



**Colombia - Colombia's Nature Highlights Culture and Nature Tour 2023**

**Guided Tour**

**16 Days / 15 Nights**



Colombia has it all and during this trip you will get to visit a bit of everything. This trip starts in the vibrant capital of Bogota with an interesting city tour. From here we head east to the coffee area where we will experience to stay on a real coffee farm and also visit an amazing orchid farm. After some days between green mountains and valleys, we will head to Medellin, one of the most beautiful and modern towns of Colombia. After discovering Medellin we will take a small charter plane, across the jungle, to Nuqui at the Pacific Coast. Nuquí is located in the pacific coast of Colombia in one of the most bio-diverse regions on earth. The lodge in Nuqui is surrounded by a lush tropical rainforest and your visit includes hikes and walks according to your physical capacities and preferences. If you are here between July and October, it is possible to do some whale watching. Afterwards we will head north to the Caribbean! A flight to Santa Marta and two nights in this charming coastal town. Then continue to the Tayrona area just below the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and well known for being home to some of the most amazing beaches in South America. After some days in the Tayrona area we will continue the colorful and charming Cartagena, where salsa rhythms are part of daily life.

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TICO # 50022092

## Itinerary Day to Day

### **Day 1: Arrival in Bogotá**

Reception at the airport and transfer to your hotel.



### **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 Bolívar 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: Hacienda and 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 a 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 4: Orchid tour at “La Romelia” farm**

After breakfast, transport to Finca La Romelia. Finca Romelia is a family project that was born out of Jose and Marisa’s love of nature. They have dedicated most of their lives to agriculture and to the collection, study and conservation of orchids amongst other plants as a hobby. This has always been done hand in hand with the restoration of the native flora and preservation of the wildlife. Once arriving to the finca the tour starts along the natural paths that cross the crops, native forests and water sources at the farm. Afterwards, the most vivid part of this tour begins: the guided tour to the orchid nursery and farmhouse. This unique experience opens the mind of the visitor to the wonders of the agricultural production, and is a great example of how it can go hand in hand with conservation and protection of native flora and fauna. The visitors will

enjoy more than 6000 orchid plants, an interesting variety of carnivorous plants and around 122 species of wild birds. On top of this, you will find small forests, fresh water bodies that cross between the mountains, and avocado, yucca and citrus crops. All of this is accompanied by spectacular views of the mountains. Lunch at the Farmhouse and return to Venecia. Rest of the day free to relax by the pool or to explore the surroundings at the Coffee Farm.

#### **Day 5: Medellín**

After breakfast, pick up and transfer to Medellín city. It’s approximately six hours journey along the Cauca River and through lush green landscapes. During the way there will be some stops. Arrival to Medellín at the end of the day.



#### **Day 6: Medellín – City Tour**

After breakfast, a half day private city tour en Medellín. Following the footsteps of Medellín’s history back in time about 20 years, we’ll find ourselves in one of the most dangerous cities in the world. In the early 90’s, hunting on the drug lord Pablo Escobar, the head of Medellín’s drug cartel, was at its peak. When the reign of “El Patrón” finally came to an end, struggles and fights for his succession started. Since then the city has undergone a deep transformation and Medellín has turned into one of the most innovative metropolises worldwide. During this tour we will discuss some of those issues and many more while visiting the downtown, the Botero Park, the cable car and the electrical stairs.



## Day 7: Pacific Coast – Nuquí

Transfer to the airport in Medellin and flight to Nuquí. The plane is a small charter flight typically with 14 – 20 seats and it has a weight restriction of 15 kg per person. Any extra luggage can be stored at the hotel in Medellin or Bogota depending on arrival/departure itinerary. Reception at the airport in Nuquí by the staff from El Cantil Ecolodge. Transfer in a boat to the Lodge (35 minutes). At arrival to the lodge, check in and briefing about the coming days activities. In the afternoon, there will be some guided activities (see description below).

## Day 8 and 9: El Cantil Ecolodge

During your stay at El Cantil, you will have certain excursions included. The schedule of those activities will be arranged upon arrival, as the order depends on the weather and tide conditions. The included activities are: Jungle walk (half day in the tropical rainforest), walk to the local village “Termales” with local guide, with possibility of taking a bath in the hot springs (half day activity), 2 Whale safaris in speed boat (from July – October) (half day activities). Other activities: The lodge also offers rents of kayaks, surf and boogie boards, and snorkeling gear. It's also possible to arrange sport fishing and surf classes at the lodge. Those activities are not included in the plan and can be arranged and paid for directly at the lodge.



## Day 10: Departure from El Cantil and Santa Marta

Boat transfer to Nuquí in the morning hours and transfer to the airport. From here, flight to Santa Marta via Medellin. At arrival to Santa Marta, transfer to hotel.



## Day 11: Santa Marta and City Tour

In the morning hours there will be a three hour city tour in Santa Marta, actually the first established town in Colombia by the Spanish in 1534. The tour will visit the most iconic places in the city like: The cathedral where Simon Bolivar was buried before he was moved to his birth place and last resting place in the city of Caracas. A walk through the colonial streets of the city's crowded downtown. The gold museum, even though a much small collection in comparison with Bogota's, it offer a great insight into the native culture inhabiting there surrounding areas. The seaside promenade and the pier and the Plaza Bolivar. The tours ends around noon. Free afternoon.

## Day 12: 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 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 30 km<sup>2</sup> of sea, being the second most visited park in the country. Due to its privilege 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 13: 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 14: Cartagena and City Walk

Morning transfer to Cartagena. In the late afternoon or early evening, enjoy a city walk in the old town of Cartagena with a private guide. During this walk you will familiarize with the architecture and the history of the old town and you will visit the main squares and buildings. There will be plenty of photo opportunities and you will also appreciate the beautiful evening illumination of this romantic city.



## Day 15: Cartagena and City Tour 4 hours

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 16: Departure

Pick up and transfer to Cartagena's Airport. 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	\$ 3000.00 USD
Single Supplement	\$ 535.00 USD
Domestic Flight Tickets**	\$ 200.00 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:**

- Local English speaking guides during tours
- Private transportation throughout the entire program
- Boat transfers in Choco
- 2 nights in shared double rooms in Bogota
- 2 nights in shared double rooms at Coffee farm
- 2 nights in shared double rooms in Medellin
- 3 nights in shared double rooms in Nuqui
- 2 nights in shared double room in Santa Marta
- 2 nights in shared double rooms at Ecohotel in Tayrona
- 2 nights in shared double rooms in Cartagena
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (15 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners)
- All entrance fees

**Not Included:**

- Domestic and international flights
- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Everything not mentioned in the "Included" list