

Colombia – Treasures of Colombia

Tour Code CO

22 November – 5 December 2019

This journey explores the best of this fascinating country, travelling from Andean peaks to tropical Caribbean coastlines. Visit the mountain capital of Bogotá with its excellent Gold Museum, continue through fertile valleys and delightful coffee country and explore vibrant Medellín, Colombia's second most important city. End in the colonial port of Cartagena, one of South America's most beautiful towns

Wax Palm Trees, Corcora Valley
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Bogota

Evening departure from London Heathrow with Avianca Airlines direct to Bogota.

Day 2 Arrive Bogota

Early morning arrival in Bogotá and transfer to the Atton 93 hotel for two nights with immediate check-in. Lunch at Las Margaritas restaurant, located in Chapinero neighbourhood, where you'll try one of the most typical lunches of Bogotá; *Ajiaco soup with empanadas*. Afternoon tour of Usaquén, once a small village far away from Bogotá where you could get by train, and today an iconic gourmet spot still conserving its original architecture. Rest of day at leisure after a long flight! (B,L)

Day 3 In Bogota

Our city tour includes the historical centre (La Candelaria) with its magnificent churches, the government palace and the "Plaza Bolivar" with the famous and unique gold museum "Museo del Oro" being the highlight. We begin our day taking a cable car up to the top of Monserrate, where we can enjoy a breathtaking view of the bustling metropolis of Bogotá. Dinner will be taken at Andres D.C restaurant, one of the most famous places where you can enjoy great food as well as the Colombian rumba! (B,D)

Day 4 Visit Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral. Drive to Villa de Leyva

We leave Bogota early to avoid the rush-hour and journey to Zipaquirá, the former centre of salt production of the Muisca Indians. Here we will find one of Latin America's wonders: a gigantic cathedral built inside a salt mine – the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá. In the afternoon we arrive in the charming colonial town of Villa De Leyva. Two nights at the boutique La Posada de San Antonio hotel with dinner (B,D)

Day 5 In Villa De Leyva

We have a morning tour of this charming colonial town which includes a short drive to visit the interesting fossil museum and peaceful surroundings of the Convento del Santo Ecce Homo founded by the Dominican fathers in 1620. The afternoon is left free to enjoy the various shopping and spa activities available. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 6 Fly to Periera

We journey back to Bogota this morning and drive to the airport for a mid-afternoon short flight to Periera; our base for the next two nights to explore Colombia's coffee region and unique landscapes of the Cocora Valley. Two nights at the charming Hacienda San Jose for two nights with dinner (B,D)

Day 7 Visit Salento & Cocora Valley

We visit Cocora Valley and Salento, located in the central Andean mountains. The Cocora Valley is the ideal location to view the wax palm tree; Colombia's national tree that grows to a height of 70 m. We take lunch in Salento with its colourful houses dating back to colonial times before taking a jeep ride to visit a local coffee farm to learn about the growing and production of high quality coffee beans and enjoy a tasting. Dinner at the hotel (B,D)

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Day 7 Drive to Medellín

We travel by road to Medellín (journey time approximately 5 hours), stopping at the scenic lookout for views over the Cauca river. Three nights at the Hotel Poblado Alejandria. Dinner at the hotel (B,D)

Day 8 Guatapé and Peñol Rock

Drive to Guatapé and explore the Peñol. Rock We explore the surrounding areas of Medellín today including Guatapé; a charming little village consisting of colourful houses with all kinds of decoration consisting of flowers, animals or characters inspired from the Spanish colonial times. La Piedra del Peñol is a huge monolith of 220 meters with fabulous view over Guatapé and the surroundings. Later we take a short cruise on the nearby reservoir created for a hydro-electric dam. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 9 City Tour of Medellín

We have a full-day city tour, including the curved sculptures by local artist Fernando Botero and the gigantic outdoor escalators. We take a cable car to the Arvi Park Reserve for a nature walk and learn about the cultural and social transformation projects of the city in the district of Santo Domingo. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 10 Fly to Cartagena. Walking tour of colonial district

We fly to Cartagena this morning. Today we can enjoy strolling through charming, romantic alleys and admire impressive colonial buildings as well as the city wall and the castle of San Felipe de Barajas, which was built during Spanish colonial times. Cartagena de Indias is an impressive city that holds the secrets of its history in its walls, its buildings and its narrow cobblestone streets. We include the monastery of San Pedro Claver, the Inquisition Palace, the Gold Museum of Zenú, the city cathedral and church of Santo Domingo. Two nights at the Hotel Kartaxa. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 11 Boat trip to Rosario Islands

Apart from spending time at leisure in Cartagena today, there is the included option to take a boat trip to the Rosario Islands to enjoy a well earned relaxed day either sipping a cocktail on a white sand palm fringed beach or swimming and snorkelling in the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea! This evening, the farewell dinner will take place at one of the most traditional restaurants of the city by the bay (B,D)

Day 12 Morning tour in Cartagena Fly to UK via Bogota

We visit two monuments which are of great historical value outside the old city. San Felipe de Barajas is a fortress built in order to defend the city. The monastery and the church of La Candelaria on the hill de La Popa are outstanding examples of religious and colonial architecture. From here we will enjoy an amazing view. Free afternoon to explore the exquisite streets and squares of this charming colonial city on your own before our late afternoon transfer to the airport for a flight to Bogotá and connecting flight to London, arriving the following day (B)

Cost £1995.00 per person in a twin room (excludes international and domestic flights)

Single Supplement charge £400.00



Colourful street of Cartagena
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Price includes –

- Tour accompanied by Patrick Syder from London
- Specialist Colombian guides throughout the tour
- All transportation - private a/c minibus
- Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- Quality 4* boutique hotels
- Colonial-style hacienda stay in the coffee country
- Small group size – 6 to 9 people (maximum)
- Group flight airport transfers
- Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities
- Bottled water daily on bus

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, applicable visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, domestic and international flights are not included in the land tour cost

(Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)