



Practices at Flor de Pochote, Masatepe

Concept and methodology

We call it “**learning by using**”. The student will have the double agenda to learn about the working processes in the rural Nicaragua and to improve his Spanish.

We let **local people explain** their tasks and instruct the student to do the same job. This dialog will be **assisted by a teacher** whose task is to prepare the student to be able to understand the explanations and to capture the basic vocabulary. The teacher furthermore may be a facilitator of the conversation, and she should play attention to the student’s special needs, so that these can be attended during the private lesson in the morning.

The practices will be done in **groups of 1-4** students, who may be at different Spanish levels. If there are more than 5 students, we will form two groups, with different thematic, due to the desires and levels of each individual.

Standard week-program at Flor de Pochote

(the themes and tasks may vary during the seasons)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7-9		Breakfast					
9-10		Personal instruction to fill gaps in grammar and vocabulary, consulting and practicing specific matters.					Hiking in the rocks Trip to lagoon area
10-12		Coffee: Farming	Forestry: Trip and training	Fruits: Presentation	Practice: Cooking	Animals: Intro and birds	
12-13		Lunch					
13.30-15.30	Arrival	Coffee: Selection and roasting	Firewood: Practice	Fruits: Pruning or harvest:	Carpentry introducción	Animals: Cattle	Leaving
15.30-18	Presentation of Flor de Pochote	Free	Free	Free	Trip to Masatepe	Free	
18.30	Dinner						

Typical themes for practical work

Coffee farming and roasting:

Morning: We see the coffee-plantation, such as nursery, pruning, fertilizing, shade control, pests, weeding and harvest.

Afternoon: How to convert a dry grain in a delicious cup of coffee.

Forestry and Firewood:

Morning: Visiting our forest areas, knowing selected tree species and their characteristics. Something about management, and cutting a tree or some branches... to get our firewood.

Afternoon: Splitting firewood with ax or machete. Piling firewood. Sharpening of tools. Making charcoal.

Fruit trees:

Morning: Introduction. Walking in the fields to see different fruit trees and the main problems related to some selected species. Presentation of tools and how to make fertilizer and pesticides.

Afternoon: Jobs of the season: Pruning and fertilizing Pitahaya cactus; harvesting Cashew and making wine; fertilizing oranges with compost....

Cattle and other animals:

Morning: Poultry - geese, ducks, hens – cleaning and feeding

Afternoon: Cattle – cutting fodder, milking and cleaning the stable.

Cooking: Participate in preparing your own lunch with instructions in Spanish

Carpentry:

An introduction to the main tools and basic woodworking, to prepare a visit in a furniture workshop in the city.

Note: Normally the practical theme starts, at 10 a clock, with a review of the basic text and the glossary together with the teacher, so that the effective time in the field will be about 3 hours a day.

Other included activities:

Flor de Pochote presentation – we tell shortly about the center and take you around, include guided walk on our “yellow track”

Trip to Masatepe: We go by car to the nearby town Masatepe. First we visit one of the characteristic furniture workshops, later we look around in the city and there will be time for shopping, strolling around or visiting an Internet cafe¹.

Hiking in the rocks: Saturday in the morning or guide invite you to explore the slopes and lagoon area. There are many interesting tracks, and the route will be determined due to your wishes. If you want to climb the volcano, we can organize a trip by foot/horse, but due to the entrance fees and official guides from the national park we will have to charge 15-20 USD extra, in dependence of the size of the group and if you need a horse.

¹ We have limited access to the Internet on the farm, to attend urgent mails and so, but not for longer sessions.

Free hours:

Some afternoons are free for hiking, exploring, relaxing or trips to the town. We can help organizing activities. If you need a guide, transportation or similar services, we may have to charge for these.

Included services

Transport in private car/taxi/minibus to-from Granada to Flor de Pochote. If you desire we can pick you up in Managuas airport or Masaya.

6 nights sleeping in Flor de Pochotes hostel: Shared room with other students and travelers.

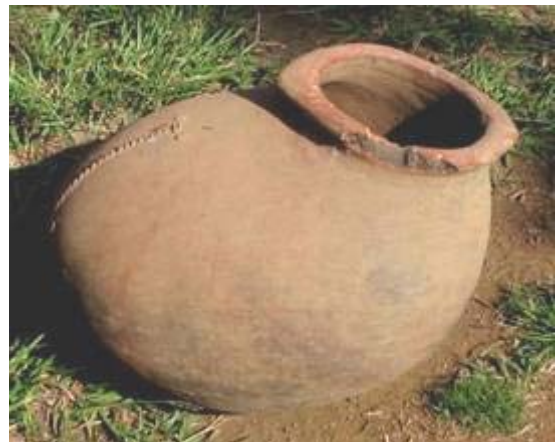
3 daily meals and 1 refreshment during the class in the morning. We normally serves a “dish of the day”, which can be with meat or vegetarian, but you can also select dishes from our menu, if you advise in time. The meals include a soft drink (natural or bottled).

Extra services:

- Alcoholic drinks, such as beer, rum and the local Flor de Pochote wine
- Extra meals and specialties from our menu
- Internet – max. 1 hour a day – 25 C\$/hour
- Private cabin (for 2 persons) 100 US\$ extra a week
- Óther person accompanying the student: Food 8 US\$/day, sleeping 4-6 US\$/night (if you pay for a cabin, on extra person will be included)
- Visit to Pikín Guerrera agricultural cooperative: 2 US\$/pers. (min. 2 pers.)



The invisible giant on the track to Nandasmo beach.



The Pochote Community is placed above an old precolonial city, probably the first Masatepe. There have been many archeological findings in the area.