is optional. If you prefer to go without, that's absolutely fine.



In Nicaragua, horse-drawn carts and sturdy pick-ups still share the role of all-purpose transport.

We hope you enjoyed the program. Questions welcome:

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Please call between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. CET — time zones, you know. Sundays are even better: in the mornings we've got all the time in the world.

Edition: 8 October 2025.

Program valid from 1 January 2026. Subject to change.

The historical background map used here dates from 1706; the original hangs at Hacienda Equis.



Inga Ingo Bartsch CR, Costa Rica
www.rally-rally.com



Varablanca, La Paz Waterfalls. Wherever the old cars appear, photos get taken. Costa Ricans and Nicaraguans love classic and vintage cars.