

## Colombia Revealed: Our Signature Journey



Cartagena

Colombia is an exciting, friendly and unspoiled destination for travellers to South America, offering stunning scenery, colonial cities, a wonderful coastline and impressive national parks.

This fabulous journey takes you from the Andes to the Caribbean. Bogota is the starting point for the first few days and provides an excellent introduction to the country. Rural life continues as it has done for centuries in the Coffee Zone where the scenery varies from rolling hillsides of coffee plantations to plunging valleys and bold elevations. Tayrona National Park offers fantastic birdwatching and great jungle hikes as well as magnificent beaches and the relaxing panorama of an intensely blue sea whilst Cartagena is quite simply one of the most attractive cities in South America, a walled colonial gem overlooking the Caribbean. Cartagena is the gateway to the lovely Rosario Islands.

**Highlights:** Bogota – Coffee Zone – Tayrona National Park – Cartagena – Rosario Islands

**Length:** 14 Days

**Accommodation:** Choose premium, mid-range or value hotels according to preference.

**Costs:** From £2,590 pp excluding transatlantic flights



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### Highlights:

**Bogota – Coffee Region - Tayrona National Park – Cartagena – Rosario Islands**

#### Days 1-4: Bogota:

- Day 1: Meet & Greet arrival transfer from Bogota airport to your hotel; 3 nights' accommodation.
- Day 2: Half day city tour including the Gold Museum.
- Day 3: Guided visit to the Sunday market at Usaquén and to Salt Cathedral at Zipaquirá.
- Day 4: Departure transfer to Bogota airport in time for your flight to the coffee region.

Bogota is an appealing city with much to offer the discerning traveller. Bogota's Gold Museum provides an interesting insight into pre-Colombian treasures. On Sundays, vehicles are banned from the city centre and the streets come alive with joggers, cyclists and city-dwellers out for a traffic-free walk. This makes it ideal to walk or cycle to the historic district of Usaquén to soak up the atmosphere in the artisan and flea market, try some street food and haggle for handicrafts. The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá is somewhat of a 'must' during a stay in Bogotá, a hidden jewel beneath the earth's surface.

#### Days 4-7: Coffee Zone:

- Day 4: Transfer from Bogota airport to your hotel in the coffee zone; 3 nights' accommodation.
- Day 5: Excursion in the Cocora Valley.
- Day 6: Bamboo raft excursion; optional coffee tour to explain the process from bean to cup.
- Day 7: Departure transfer to airport in time for your flight to Santa Marta via Bogota.

The coffee region is at the heart of rural agricultural life in Colombia and is dotted with small colonial villages, steep fertile hillsides and dramatic landscapes. The Cocora Valley has great eco-trails for hiking or riding with stunning views from the main vantagepoint. The Corcora Valley is home to Colombia's national tree, the Quindio wax palm (*Ceroxylon quindiuense*), which grows up to 60m (197 feet) in height. Floating down La Vieja River on a bamboo raft, keep your eyes peeled for herons, parrots, hawks, ant-eaters and armadillos.

#### Days 7-10: Tayrona National Park:

- Day 7: Arrival transfer from Santa Marta airport to Tayrona National Park: 3 nights' accommodation.
- Day 8: Full day tour of Tayrona National Park. Keep your eyes peeled for monkeys, iguanas and birds.
- Day 9: Free day for relaxation or optional additional excursions. We recommend a half day guided hike along the trail known as 9 Stones (Nueve Piedras), with curious egg-shaped stones
- Day 10: Departure transfer by road to Cartagena.

Tayrona National Park is one of Colombia's most appealing national parks, with scenery ranging from an unspoiled coastline with sandy beaches to tropical forest teeming with wildlife. Tayrona is home to over a hundred species of mammals, 200 species of birds and 50 kinds of reptiles. There are numerous jungle trails for wildlife-spotting and paths that link the various palm-fringed beaches and bays.

#### Days 9-14: Cartagena:

- Day 10: Arrival transfer from Santa Marta airport to Tayrona National Park: 4 nights' accommodation.
- Day 11: Half day walking tour of Cartagena's walled city.
- Day 12: Free Day.
- Day 13: Full day visit to the Rosario Islands archipelago.
- Day 14: Departure transfer to Cartagena airport to fly to Bogota in time to check in for your transatlantic flights home.

Cartagena is one of the loveliest cities in Latin America. It was founded in 1533 and was the Caribbean port used by the Spanish to ship gold, silver and goods back to Spain. Your guide will take you on a stroll tour around the old city bringing to life the rich and vibrant history and legends of Cartagena from its origins to present times.

#### Suggested Accommodation and Indicative Costs (excluding transatlantic flights):

	Premium	Mid-Range	Value
Bogota:	Four Seasons Casa Medina	AC Artisan Hotel	L'Opera
Coffee Region:	Hacienda Bambusa	Boutique Hotel Sazagua	Hacienda Venecia
Tayrona National Park:	Villa los Naranjos	Villa Santa Maria	Ecohabs
Cartagena:	Casa San Agustin	Añanda	Alfiz
<b>Indicative Costs:</b>	<b>£3,499 pp</b>	<b>£2,750 pp</b>	<b>£2,590 pp</b>

NB: Not valid over Christmas/New Year or Easter; Tayrona National Park is closed 2-15 Feb 2020; 1-15 Jun 2020; 19 Oct-2 Nov 2020





**Notes:**

Indicative Costs are per person based on two people travelling together and sharing a double/twin room. Transatlantic flights are not included. Supplements may also apply for travel over Christmas/New Year and Easter.

**What's included in the price:** All accommodation and meals as detailed; Local taxes & service charges associated with included accommodation - All transfers & sightseeing as detailed; various activities; ATOL protection; Research, sourcing, design and preparation of your tailor-made holiday itinerary and quote; booking admin and processing; The services of our local ground agent who will coordinate your stay and ensure that everything runs smoothly including access to a local English language 24/7 telephone help line.

**What's not included in the price:** Transatlantic flights; any national park entry fees which have to be paid locally; drinks, gratuities and items of a personal nature; meals and optional excursions not listed as included; personal travel insurance; passport and visa costs (e.g. costs associated with obtaining an American ESTA visa waiver, if flying via USA).

Please contact us for costs for families and parties of 3 or more passengers and for travel in 2021.

**Transatlantic Flights:**

We will book transatlantic flights for you in economy, premium economy, business or first class according to your preference.

**Seasons and Climate:**

Colombia is a year-round destination.

**Entry:**

British nationals travelling on a full, valid British passport do not require a visa for entry to Colombia. You should ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of arrival.

**Vaccinations:**

It is advisable to check your immunizations for Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A. If you have been to Africa within 3 months of arriving in Colombia you may need to provide proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever.

**Exchange Rates:**

Costs in Latin America are subject to \$/£ exchange rates. The current exchange rate is 1.2932 (as at 9 January 2020) although this may be subject to change.

**Recent History**

There has been a steady growth in visitor numbers to Colombia since the signing of the peace accords between the FARC and the government in 2016, after decades of conflict. The Colombian airline, Avianca, which had reintroduced a direct flight from Heathrow to Bogota in 2014 has now increased operations to a daily service. New hotels have opened, creating jobs and opportunities and we have seen how tourism has helped to drive growth and has been a catalyst for improvements in infrastructure.

Colombia has received a huge influx of migrants from neighbouring Venezuela in recent years. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, there are currently around 1.3 million Venezuelans now in Colombia, many of whom have arrived since November 2018.

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