



Colombian Highlights - 11 Days (#6491)

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **08-09-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

Trip Highlights

Bogota - Coffee Triangle - Medellin - Cartagena

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

DAY 1 | Bogotá

Arrival to El Dorado airport in Bogotá on an intercontinental flight. Reception and transfer to the hotel.

Meal: No Meal

Day 02

DAY 2 | Bogotá – Half Day City Tour Bogota with Paloquemao Market



Leave in the morning to La Plaza de Mercado Paloquemao, one of the biggest and most recognized local markets in Bogotá, where all traditional products and ingredients of Colombian cuisine can be found. Try some of the exotic fruits, visit the flower market and the popular food stalls to feel a true local experience.

Then enjoy a half day visit to the historic centre of Bogota known as La Candelaria. This archaic suburb has great significance in the country history due to its cultural heritage and is also a great example of Spanish colonial time architecture. Visit the main square Plaza de Bolivar, where a statue of the great emancipator Simon Bolivar is located. The plaza, originally called the Plaza Mayor, was used for civil and military purposes such as a marketplace, a bullring and it was also the place where many executions were held. The Cathedral, on the eastern side of the plaza, is constructed on the same spot where the first church was built in Bogotá in 1539 and houses an important collection of religious artefacts such as textiles and artworks, collection that has been built over four centuries. The Capilla Del Sagrario is located just beside the Cathedral and is a gem of religious architecture, it houses valuable pieces of colonial religious art by Gregorio Vasquez de Arce y Ceballos.

The Capitol, built between 1847 and 1926, shows its renaissance and neoclassical influences with its carved stonework and tall columns and, it was the first example of republican civil architecture. The central area of the Capitol, known as the Elliptic Hall, is where congress meets and is the actual chamber for politicians and the Senate. In the internal squares are busts of former presidents such as General Tomás Cipriano Mosquera, president over four terms, and Rafael Núñez, the composer of the Colombian National Anthem. Around the Plaza de Bolivar are buildings such as the Palacio de Justicia, the Mayor of Bogotá's offices called the Edificio Liévano, the oldest school in the county called San Bartolome and the Casa de los Comuneros, named after the leaders that participated towards the end of the XVII Century in some of the first movements towards independence from Spain and the formation of the Republic.

The visit continues with the Botero Museum, a colonial house exhibiting some of Fernando Botero works of art and in addition pieces from his own personal collection that includes works by Picasso, Renoir, Dalí Matisse, Monet and Giacometti. Next is the Gold Museum which has a permanent exhibition of some 32,000 pieces of gold, 20,000 stones, ceramics and textiles all precious to the Quimbaya, Calima, Tayrona, Sinu, Muisca, Tolima, Tumaco and Magdalena cultures. The Gold Museum is considered one of the most important museums of its type internationally and it has been operating since 1939. In 2007 it underwent a complete renovation making it possible for visitors to enjoy an interactive experience. The Museum belongs to the International Network of Museums (ICOM).

NOTE: The Gold Museum is closed on Mondays and the Botero Museum is closed on Tuesday.

Meal: Breakfast

Day 03

DAY 3 | Bogotá – Pereira Half Day Coffee Process – Finca del Café Coffee Tour



After breakfast, enjoy a half day visiting the Finca del Café, a place where coffee tastes better when you live the experience of the farm. Once you reach the farm, the tour begins with an expert who will take you through the coffee plantations, showing you how is the process from planting, manual picking and pulping. After this, you will toast the beans of special coffee in a wood stove in the typical kitchen of the country house, here you can have an authentic coffee experience. During the tour, you will have several stations with viewpoints made in bamboo where you will appreciate the coffee landscape and the natural environment of the place. Finally, you will go to the innovative drying process of the coffee bean and then to the coffee processing centre.

Meal: Breakfast

Day 04

DAY 4 | Pereira - Valle del Cocora & Filandia - Pereira

After breakfast, leave for the Valle de Cocora which is located in the central mountains of the department of Quindío. This makes part of the Parque Nacional de los Nevados and is the ideal place to marvel at the “Quindian wax palm” (*Ceroxylon quincense*), the national tree of Colombia.

This tree can reach a staggering height of 60m. Around here a great number of species of birds live, in particular some types of hummingbird and the orejíamarillo or the palm parrot (*Ognorhynchus icteroti*) which is endangered. Upon arrival in the valley, either hiking or on horseback (not included), head into the cloud forest to enjoy the biodiversity of flora and fauna. On the return journey, cross the River Quindío while walking along an ecological pathway which takes one past the tallest wax palms in the world. Learn why the indigenous people here worshipped this tree. Then you can have a typical lunch (not included) and enjoy some free time here. In the afternoon, continue 10 km towards the traditional town of Salento to enjoy a city tour that visits the Plaza de Bolívar with its colourful balconies, the Calle Real, the handicrafts shops and the Cocora viewpoint. Then, transfer to the traditional village of Filandia to enjoy a city tour that includes the viewpoint, the colonial homes, the Plaza de Bolivar and the coffee shops. Here, enjoy some time soaking up the regional atmosphere and perhaps some local spirits before returning to the hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

Day 05

DAY 5 | Pereira –Medellín

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Medellin. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to the selected hotel.

Meal: Breakfast



Day 06

DAY 6 | Medellín - Half Day Medellín's Social Transformation Tour

After breakfast, half day tour to visit those places that best represent the social transformation that has taken place in Medellín. The tour will show the symbolic areas of Medellín from the 1980s, when the city was one of the most dangerous in the world, up to today many projects that fostered the city's change. Enjoy an exciting tour through the history and present of Medellín and learn more about the transformation of this fascinating metropolis. 20 years ago, Medellín was one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Back in the early 90s, when the hunt for Pablo Escobar took place, the head of Medellín's drug cartel was at its peak. Thus, the reign of "El Patrón" came to its end. Until the turn of the millennium the struggles about Escobar's successor continued, but since 2002 Medellín began to change. Intelligent local politicians started to invest heavily in infrastructure and public education. Today the "City of Eternal Spring" is one of the most innovative metropolises in the world.

Visit the barrio San Javier, which used to be one of the most unsafe suburbs of Medellín. Located some 7km from the city centre, it is a clear example of the social transformation that has taken place in the last few years. Arrive here by the metro cable car that joins the north-east area with the city centre, which has been life changing for many of the inhabitants of Medellín. Learn more about the city's transformation after the death of Pablo Escobar and also get to know the innovative transport-system in the poorer neighbourhoods at first hand. Explore Medellín's newest invention: the electric stairways of the district Comuna 13, discover stories about its past by visiting the most important places marked by historical events and see some graffiti that symbolizes a form of expression of the community. Here it is possible to have a beautiful view over the city from the balconies of San Javier.

Then, go on to La Plazoleta located in the city centre, in an area that fell into decline in the 1980s and today houses 23 sculptures of Fernando Botero, donated by this famous local artist in year 2000.

Since that time, the city has undergone a social and cultural transformation around these works placed in a public space. Back to the hotel. Free afternoon

Meal: Breakfast

Day 07

DAY 7 | Medellín – Full Day El Peñol Rock and Guatapé - Medellín

Leaving Medellín and heading to the town of Guatapé in order to visit the enormous rock. Guatapé is located in the outskirts of Medellín and has a reservoir created by the Colombian government for a hydroelectric dam, in the middle of the reservoir it is the Peñol Rock. The Peñol Rock is possibly a meteorite due to its size.



From the top by foot up the stairs if you are full of energy (there are 654 steps to get to the top), the whole Guatapé reservation can be seen, and this is an optional activity. Visit the picturesque village of Guatapé where all of the houses are painted in quaint pastel colours.

The way to El Peñol takes around two hours, during which passengers can appreciate the outstanding landscape of Antioquia. After lunch, visit to the Guatapé reservoir, which tour of 30 minutes is made by boat. Return to Medellín.

Meal: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 08

DAY 8 | Medellín - Cartagena

After breakfast, transfer to Medellín airport for departure by direct flight to Cartagena. Upon arrival, transfer and hotel check-in.

Meal: Breakfast

Day 09

DAY 9 | Cartagena – Half Day Panoramic City Tour

Start with a panoramic view of the city from the Monasterio and Iglesia de La Popa. Formerly known as the “Popa Del Galeon” and famous for resembling the stern of a galleon. Constructed in 1606 this church and monastery are located at a height of 140masl from where one can enjoy 360° views of the city and the sea as well as the port zone, one of the most important in the Caribbean. Continuing to the San Felipe fortress, erected in honour of the poet from Cartagena, Don Luis Carlos López, made famous for his sonnet “A mi ciudad nativa”. It was built on San Lázaro hill to defend the city from pirate attacks. Walk around the fortress and learn about how the castle was constructed, the engineering feats, the tunnels, underground galleries and passageways. Then, go on to the Ciudad Vieja (old city) to visit the Convent and Church of the San Pedro Claver compound which was built in the middle of the XVII century and owes its name to the “apóstol de los esclavos”. Lastly, follow to the handicrafts zone of the Bovedas, a collection of archways built into the city wall of Cartagena and that were used until the end of the 1700s to house armaments and then later as a prison in the XIX century. Nowadays it’s an artisan centre to appreciate local handcraft. Free afternoon for individual activities.

NOTE: The San Pedro Church is temporarily closed on Mondays.

Meal: Breakfast



Day 10

DAY 10 | Cartagena

Free day for individual activities. A full day tour to the Archipelago del Rosario is recommended.

Meal: Breakfast

Day 11

DAY 11 | Cartagena - Bogotá

Breakfast and transfer to the airport for flight to Bogotá.

Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

- Meals as mentioned in the descriptive itinerary.
- Accommodation is quoted in standard and superior category.
- Private transfers and excursions with English speaking.
- Transfers: Our transfer rate includes transportation for one suitcase per person up to 23 kg (50 pounds) plus one hand luggage. If you plan to travel with additional luggage, please notify us in advance to assign a vehicle with sufficient capacity for the transfer. Bear in mind that this change may generate additional costs.
- In all hotels, check-in time is from 3:00 pm and check-out between 11:00 am-1:00pm. Early check-in or late check-out are not included, unless specified in the quote.

Exclusions

- Extra expenses not indicated in description.
- Internal Flights **
- Airport Tax
- Tips.
- Please be aware that land services in Bogotá reserved during the night (19:00 ? 5:00) will have an extra cost.
- Please be aware that land services in Cartagena reserved during the night (21:00 ? 6:00) will have a 20% increase in the fee.



Note

Hotels Used Or Similar

Bogotá

3 star Hotel B3 Virrey 3* - Bureau Room

Note: A supplement will apply for twin accommodation, only available in Junior room

4 star Hotel Cite 4* /Bed & Breakfast Standard Room

Note: This rate applies Friday to Saturday nights. From Sunday to Thursday nights a supplement will apply.

Pereira

3 star Hotel Hacienda San Jose 4* - Standard Room

Note: The high season period: 01.07.24 ? 31.08.24 / 05.10.24 ?13.10.24 / 15.12.24. Supplement will apply.

4 star Hotel Hacienda Sazagua 4* - Junior Suite Room

Note: This rate is not valid during the following periods: 15.07.24 ?15.08.24 / 15.12.24. Supplement will apply.

Medellín

3 star Hotel Poblado Plaza 4* / Bed & Breakfast Superior Room

Note: This rate is NOT valid during the following periods: 15.06.24 ? 20.06.24 / 22.07.24 ? 13.08.24 /23.09.24 ? 27.09.24 / 10.11.24 ? 15.11.24 / 20.12.24. Supplement will apply.

Mundo 4* SUP /Bed & Breakfast Standard Room.

4 star Hotel Patio del

Note: This

supplement is valid during the following periods: 16.07.24 ? 31.08.24 / 15.11.24.

Cartagena

3 star Hotel Alfiz 3* Sup/ Bed & Breakfast Standard Room

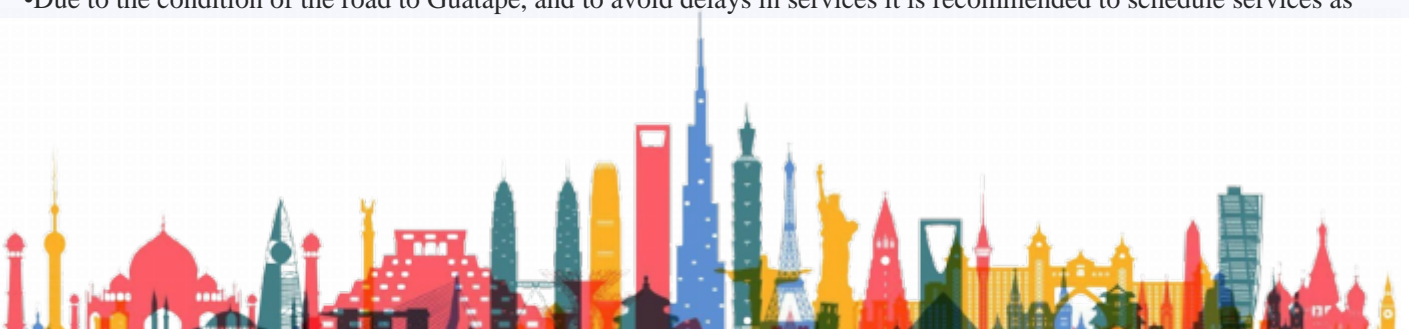
Note: This rate is not valid during the following high season periods: 21.12.23 ? 07.01.24 /21.12.24.

Note: the hotel does not allow the stay of children under 12 years old.

4 star Hotel Boutique Ananda 4*/Bed & Breakfast Superior Room

Note: This supplement applies during the following periods: 15.07.24 ?15.08.24.

- The Gold Museum is closed on Mondays & Botero Museum is closed on Tuesdays.
- For night transfer services in Bogota between 19:00 and 05:00, a night surcharge will be applied, and you will be notified by the GGTS team according to the confirmed flight.
- In the coffee region we suggest a flight from Bogotá to Pereira in the morning (before noon) to have enough time to do the suggested activity of the Coffee Process at Finca del Café.
- We recommend Finca de Café over Hacienda San Alberto due to each transfer takes 1.5-hour per way from Pereira, which may cause discomfort. Finca de Café, on the other hand, is only a 30-minute drive each way, ensuring a more comfortable experience.
- Due to the condition of the road to Guatapé, and to avoid delays in services it is recommended to schedule services as



follows: Weekdays (Mondays -Fridays) with a start time of 8:00 am. Weekends and Holidays (Saturdays – Sundays) with a 7:00 am start time.

- The Comuna 13 is very crowded especially weekends and high season. If possible, we suggest avoiding this visit on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays or in high season.
- Panoramic City tour in Cartagena includes the visit to La Popa, San Felipe's fortress and San Pedro Claver church. Please keep in mind that San Pedro Claver church is closed on Mondays.
- Please note that land services in Cartagena booked at night (21:00 - 6:00) will have a 20% increase in the cost.

National Holiday weekends: 28.06.24-01.07.24 / 20.07.24 / 07.08.24 / 16.08.24 ? 19.08.24 / 11.10.24 ? 14.10.24 / 01.11.24 ? 04.11.24 / 08.11.24 ? 11.11.24 / 06.12.24 ? 08.12.24.

Program Touring / Guide

Private touring

Departure Period

15 Feb, 2024 to 15 Dec, 2024

Superior

AUD 5,467 P P twin share

AUD 8,150 P P single

AVAILABLE

Standard

AUD 4,430 P P twin share

AUD 6,082 P P single

AVAILABLE

