

17 DAY BEST OF COLOMBIA

DESTINATIONS

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Bogota
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Bienvenidos! Welcome to Colombia. With a wealth of cosy cafes, interesting museums and old churches, cosmopolitan Bogota is full of surprises. Your adventure begins with an orientation walk of Candelaria at 1pm. Please look for a note in the hotel lobby or ask the hotel reception where your group will be meeting. There will be a formal welcome meeting at 6pm for the whole group including those that missed the orientation walk. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please ensure you have all these details to provide to your leader. After, why not go out for a group dinner?

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Bogota - Leader led Orientation walk in Candelaria neighborhood

Optional Activities Bogota - Montserrate cable car - COP21000 Bogota - Museo Nacional - COP4500 Bogota - Gold Museum - COP4000

Meals Included There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive in time for the welcome meeting, you may wish to arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability).

Due to Bogota's elevation we recommend taking it easy on your first couple of days while you get used to the altitude.

DAY 2

Destination	Bogota ✈ Salento
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning, immerse your senses in the flavours and colours of Colombia on a visit the famed Paloquemao Market, home to Bogota's biggest selection of exotic fruits, fresh vegetables and food stalls – perhaps indulge in a delicious Arepa (Colombian style tortilla). Around lunch time take a short flight (1 hour) to the coffee region and transfer (approximately 40 minutes) to the beautiful village of Salento. Take the time to stroll through its quaint streets and admire the colours of 'paisa' architecture at its best. For some local food, trout is the way to go. There are lots of ways to enjoy it, but it's most often served with a rich, garlicky cheese sauce. Colombia's national sport, tejo, is a popular pastime in Salento. Think bocce with gunpowder! This evening, try your hand at this fun activity with the group – made even better with a free beer in hand!

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Salento - Tejo game Bogota - Visit to Paloquemao market

Meals Included Breakfast

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 3

Destination	Salente 🚗 Coffee Estancia
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Travel by jeep out to the magnificent Cocora Valley, home of the towering wax palm (Colombia's national tree). Spend the morning walking among the region's incredible scenery, perhaps hiking up to Acaime Reserve where colourful hummingbirds feed. The hike to Acaime (approximately 5 hours) is quite strenuous, with some steep and slippery sections, so you'll need good walking shoes as well as plenty of water and snacks. A generous boxed lunch will be provided. If you'd rather take it easy, you can explore the valley as you please, then take a jeep back to town. Later, travel deep into Colombia's coffee region for a two-night stay in a traditional coffee estancia, where you'll have a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about this wonderful bean.

Accommodation Coffee Estancia (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 4

Destination	Coffe Estancia
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Thanks to its tropical altitude and fertile volcanic soil, Colombia is one of the world's largest coffee producers. You'll get to know this addictive little bean a whole lot better on a guided tour of the coffee plantation and processing centre. Dig into the history of the plant, learning the inside story of the industry that's long buoyed the country's economy. See how the beans are grown, harvested, processed, dried, roasted and ground, and then sample firsthand what all the fuss is about. Try different types of coffee grains and get a lesson on preparing different types of coffees – finishing it all off with a steaming cup of freshly brewed joe. Afterwards, relax amid the estancia's beautiful surrounds of sloping green hills and valleys.

Accommodation Coffee Estancia (1 night)

Included Activities Coffee plantation tour, coffee tasting and coffee making

Meals Included Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 5

Destination	Coffee Estancia 🚗 Medellin
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning we will leave the Coffee Estancia and take a 1- hour transfer to the small town of Chinchina, where we will then board a comfortable public bus for the journey to Medellin (approximately 6-7 hours). Along the way, learn a little more about the town's interesting recent history. Having spent the 1980's and 90's with an international reputation as one of the world's most dangerous cities (due to Pablo Escobar's infamous drug cartel), Medellin has turned itself around to become one of the most exciting cities in South America. And with some of the country's finest

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museums, parks and architecture (as well as a much safer and comfortable atmosphere now) it's easy to see why its popularity is increasing. On arrival, explore this beautiful city on a an orientation walk with your leader, followed by free time this evening – why not check out some of Medellin’s famous nightlife!

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

Special Information Due to roadworks on the road to Medellin, this can cause lengthy delays and make for a slow travel day, so take plenty of water and snacks for the journey. This road is also very winding so if you are prone to motion sickness it is recommended you prepare for this by speaking to your doctor before travel about travel sickness medication.

DAY 6

Destination	Medellin
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today you'll enjoy breathtaking views of Medellin and its surrounds during a cable car ride up to Santa Elena. Sail up the mountain over brick houses, watching as the corrugated metal roofs give way to vistas of green valleys and forested peaks. Thanks to the elevation, things are usually a little cooler up here. Enjoy an include tour of a Flower Farm and when back in Medellin partake in a barrio transformation tour. This evening, you might want to search out one of the city's lively salsa bars (many count Medellin's nightlife as the best in Colombia).

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Barrio Transformation Tour Medellin - Flower Farm tour Metrocable to Acevedo station and up to Santa Elena

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 7

Destination	Medellin
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today is a free day. You'll have some free time to explore Medellin. Perhaps visit the Museo de Antioquia to see some of Botero's famous works or get more modern at the beautiful Museo de Arte Moderno.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities Medellin - Museo de Antioquia entrance fee - USD6

Meals Included Breakfast

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DAY 8

Destination	Medellin ✈️ Cartagena
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Cartagena is one of South America's most historic cities. The old city, particularly the inner walled town, is the main attraction – it's packed with beautiful churches, monasteries, plazas and mansions. Your hotel is located in the vibrant Getsemani neighbourhood, a part of the old town with loads of colourful street art and an authentic feel. Tonight there will be a meeting at 6 pm to meet new travelers who may be joining you for this next leg. After the meeting, step out for an orientation walk with your leader to get a feel for the city (note that this may take place tomorrow morning instead).

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Cartagena - Orientation walk of hotel neighbourhood

Meals Included There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information Please note that this trip can be partnered with other adventures into a 'combo', which means that you may be joined by new travelers today, and some that have traveled with you so far may leave the tour at this point.

DAY 9

Destination	Cartagena
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Spend some free time getting to know the old and new of Cartagena. Wander the old city, shop for local handicrafts, head up to San Felipe de Barajas Castle (the largest of the city's fortresses) or take boat to Punta Arenas or Playa Blanca for a well-deserved swim in the Southern Caribbean. Otherwise, book yourself in a tour out of town to the Volcan de Lodo El Totumo. Instead of lava, this peculiar volcano spews a cream-like mud that is said to contain many healing properties. Enter for a strange bathing experience, then wash the muddiness off in the nearby lagoon. In the evening, perhaps head to one of Cartagena's hippest eateries, Restaurante Interno. Housed in a women's prison, the restaurant opened in December 2016 with the aim of giving inmates skills and a higher likelihood of integrating back into society when their prison sentence is over. Local celebrities and even the Colombian president have eaten here, and while it isn't a budget option, it is definitely a unique experience, and you'll get an authentic Colombian meal.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities Cartagena - San Felipe de Barajas - COP20000 Cartagena - Volcan de Lodo El Totumo - COP50000

Meals Included Breakfast

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DAY 10

Destination	Cartagena 🚗 Guachaca
Meals included	Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

In the morning, take a shared van transfer (approximately 5 hours) north of Cartagena to Guachaca – your home for the next two nights. Guachaca is located in northern Columbia and is surrounded with lush jungle and mountains that collide with the sun-kissed coastline. It's the perfect spot to take the pace down a notch. Once you've arrived, the remainder of the day is free to explore (or relax!). Park yourself in a hammock with a book or make the short walk to the beach and get a load of that coastline. Your accommodation is a simple and comfortable family-run guesthouse, nestled high in the jungle. In the evening, enjoy a cocktail or two with your fellow travellers or treat yourself to a relaxing massage.

Meals Included Lunch Dinner

Special Information Your accommodation in Guachaca is a simple family-run guesthouse. Please note that they do not have hot water, however this will come as a welcome relief, as you'll need to cool off from the steamy Columbian weather!

DAY 11

Destination	Guachaca 🚗 Tayrona National Park 🚗 Guachaca
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Head to Tayrona National Park – a series of jungle and coves surrounding the Caribbean coast on the foothills of the Santa Marta mountains. Today is all about hiking the forest trails for Tayrona's beaches, and with a fair amount of hiking involved today, be prepared and make sure your walking shoes are on and you've packed some bug spray. Along the way, you'll experience lush the green rainforest, the ambience of the jungle and all wildlife that inhabit it, and the special glimpses of coastline and beaches that peek through the canopies. The trail to stunning Cabo San Juan is well worth the effort; it's further away than some other beaches however highly recommended. The hike today is flexible and can be tailored to suit all fitness and energy levels. There can be some steep ups and downs, and some muddy spots if it's been raining, so your group leader can organise a route that pleases everyone. When you've had enough hiking, swimming and relaxing, head back to Guachaca for the evening.

Accommodation Family posada (1 night)

Included Activities Tayrona National Park - Entrance fee

Meals Included Breakfast Dinner

Special Information The Tayrona National Park's rainy season is between May and July and again from September to October. We can normally carry on with our scheduled itinerary during these periods, however if the authorities close the park due to severe weather conditions, we will offer an alternative activity. Also, it may not be possible to swim at all beaches, as ocean rips and currents can make conditions dangerous.

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DAY 12

Destination	Guachaca 🚗 Santa Marta ✈ Bucaramanga 🚗 Barichara
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy a final morning in your jungle haven, perhaps rising early to see the sunrise from the beach. After a continental breakfast, head off for an included flight from Santa Martha to Bucaramanga (approximately 3.5 hours including a stop in Bogota). From Bucaramanga, transfer to Barichara (approximately 3 hours). With its quaint cobbled streets, stuccoed houses and hilly backdrop, Barichara is probably the prettiest colonial-style village in all of Colombia. Today is a relatively long travel day, so spend some time relaxing this evening.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 13

Destination	Barichara
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

With some free time, spend today however you please. Barichara means 'resting place' in the local indigenous language and is itself a fine place to wander around on foot, with its laidback feel and range of shops and artisanal workshops to explore. If you'd like to get more active, head over to San Gil, the thrill-seeking capital of Colombia (approximately 30 minutes' drive). Speak to your group leader for suggestions of things to do – rafting, paragliding and caving – it's an adventure sport hub. The Pescaderito swimming hole on the way there is well worth a visit too; even if the water is a little chilly, it's an idyllic spot to relax for an hour or two.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities Barichara - Pescaderito swimming hole - USD16 Rafting Fonce River (transportation included) - COP190000 La Vaca Cave (transportation included) - COP150000 Mountain Bike Cañon Suarez (transportation included, min 7 pax) - COP390000

Meals Included There are no meals included on this day.

DAY 14

Destination	Barichara
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast, head to a local factory where you'll learn the traditional method of making paper from the natural fibres of the Andean fique plant. This factory is the number one employer in Barichara, which began with the aim to financially support single-parent women who previously did not have any promise of work. Afterwards, set out on a 2-hour walk along the Camino Real to the village of Guane. Declared a national monument in 1988, the ancient trail was built by the indigenous Guane people as a trade route between towns, and you'll be hiking a small section between Barichara and Guane. The walk is stunning, full of panoramic views of the mountain ranges. It starts off with a gentle descent down the rim of a canyon before crossing a valley filled with cacti. The walking is mostly downhill, and you'll

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likely spot a few fossils embedded in the stones that pave the trail en route. On arrival in Guane, refresh with a cooling drink, soak up the peaceful atmosphere and perhaps check out the town's church, before catching the local bus back to Barichara.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities Barichara - Walk along Camino Real to the village 'Guane'

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 15

Destination	Barichara 🚌 Bucaramanga ➔ Bogota
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today you'll travel by local bus to Bogota via San Gil (approximately 8 hours), so kick back and enjoy the drive as the scenery rolls by. There will be only the one stop along the way, so ensure you take drinks and snacks for the journey. Your hotel in Bogota is located in the Chapinero neighbourhood, one of the most culturally diverse parts of town.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

DAY 16

Destination	Bogota
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Time for some exploring – today, you'll check out a couple of essential local spots in Bogota. One is La Candelaria, the historic heart of the city. Boasting a wealth of cosy cafes and colonial churches, it's a neighbourhood full of surprises. As well as loads of museums, art and great food to try, it's also just a beautiful town to walk around, an interesting clash of the old and new. You'll also head to the Gold Museum for a chance to learn about the wealth this country once had. Fascinating and easy to navigate, the museum has 55,000 artefacts from various eras on display. During the day, you will also learn about Columbia's turbulent past on a 'War and Peace' tour, which outlines their history of war, including political assassinations and armed groups in conflict, and how the country has developed into the situation it finds itself now. There will also be an opportunity to head up Cerro de Monserrate by cable car, where a 17th-century church overlooks the capital. It's a great place to watch the sunset across the sprawling city.

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities Bogota - Museo Nacional - COP4500 Bogota - Graffiti Tour - USD7

Meals Included Breakfast

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DAY 17

Destination	Bogota
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

After an included breakfast, there are no planned activities today and no accommodation planned at night. If you wish to spend more time in Bogota, we'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability).

Accommodation Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included Breakfast

TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Small, personal group experience – no more than 12 people
Experienced Tour Leader throughout
Accommodation: Hotel (14 nights), Coffee Estancia (2 nights)
13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
Transport: Plane, Private Bus, Private vehicle, Public bus, Van
Visit Bogota, Stay two nights at a Colombian coffee estancia, Explore Medellin, Cartagena, Tayrona National Park and get off the beaten path in Barichara

Fine Print

OPTIONAL TOURS

Bogota - Montserrate cable car (Day 1) - COP21000
Bogota - Museo Nacional (Day 1) - COP4500
Bogota - Gold Museum (Day 1) - COP4000
Medellin - Museo de Antioquia entrance fee (Day 7) - USD6
Cartagena - San Felipe de Barajas (Day 9) - COP20000
Cartagena - Volcan de Lodo El Totumo (Day 9) - COP50000
Barichara - Pescaderito swimming hole - USD16
Rafting Fonce River (transportation included) (Day 13) - COP190000
La Vaca Cave (transportation included) (Day 13) - COP150000
Mountain Bike Cañon Suarez (transportation included, min 7 pax) (Day 13) - COP390000
Bogota - Museo Nacional (Day 16) - COP4500
Bogota - Graffiti Tour (Day 16) - USD7

HOTEL LIST

Hotel (14 nights), Coffee Estancia (2 nights)

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TOUR ITINERARY

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a AUD \$200 deposit per person.

Pay a 2nd instalment of AUD \$1050 per person within 28 days.

You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)

Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected

Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests

Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab

Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)

Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking

Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!

EXCLUSIONS

Airfares

Personal Expenses

Travel Insurance

Optional activities

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Travellers

This trip is designed for shared accommodation and doesn't involve a compulsory single supplement. Single travellers share with people of the same gender in accommodation ranging from twin to multishare. This only applies to accommodation during the tour - pre-trip and post-trip accommodation will be booked on a single room basis.

Single Supplement

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A single supplement is available for this trip for an extra AUD \$985 in addition to the single person price. The Single Supplement excludes accommodation on Day 3, Day 4 (Coffee Estancia), Day 10 and Day 11 (Guachaca Region) where you will be in shared accommodation.

Triple Share
On Request

Children
Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times.

Passport Information Required
Full passport details are required at the time of booking in order to purchase entrance fees to some sites. Delays to provide this information may result in booking fees or changes to your itinerary.

Tayrona National Park Closures
Throughout the year this National Park will be closed. Closure dates for 2021 have not been advised yet. This closures are as a result of discussions between the park operators and the local indigenous people regarding the ecological recuperation of the ecosystem. Trip departures during these periods will not visit Tayrona National Park. Instead, the group will travel along the coast to the town of Perico Aguao, Magdalena. Here you will meet a local guide who will guide a walk through the tropical rain forest to the indigenous Katanzama population, located in a gorgeous location by the sea. The guide, along with the indigenous community leader of the town, will take you on a tour of the houses and community halls, and will learn the cuisine and customs of the Arhuacos. After this, the group will visit a sacred space, where they have the opportunity to chat with Mamo, spiritual leader of the community. Finally, enter the community plantation and plant together with indigenous people an endemic tree in the region, this will be the mark you leave as a visitor of honor.

Tour Documentation
Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.