Trekonda

Rivas · Lago Cocibolca · Nicaragua

Isla de Ometepe

Traveler's guide

An island of two volcanoes in Lake Cocibolca, active Concepción and Maderas with its crater lake: kayaking on the Río Istián, swimming at Ojo de Agua, petroglyphs and San Ramón waterfall.

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Nature

Ometepe is the largest island in Lake Cocibolca: some 276 km² formed by two volcanoes joined by a low isthmus. Concepción (1,610 m), an almost perfect cone, is still active; extinct Maderas (1,394 m) is covered in cloud forest and holds a lagoon in its crater. The island has been a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2010. Its ancient inhabitants left around 1,700 petroglyph panels on the slopes of Maderas. On the isthmus, the Río Istián wetland, a wildlife refuge, is home to water birds, turtles, caimans and howler monkeys.



Activities

- Climbing Concepción with a local guide: a long, demanding day of 5 to 8 h return, with loose rock near the top
- Hiking Maderas on often muddy cloud-forest trails to the crater lagoon: about 6 h return
- Kayaking the Río Istián from Mérida, crossing the bay to the isthmus wetlands to watch birds, turtles and caimans
- Swimming at Ojo de Agua, a natural spring-fed pool surrounded by trees, near Santo Domingo
- San Ramón waterfall, about 40 to 50 m high, on the southern slope of Maderas: a trail of about 3.7 km from the biological station
- Petroglyphs on the slopes of Maderas, such as those at El Porvenir, and bike or motorbike rides between the island's villages

When to go

The dry season, from mid-November to mid-May, draws most visitors and is the best time to climb the volcanoes. In the rainy season, roughly May to October, San Ramón waterfall carries more water, but the lake rises and covers beaches such as Santo Domingo and the sandy point of Jesús María. The wind often whips up waves on the lake, so it is best to paddle in the morning.

How to get there

The nearest airport is Managua (MGA). By road it takes about 2 h 30 to Rivas, then a few minutes to the port of San Jorge. Ferries and launches leave San Jorge several times a day for Moyogalpa, a crossing of 1 h to 1 h 30. From the Peñas Blancas border with Costa Rica, San Jorge is less than 1 h away. On the island there are slow local buses, taxis, and motorbike and bicycle rentals.

Activities in this destination

Hiking & trekking · Volcano · Rafting & hydrospeed · Boat trips, canoe & kayak · Hot springs · Zipline & tree climbing · Canyoning & rappelling · Paragliding · Horseback riding · Snow & snowshoeing · Local & indigenous culture · Nature & photography · Stargazing · Full-day excursions · Food & wine · Family & inclusive · Surfing & bodyboard · Sandboarding & dunes · Cycling & MTB · Climbing & mountaineering · Ice & glaciers · Kitesurfing & windsurfing · Diving & snorkelling · Wildlife & whale watching · City & walking tours · Birdwatching · Fly & sport fishing · Archaeology & ruins · Wine & wineries · Coffee & cocoa · 4x4 safari & overland

Experiences

No experiences published in Isla de Ometepe yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

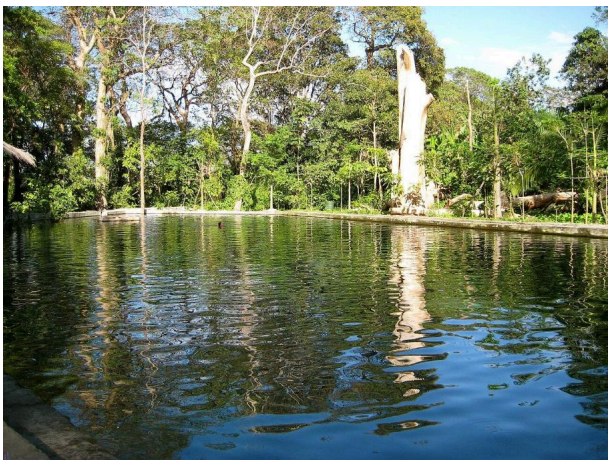
Guides

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Photo gallery



Volcán Concepción desde los campos de Santo Domingo · Adam Jones · CC BY-SA 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons



Ojo de Agua, Ometepe · Mat Honan · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

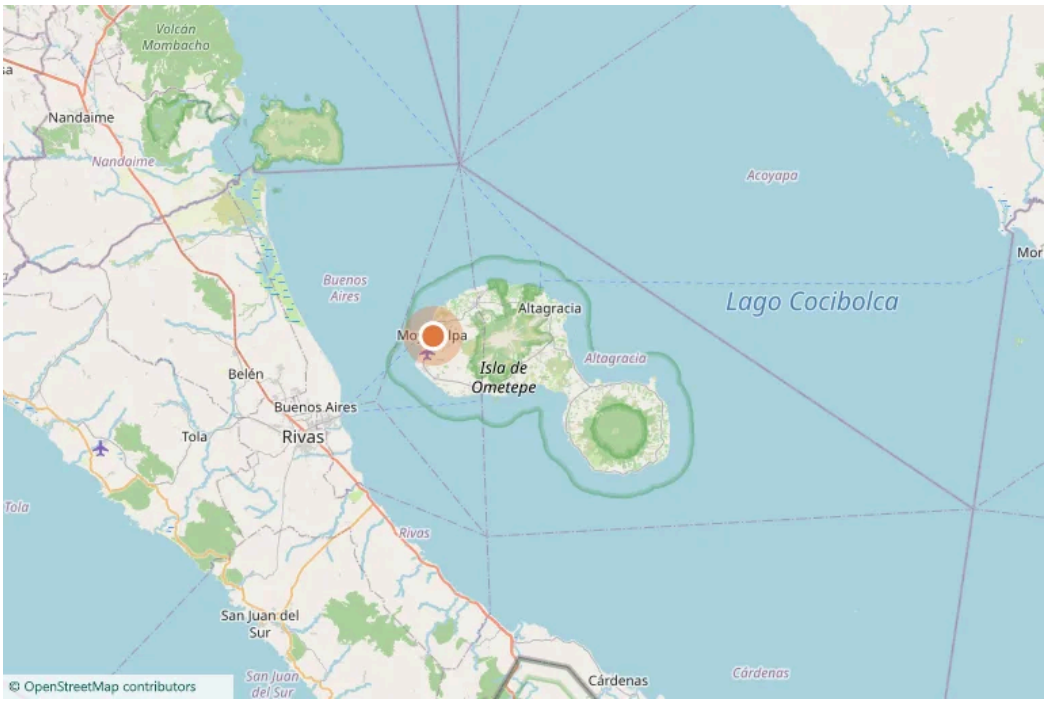


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Petroglifos de Ometepe · Ghostwriter9151 · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Map · Isla de Ometepe



11.5390, -85.6970 · Directions in Google Maps

How to book with a local guide

Choose your experience → Request your date → Experience Isla de Ometepe

Send your request and the guide contacts you directly with availability and price.

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