

Kokoro Center for Art and Ecology  
Playa Maderas, Los Playones  
San Juan del Sur  
Nicaragua



Located above the Playa Maderas, Los Playones area just north of the town of San Juan del Sur and within view of the Pacific Ocean, the Kokoro Center for Art and Ecology is a place where diverse people and ideas converge looking to seek out balance, share information and promote cyclical relationships in and with the living environment around us.

The mission of Kokoro, Center for Art and Ecology is to explore the relationships between fine arts and crafts, regenerative living, ecology and natural medicine through workshops, individual research projects and presentations and to maintain a facility open to people of all backgrounds and cultures that is appropriate to its needs inspiring creativity and discovery.

Our activities are focused into three areas:

The *Retreat Program* offers groups visiting Nicaragua an inspirational environment to live with comfortable accommodations, healthy meals and access to the facilities of the park for education and exploration. Groups will be able to sink into their area of interest, work with the local community and discover the surrounding beaches, wildlife and culture through day trips to the near by colonial cities, artist villages and ecological reserves.

The *Residency Program* provides artists, writers, farmers and natural science scholars the opportunity to conduct their work while deeply engaging with the environment of Cascade Head. Up to three residents at a time live and work in the park for one to three months free of charge. All residents perform community outreach during their stay.

The *Workshop Program* offers intensive explorations of various artistic and regenerative living issues including ceramics, sculpture, woodworking, farming, medicine, alternative building and ecology. All instruction will take place in one of Kokoro's various studios or outdoors in the beautiful surroundings.

What is Kokoro?

Kokoro is a Japanese character implying heart, mind and spirit. In the vocabulary of many scholars it also carries the meaning of intent. It is to be thoughtful in everything you do, to live in the moment, to put aside regret and anticipation, to be wholly and completely in the here and now, *that* is the essence of *kokoro*.

The Kokoro Center for Art and Ecology will facilitate the interchange of information and resources between local farmers, artisans and visitors to the park. In providing this resource, Kokoro recognizes that by incorporating knowledge of environment and culture, we create the knowledge that is necessary to protect them. By its nature Kokoro will continually evolve in cultural and spiritual ways but is simply meant to be a share with the world a creative, regenerative and healthy way of living.

Located in the coastal environment of the Playa Maderas, Los Playones area in Nicaragua, one of the goals of Kokoro is to have the greatest possible participation of the ecology, climate and culture. In particular, sights, sounds, smell and contact with unique plants and animals, and interchange of people from differing cultures is definitely encouraged.

Much like ancient cities that do not appear to have followed a development plan, Kokoro will be representative of an evolutionary cultural center. The design of Kokoro will correspond to the earth's topography and strive to celebrate mathematical, astrological and magical symbolism from all corners of the world.