



## Colombia

**Bogotá - Villavieja - San Agustín - Popayán - Coffee Region - Cartagena**

13 Days

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Bogotá

- Day 1 Transfer Airport - Hotel
- Day 2 City Tour + Cacao Experience
- Day 3 Transport Bogotá - Villavieja

### Villavieja

- Day 4 Tour Tatacoa Desert & Astronomical Observatory
- Day 5 Transport Villavieja - San Agustín

### San Agustín

- Day 6 Tour Archaeological Park & horseback riding
- Day 7 Transport San Agustín - Popayán

### Popayán

- Day 8 Transport Popayán - Silvia - Coffee Region
- Day 8 Tour Indigenous Market Silvia

### Coffee Region

- Day 9 Tour Salento & Valle de Cocora
- Day 10 Transfer hotel - airport

### Pereira - Cartagena

- Day 10 Flight Pereira - Cartagena

### Cartagena

- Day 10 Transfer Airport - Hotel
- Day 11 City tour
- Day 12 Transfer Hotel - Port
- Day 12 Boat transfer port - island
- Day 12 Free day
- Day 12 Boat transfer island - port
- Day 12 Transfer Port - Hotel
- Day 13 Transfer Hotel - Airport





## ITINERARY

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### Bogotá

In the Andes, at 2600 meters altitude, we find Colombia's capital, Bogotá, with an estimated 9 million inhabitants. With residents from all around the globe and a thriving cultural scene, Bogotá is a city that has a lot to offer. The metropolis has several museums, such as the Gold Museum, the National Museum and the Botero Museum, where you can immerse yourself in Colombian history and culture. In addition, Bogotá is known for its graffiti street art. Amazing murals that often portray a political or historical message can be found throughout the city. Bogotá is also a popular city among cycling enthusiasts; nowhere else in Latin America will you find more bike paths in the city, and consequently the bicycle is a frequently seen means of transport. Most travellers go to the Candelaria district, the beautiful colonial centre of Bogota where it is enjoyable to stroll around the sloping streets with their colourful colonial houses. To the north, there are more posh, modern neighbourhoods, with world-class restaurants, as well as cocktail bars and cafés.

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### Transfer Airport - Hotel

#### Day 1

Arrival at Bogotá airport. When leaving, look for a sign with your names. Transfer to your hotel (+/- 40 min, +/- 20 km).

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### Hotel de la Opera

#### 2 Nights



Hotel La Opera is located in the historic center of La Candelaria, just a few minutes away from the Colón Theater, the Palacio de San Carlos and Plaza de Bolívar. This colonial hotel from the Republican Era has 42 rooms. It has a spa with a swimming pool, sauna, a beauty area and gym. It also has two restaurants: La Scala and El Mirador, which serve a wide variety of national and international cuisine.

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### City Tour + Cacao Experience

#### Day 2

You will be picked up at the hotel by a local guide and start your city tour. First, you will walk through La Candelaria, Bogotá's historic center, and afterwards you will visit the famous Gold Museum as well as the Botero Museum. You will also take the cable car up to Cerro Monserrate, which has a great view over Bogotá at an altitude of 3000 meters where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the immense city of Bogota. At the end of the tour You will have an experience of one hour and a half, in a beautiful colonial house located in the neighborhood of La Candelaria. There you will learn about the history and the process of cacao production through your senses. From the cultivation of the seed to the elaboration of the products derived from it. The experience will end with a cup of hot chocolate with typical snacks that are a perfect match, such as almojabanas, amasijos and cheese.

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## Transport Bogotá - Villavieja

### Day 3

You will be picked up at the hotel to be taken to the Tatacoa Desert through the city of Villavieja, a (+/- 7 hours, +/- 290 km) trip. As the mountains descend, you will feel the temperature rising rapidly.

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## Villavieja

The town of Villavieja, a 6-hour drive from Bogotá, is best known for its proximity to the Tatacoa Desert. This area, with red, gray and ochre rocky canyons and some bushes, is not actually a desert but more of a dry tropical forest, and it is the second driest place in Colombia. During the day, you can marvel at the surreal moon landscapes and the desert, while at night you can enjoy the most amazing starry sky.

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## Hotel Sueño Real Tatacoa

### 2 Nights



Sueño Real Tatacoa is located on the outskirts of Villavieja. The hotel has a garden, bar, swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and parking. It offers rooms ranging from single rooms to family rooms, with air conditioning or fan.

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## Tour Tatacoa Desert & Astronomical Observatory

### Day 4

A driver and a local guide will pick you up to visit the Tatacoa Desert. After a 15-minute drive, you will start the hike through the Cuzco canyon, which is the red part of the desert. The guide will explain you about the special geological formations of this area, and about the local flora and fauna. Afterwards, you will visit the surreal lunar landscapes of the grey part of the desert, where you will also have the opportunity to cool off in Los Hoyos, a natural pool in the middle of the landscape. This evening you will visit the observatory in the Tatacoa desert with a local guide. Here you can enjoy an open sky full of stars, in addition, you can observe different stars and planets with the telescope.

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## Transport Villavieja - San Agustin

### Day 5

## San Agustín

The town of San Agustín, in the southwest of the department of Huila, is world famous thanks to the San Agustín Archaeological Park, an archaeological site with hundreds of statues of animals, people and monsters carved out of volcanic rock. These statues and tombs are believed to have been made by pre-Columbian people who inhabited this area, somewhere between 50 and 400 A.D. Along with San Agustín Archaeological Park, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1995, there are two other sites a few kilometers away near the town of Isnos: Alto de los Ídolos and Alto de las Piedras. Further away from these sites there are even more mysterious archaeological sites that you can visit. In short, this area is a must-see for archeology lovers. If that is not enough, you can also admire the second tallest waterfall in Colombia, Salto de Bordonos, which falls from a dazzling height of 490 meters. In addition, the Andean mountain landscapes of Huila are also known for their excellent coffee.

### Hotel Monasterio San Agustin

2 Nights



Hotel Monasterio San Agustín is an elegant boutique hotel located on a colonial coffee farm on the outskirts of the town of San Agustín, on a hill overlooking a green valley. The hotel's spacious and comfortable rooms are decorated in warm colors and wood, and feature a fireplace, a luxurious bathroom and a terrace with hammocks. The hotel has a view of the coffee and banana plantations and the tropical forests, as well as an observation tower with a 360-degree view of the valley

and a Coffee Museum in the original house of the estate. The hotel restaurant serves tasty gourmet fusion dishes and fine wines by the fire.

### Tour Archaeological Park & horseback riding

Day 6

A local guide and a driver will pick you up at the hotel for the 15-minute drive to the entrance of San Agustín Archaeological Park. During this half-day tour, you will walk through the Sculpture Forest, which is a cloud forest where various statues have been placed along the way. You will also visit the park's museum and the Lavapatas fountain, where rock drawings were carved into the stone riverbed. You will also walk through different plains with statues and tombs of mysterious pre-Columbian communities, and climb a hill to have a nice view of the entire area. After the visit to the archaeological park you will continue to explore the area of San Agustín on horseback. Afterwards you will be taken back to the hotel.

### Transport San Agustín - Popayán

Day 7

Transport from San Agustín to Popayán, a drive of approximately (+/- 5 hours, +/- 150 km). You will be taken directly through Puracé National Park and enjoy views of the páramos and volcanoes of this nature reserve. Because the road is largely unpaved, the duration of the journey will depend on road conditions.

## Popayán

Popayán, known as "the White City" of Colombia, is one of the most beautiful colonial cities in the country, founded in 1537 by the Spanish. The city, located at an altitude of 1737 meters in the Pubenza Valley, is located between two mountain ranges. Thanks to its mild climate, it has been a haven for wealthy (sugarcane) plantation owners in recent centuries. Plantation owners from Valle del Cauca began building houses, monasteries, and churches in Popayán in the 17th century. Today, Popayán is a friendly city with colonial architecture, a great environment and excellent cuisine: the city was declared a UNESCO City of Gastronomy in 2005.

### Hotel La Herrería Colonial

1 Night



Hotel La Herrería Colonial is located in the cultural and commercial area of Popayán. From the hotel you can visit iconic places such as the Puente del Humilladero and the Torre del Reloj. The accommodation has spacious and comfortable rooms with internet and private bathroom with hot shower. They also have a 24-hour reception service.

### Transport Popayán - Silvia - Coffee Region

Day 8

You will be picked up from the hotel for a (+/- 8 hours, +/- 410 km) trip to the Coffee Region, passing green landscapes and sugar plantations. If it is Tuesday, you can make a stop in the town of Silvia, where you will visit the indigenous market, when the Guambianos from this area travel to the town to sell their products. After the visit, you will continue your journey along the Pan-American Highway towards the Coffee Region.

### Tour Indigenous Market Silvia

Day 8

Early in the morning you will be picked up at the hotel to be taken to the municipality of Silvia, at an altitude of 2,600 meters in the mountains. Silvia is known for its market on Tuesdays, when the indigenous Guambianos in the area travel to the town to sell their products. The Guambianos are one of the most traditional indigenous communities in Colombia, with their own traditional clothing, agricultural techniques, and language. If you want to take a photo, it is highly recommended to ask permission first. The tour ends back at the hotel.

## Coffee Region

Endless green mountains, colorful villages with traditional Paisa architecture, a mild and pleasant climate and many coffee plantations where the best coffee in Colombia is produced? This must be the Colombian Coffee Region. This region is located in the heart of Colombia and extends over the departments of Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío. The area was colonized in the second half of the 19th century by the Paisas of the neighboring department Antioquia, and the architecture, culture and cuisine are, therefore, very similar to those of the Antioquia people. Think of the white houses with tile roofs and colorful wooden terraces decorated with hanging plants, and cafés where farmers in white hats and shirts drink small cups of tinto, as the coffee is also called here. In many places in the green mountains you can see coffee plantations, and in many of these coffee farms it is possible to take a look and taste the delicious product. And if that is not enough, the nature of the Coffee Region is also beautiful, thanks to the iconic Quindío wax palms, an extremely tall species of palm that only exists in Colombia. In the area you will find several natural parks where you can go hiking and birdwatching, and where you can cool off in a river or waterfall. It is not without reason that UNESCO declared this entire region a World Heritage Site in 2011.

### Hotel Casa San Carlos Lodge

**2 Nights**



Casa San Carlos Lodge is a boutique hotel located in the hills of the Coffee Region a few kilometers from the city of Pereira. The spacious and luxurious rooms are decorated with wood, bamboo and other natural materials, and feature airconditioning, a seating area and a desk. They have been designed with crafts made by 140 artisans from the region. The bedrooms open onto the terrace where guests can relax on comfortable sofas overlooking the garden. The hotel has a large outdoor

pool, bar, jacuzzi and a spa. In the restaurant, local and international dishes are served at a gourmet level.

### Tour Salento & Valle de Cocora

**Day 9**

A driver and local guide will pick you up from the hotel in a traditional Willys jeep for your trip to the Cocora Valley. On the way, you will stop at the Salento viewpoint, where you will have a view of the Cocora Valley and the mountains that surround it. In good weather, you can even see the peaks of Los Nevados National Park in the distance. You will also learn more about nature in this area and see avocado crops and cattle farms. Later, you will continue to the Cocora Valley, 30 minutes by car. In this green valley you will walk among the iconic wax palms, a species of palm that can grow up to 60 meters in height and is officially the national tree of Colombia. The walk between the wax palm trees and the waves of fog that give the valley a mystical feeling, is a unique experience. The trail can be quite muddy, so please wear comfortable shoes. After the walk you can enjoy a natural juice of one of the typical fruits of Colombia. You will continue to Salento by jeep for a visit to the historic center and learn about the traditional architecture of the municipality of Salento and the Camino Real, which is part of the road that passes through South America and ends in Venezuela. Salento plays an important role in a big part of Colombian history. You will continue to the main square and end the tour at the hotel.



### Transfer hotel - airport

#### Day 10

A driver will pick you up from the hotel and take you to Pereira airport, a short drive of +/- 15 minutes.

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## Pereira - Cartagena

### Flight Pereira - Cartagena

#### Day 10

Flight from Pereira to Cartagena with Avianca.

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Baggage policy:

- 1 piece weighing a maximum of 23 kilograms (50 pounds)
  - 1 carry-on piece weighing a maximum of 10 kilograms (22 pounds)
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## Cartagena

Cartagena de Indias is by far the most beautiful city in the Caribbean. Its centuries-old walled-in city center, that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, seems to have been made for people to wander around for hours. It's maze of colorful colonial houses on narrow streets and alleys ending in shadowy squares where, in the afternoon, street musicians and dancers show the best of the swinging Caribbean culture. But there is also plenty to do outside the city walls. The archipelago Islas del Rosario is at an hour's boat ride from the port city. And of course they have the pearl white beaches and turquoise-colored sea that the Caribbean is famous for. Even closer are the beaches of Cartagena, where you can end the day with a swim in the sea and by watching the enchanting sunset.

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### Transfer Airport - Hotel

#### Day 10

Arrival at Rafael Núñez airport in Cartagena. A driver will be waiting for you at the exit to take you to the hotel, a short 15-minute drive.

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### Hotel Boutique Las Carretas

#### 3 Nights



Las Carretas Boutique Hotel is located within the walled city of Cartagena. This modern, classic-style hotel offers comfortable, air-conditioned rooms, a courtyard with a small swimming pool and a lounge with seating areas overlooking a colonnade with ancient stone arches. Massage treatments are available upon request.

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### City tour

#### Day 11

An English-speaking guide will pick you up at the hotel in the morning, after which you will start exploring the old, colonial town centre on foot. You will pay a visit to the Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, the biggest colonial fortress ever built by the Spaniards. Visiting the huge, stone fortress with a maze of dark alleys, towers and cannons is an adventure in itself. You could easily imagine that you've traveled a few centuries back in time. You will also be visiting Parque Bolívar, Las Bóvedas, Santuario de San Pedro Claver and Plaza de los Coches. It can get quite hot in Cartagena, so bring along a bottle of water and protection against the bright sun. The city tour takes 4 hours.

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### Transfer Hotel - Port

#### Day 12

A driver will pick you up and take you to the port, a short drive of +/- 20 minutes. After registering your name and passport, you then take the boat to the island of your choice.

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### Boat transfer port - island

#### Day 12

In the morning, you'll take the boat from the port of Cartagena to the Baru island a trip of +/- 1 hour.

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### Free day

#### Day 12

Enjoy a day off on Isla Barú. Snorkel in the brightly blue water, enjoy the opportunity to relax on the beach and cool down in the Caribbean Sea.



### Boat transfer island - port

#### Day 12

Today you will take the boat back to Cartagena it is a trip of +/- 1 hour. The hotel will inform you of the exact departure time the same day, because the departure time depends on the sea condition.

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### Transfer Port - Hotel

#### Day 12

You will be picked up at the port and brought to your hotel, a short drive of +/- 20 minutes.

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

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### Bogotá

2 nights Hotel de la Opera [website](#)

### Villavieja

2 nights Hotel Sueño Real Tatacoa [website](#)

### San Agustín

2 nights Hotel Monasterio San Agustin [website](#)

### Popayán

1 night Hotel La Herrería Colonial [website](#)

### Coffee Region

2 nights Hotel Casa San Carlos Lodge [website](#)

### Cartagena

3 nights Hotel Boutique Las Carretas [website](#)

**Flight(s):**

## TRAVEL CONDITIONS

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### Including:

- National flights
- Accommodation in private double rooms (standard, if not mentioned otherwise) with breakfast
- Meals as mentioned
- Transfers and transport as mentioned with Spanish-speaking drivers
- Tours and activities as mentioned with entrance fees and English-speaking guides
- 24/7 assistance

### Not included:

- Services mentioned as optional
- International flights
- Insurance
- Meals and drinks not mentioned
- Voluntary tips for guides, drivers, etc.
- Personal expenses

*\* Please note that the price might have to be adjusted, depending on the constantly changing USD-COP exchange rate, flight prices, availability of services, etc.*

*\*\*If domestic flights are included in the booking, regardless of the time of cancellation 100% of the flight price will be charged.*

*\*\*\*Hotels are only suggestions and will only be reserved at the time of booking. If there is no availability, a similar or equivalent alternative will be offered.*