

# 19 DAYS COLOMBIA DISCOVERY

## DESTINATIONS

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QUITO

# TOUR ITINERARY

## DAY 1

Destination	Cartagena
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Cartagena before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Cartagena.

If you are continuing on from Panama, then your leader will have assisted you with airport transfers for your included flight to arrive in time for the joining meeting.

## DAY 2

Destination	Cartagena
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will have a full day in the beautiful coastal colonial city of Cartagena.

In the morning we will have an included walking tour of the city, and then the afternoon will be free to explore the city further, enjoy the many optional activities on offer, or simply relax on the beach.

## DAY 3

Destination	Cartagena 🚗 Tayrona National Park
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Today we have a short drive to the stunning Tayrona National Park.

In Tayrona we will sleep in Hammocks, no food is provided, but there are restaurants and cafes nearby by. There is an hour walk from where we park our truck to our campsite.

## DAY 4

Destination	Tayrona National Park
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Today we have an included walk in the National Park.

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### DAY 5

Destination	Tayrona National Park 🚚 Lorica
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

This morning we will walk back to our truck and leave Tayrona National park. We will head south for the pretty colonial town of Santa Cruz de Lorica on the Sinu River.

We will have a free day to relax and discover the historic centre, learn about the traditional Vueltiao hat or head to the coast and soak up the sun in San Bernardo del Viento.

### DAY 6

Destination	Lorica
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

We will have a free day to relax and discover the historic centre, learn about the traditional Vueltiao hat or head to the coast and soak up the sun in San Bernardo del Viento.

### DAY 7

Destination	Lorica 🚚 Medellin
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

Today we have a full days drive to vibrant city of Medellin. the following morning we will have a guided walking tour of the city. We then have plenty of time to relax or take part in some of activities available here.

### DAY 8

Destination	Medellin
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning we have an included half-day city tour of Medellin using our overlanding truck.

### DAY 9

Destination	Medellin
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Free day to explore Medellin.

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### DAY 10

Destination	Medellin 🚗 Manizales
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will head into the heart of the coffee region to stay at a Hacienda near the town of Manizales.

### DAY 11

Destination	Manizales 🚗 Salento
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will continue our journey south to the small town of Salento, the gateway to the spectacular Valle de Cocora.

Salento will be our base to take a guided trek through the Cocora Valley to see the Quindio wax palm trees, the largest palms in the world and the national tree of Colombia and also to do a coffee plantation tour.

### DAY 12

Destination	Salento
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will take a guided trek through the Cocora Valley to see the Quindio wax palm trees, the largest palms in the world and the national tree of Colombia.

### DAY 13

Destination	Salento
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we have time to explore the coffee plantation and learn about coffee.

### DAY 14

Destination	Salento 🚗 Popayan
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will drive to the beautiful town and former colonial capital of Popayán.

On the following day we will have a free day to explore Popayán or take part in some excellent treks or other optional activities in the surrounding area.

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### DAY 15

Destination	Popayan
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will have a free day to explore Popayán or take part in some excellent treks or other optional activities in the surrounding area.

### DAY 16

Destination	Popayan 🚗 Ipiales
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today we will have a full day drive to the border town of Ipiales.

### DAY 17

Destination	Ipiales 🚗 Otavalo
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

We will leave Colombia behind today and cross the border into Ecuador, we will have time for an included visit to the beautiful Santuario de las Lajas, before heading to Otavalo.

### DAY 18

Destination	Otavalo 🚗 Quito
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

We will head south for the final leg of our journey to the bustling capital, Quito. En route into the city we will have an included visit to Mitad del Mundo, the monument that marks the Equator.

### DAY 19

Destination	Quito
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Quito. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHATS INCLUDED

Breakfasts x 13, Lunches x 3, Dinners x 2  
Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep  
Comfortable Hotel 3 nights  
Hammocks 2 nights  
Basic Hotel 3 nights  
Multishare Hostel 8 nights  
Camping 2 nights

### Fine Print

#### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

##### Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$380 deposit per person.

Pay a 2nd instalment of \$352 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 position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur

#### OPTIONAL TOURS

Day 2:

Discover the brutal history of the Spanish Inquisition at their former headquarters in Cartagena the Palace of the Inquisition

Entrance: 15,000 COP

Guide: 10,000 COP

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Days diving or snorkelling trip out to Islas del Rosario, Cartagena

Boat trip (speed boat): 70,000 COP

Learn all about Cartagena's naval tradition and history at the Naval Museum of the Caribbean

Entrance: 15,000 COP

Day 8:

Take the pioneering Metroline cable car up to Santo Domingo to see a very different area of the city and the revitalising effect the Metroline has had on the communities there

Cable car ride: 1,750 COP

Visit the colossal Catedral Metropolitana in the city centre built using over a million bricks between 1875 and 1931

Entrance: Free

Head out and discover some of Medellín's vibrant and unusual nightlife at the Dulce Jesus Mio club

Entrance: 10,000 COP

Day 15:

Relax in the volcanic thermal springs near the village of Coconuco dramatically set in a steep-sided valley

Thermal springs trip: 60,000 COP

Trek to the 4650m summit of the towering Puracé volcano near Popayán

Hike: 130,000 COP

Day 19:

Take a walk around Quito's incredible Botanical Gardens, which showcases all of Ecuador's various ecosystems and their flora

Entrance: 4 USD

Visit the Museo Mindalae, the extremely original project showcasing Ecuador's rich cultural diversity

Entrance: 3 USD

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	<p>Visit the Museo Nacional del Banco Central showcasing the countrys largest collection of Ecuadorian art and housing an impressive gold collection</p> <p>Entrance: 2 USD</p>
<b>EXCLUSIONS</b>	<p>Tour Kitty of USD \$530 per person is not included in the price and it is payable locally (refer to Important Information)</p> <p>International Airfares</p> <p>Personal Expenses</p> <p>Travel Insurance</p> <p>Optional activities</p> <p>Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional</p>
<b>HOTEL LIST</b>	<p>Comfortable Hotel 3 nights</p> <p>Hammocks 2 nights</p> <p>Basic Hotel 3 nights</p> <p>Multishare Hostel 8 nights</p> <p>Camping 2 nights</p>
<b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION</b>	<p>Accommodation</p> <p>Dragoman's overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst our crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect to stay in multi-share accommodation when staying in hostels, gers or yurts. The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available at the time; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be single sex, twin-share, but in South America many rooms are triple/quad-share. Hostels, gers and yurts are nearly always multi-share and may be mixed sex.</p> <p>The campsites will range from rather basic to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars. In some cases it may also be possible to upgrade locally to bungalows, lodges or even tree-houses. One of the highlights of overlanding is that in more remote areas we wild camp away from the tourist crowds. Occasionally on some of our trips we are able to stay in villages or local homestays allowing us to get close to the indigenous population and ensuring that our money stays within the local community.</p> <p>Single Supplement</p>

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We do not offer a single supplement during the booking stage, as this will be unavailable for camping with a full truck, and difficult to confirm in many hotels. However, if you would like to 'upgrade' to having your own room whilst on the road then this is possible if you pay the difference yourself, subject to availability. Your tour leader will assist with this as they make ongoing bookings on the road.

### Group Size

The maximum group size we take on our overland journeys ranges from 19 to 22 depending on the geographical location; however the average number of passengers is more likely to be around 16. On some departures there may be more than one truck doing the same route. This means that you will be in the same hotel or campsite as another Dragoman group on some days. To ensure that you are not always at the same place at the same time as another group, your itinerary will most likely be slightly altered from the itinerary advertised on the website and in the Trip Itinerary. Even on the majority of our trips where there is only the one truck, you may from time to time meet up with other groups at points on the road, and may partake in activities jointly with other groups on these occasions.

### Meals and Group Participation

On an overland journey you are more than just an individual passenger - you're part of the team. You are expected to pitch in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. As part of your trip you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting water and firewood, sweeping out the truck, loading the back locker, etc. While camping on overland journeys, the meals are included in the kitty. This means that you will have to work together to cook for everyone in your group. You will be divided into smaller units of 3-4 people and take it in turns to cook for the whole group according to a rota system. When it is your group's turn to cook you will have to plan the meal, shop for the ingredients in local markets or supermarkets and then prepare the meal for the whole group. The secret to cooking for 20+ people using a basic camping kitchen is to keep it simple! (On trips south of Nairobi we have a cook on board the truck; however you will still be required to help them to prepare meals). An example of a typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, fruit and cereal as well as tea and coffee. When time allows it will also be possible to serve something hot such as eggs or pancakes. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto or pasta dish and there is always the chance to try some local cooking. Generally our passengers find the more they put into a trip, the more they benefit from it.

### Our Overland Trucks

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Dragoman's fleet is truly unique. We use rugged and sturdy Mercedes-Benz trucks (known for their durability) that will take you off road and off the beaten track. They are specially modified at our workshop in Suffolk, UK, into our custom designed overland vehicles. Features such as our integrated cabs are unique to Dragoman trucks, and our customers regularly say that they make our trucks the best on the road. With their distinctive orange and white livery and their personalised names, our trucks have become iconic. All of our trucks are affectionately named and have their own individual personality. Many of our passengers remember the name of their truck many years after their trip!

Our trucks are fully equipped for self-sufficient wild camping, and have comfortable coach-style seating. All Dragoman trucks are owned and maintained by us, and our crew follow a strict maintenance schedule - this means we can manage the quality and safety of our fleet. We currently have 26 overland trucks (and 1 overland bus) on the road worldwide, and the fleet is growing all the time! For more information on our trucks, please visit: <https://dragoman.com/overlanding/our-trucks/meet-the-fleet>

### The Kitty

In addition to the trip price on our overlanding trips, you will also be required to pay a kitty specified for your trip. The kitty is payable in instalments at the start of each section of the trip for combination trips, and in full at the start of the trip for individual trips. Each customer joining a trip pays their kitty into a central fund. The fund is managed by the Dragoman crew and the kitty accounts can be viewed by all throughout the trip. The kitty covers all things that the whole group does, such as:

- Hotel accommodation and campsite fees
- Meals whilst camping (not whilst staying in hotels)
- Activities listed as included (e.g. National Park or historical site entrances, excursions, etc.)

The kitty system is unique to overlanding and allows us to have flexibility and transparency on our trips. You can see exactly how your money is being spent and ensure that you are getting the best value by buying locally. It also helps to keep the costs competitive and save on administration costs so that we can pass the saving on to you.

Dragoman makes NO PROFIT on kitties, as they are the group's fund.

We constantly update the kitty prices on our website and the kitty advertised in the brochure is an estimate at the time of printing. Prices can go up or down with no notice, and exchange rate fluctuations will affect costs. If there is money left in the kitty at the end of your trip, then this is divided between the group and you receive a refund. Once you book your trip it is very important that you check our website on a regular basis and just before departure for any changes to the kitty amount. Some hotels and hostels increase their rates substantially over

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Christmas and New Year. Please therefore be aware that the kitty for trips in this period may be substantially higher than for the rest of the year and an additional amount may be required from you.

### Paying your kitty

Remember to arrange to bring sufficient cash USD to pay your kitty at the start of the trip, or to arrange for prepayment (if available for your trip). If you choose to prepay your kitty then this must be done via bank transfer 3-4 weeks before the start of your trip. Please note that prepayment is not available for our trips to West Africa, Iran, Tajikistan, and any trip in Africa north of Nairobi. For more details on how to prepay your kitty, please refer to your Kitty Payments sheet which will be sent to you via email or visit this link:

[https://www.dragoman.com/files/Dragoman\\_Kitty\\_Document.pdf](https://www.dragoman.com/files/Dragoman_Kitty_Document.pdf)

If you are bringing the kitty out in cash, please ensure your USD notes are clean and undamaged and no more than 8 years old. If needed, your tour leader will be able to accept some of the kitty in local currency, and they will let you know the exchange rate locally. In most destinations you can withdraw local currencies from ATM machines, using either a cash passport or a credit/debit card. However, please bear in mind that most cards have a maximum withdrawal amount per day, local ATMs may run out of cash, and your bank could block the card despite you warning them of your travel plans, so it could be impractical to try to get the entire kitty out from an ATM.

Please note that we cannot accept traveller's cheques on our trips.

### Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected. We have partnered with nib to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply by clicking [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

### Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of your return.

### Colombia

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries will not need a visa to visit Colombia as a tourist for up to 90 days. Please note that citizens of Canada will need to pay a reciprocity fee of COP160,000 (approximately USD70 - 2015 price) upon entry to Colombia. Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it in advance.

### Ecuador

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Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries will not need a visa to visit Ecuador as a tourist for up to 90 days. Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it in advance. Only a very small number of nationalities will require a visa.

### Yellow Fever

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home. It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

### Malaria & Other other Mosquito-Borne Diseases

There is a risk of contracting malaria in some areas which we travel through. If your trip goes to a areas with malaria it is always best to get expert advice before travelling about the types of malaria pills available, whether they are recommended, and take any that are prescribed as instructed. Consult your GP or travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements. Other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and are becoming a bigger problem around the world. Mosquito bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases, as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus. For more information about Zika please visit:

- WHO: [www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus](http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika)

The Anopheles mosquitoes that transmit malaria usually bite between the hours of dusk and dawn, whereas the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika bite both during the day and the night. To prevent being bitten, it is recommended to cover up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light-coloured and buttoned at the wrists. Do not sleep without closing your windows, tent door, etc. and use a mosquito net in hotels or if sleeping outside where there are mosquitoes present. Use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing. Treating clothes and mosquito nets with a Permethrin solution also provides significant protection. It should be available at most travel stores. Mosquito coils are useful on still nights and in hotel rooms, but cannot be used inside the tents. For more advice on how to avoid bites please see: [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance)

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### Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protections vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest specific health advice on the regions and countries you are planning to travel in, so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel. The following websites are also a helpful resource: [www.nathnac.net](http://www.nathnac.net) and [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Contingency Emergency Fund

Sometimes, civil or political unrest, or reasons beyond Dragoman's control (e.g. a natural disaster), can mean that an itinerary is disrupted and we have to make a contingency plan. This may involve hiring alternate transport or even the whole group flying over an area. Although Dragoman will help organise travel arrangements, in circumstances outside Dragoman's control you will be required to contribute the additional costs involved and therefore we ask you to bring the equivalent of USD400 as a contingency fund. In almost all cases trips run smoothly and this fund is therefore never used. We also recommend that you bring an internationally recognised credit or charge card with a decent limit in case of emergencies, such as medical treatment en route, or even the need to be repatriated; though these occurrences are rare. Remember that travel insurance policies in some instances only refund you for expenses after you have already paid out.

### A Few Rules

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated. Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price. You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price. Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

### Issues on the trip

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while

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you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip. We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on [customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk](mailto:customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk). You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete

Triple Share  
Not available.

Children  
Children must be 18 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

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