

# Itinerary for Lovo Cigar Factory/Plantation Tour

**Day 1: Wednesday** – Start your adventure at Managua Airport where you will stop at the passport control to pay your \$5 entrance fee and have your passport stamped. Pick up your luggage, go through customs and exchange some US dollars for Cordoba's. Your deluxe motor coach will be waiting outside to whisk you off to Esteli, where the climate is cooler and the best tobacco grows (this part of the country served as a refuge for Cuban cigar makers during the Cuban Revolution – thus establishing this large industry)! Your luggage will be delivered to Los Arcos Hotel by separate transportation, where you will spend the next 3 nights. Stop for lunch at La Fogata Buffet and sample some of the local food. Arrive at Los Arcos Hotel where you can relax on the rooftop patio, overlooking the city, and recuperate after your overnight flight. That evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the Lovo Cigar Factory and find out all the exciting things that are in store for you in the next couple of days... from Plantin' Seed to Kickin' Ash! Overnight at *Los Arcos Hotel*.



**Day 2: Thursday** – Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. Now, "Let's Roll" and board the motor coach for the short trip to the Lovo tobacco plantation. Select a premium "stick" to enjoy along the way, as this is cigar country! Be sure to wear something comfortable so you can "experience the full meaning" of the plantation at work! You will see just how the small seedlings are planted by hand, how they are nurtured for maximum growth, then harvested and put into the curing barns to wait for perfection before heading off to the Lovo Cigar Factory. No machinery here! You'll break for an authentic meal of Carne Asada with all the trimmings, lots of regional beer and plenty of Lovo cigars. This is the time to swap stories about all you learned that morning, and how much you now know about cigar making! A professional photographer will be along to make sure your stories and experiences are captured for all time. Then you will board the motor coach for the trip back to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel, then relax and enjoy the rooftop patio while Kickin' Ash with Lovo cigars and sipping one of your favorite cocktails until you have had your fill. Overnight at *Los Arcos Hotel*.



**Day 3: Friday** – Enjoy a full Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will tour the Lovo Cigar factory. Find out what happens after they harvest all that tobacco. You will follow the tobacco as it goes from sorting, batching, fermenting in massive pilons which are rotated for even fermentation for months, then more sorting, cutting and processing before heading off to the rolling tables. What makes each cigar different? How is the tobacco cured? Rolled? Wrapped? Boxed? Everything is handled at the Lovo Cigar Factory under one roof. How many people does it really take to make a cigar? (Some say 100 pairs of hands are involved) You'll even get to "roll your own" with an experienced "roller" to help you learn the technique that has been handed down from the Masters. Then its time to have some lunch and mingle with the factory workers. Enjoy a catered meal and find out how a cigar factory is run. Now is the time you can purchase your favorite cigars to stock up your humidor at home. After returning to the hotel you have the afternoon for yourself. The motor coach will make a trip to town for any shopping you might want to do... a leather belt, or boots, or maybe a saddle! That evening you will be treated to a mouth watering dinner at Pullaso's Ole Restaurante. This is Friday night and Esteli is ready to play. Clubs and bars are open so enjoy your last night in town or relax and enjoy the evening out on the rooftop patio and take in all the surrounding sights and sounds of Esteli, Nicaragua. Overnight at *Los Arcos Hotel*.



**Day 4: Saturday** – Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. This morning you will check out of the Los Arcos Hotel, board the motor coach and head off for Masaya and Granada. You'll stop for lunch along the way then we'll visit the huge Masaya Flea Market where you can purchase black pottery, hand woven hammocks, leather goods, and most anything else you can think of to take home with you. Then on to Granada, founded in 1524 and the oldest city in the Americas. You will check into the Hotel Alhambra, one of the most luxurious and largest hotels in Granada. The colonial-style hotel is located at the western side of the central park, located in the heart of the city and nearby most of the main tourist attractions of the city such as San Francisco Convent, churches, La Calzada street and the Granada Islets. You will hop on a boat to experience a ride through the Granada Islets. It's something like taking the Jungle Boat ride a Disneyland only the real thing!



When the Mombacho Volcano erupted thousands of years ago, it threw huge rocks into Lake Nicaragua. As a result of this violent eruption 365 islets were formed in front of Granada. The islets differ in size from 2000 sq ft. to 250 acres. Mostly fishermen live on these islands, but the larger islands have hotels or luxurious houses. You'll even see monkeys on one of the islands just waiting for you to bring them some cookies! Return to the hotel to freshen up, see some of the sights and get ready for a Granada Steak Dinner at El Zagnan Restaurant. Overnight at *Hotel Alhambra*



**Day 5: Sunday** – Today we say goodbye to Nicaragua. Enjoy a full breakfast at the hotel. Free time until 1:00 pm. Then we board the coach for the Managua airport.