

# Puerto Corinto, Nicaragua

*I wasn't able to find really descriptive information of this port sufficient to make a definitive walking tour. I've only been there once and my personal notes have somehow disappeared. I was able to find general information on three different blogs, so I repeat them here with some editing and additions.*

## Number 1

While cruising along the northwest Pacific coast, you may float near the port town of Corinto, Nicaragua. Also called Puerto Corinto, this municipality in the province of Chinandega (which shares a border with Honduras) was founded in 1858. During the late 1800s, the town had a short period of British occupation until the Clayton–Bulwer Treaty with the United States forced the occupiers out. The port is typically a stopping-off point for León (around 38 miles southeast) and Managua (about 95 miles southeast). Travelers looking for a nice, quiet place to relax a bit will enjoy Puerto Corinto. With fewer than 17,000 residents, this is an area of quaint shops and lovely churches in which to pass the time. For more excitement, there are several tours that can take you to the larger cities for sightseeing and shopping. Here are some of our favorite experiences when cruising to Puerto Corinto, Nicaragua:

For some local history and culture, visit the Alfonso Cortes-Corinto History Museum, Library & Auditorium. Named after a famous Nicaraguan poet, this former train station houses some items from Corinto's past along with some railroad artefacts.

If you're looking for beaches, there are few options in Corinto. One secluded beach is Playa Paso Caballo, fine for sunbathing or relaxing. However, the waters aren't safe for swimming and there are no lifeguards.

Outdoor enthusiasts can take a tour to the dormant Volcan Viejo, which is around 18 miles north of Puerto Corinto. It's Nicaragua's steepest hike, so expect a bit of a challenge. There are also local fishermen happy to take you to El Cardon, one of the nearby (and uninhabited) barrier islands whose natural beauty inspired poet Ruben Dario.

There are multiple festivals throughout the area during the warmer months, both in Corinto and in Leon. If you're a foodie, you may want to plan to visit during Fiesta Gastronomica del Mar, the annual summer festival that begins with fishing contest and involves chefs from all over creating amazing seafood dishes.

## Number 2

Corinto is a very small coastal town that is located on the northwest of Nicaragua. Even though Corinto only has a population of approximately 20 000 and the town itself is very poor, it is also home to one of the biggest harbor ports. If you are looking for a forgotten town where life passes by slowly and where there is not a hint of city life, then Puerto Corinto is the perfect destination in Nicaragua. There are a few ministries and church assemblies that are currently working within Corinto to assist families that are victims of unemployment and to try to provide relief where they are able. Corinto is a fairly safe destination in Nicaragua, but visitors are urged to remain vigilant and not to wander into areas they are unsure of. The town's name originates from Corinth, a city in Greece, and what Corinto lacks in riches it makes up for in nostalgia and tranquility.

Puerto Corinto is home to a few religious festivals and cultural events during the year; however most visitors are attracted to its virtually untouched beaches and idyllic tropical surroundings. Apart from a few local boys who use the beach for a game of soccer, the beautiful stretches of sand and ocean are yours to enjoy. If you would like to take a quick splash in the waves, visitors must be aware that the currents are very strong here and extra precaution should be taken. Another shore that deserves exploration is the completely deserted and breathtaking Isla El Cardon. Locals will be able to take you to this remote little island by boat at a reasonable rate. Here you will definitely be able to enjoy the peaceful island breeze and soak up the warm sun without worrying about overcrowded beaches. The more adventurous visitors can safely investigate the rest of the island as it is not inhabited at all.

The port and the railway service that is situated in Corinto are extremely important to the import and export industry of South America. A wide variety of items and cargo pass through the port and container terminal every year. This includes vehicles, liquid cargo and coffee. Coffee might seem like a normal drink, but locals prefer purchasing raw coffee beans as opposed to getting a tin off the shelf. The quality of the coffee is of the highest standard and locals brew their own coffee as strong or as weak as they want it. You will definitely be able to enjoy one of the finest cups of coffee you have ever sampled in Corinto.

The streets of Corinto are lined with quaint little shops and lovely church buildings. You will also be able to access most of the destinations in Nicaragua from Corinto. After an exciting day of exploration you can return to the tranquility of this picturesque coastal town.

## Number 3

Puerto Corinto -- a small, tropical paradise in northwest Nicaragua's Chinandega department -- is a common stop for cruise ships touring the Panama Canal area. Puerto Corinto, founded in the 1858, is Nicaragua's largest port; it has lovely, white sand beaches and clear, cerulean water. The city sits on the Punto Icaco island and is connected to the mainland by bridges.

### Beaches

Nicaragua's beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world. One famous beach in Puerto Corinto is called Playa Paso Caballo, named for the supposed sightings of the devil who runs across the beach's bridge at night. Visitors should be aware that the water here is very dangerous; it is best to sunbathe or collect shells here, as the beach is relatively secluded and there are no lifeguards on duty.

### Shopping and Dining

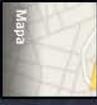
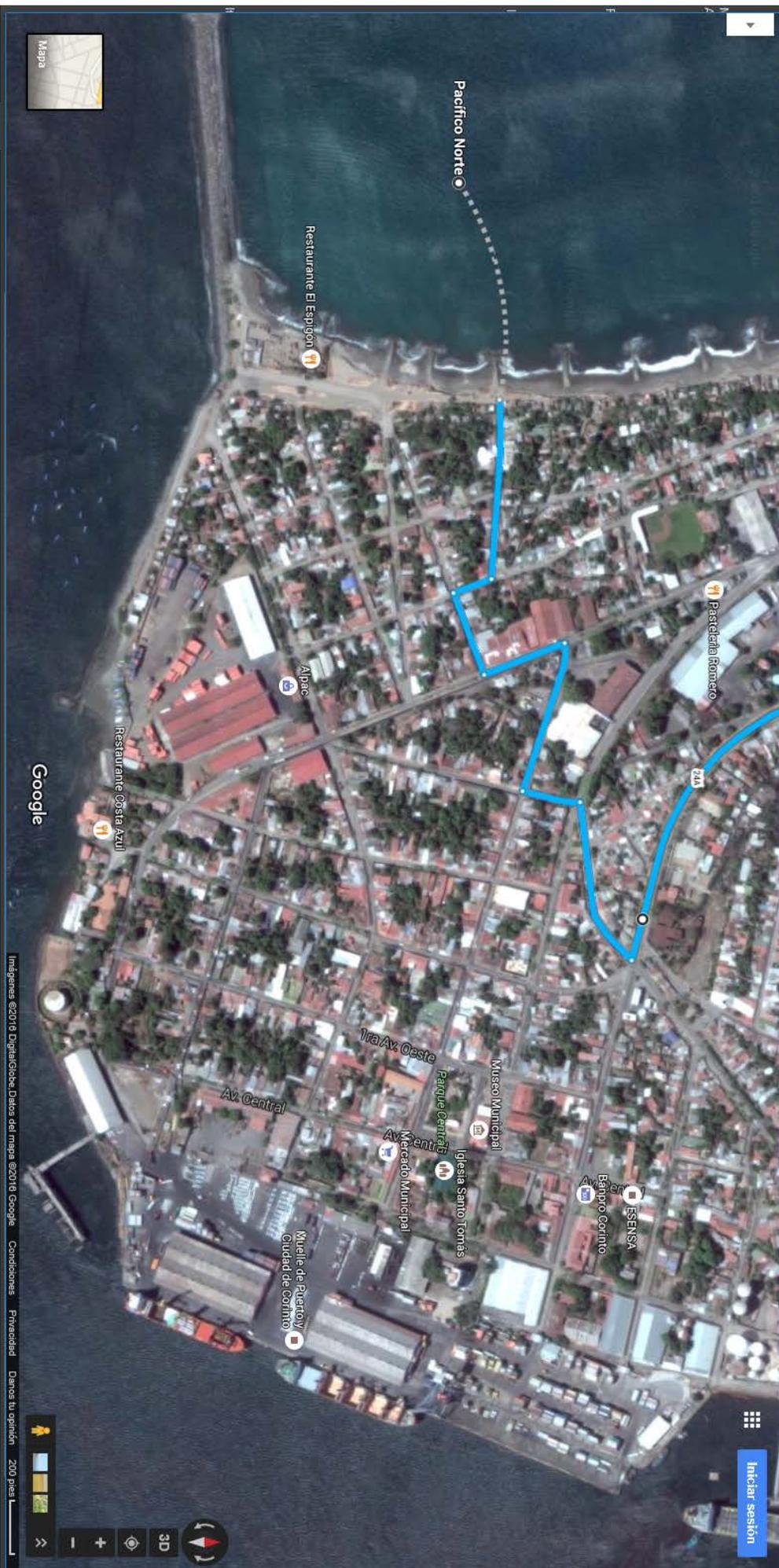
At the city's center, guests will find a variety of family run restaurants and shops. Culinary suggestions near Puerto Corinto include Playa Roca ([playaroca.com](http://playaroca.com)), Barco de Oro ([barcodeoro.com](http://barcodeoro.com)) and Dulce Mareas ([dulcemareas.com](http://dulcemareas.com)). Because of its seaside locale, you can expect fresh seafood and wash it down with a cold margarita or locally brewed beer. Visitors will find vendors peddling handmade clothing, locally grown produce and handcrafted souvenirs at the market stalls downtown.

### Culture

Puerto Corinto is known for its Fiesta Gastronomica del Mar; the annual May event brings throngs of tourists to the little island to indulge in fine Nicaraguan flavors and compete in a fishing contest. Other fun things about the festival include parades and dancing. A trip to Puerto Corinto would not be complete without a stop at the Alfonso Cortes-Corinto History Museum, Library & Auditorium (no website; Parque Ruben Dario, Puerto Corinto; no phone number) -- named after a famous Nicaraguan poet -- or the verdant Parque Central.

### Day Trips

The dormant Volcan Viejo -- about 18 miles north of Puerto Corinto -- is a favorite stop for outdoor adventurers; the hike up the volcano is a bit treacherous and is the country's steepest hike. Another idea is to get a local fisherman to take you out in a boat to El Cardon, one of Puerto Corinto's uninhabited barrier islands that was a source of inspiration for another Nicaraguan poet, Ruben Dario. Here, you can gaze at the native flora and fauna.



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