



**WISCONSIN/NICARAGUA**  
*Partners of the Americas, Inc.*

# BIKE HIKE 2017

CATARINA ,MASAYA







## LET'S ENJOY THE NATURE !

*Beautiful nature and cool weather testified our great activity **Bike Hike 2017**. The activity was hold on December 16<sup>th</sup> in Catarina, Masaya. Sherin Bowen and Verona, Los Cedros students participated wearing their t-shirts.*

*The activity was organized by the staff from the organization and Karla who helped to prepare the sandwiches. Our students were so excited because we had activities that we did not have before.*

*We met at the office at 7: 00 am. Some parents were present during the activity to take care of the little ones. The bus took us to our adventure just on time!!!*



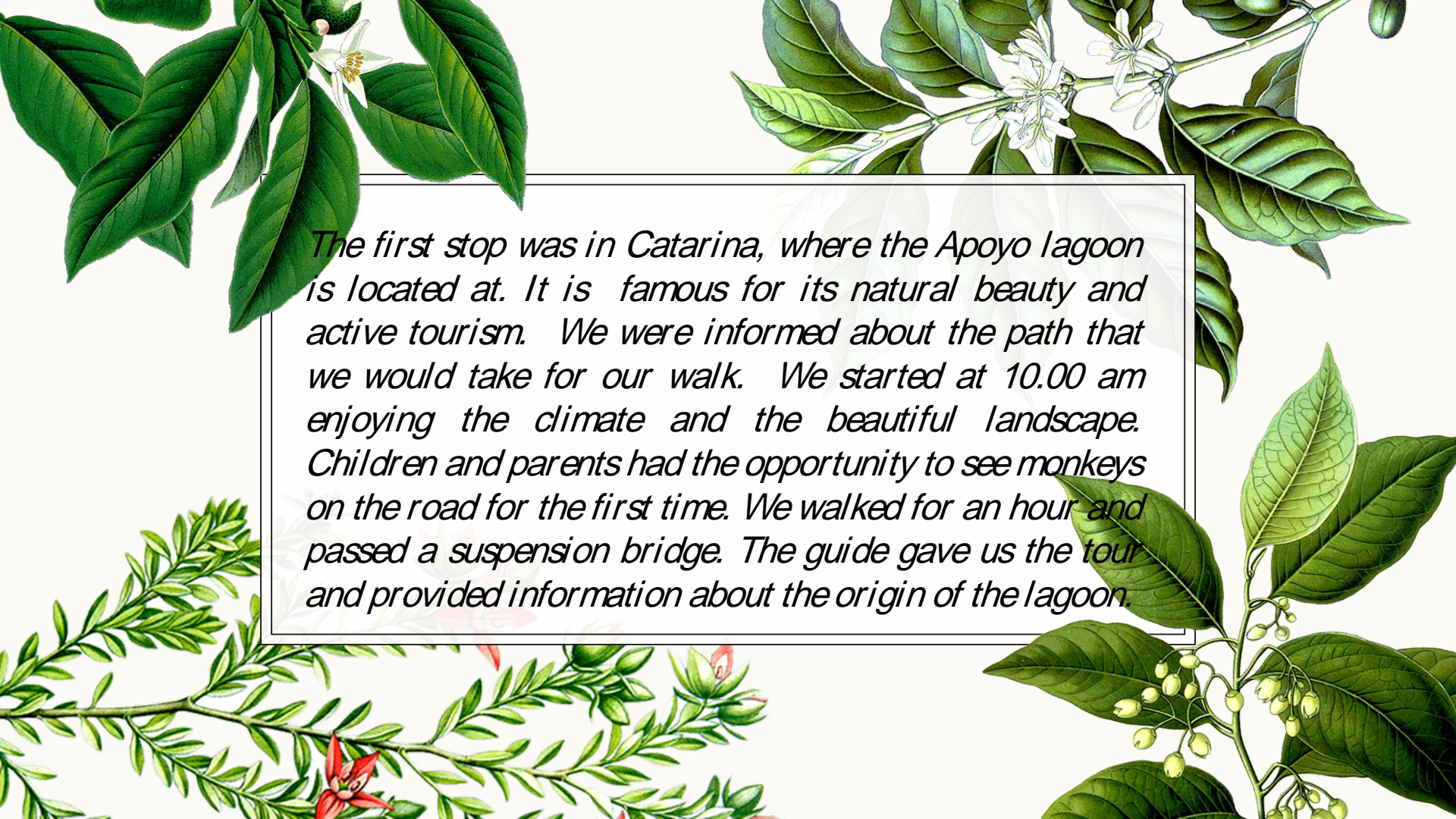
### *Description of the crater-lagoon*

*The crater of Apoyo was formed approximately 23,000 years ago, after a strong volcanic explosion which left a hole measuring six kilometers in diameter. Time went by and subterranean waters and rain filled the crater and the slopes became covered by vegetation. Today this crater is considered to be a sleeping volcano, in repose, with certain volcanic activity still present through a few hot springs in its interior. ([www.vianica.com](http://www.vianica.com))*







The image features a central text box surrounded by detailed botanical illustrations. In the top left, there are large, dark green, glossy leaves with a single white flower with yellow stamens. In the top right, there are more green leaves and a cluster of small white flowers. In the bottom left, there are thin, feathery green branches with small red flowers. In the bottom right, there are large green leaves and a cluster of small, round, yellowish-green fruits or buds.

*The first stop was in Catarina, where the Apoyo lagoon is located at. It is famous for its natural beauty and active tourism. We were informed about the path that we would take for our walk. We started at 10.00 am enjoying the climate and the beautiful landscape. Children and parents had the opportunity to see monkeys on the road for the first time. We walked for an hour and passed a suspension bridge. The guide gave us the tour and provided information about the origin of the lagoon.*







*Second stop, was the National Zoo where we also met new species of animal. The children were delighted knowing a little more about our fauna, there were lions, monkeys, snakes, toucans, owls, and birds as Guardabarranco (meaning ravine-guard). It is the national bird of Nicaragua, that almost nobody knew. All this was an exciting experience for the participants!*

*The last stop that our children loved the most was xilonem swimming pool. It was our last activity and they enjoyed about two hours not without tasting the sandwiches, drinks and snacks that were prepared for them. Parents and volunteers helped us to take care of the children during the trip.*







**Smile!!**





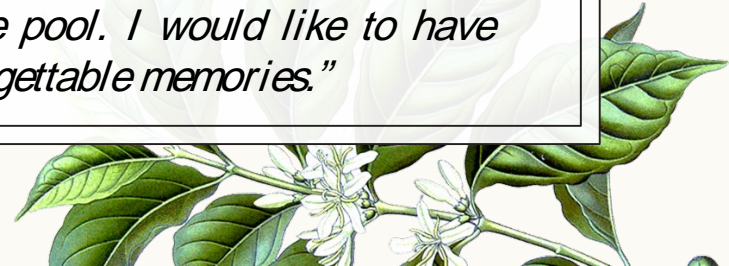
## Comments



*"I want to thank to the people who donated the money for our farewell. It was something incredible because not everyone knew the beautiful city of Catarina in Masaya and the tourist center of Xilonem. Thank you for this wonderful gift. We did not even want to come back home. We were very happy enjoying our farewell."*

*"Well, I loved the farewell because I could share a happy afternoon with my classmates from the library and the children from Los Cendros. I loved the weather in Catarina!. I had never had the opportunity to hike through a path until now. I was able to learn more about the animals at the zoo."*

*"Thanks to the donors I visited new places, I made new friends and I know more about our fauna. The animals that I liked the most were: the tigers of bengal and the crocodiles. What I enjoyed the most was our time at the pool. I would like to have another experience like this because is when we keep unforgettable memories."*







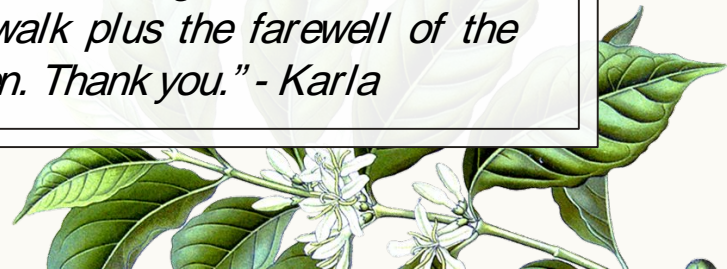


*"I would like to thank you because each of us could have fun on the trip. We visited Catarina, my brother Santiago and I had fun watching a few animals on the trail. The weather was cool. It was fuggy when we arrived that we could not even see the lagoon."*

*"I loved swimming and playing in the water, we had so much fun that I would like to come back again. When I came to the Library I read a lot and that helped me to read better and get relaxed."*

*"I think that this activity has been very productive in terms of improving the knowledge of all the participants and especially children and young people who visit the Sherin Bowen Library. It is a positive way for them to get involved in the activities with their parents. Thus helps them to learn and leads to a family educational exchange." - Leonor*

*"Personally, it was a super exciting and enjoyable experience, sharing with the children, their families and volunteers. The combination of the walk plus the farewell of the Library was a mix of emotions and happiness to our children. Thank you." - Karla*



*"Thank you very much everyone for the great support to the children. It was a wonderful gift to celebrate their farewell . Today, I saw them very happy, enjoying each activity and learning new things. Everyone enjoyed the places that we visited and the most important fact is that they know a little more about our country. Thank you Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners for such a great work."*  
*Jael*

*"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy,  
that makes happiness." Charles Spurgeon*