



Nicaragua International Choral Workshop (NICW) 2026

Participation Agreement & Liability Waiver

This agreement serves as a record of the travel arrangements and activities offered by Ottawa Choral Workshops (OCW) to participants of the 2026 Nicaragua International Choral Workshop (NICW 26).

NICW 26 is a group excursion taking place **January 24 – February 9, 2026**, (the tour), coordinated and led by OCW founder Roland Graham, combining choral singing activities with sightseeing and group tourism in San Juan del Sur (SJDS), Rivas, and Granada, Nicaragua, following the itinerary outlined below.

In addition to a summary of fees, the package description and itinerary, payment policies, and logistics, this document contains important information about personal risk and liability and includes a waiver that participants must acknowledge at the time of registration. **By signing the agreement on the final page, you signal your understanding of and agreement to the terms, limits, and conditions of the package outlined below.**

Participant Eligibility & Expectations

The NICW is open to experienced choral singers, 18 years of age and older, who **are** capable of international travel in warm climates. No audition is required, but participants are expected to prepare the repertoire in advance using materials provided, and to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances on the tour.

The NICW 26 fee (\$4,450) CAD covers

- Round-trip airfare from Ottawa (YOW) to Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR)
- Ground transport (coach) from and to LIR, and to tour destinations in Nicaragua
- 16 nights shared hotel accommodations
- 50% of meals (breakfast daily; 50% of dinners)
- Select coordinated excursions (listed below)
- Musical activities (rehearsals and concerts) in Nicaragua
- Pre-tour rehearsals in Ottawa and musical scores (except *Vivaldi Gloria*)
- Applicable sales tax (HST) on all services
- Standard gratuities for service providers in Nicaragua

NOT included in NICW fee

- Travel insurance of any kind (participants must purchase their own)
- *Vivaldi Gloria* music score (please inquire about purchase options)

NICW 26 Musical Repertoire, Performances & Preparation

The musical repertoire for the NICW 2026 tour includes *Vivaldi's Gloria* (RV 589), and a set of contrasting a cappella and piano-accompanied choral works in classical, contemporary, and popular styles. There are three 60-minute concerts scheduled on the tour – a performance of *Gloria* in collaboration with a Nicaraguan choir CORO LAUDATE COR and orchestra, plus two presentations by the NICW choir on its own – and we will also contribute music for at least one Sunday morning church service. Additional pop-up singing activities may be added. The program of repertoire will be finalized in October, as soon as participants have registered and the balance of voices for the tour is confirmed. Singers will be expected to prepare the music using provided materials (PDF scores, YouTube recordings, and online study aids). A set of pre-tour rehearsals (schedule pending) will be offered in Ottawa to support group preparation.

NICW 26 Itinerary

The general tour itinerary is as follows. Excursions (not listed here) are scheduled during free time. The itinerary may be changed without notice. Inquire for the latest updates.

- Jan 24: Flight from YOW to LIR / Bus to SJDS
- Jan 25: Free day
- Jan 26-29: **AM rehearsals** / Free PM
- Jan 30: AM Bus to Rivas / Free afternoon / **7 PM Vespers in Rivas**
- Jan 31: AM Bus to Granada / Free PM
- Feb 1 & 2: Free day / **7 PM rehearsal**
- Feb 3 & 4: **AM rehearsals** / Free afternoons / **7 PM Concerts 1 & 2**
- Feb 5: AM Bus to SJDS / Free day
- Feb 6: Free day / **7 PM rehearsal**
- Feb 7: Free day / **7 PM Concert 3**
- Feb 8: **Sunday Church Service** / Free PM
- Feb 9: Bus to LIR / fly home

Coordinated excursions INCLUDED in NICW fee

- Playa Hermosa beach daytrip
- TreeCasa canopy resort daytrip
- Rivas Revolutionary History Museum
- Granada city horse-and-carriage tour
- Hike to SJDS Cristo statue

Coordinated excursions NOT included in NICW fee

- Granada Isletas boat sunset dinner tour
- Masaya volcano / Apoyo lagoon trip
- Mumbacho Canopy Zipline
- Ometepe Island overnight trip
- 'Salt' all-inclusive Catamaran cruise

Other Activities & Free Time

The NICW itinerary provides a good balance of free time for participants to rest, recuperate, and customize their travel experience. Numerous activities and tourist services are available beyond those listed in this brochure, and participants will be supported in accessing them.

Flights, Travel Path, Customs & Cash (USD)

NICW flights from Ottawa follow the itinerary below. We are flying to the city of Liberia in Costa Rica (code: LIR) in order to avoid transiting through the U.S. From there, we will travel to SJDS by coach, crossing into Nicaragua at Peñas Blancas. Travellers must show a valid passport **that does not expire within 6 months of travel** at the border and pay a \$13 USD entry fee.

OUTBOUND Sat 24 Jan 2026

06:00 YOW → 07:31 YYZ (AC439)

10:05 YYZ → 14:45 LIR (AC1321)

RETURN Mon 9 Feb 2026

15:45 LIR → 22:00 YYZ (AC1320)

(+1) 00:30 YYZ → 01:38 YOW (AC472)

Independent & Custom Travel Options

The NICW package includes roundtrip flights from Ottawa (YOW) to LIR as outlined above. Participants joining from other cities may arrange flights independently at their own expense and have their NICW fee adjusted accordingly. Participants wishing to extend their time in Nicaragua—before or after the posted itinerary, up to 14 days total—may do so, subject to group fare conditions and airline approval. Air Canada group fares are not eligible to be paid for or discounted with Aeroplan points. Inquire to discuss custom flight options.

Accommodations & Meals

Shared hotel accommodations are at locally owned and operated 3- and 4-star hotels in safe, central locations in SJDS, Rivas, and Granada. Rooms are air-conditioned, include private bathrooms, and sleep up to two people. Participants can request a specific roommate; otherwise, room assignments will be made based on gender. Upgrades to private rooms are available for an additional cost. Breakfast will be provided daily at the hotels. In SJDS, eight provided dinners will be served at the hotel, made with fresh, in-season, locally sourced proteins and produce. Declared standard dietary restrictions will be accommodated. No lunches are provided on the tour. Many meal options are available nearby, ranging from approximately \$5 to \$15 USD. Standard groceries are also available for travellers who prefer to pack lunches.

NICW Registration & Payment Schedule

The deadline to register for the NICW and pay a deposit (\$550 CAD) is **October 15, 2025**, after which there are three additional payment installments:

- \$1,500 – November 15
- \$1,200 – December 15
- \$1,200 – January 15

The preferred payment method is by E-transfer to OttawaChoralWorkshops@gmail.com. Late registration may be possible subject to available space; additional charges may apply.

NICW Upgrades & Special Rates

- Private Room Upgrade: Private hotel room (with bathroom) for all 16 nights + **\$660**
- Excursions Package: All coordinated excursions (Catamaran, Volcano, etc.) **Price TBC**
- Couple's Discount: **10% off the base fee** for the second participant in a couple
- Student Rate: **\$3,850 CAD** – for full-time students, 30 years and under.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If the NICW is canceled by the organizers, all payments will be refunded in full within 10 business days. If a participant is required to withdraw, NICW fees are refundable as follows:

- **Until November 15:** Full refund minus a \$100 administrative fee
- **From November 16 to December 31:** Refund minus the flight portion (\$1,500)
- **From January 1 to January 15:** Refund minus the flight portion and deposit (\$2,050)

After January 15, no refunds will be issued except in cases of medical emergencies or serious life events. In such cases, refunds for non-airfare costs may be possible if recoverable from tour vendors. Participants are encouraged to purchase private medical and cancellation insurance.

Insurance, including Cancellation & Medical

The NICW fee does not include any travel or cancellation insurance. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own coverage through a provider of their choice and at their own expense. Many credit cards offer insurance for travel paid for with the card, subject to terms and conditions. Flight cancellation coverage for medical emergencies, covering the flight portion of fees, is available through Uniglobe Travel. For details or a quote, call **613-789-2858** or email frida@uniglobebo.com.

Medical Care & Emergencies

Medical care, including hospital and urgent care services, is widely available in Nicaragua. Essential (public) health care is free, including for tourists. Private clinics are accessible to treat minor ailments, with routine consultations typically costing around \$25 USD. Over-the-counter medications and prescriptions are available at pharmacies, which are common. Emergency services exist, though ambulance response may be slower in Nicaragua than in Canada. International travellers are strongly advised to carry insurance covering evacuation home in case of serious injury or illness.

Travel Safety & Security

Travellers who follow common-sense precautions often describe Nicaragua as one of the safest places they've visited. Official advisories cite risks associated with political instability, but these have minimal to no history of impacting tourists. Petty and organized crime are generally not serious concerns. Other than exercising standard personal safety measures, travellers should refrain from discussing politics or participating in protests or demonstrations.

NICW 26 Risk & Liability Waiver

By registering for NICW or submitting payment, participants signal agreement to the following:

- **Assumption of Risk:** You understand the risks inherent to international group travel, including but not limited to transportation, physical exertion, environmental conditions, exposure to communicable diseases, and lack of immediate access to medical care.
- **Health Declaration:** You confirm that you are sufficiently fit, both physically and mentally, to participate in all aspects of the tour.
- **Insurance:** You understand that researching and purchasing travel insurance (medical and cancelation) is entirely your own responsibility.
- **Release of Liability:** You release and discharge Ottawa Choral Workshops and Roland Graham from any claims related to injury, illness, or loss incurred during or as a result of the tour, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- **Indemnification:** You agree to hold harmless Ottawa Choral Workshops and Roland Graham from any claims, demands, liabilities, or costs arising from your participation.
- **Photography and Media Release:** You consent to being photographed, videotaped, and recorded during the tour and agree that OCW may use such media for promotional or archival purposes.
- **Foreign Laws and Customs:** You agree to respect and abide by the laws and customs of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and to refrain from political commentary or activism that could negatively affect the tour, or OCW's relationship with its local hosts.
- **Force Majeure:** OCW shall not be liable for any failure or delay in performance arising out of causes beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to natural disasters, acts of war, terrorism, public health emergencies, governmental actions, or civil unrest.
- **Jurisdiction:** This agreement shall be governed by the laws of Ontario, Canada. Disputes will be handled in Ontario courts.

Acknowledgment & Signature

By signing below, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to all terms contained in this agreement.

Participant's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Passport #: _____ Exp: ____ / ____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone #: _____