



# COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

## Nicaragua Travel

***APRIL 23, 2018***

ISL is aware of the Travel Warning issued by the U.S. Department of State regarding travel to Nicaragua. The safety of our volunteers is our number one priority. We are closely monitoring the situation and at this time are not altering our upcoming programs.

In making the decision to proceed with any program, our management team relies on the advice of a number of organizations including the U.S. State Department, the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, as well as an international safety and security organization. If conditions exist that may hinder our ability to provide a safe program, we will alter the itinerary and redirect the program to safer regions or provide other alternatives.

ISL has offices in all the countries that we serve. That means wherever you go, rest assured, we're there too. All ISL regional staff members are thoroughly screened to ensure the safety your team's local interactions and ISL continuously monitors and addresses all emerging health and safety issues in each of the countries we operate.

### **Specific precautions taken by ISL:**

- ISL teams avoid large, crowded areas like sporting events whenever possible
- We continuously monitor local media and information sources in each of our countries through our on-site staff, and take appropriate actions to avoid areas of concern
- Our on-site staff provide feedback on the local situation in each community we work, and if recommendations are made to change itineraries or programming, we do so immediately

### **Information provided by the US State Department:**

- U.S. citizens should exercise vigilance when in public places or using transportation. Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid large crowds or crowded places. Exercise particular caution during the holiday season and at holiday festivals or events. U.S. citizens should monitor media and local information sources and factor updated information into personal travel plans and activities. Persons with specific safety concerns should contact local law

enforcement authorities who are responsible for the safety and security of all visitors to their host country. U.S. citizens should:

- Follow the instructions of local authorities. Monitor media and local information sources and factor updated information into personal travel plans and activities.
- Be prepared for additional security screening and unexpected disruptions.
- Stay in touch with your family members and ensure they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency.
- Register in our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

**For further information:**

See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency. <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Birnbaum', with a large loop at the end.

Jonathan Birnbaum

ISL Executive Director