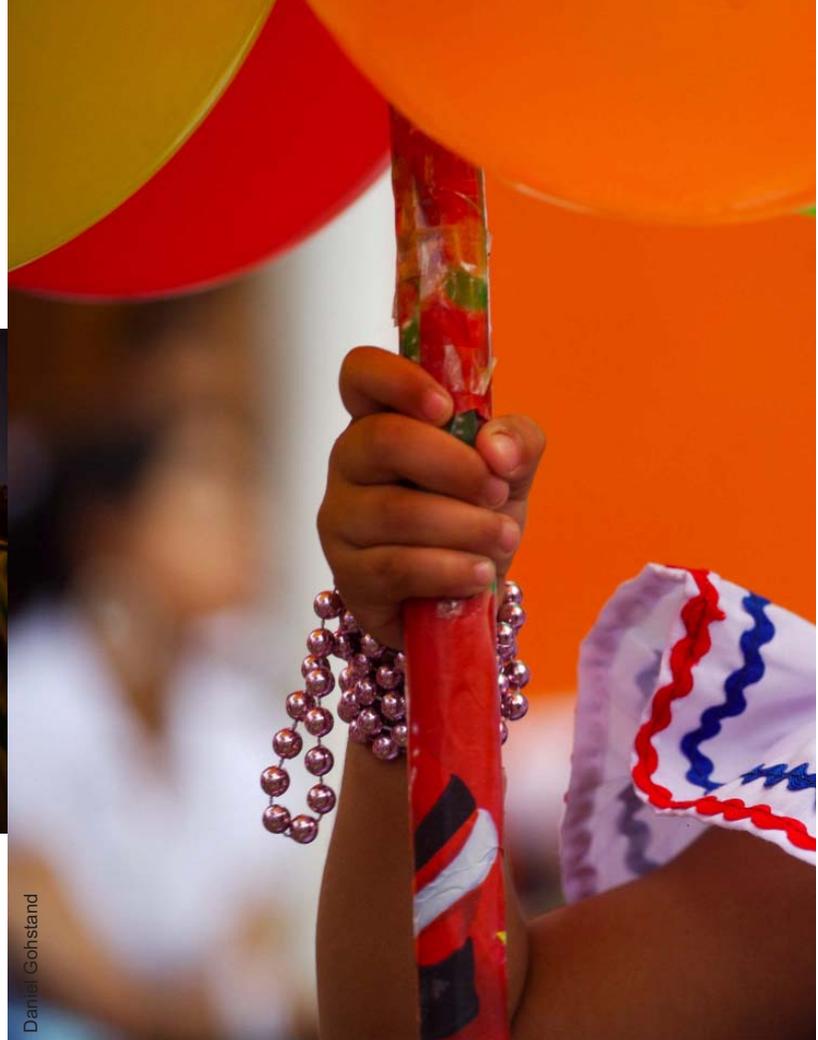


# GRANADA



Starry Sky instead of Skyline  
Sternenhimmel statt Skyline



## From San Francisco to the Foot of Mombacho Von San Francisco an den Fuß des Mombacho

Daniel Gohstand loved San Francisco, his city in which he grew up and, until now, had lived in his entire life. And, workwise, all went well and he made a name as a photographer. He could have stayed longer in the city, but then he did that which many think about but then don't trust themselves to do: He packed up his stuff and got on the road. He went through Central America for four months, traveled through Panama and Costa Rica and then he found his new home in Nicaragua. It was a farm near the

city of Diriomo with a view of the Volcano Mombacho which snared him. In San Francisco he'd bought the biggest tent he could get and that was now his new home. From then on, his motto was: Starry Sky instead of Skyline.

We've made a date with him in a cafe in Granada. We are curious on what he'll say about his impressions.

Daniel and his attendant, his camera, arrive on time, "I never leave my home without it," he immediately explains and orders a coffee.

"What persuaded you to leave San Francisco," we ask him.

"I thought to myself that the world is so much bigger than just my apartment in San Francisco so that I simply have to leave the city and see something else. It took a few years until I was ready and, as long as I was at home, I always questioned if I should really do it. But, then as I arrived at this farm in Diriomo, I knew it was simply the right time and absolutely right decision. By day I wandered over the farm with its many fruit trees



Daniel Gohstand

and went into the city in order to eat in a small restaurant and to shop. I quickly made friends with the kids who lived on the way there and they loved being photographed by me. The other city people candidly and in a friendly way also accepted me, the Gringo with the tent. I quickly felt at home. At night I sat in front of my tent next to a 150-year-old huge tree and viewed the starry sky. Just noises

from nature could be heard, otherwise there was absolute quietness. The Volcano Mombacho loomed majestically in the night. Stormy winds sometimes shook my tent while I slept, so that I didn't forget that I was in the middle of nature. It was a fine time. My motivation as a photographer was to always record people's emotions reflected in their gestures and faces. I use my time to record my impressions of the people in Nicaragua. Photo-



Daniel Gohstand

Daniel Gohstand

## Nicaragua

graphing is my way of getting in contact with the people.”

Daniel detects a man in front of the cafe who greets a friend with a smile. He quickly grabs his camera and hastily shouts to us “I’ll be right back” and runs out. A few minutes later he sits with us again and happily smiles.

“I just had to snap a nice scene.”

“How did life continue for you here,” we ask him.

“During this time I went more and more often to Granada and fell in love with the city. I bought an old colonial house and began to renovate it.”

Daniel thoughtfully smiles.

“It was the first time in my life that I did some manual work. With my local helpers, I worked for 9 months so hard as I ever had before. In the evenings I was often too tired to eat something and I fell almost unconscious into bed. But it paid off. This



Daniel Gohstand

city is so lively. Every weekend there’s a festival or another cultural event. And when I leave the house in the morning, I see horse-drawn carriages, kids playing, a milkman driving by and the woman in the house across from mine waving at me from her rocking chair. My camera and I are constantly busy and in the meantime I’ve taken 500,000 photos in Nicaragua. And I discover more every day. I’ve been in Nicaragua for 3 years now and can convincingly say that these were the most productive and exciting years of my life.” CRS



Daniel Gohstand

**Daniel Gohstand** has placed a lot of his photos on the Internet. The photos can be viewed and purchased under [www.danielphoto.com](http://www.danielphoto.com)



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