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Best Places to Travel in 2015

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Nicaragua

Eco-adventurers have their sights set on Costa Rica's northern neighbor as much for its geographic diversity—beaches, lakes, islets, volcanoes, rainforests, and reefs—as for its colonial-meets-bohemian vibe and comparative affordability. The **Tribal Hotel** is a laid-back luxury retreat in the heart of Granada—a colorful 500-year-old city on the shores of Lake Nicaragua—whose expat owners have globe-trotting friends bound to up the ante of flush visitors. In March 2015, the **Inn at Rancho Santana** will debut 17 rooms on a breezy isthmus with five private beaches dotting the Pacific Coast two hours southwest of Granada. Neighboring **Mukul Resort** opened to great fanfare in 2013 as Nicaragua's first five-star hideaway and has since launched Flor de Caña Centenario 25, a slow-aged premium Nicaraguan rum. Environmentalists are keeping close watch on a controversial Chinese-backed canal development with the potential to boost Nicaragua's economy but also to threaten ecosystems and indigenous communities—added incentive to explore now. —*Nora Walsh*



Courtesy of The Tribal Hotel

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