

Kat's Great Adventures

Colombia - Colombia's Highlights Culture and Nature Tour 2023
Guided Tour
10 Days / 9 Nights



This ten day trip covers some of the most famous and beautiful areas of Colombia. First we will visit Bogotá and enjoy the buzz of this vibrant capital. We will also take you on a day trip to experience the highlands of Bogotá and to visit the Legendary Guatavita Lake (El Dorado Legend) and the beautiful Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá. Then we will experience the heart of Colombia, the “Coffee Triangle”, with its green mountains and valleys, coffee farms, beautiful colonial villages and the Cocora Valley. Afterwards, we will fly to the Caribbean coast to experience a different Colombia, with beaches, salsa rhythms and the colorful and charming Cartagena. The last part of the trip includes a stay within the Tayrona Natural Park. With the rainforest covered mountains reaching the white beaches, this is a perfect way to relax and enjoy the Caribbean after a very exciting program.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival in Bogotá

Reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel. The hotel is located in the tourist area of Parque 93 known for its great restaurants and great atmosphere. At arrival you will receive a welcome call from one of the team members.



Day 2: Bogotá – Full day city tour Duration 6-7 hours

Full day private city tour to the historic part of Bogotá. After breakfast, enjoy the historic center of the city on foot. Meeting with the guide in the hotel lobby. Start the tour in the charming colonial area known as La Candelaria. From here visit the world famous gold museum, the Plaza Bolivar and go by cable car to the Monserrate Sanctuary, at 3152 meters, overlooking the city. A quick visit to the museum of the famous Colombian artist Botero is also an option.

Day 3: Guatavita Lake & Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral

Early departure and drive to the legendary Lake Guatavita, one to two hours from Bogotá (if it's not a weekend, holiday or the day after a holiday). You will do a light hike with stops around the rim, while exploring the legend of the Muisca Indians and discuss the greed of the former conquests. Next stop is a visit to the local restaurant with a lot of atmosphere in one of the charming colonial towns in the highlands of Bogota. Here you will enjoy a typical well-prepared Colombian lunch. Afterwards drive to the Salt Cathedral in Zipaquirá, an underground illuminated church built in an ancient and huge working salt mine. Return to Bogotá in the late afternoon.



Day 4: Hacienda & Coffee Tour

Pick up at the hotel in Bogotá and a morning flight to Manizales or Pereira. Meeting in the airport with the staff and transfer downhill to a lush and quiet valley with beautiful views to the coffee plantations to the Hacienda Venecia. Hacienda Venecia has different types of accommodations according to the budget. All of them very charming and authentic. The Hacienda has around a hundred years of history and it is preserved with great respect for the family's history. The architecture shows a traditional Bahareque construction, typical of the period of Antioquian colonisation, consisting of bamboo and clay walls with red tiled roofs. The Hacienda is dotted by beautiful gardens, terraces, pool and bamboo quiosco perfectly suited to enjoy the charm and smell of the coffee

fields. Lunch in the charming kitchen. In the afternoon, you will have a guided tour of the Hacienda Venecia's own coffee plantations and coffee factory. The coffee farm has won several prizes for its excellent coffee and during this tour you will see how the coffee is produced, processed, and finally learn how to make a really good espresso!

Day 5: Salento & Cocora Valley

Full day guided tour of the Cocora Valley. Pick up at the Hacienda and transfer to the beginning of the Cocora Valley. From here you begin a light hike in a beautiful valley that is dotted with the tallest wax palms in the world. Lunch in local restaurant. In the afternoon there will be a short visit to Salento in order to appreciate the “paisa” architecture before heading back to the Hacienda.



Day 6: Cartagena & City Walk

We leave the coffee farm and head for the Caribbean! Transfer to the nearest airport and domestic flight to Cartagena. From the airport you are picked up and driven 20 minutes to a hotel in the historic part of Cartagena. In the late afternoon/early evening, walk the old town of Cartagena with a private English speaking guide. It is a romantic city, full of legends and history, immaculately preserved by an impressive 13 km long stonewall. The old part of the city is a declared World Heritage Site, with its maze of cobble alleys, huge balconies, massive churches and charming plazas. There will be plenty of photo opportunities and the chance to appreciate the beautiful evening illumination of this romantic city.

Day 7: Cartagena & City Tour

In the morning, meeting with the guide and continue exploring historic Cartagena. Start the tour by visiting the San Felipe Fortress, the most technically advanced military building during Spanish colonial times, then visit the old “Popa” Monastery where you will have a wonderful view of the city. Between these two places, visit the popular marketplace of Bazurto where fruits, vegetables and fish are traded by the locals, most of them descendants of the slaves of the colonial times. Cartagena is perhaps Colombia’s most beautiful and interesting town. It was founded in 1533 and was, during the colonial period, the main Spanish port on the Caribbean coast and primary gateway to South America to receive slaves and to send treasures to Europe. In the evening there will be free time for shopping, and perhaps to enjoy a drink on the old fortress walls, overlooking the sunset on the Caribbean.



Day 8: Tayrona National Park

Morning transfer to Tayrona National Park. This is one of the most famous natural parks in Colombia with some of the most beautiful beaches of the Colombian Caribbean coast, right at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the world's highest coastal mountain range. The park has a protected area of 150 km² of land and 30 Km² of sea, being the second most visited park in the country. Due to its privileged location, there is a huge biodiversity and also archeological ruins like "Pueblito". Stay at an Ecohotel inside the Natural Park. Arrival to the Park around lunch time. Check in and afternoon to enjoy the beaches.



Day 9: Tayrona National Park

Full day to explore the beaches on your own within the Natural Park. The park has well-marked paths which makes it very easy to explore and enjoy the iconic Caribbean beaches such as "Arrecife", "La Piscina" and "El Cabo San Juan" and the nature of the place. Lunch and dinner can be held at the restaurants within the park or at the hotel.

Day 10: Departure

Pick up at the hotel and transfer out to Santa Marta's Airport (1 hour). Flight to Bogota for international connection or extra nights in Bogota. End of services.



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Easy. Sightseeing and cultural activities designed for people who are generally fit and are comfortable walking up to 6 hours per day.

Travel Season: Any date on request from January 2 to December 31, 2023

Tayrona National Park Closure: Due to new local indigenous communities' regulations, the Tayrona National Park will close three times a year in the following periods: February 1 -15; June 1 - 15 and October 19 - November 2

Prices per Person

Double Occupancy	\$ 1795.00 USD
Single Supplement	\$ 400.00 USD
Domestic Flight Tickets**	\$ 245.00 USD

*Group rates available for this tour. As this is a guided tour, the pricing improves with more people participating. Please ask us for details

**Approximate price per person for all the needed domestic flights in the program. Please note that the final price of the tickets will be confirmed upon reservation.

Accommodation:

3* hotels and Ecolodges, charming Coffee Hacienda

Included:

- Private transportation throughout the entire program
- 3 nights in shared double rooms in Bogota
- 2 nights in shared double rooms at Hacienda
- 2 night in shared double rooms in Cartagena
- 2 nights in shared double room in Ecohotel in Tayrona
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (9 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners)
- All entrance fees
- English speaking guides during tours

Not Included:

- Domestic and international flight
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Everything not mentioned in the “Included” list

