



## VOLUNTEER HOUSING

(IT IS NOT MANDATORY THAT YOU STAY IN OUR HOUSING. IF YOU WISH, YOU ARE FREE TO FIND YOUR OWN HOUSING)

There are four volunteer houses, **La Casita**, **El Martirio**, **Libertad** and **Santa Lucia**. All are in the historic town center of Granada, and are within a ten minutes walk of our office.

**The primary house rules are no drugs, no minors in the house, and no overnight visitors. If you break one of these three rules, you will be asked to leave the volunteer housing immediately.**

*Examples: No illegal drugs (including marijuana), no street kids in the house, no visitors sleeping on the couch, no "Couch Surfing", no renting out your bed, no boyfriends/girlfriends staying overnight, and no giving your bed to someone else.*

The houses have fans, cable TV, internet connection, well equipped kitchens and washing machines. The cooking stoves are gas; if you haven't used one before please ask another volunteer for instructions to ensure safety. There is no hot water. The houses are colonial style with open interior patios and no screens. Sheets are supplied; you should bring your own beach towel. Granada is an old city and it is in the tropics, so you will often see insects, mice, bats etc. that you will likely never see in your house at home.

Everyone staying in the house has equal rights; please respect others and be considerate. If you have any problems call a house meeting.

### House Rules:

Use of any illegal drugs is strictly prohibited and is a serious crime under Nicaraguan law. This includes the use of marijuana.

Pets or animals are not permitted in the house.

Visitors are not allowed to stay overnight. This means that they cannot stay anywhere in the house, including on sofas, hammocks, beds, etc. Additionally, you cannot rent or lend your bed to anyone else (this includes a boyfriend or girlfriend).

No barbecues or open fires are permitted. Nicaraguan law states that barbecues or open fires are not allowed in the historic town center.

Portable plastic pools are prohibited due to the risk of mosquito larvae infestation.

Smoking should be in open areas only, and only then if all members of the house agree.

We try and keep the houses well maintained, with everything functioning. If you see something that needs repair, please tell someone in the office.



Writing or drawing on the walls is also prohibited due to the cost and labor of removing it.

Basic cleaning is done by local women we employ, but you are responsible for your own dishes, keeping your area tidy, taking out garbage and washing your own clothes and bedding.

#### Rent:

The rent you pay is a contribution towards the costs of renting, electricity, water, cooking gas, cleaning, and repairs. The houses are not run for profit but to provide low cost accommodation for volunteers. Any shortage of funds is covered by one of our donors. None of our donations go towards necessary payments to maintain housing.

Rent is charged weekly from Saturday to Saturday (this covers until the morning of the following Saturday). On the day you have orientation you will be asked to pay the first four weeks' rent in dollars or córdobas. You may pay the rent for your entire stay at that time also, if you would like. Following the first four weeks (given that you have not paid for the entire stay upon arrival), you will continue paying four weeks at a time. If you decide not to stay upon arrival in the house, you'll pay a full week's rent.

Saturday is the day you must leave the house. Days after will be charged at a daily rate, if there is a bed available. This price applies from that Saturday until Tuesday of that same week. If you wish to stay more nights after Tuesday, you must pay the full week's rent.

To leave the house, and receive a refund, please give two full weeks notice from a Saturday. For holidays and traveling, please note: Once you have reserved your space, we regard that as the time you will stay in the house – if you decide to go away for a week, or two weeks, it doesn't make any difference to the amount you pay – you need to pay from the day you arrive until the day you leave. We will not give your bed to anyone else while you are away.

Only volunteers are allowed to stay in the houses. Former volunteers may stay in the houses, if there are beds available, and pay following the guidelines for volunteers staying past the last day of their original reservation.

#### Room rates:

- **Bed in a dorm room: \$25/week (per person)**
- **Double room for a couple: \$50/week (in total)**
- **Private single room: \$35-45/week**

#### Keys:

If you are being picked up in a taxi at the airport we will send your house key with our regular taxi driver. If you are coming by bus from another destination in Central America or are taking a shuttle from the airport, please let us know your arrival details so we can make arrangements for your keys.



For your safety (and to protect your, and your housemates' possessions) the front security doors need to be locked with your key at all times.

For your safety, don't let anyone into the house that doesn't live there. If someone is coming to do repairs we will let you know or they will be accompanied by someone with a key – don't open the door to strangers. There is a refundable key deposit of 100 córdobas. You are responsible for your house key. If you lose it, even if it is stolen, the tumblers of the lock must be changed and new keys made for everyone. You will be responsible for the cost (between \$70 and \$90 to change the lock and provide new keys for everyone).

**Very Important:**

**Drug laws:** Nicaraguan law makes no distinction between 'hard' and 'soft' drugs. Being found in possession of even small quantities of any drugs will result in prison time. Everyone in the house may be considered equally responsible so don't permit drug use in the house. The law in Nicaragua is that you are guilty until proven innocent – so don't allow yourself to be in a situation where you could possibly be deemed to be guilty.

**Respect for the neighbors:** Nicaraguan law states that you cannot disturb your neighbors, and you should take special care at night. By law, there should not be loud noises after 11pm, so please turn down your music, TV, etc. Also, be aware that because of the open patio design of our houses, noise carries easily next door.

**Minors in the houses:** Nicaraguan law states that you cannot admit children under 18 years of age into your dwelling/house without their parent or guardian. Child protection laws are serious here, so please do not bring children into the houses at any time.

**Please respect the house rules, or you will be asked to leave the house.**

And remember, it is not mandatory that you stay in our housing! If you are unable to follow these rules, please stay elsewhere.