



2016 Volcano Charity Challenge – Tentative Itinerary

Day one:

The starting point of the hike is the ranger station located between Cerro Negro and the Las Pilas-El Hoyo complex. As we reach the foot of the Volcán Cerro Negro, we leave our overnight packs at the station and begin a moderate 30-minute climb to the first of two active craters. We follow the crater's edge for another 30 minutes to reach the second crater and highest point of the volcano. Then it's time for the fun part...a spectacular descent of the volcano's black sand slopes on volcano boards! After a safety demonstration, we put on our special volcano boarding suits (of course neon-colored) and take off down Cerro Negro.

After refueling with a snack at the ranger station, we grab our big packs and begin a steep ascent of the Las Pilas – El Hoyo volcanic complex. We eat lunch upon arriving at the base of Las Pilas, and then wind through forests and old craters to approach El Hoyo. Out of nowhere comes “the Hole,” a mysterious giant sinkhole where we make camp. After erecting tents, we take a closer look at the Hole, summit the volcano, and explore an ominous, steaming sulfur vent. We enjoy dinner from the campsite, practically a balcony seat for the view over Lake Managua, Momotombo, and lake Asososca.

- **Cerro Negro** (1hr hike/300m elevation gain and volcano board down!)
- **El Hoyo** (4-5 hour hike/900m elevation gain) by sunset

Day two:

Today, we open our tents and discover a truly unforgettable sunrise view of the lakes and volcanoes. We then eat breakfast, pack up camp, and make our way downwards through jungle and farmland to reach the Volcán Asososca and neighboring crater lake. After a long morning of hiking, we arrive at the crater lake where we eat lunch and reward ourselves with a refreshing swim.

Tonight, we camp at the finca of Don Candido, a local farmer with endless stories of growing coffee at the base of an active volcano, Volcan San Cristobal. An early bedtime helps us to rise early for a challenging hike the next day.

We return by mid-day and take transportation to watch the sunset over Volcan Telica.

- Descend **El Hoyo** and swim in crater **Lake Asososca** on the way down (4-5 hour hike/1200m elevation loss). Return by mid-day and take transportation to watch the sunset over **Volcan Telica** (approx.45min hike up, 30min down).