

Colombia

Bogotá - Villa de Leyva - Barichara - Giron - Santa Marta - Cartagena

14 Days



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Bogotá

- Day 1 Transfer Airport - Hotel
- Day 2 Bike Tour + visit Monserrate
- Day 3 The biggest Paramo on earth: Sumapaz
- Day 4 Transport Bogotá - Nemocón - Villa de Leyva

Villa de Leyva

- Day 5 Free day
- Day 6 Transport Villa de Leyva - Barichara

Barichara

- Day 6 Culinary workshop
- Day 7 Tour Camino Real & Guane
- Day 8 Transport Barichara - Juan Curí
- Day 8 Abseiling Juan Curi waterfall & rafting at Fonce river
- Day 9 Transport Barichara - Chicamocha - Girón

Giron

- Day 9 Tobacco tour
- Day 10 Transfer hotel - airport

Bucaramanga - Santa Marta

- Day 10 Flight Bucaramanga - Santa Marta

Santa Marta

- Day 10 Transfer airport - hotel
- Day 10 Free day
- Day 11 Transport Santa Marta - Cartagena

Cartagena

- Day 11 Free day
- Day 12 Walking tour
- Day 13 Transfer Hotel - Port
- Day 13 Boat transfer port - island



Islas Del Rosario

- Day 13 Free day
- Day 14 Boat transfer island - port
- Day 14 Transfer Port - Airport



ITINERARY

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.

Transfer Airport - Hotel

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

Hotel Casa Legado

3 Nights



Hotel Casa Legado is located in the Quinta Camacho neighborhood of Bogotá. It is a family house from the 50s that has been restored with wide and modern spaces, such as its living room with a fireplace, the garden and its open kitchen. The hotel has 7 rooms, it offers Thai and Yoga massage services, picnic baskets and free bike service.

Bike Tour + visit Monserrate

Day 2

A local guide will pick you up at the hotel for a bike tour through Bogotá—the most enjoyable way to explore this bustling metropolis. The tour starts with a short ride through La Candelaria, Bogotá's colonial center. Then, you will go to Paloquemao, a huge indoor market with fruit from all over Colombia, food stalls with tamales, lechona and other Colombian specialties, and many more things to explore. You will also visit a local coffee roasting house, where you can see how the famous Colombian coffee is roasted. Of course you will also have time to taste the coffee. You will also take the cable car up to Cerro Monserrate, which has a great view over Bogotá at an altitude of 3000 meters.

The biggest Paramo on earth: Sumapaz

Day 3

Welcome to the largest páramo in the world, El Páramo de Sumapaz. With an area of 1,500 square kilometers, it is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including frailejones, deer and condors. The páramo plays a vital role in the health of the planet. It acts as a giant sponge that absorbs rainwater and slowly releases it throughout the year, providing a crucial source of fresh water for millions of people downstream. They also help regulate the Earth's climate by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The Páramo de Sumapaz is located in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia.

Transport Bogotá - Nemocón - Villa de Leyva

Day 4

You will be picked up at the hotel in Bogotá and taken to the village of Nemocón (+/- 2 hours) to visit the local salt mine. During the tour of +/- 1.5 hours you will walk through the tunnels of the mine, up to 80 meters underground, where the movie 'Los 33' was also filmed. After the visit to the salt mine, you will have time to explore the village itself, after which you will drive to Villa de Leyva (+/- 2.5 hours).

Villa de Leyva

Red tiled roofs on top of whitewashed houses that date back to the sixteenth century, bumpy cobblestone streets and a wide town square against the backdrop of the mountains: the village of Villa de Leyva is without a doubt one of the most enchanting colonial villages in Colombia. The village was declared a national monument in 1954 and has therefore been preserved perfectly. Explore the ancient streets of the village, visit the many churches and monasteries, and eat out in one of the traditional family-owned restaurants. There is also plenty to do in the village surroundings. Hike through the nearby páramo, where you can visit the Iguaque mountain lake, a holy place for pre-Columbian Muisca who populated Villa de Leyva before the arrival of the Spaniards. You can also visit El Infiernito, an archeological site of the Muisca. This spot served as an astronomical observatory and tribute to the fertility of the Muisca. Would you like to know what that looks like? We'll leave it up to you to find out!

Hospederia San Carlos

2 Nights



Hospederia San Carlos is a colonial hotel located in Villa de Leyva, a 10-minute walk from the main square. The hotel has the same characteristic architectural style as the village and includes a restaurant, bar, laundry service, parking spaces and a garden to relax. All rooms are equipped with private bathroom, hot water, television and mini-bar.

Free day

Day 5

Enjoy a free day in Villa de Leyva. Explore the lovely village, where you can stroll through the charming streets or visit one of the museums to dive into Villa de Leyva's history. Or explore the vicinity: visit an archaeological site of the pre-Columbian Muisca, or the sacred mountain lake Iguaque, where the first Muisca came to Earth according to the legend. But you could also just take a nice walk through the village's beautiful nature.



Transport Villa de Leyva - Barichara

Day 6

Transport from Villa de Leyva to Barichara, a (+/- 5.5 hours, +/- 206 km) drive through the beautiful landscapes of the Boyacá and Santander regions.

Barichara

Barichara is considered one of the most beautiful towns in Santander and Colombia. The town is located on the edge of the Suárez River canyon. This place has a history of more than 300 years. It is characterized by having a colonial architecture, with stones as its main building material and preserving the style of construction with rammed earth and / or bahareque. The houses are low with whitewashed walls, green painted balconies and narrow cobbled streets. One of its main attractions is the Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción in sandstone located in the town square. Barichara is a great attraction for tourists from all over the world thanks to its picturesque character as well as its mild and dry climate. During your stay do not forget to visit the different artisan workshops.

Casa Yahri

3 Nights



Casa Yahri is a boutique hotel in the colonial town of Barichara. It's a fully furnished and decorated villa with the typical architecture of the region. It has three Suites, with its authentic character of white walls and a lot of decoration in natural materials such as wood. The house can be rented entirely or per room. Every suite has a spacious bedroom and a private terrace. A guided tour and all the meals are included during your stay at Casa Yahri.

Culinary workshop

Day 6

The people of Santander love food and consume all sorts of food for breakfast like roasted meat, tamales, cooked yuca and a large piece of avocado, accompanied by a hot chocolate, etc. Santander's kitchen has a long history, with influences of both the indigenous population and of the Spaniards. In this workshop you will learn about the traditional dishes of this area and how you can give them an international touch. The workshop lasts 3 hours.

Tour Camino Real & Guane

Day 7

A local guide will pick you up at the hotel for a walk along the so-called Camino Real ('Royal Path') to the colonial village of Guane, which is nine kilometers away. This age-old stone-paved path — declared a national monument in 1988 — was built by the indigenous Guane. Later, it would be used by the Spaniards. The path leads you through green landscapes with a few cacti on the sides and offers views over the canyon through which the Suarez River passes. The walk along the path goes mainly downhill, and is suitable for all walkers. A quiet hike to unwind, you won't encounter anyone, maybe a lone goatherd. When you arrive in Guane, you will have some time to explore the peaceful village, after which you will return to Barichara by car. The total duration of this tour is 4 hours.

Transport Barichara - Juan Curí

Day 8

Abseiling Juan Curi waterfall & rafting at Fonce river

Day 8

In the morning, you will be picked up at the hotel and taken to the Juan Curi waterfall. After a 45-minute drive, you will need another half-hour-hike to reach this waterfall that gradually thunders down the rocks, starting at a height of 180 meters. There's a pool at the bottom, where you can swim and relax by the water. After this refreshing dive, you will walk back to the car for a half-hour drive to the Fonce River where you will go rafting. The Fonce River is not too wild and rafting is possible for everyone who knows how to swim. Previous experience is not required. The rafting expedition will last for about 1.5 hours, after which you will be brought back to the hotel.

Transport Barichara - Chicamocha - Girón

Day 9

A driver will take you from your hotel in Barichara to Girón, which is a drive of (+/- 4 hours, +/- 150 km). Along the way you will make a stop at the Chicamocha Canyon which is the largest canyon in Colombia with its steep, red cliffs. At the bottom of the canyon, the Chicamocha river makes its way through the rocks. In this park you can take the cable car which is one of the longest in the world and gives you the best view over the deep canyon. You can also visit the Guane Museum where archaeological remains of indigenous tribes can be seen, and you can learn about the Colombian struggle for independence at the monument to the heroes. After your visit you will continue your journey to Girón.

Giron

At only 9 kilometres from the busy Bucaramanga lies San Juan de Girón, a colonial town on the Rio Oro ('Gold River'). Founded in 1631, the town was declared a national monument in 1963 for its beautiful historic center with whitewashed 17th-century houses, brick bridges, fine squares and a sandstone cathedral. The town is a highly popular weekend destination for residents of nearby Bucaramanga. In the tropical green surroundings of the town many bananas, coffee, cocoa and avocados are grown, but the region is best known for its tobacco plantations. At 777 meters, Girón has a slightly lower altitude than Bucaramanga, so it can get a bit hotter here.

Hotel Las Nieves

1 Night



Hotel Las Nieves is a traditional colonial hotel in Girón's main square, a ten-minute drive from Bucaramanga airport. The hotel has simple but comfortable colonial-style rooms with private bathrooms, but only with cold water and they are equipped with a fan. The hotel has its own restaurant as well as a common seating area.

Tobacco tour

Day 9

You will be picked up at the hotel for a visit to a traditional tobacco factory in Girón. During the tour you will learn about the importance of this crop in the history and culture of Santander, and especially of Girón. Moreover, you will learn how to make a cigar yourself, and you will find out how cigars are used in traditional medicine. The tour ends with a traditional tobacco ritual.

Transfer hotel - airport

Day 10

You will be picked up at your hotel for the transfer to Bucaramanga Palonegro International Airport. During the trip you will have a beautiful view of the city.

Bucaramanga - Santa Marta

Flight Bucaramanga - Santa Marta

Day 10

Flight from Bucaramanga to Santa Marta with Avianca.

Baggage policy:

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

Santa Marta

The city of Santa Marta has a special location, nestled between the mountains of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the Caribbean Sea. The city was founded in 1525 by the Spaniards, making it the oldest colonial city in South America. Santa Marta is a good starting point to visit the Tayrona National Natural Park and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The city itself is also a very interesting destination to visit thanks to its rich history represented in its various museums. You can also enjoy a great variety of restaurants and nightspots or just admire the beautiful sunset over the bay.

To be more comfortable, we recommend good hydration, sun protection and a hat during your visit. Santa Marta has a warm climate all year round, which makes it the ideal destination for a vacation in any season.

Transfer airport - hotel

Day 10

Arrival at Simón Bolívar International Airport in Santa Marta. When leaving the airport, look for a sign with your names. Transfer to the hotel.

Hotel Boutique Casa Carolina

1 Night



Casa Carolina is a boutique hotel located in the historic center of Santa Marta, built in an old colonial house with spacious rooms and airconditioning. Some of the rooms have their own balconies. The hotel has continuous service in its Eli restaurant with Colombian and international dishes, as well as two swimming pools, two jacuzzis, a patio and a spa.

Free day

Day 10

Enjoy a day off in Santa Marta. Explore the charming colonial center of the city, drink a cocktail on Rodadero city beach and eat some fresh lobster or ceviche, while enjoying the view over the Caribbean sea. But even outside the city, there are also many other things to do. Visit the tropical white beaches surrounded by jungle of Tayrona National Park, or rest on the beach of the nearby village of Taganga.



Transport Santa Marta - Cartagena

Day 11

Transport from Santa Marta to Cartagena takes (+/- 5 hours, +/- 250 km). It's a nice drive along the coast during which you can look out over the ocean and the Ciénaga of Santa Marta, and the city of Barranquilla also lies on this route.

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.

Bastion Luxury Hotel

2 Nights



Bastión Luxury is an exclusive hotel in the historic center of Cartagena, a few minutes walk from the sea. The hotel is a restored 16th century colonial house with luxurious rooms and suites, a large swimming pool on the terrace where you can relax with a drink from the bar overlooking the Caribbean sea. It also has the El Gobernador gourmet restaurant serving signature cuisine, a gym and a spa.

Free day

Day 11

Enjoy a day off in Cartagena. Both in the old, walled-in city center and in Getsemaní, the city district just outside, there is always something new to discover. Marvel at the remarkable murals in the streets, drink a fruit juice prepared by the Palenqueras in their African dresses, eat coconut rice with fresh fish in one of Cartagena's many good restaurants, dance salsa and drink a cocktail overlooking the sunset. The beach is also pretty close by, for those who prefer to rest.



Walking tour

Day 12

Today you will learn about the historical importance of Cartagena while visiting incredible places that will take you on a journey back in time to relive the era of the Spanish conquest. An English-speaking guide will pick you up at the hotel for a guided tour of Cartagena's historic center. You will visit all the iconic places of the walled-in, colonial city center, such as the Parque Bolívar, Las Bóvedas, Iglesia de San Pedro Claver and Plaza de los Coches. It can get quite hot in Cartagena, so bring along along a bottle of water and protection against the bright sun. After the 3-hour walk, the guide will accompany you back to the hotel.

Transfer Hotel - Port

Day 13

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.

Boat transfer port - island

Day 13

At XX: XX am you take the boat from the port XXX of Cartagena to the hotel XXX on the island XXX, a trip of +/- XX hours.

Note: You must be present at XX: XX am in port XXX at port no. XXX. There your name will be on a list of the designated hotel. Your passport is sufficient, no voucher is required here.

Islas Del Rosario

The Islas del Rosario archipelago is located 35 kilometers southwest of Cartagena and is made up of 27 small coral islands and some islets. The archipelago is surrounded by coral reefs, where the color of the sea is a combination of turquoise and cerulean colors. This entire area has been named Parque Nacional Natural Corales del Rosario y de San Bernardo.

Hotel San Pedro de Majagua

1 Night



Hotel San Pedro de Majagua is located on Isla Grande, located in the archipelago of the Rosario Islands in the Caribbean Sea. It has its own private beach, you can enjoy the birds of the island, take a diving course and explore the coral reefs, visit the spa and enjoy tasty food and drinks in its restaurant and bar. You can pay by credit card.

Free day

Day 13

Enjoy a free day in Islas del Rosario. Drink a cocktail on the white sand beach, swim in the sea, or explore underwater life snorkeling. These activities are optional and can be organized by the hotel.



Boat transfer island - port

Day 14

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

Transfer Port - Airport

Day 14

A driver will pick you up from the port to take you directly to the airport, which is a short 20-minute ride.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bogotá

3 nights Hotel Casa Legado

[website](#)

Villa de Leyva

2 nights Hospederia San Carlos

[website](#)

Barichara

3 nights Casa Yahri

[website](#)

Giron

1 night Hotel Las Nieves

[website](#)

Santa Marta

1 night Hotel Boutique Casa Carolina

[website](#)

Cartagena

2 nights Bastion Luxury Hotel

[website](#)

Islas Del Rosario

1 night Hotel San Pedro de Majagua

[website](#)

Flight(s):

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

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.*