



Discover Colombia Including The Medellin Flower Festival

Day 1 –Friday -05 Aug 22- Arrive in Cartagena (Colombia)

Welcome to Colombia. Upon arrival complete formalities and proceed to be greeted by our representative and transferred to our hotel.

Why visit this country? *With its breathtaking colonial architecture, horse-drawn carriages and narrow cobbled streets, Cartagena de Indias is one of the most authentic yet hip cities in Colombia. Founded in 1533 this Caribbean colonial jewel was the first Spanish colony on the South American mainland and one of the main ports for the Spanish fleet. The old city walls, street art, music bursting from cafes and brilliantly dressed people pulls you in. Cartagena is safe, full of shops and has excellent restaurants.*

Accommodation: Nácar Hotel Cartagena – Curio – 4 Nights - Splendid Twin

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ctgmaqg-nacar-hotel-cartagena/>

The hotel is located in the historic center of Cartagena. Housed in a restored historic landmark, our hotel features two towers offering an authentic, colonial ambiance as well as a modern elegance. The Walled City, Torre del Reloj, and Plaza Santo Domingo are less than a km away. Enjoy snacks and cocktails by the pool and city views from the terrace bar.

Meet Tour Escort for a briefing.

Afternoon: Walking Tour



Discover Cartagena's rich history and beautiful colonial architecture with old houses, stunning balconies and little squares. Walk through the main square "Plaza de Bolívar". In this beautiful plaza we find many trees and a statue of the most important leader of South America's Independence movement, liberator Simón Bolívar. Initially it was used for military parades; however, after 1610 it was called "Plaza de la Inquisición", because the Inquisition Palace was located on the west side. Then we pass the "Plaza de la Proclamación", where the town gathered to support the declaration of independence on November of 1811.

The tour continues to the "Plaza de San Pedro de Claver", a small plaza named after the saint that helped the slaves who were sold in the city. Next, visit the "Plaza de la Aduana", the largest and oldest square with governmental and administrative buildings located in colonial times. Later, visit the "Plaza de los Coches". A triangular plaza surrounded by old

city walls, houses with Spanish colonial architecture and buildings with colonial arches. This arcade walkway is known as "El Portal de los Dulces", a street full of stands that sell typical Colombian sweets. There you also find the main entrance to the inner walled city, originally "Boca del Puente". This gateway was enhanced years later with a Republican-style clock tower, a symbol of Cartagena. Finally, visit the "Plaza Santo Domingo", is full of life and entertainment and a perfect place for relaxation enjoying open-air restaurants. Also see the church of Santo Domingo, a beautiful colonial church with a stunning facade.

Welcome Dinner this evening at a local restaurant (3 courses set menu + 1 soft drink + 1 glass of Wine **Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner**

Day 2 – Saturday - 06 Aug 22-Cooking Class

Live a unique experience with a local chef. The recipes are inspired by flavors, colors and freshness of products in the Caribbean region, and are designed to delight. The program begins in the Getsemaní Neighborhood. Participants are welcomed with a refreshing drink. Then we learn how to cook Colombian typical pastries as "Carimañolas" and "Arepas de Huevo". Next how to cook a main course. The tour includes a cooking class and a fixed menu. **Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch**

Day 3 – Sunday - 07 Aug 22-Cultural San Basilio de Palenque

San Basilio de Palenque, named by **UNESCO** as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, is one of the walled communities called palenques, founded by escaped slaves in the seventeenth century. Of the many original palenques only San Basilio survived. It developed into a unique cultural space, with social, medical, religious practices, musical and oral traditions, many with African roots. Today's visit takes us to the streets of this peaceful little village stopping to chat with locals, dance to the rhythm of authentic Afro-Caribbean music and taste recipes from gastronomic traditions. After activities in town and sharing with the community, transfer back to our hotel. **Included:** The tour begins with women's braid hairstyle workshop. Here, we do a hairstyle or see the hairstyle of a Palenquera under taught by a local woman, who explains how African slaves brought seeds hidden in braids, or founders devised braids the map of the route to Palenque without masters perceiving it.

We continue with a Palenquera language workshop, a 40-minute class in which we learn the basics of the language: a mixture of African languages, Spanish and Portuguese. Later, we head towards the boxing workshop. Palenque is the birthplace of four world boxing champions. We learn about the influence of this sport a flagship in Palenque and Cartagena, history of important characters, and receive a brief boxing class. We finish with a ritual of physical, emotional and spiritual healing that takes place in the Traditional Medicine Center of Palenque, where prayers are made and medicines and plant-based drinks are made, as well as elements to protect against "mal de ojo". Also, we will learn about the beliefs, religions and superstitions. **Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch**

Day 4 – Monday - 08 Aug 22-La Boquilla Mangroves & Typical Dances Workshop



We visit "La Boquilla", an old fishing village twenty minutes away. This community was a slave colony and home to many Afro-Colombian inhabitants. On arrival, we are on a beach at a narrow peninsula flanked by clear waters of the Caribbean on one side and the "Ciénaga de la Virgen" – a large lake and mangrove swamp – on the other. We board a traditional canoe steered by a local, and navigate mangrove swamps to observe the fauna and flora. After this visit, the traditional dance school of La Boquilla will teach us how to dance to folk music, with a tour of Cumbia, Mapalé, Son Corrido, Bullerengue to the traditional Champeta, with live music and costumes. **Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner**

Day 5 – Tuesday - 09 Aug 22- Cartagena to Pereira (Coffee Triangle)

Transfer AM to Airport for flight to Pereira **AV9783 09AUG 2 CTGPEI 1003A1122A**

Pereira

The Coffee Triangle is a perfect name for the "Zona Cafetera", Colombia's principal coffee-growing area. Its spectacular natural beauty, makes it one of the most beautiful destinations combining lush green valleys, exotic wildlife and balmy climate. This is the perfect place to unwind and relax, sit back and enjoy the freshest coffee you'll ever taste. Upon arrival we will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Boutique Sazagua – 2 nights - Standard Room <https://www.sazagua.com/en/>

Sazagua is a boutique hotel in the heart of Coffee Cultural Landscape, a World Heritage Site by **UNESCO**. Surrounded by natural beauty, gardens, tropical flowers, unique birds and beautiful temperate lands cultivated with coffee, this place turns into an exquisite manifestation of hospitable culture. With its name it honors the Quimbaya civilization that inhabited the region.

Workshop of Basket Weaving at Hotel



Alida, a craftswoman from Filandia, is part of one of the six generations of the Márquez family who making baskets and other crafts from natural fibers. She visits the facilities of the Sazagua hotel to guide us in this art of tradition. **Notes:** Duration: 2 hours.

Meals Included – Breakfast & Dinner

Day 6 – Wednesday - 10 Aug 22-Salento & Cocora Valley + Coffee Process at El Ocaso (Pereira)



Join us for a visit to the beautiful Cocora Valley. This majestic valley is home to the wax palm, Colombia's national tree and the tallest variety of palm tree. These palms measure up to 190 feet tall and live more than 120 years. Be amazed by the natural beauty and diversity of fauna and flora throughout. We are welcomed with a typical cocktail called "canelazo". Afterwards visit the misty forest where our guide explains the importance of protecting this beautiful ecosystem. The tour continues with the "Ritual de la Palma", a way to preserve wax palms. Visitors from around the world have helped plant future wax palms, we will also grow our own palm tree. Next we visit the town, Salento. Founded in 1842, Salento was one of the first settlements in the Quindío state and preserves its colonial bahareque architecture. Salento's buildings are in harmonious color, especially along Calle Real, the main street lined with restaurants, bars, handicrafts shops and souvenir stores.

Coffee Process at El Ocaso (Pereira)



El Ocaso is a farm that produces sustainable coffee. The height, climate and topography of this farm allows it to develop a double shade crop with characteristics of the incomparable fragrance and flavor of sustainable coffee. Visitors enjoy a private tour with four stages: production, processing, marketing and tasting; in addition to the singing of more than 90 different species of birds. **Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

Bogotá is Colombia's capital city with approximately 8 million people; it is a cosmopolitan center and has become an epicenter of business, politics, and entertainment. The city has transformed itself into a surprising tourist destination. Bogotá has a thriving nightlife, superb al fresco dining as well as international shopping. Its privileged location and international airport make it highly accessible and functional as a main gateway.

Day 7 –Thursday - Aug 11 22- Pereira to Bogota

Transfer Pereira Airport AM for flights to Bogota **AV8512 10AUG 3 PEIBOG 1001A1056A**

Bogotá



Upon arrival at the International Airport El Dorado, complete our arrival formalities and proceed to our representative and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: EK Hotel – 2 Nights - Superior room

<https://preferredhotels.com/hotels/colombia/ek-hotel>

Designed for travelers to be in the centre of it all, EK Hotel redefines notions of what a hotel can be. With its sleek architecture and décor, every facet of this boutique gem is sure to delight and inspire. At your service is an attentive and personable staff skilled in the art of satisfying your every request to create a memorable experience during your stay.

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 8 – Friday – Aug 12 22- City Tour with Monserrate Hill & Local Market + Lunch

The tour starts with an early AM visit to Paloquemao's Market. This is one of the largest in the country; a large variety of flowers, exotic fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, cheese, medicinal herbs and typical food- a great opportunity to live a unique cultural experience, tasting exotic fruits and a small snack. Continue to the historical heart of Bogotá, La Candelaria, and splendid colonial architecture. Enjoy a stroll around Plaza de Bolívar, Bogotá's main square, flanked by prominent colonial and Republican-era landmarks like Cathedral, Congress Palace, Cardinal's Palace, colonial churches of El Sagrario and San Agustín, Independence House, Palace of Justice and City Hall. Later head to Monserrate Hill, to find a white Catholic church located at the top, a pilgrimage site since 1657. On a clear day enjoy a spectacular view of the city. Continue to Bogotá Gold Museum, the world's largest pre-Columbian gold collection, a must-see. The tour ends with a visit to Botero's Museum, Colombia's most famous contemporary artist. His work is well-known for large, exaggeratedly voluminous figures. **Meals Included – Breakfast & lunch**

Day 9 – Saturday -13 Aug 22- Bogota – Medellin

Transfer to the Pereira Airport this morning for flight to Medellin **AV9270 13AUG 6**

BOGMDE 1040A1143A



Medellin, also known as the "city of eternal spring" for its pleasant climate that ranges from 22-28 ° C throughout the year, is the second most important and populated city in

Colombia after Bogotá. It is located at the northwest of the country at 1,540 meters above sea level in the Valle de Aburrá, former territory of indigenous settlements. Mountain scenery filled with flowers, colorful colonial towns and one of the best places to go shopping in Colombia, are among the attractions.

Upon arrival at José María Córdova Airport, be greeted and transferred to your hotel

Accommodation: Hotel Park 10 – 3 Nights - Standard Room

<https://www.hotelpark10.com.co/en>

At Park 10 Hotel, feel the warmth of our own home, with highly qualified staff willing to provide unforgettable service; facilities designed with comfort in mind. Hotel Park 10 features stylish suites with honey-wood interiors and flooring. Hotel Park 10 is located in the El Poblado neighborhood, 4-blocks from the central Parque Lleras Square.

Afternoon: Flower Experience in Santa Elena



The small village of Santa Elena is located less than an hour outside of Medellín in the mountains of Antioquia (over 2000 m high). It is home to a great variety of traditional flower farmers. The flower arrangements of the Flower Festival ("Feria de Flores"), called "silletas", have an impressive history and are a cultural symbol of Medellín. We visit an organic flower farm and experience the traditional peasant culture of Santa Elena.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 6 – Sunday - 14 Aug 22- Medellin City Tour - Full Day



Medellín – the "City of Eternal Spring" – is the most innovative city of Latin America. Its recent past was related to the life of Pablo Escobar and violent gang fights. During the last twenty years Medellín went through drastic changes. An innovative program of urban development turned Medellín from the most dangerous city in the world into a modern example of urban transformation. Explore the famous Botero Plaza with an exhibition of the Colombian artist Fernando Botero, whose sculptures are a landmark. Take the Metro Cable up to Santo Domingo, once a notorious area of gang violence. The cable car was constructed to make the inner city more accessible from outskirts, and allow visitors into the lives of marginalized population. In the Comuna 13 district with its unique Electric Escalators, observe another innovative project that improved the life of the locals.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 7 – Monday - 15 Aug 22- Medellín**Medellin Flower Festival Main Event - The Silleteros Parade**

Medellín celebrates The Flower Festival - **Feria de las Flores** - every year. The festival is the city's most important traditional cultural event, with colorful peasant parades, flower competitions, festive folklore shows, flower exhibitions, horse fair, classic car parade, live music and more. The highlight is the traditional Silleteros Parade, when peasants carry, heavy wooden carriers decorated with hundreds of colorful flowers. The parade marks the historical slavery period when peasants were required to serve, among other things, "as a means of transportation" for nobles carried up and down the steep paths in surrounding hills. This evening enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant is included (3 courses set menu + 1 soft drink + 1 glass of Wine)_Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8 –Tuesday -16 Aug 22- Medellín – Bogota - USA

Transfer to José María Córdova International Airport for the flight to Cartagena and home.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS

10 + travelers \$3499

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT \$1075

INTERNAL AIRFARE - \$390 PER PERSON NET**Inclusions:**

Accommodation – 11 Nights at 4 Star hotels specified in the program

4 Nights with breakfast in Cartagena

2 Nights with breakfast in Pereira

2 Nights with breakfast in Bogota

3 Nights with breakfast in Medellin

English speaking tour escort at the group's disposal from Day 1 – Day 12

Porterage in & out at the hotels listed above

Deluxe coach services throughout for all transfers, tours

Welcome Dinner with wine in Cartagena

Other Meals – 6 Lunches & 5 Dinners

Farewell Dinner with wine in Medellin

Entrance Fees to Monuments, Museums, Archaeological sites

Accommodation for Tour Escort

Air Tickets – Bogota – Pereira – Medellin - Cartagena

Not included:

Meals other than those mentioned in the program

Personal expenses

Optional Tours