

COLOMBIA

Exploring Colombia: Culture, Coffee, and the Caribbean

10 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: JAN - DEC

Acquaint yourself with the many facets of Colombia, a biologically diverse and culturally rich gem at the gateway to South America, during this comprehensive 10-day exploration. Begin your journey in the bustling capital of Bogotá, high in the Andes Mountains, where you'll immerse yourself in history, museums, and architecture. Next, head to the coffee-growing region to learn about agriculture, the rural way of life, and the famed crop amid beautiful mountain scenery. Finally, experience the Caribbean flavor of the coastal city of Cartagena, whose colorful, jacaranda-draped buildings evoke another time in history.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Bogotá on a walking tour, including the historical neighborhood of La Candelaria and the Botero Museum.
- Descend underground to the subterranean Salt Cathedral, a church carved from a still-functioning salt mine.
- Learn about Colombian coffee production, hear about the challenges facing farmers, and experience some fun "latte art."
- Hear about the myths and legends of Cartagena on Colombia's coast while exploring architecture, churches, and shady plazas.
- Paddle through a mangrove swamp and meet with residents of a fishing community.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



ENTRANCE TO CARTAGENA BY MARTINDUQUEA



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - BOGOTÁ

Upon arrival, meet the local guide at Bogotá International Airport and transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to rest for a busy day tomorrow. Welcome dinner and orientation at the hotel. *Overnight at Cite Hotel. (D)*

DAY 2 - BOGOTÁ

After breakfast, visit Paloquemao market, which supplies the ingredients for the vast majority of the city's best restaurants and population. Pick up specific ingredients for tonight's dinner. After Paloquemao, head for La Candelaria, the historical neighborhood in downtown Bogotá. La Candelaria is considered the city's heart and soul; there, see the architecture of the old houses, churches, and buildings of Spanish Colonial, Baroque, and art deco styles. The first stop will be the Gold Museum. This museum has one of the finest collections of pre-Hispanic gold in the world, with more than 35,000 pieces of gold work in the collection. Throughout the walking tour, your guide will explain the history of Bogotá and the intricacies of current Colombian culture and daily life. After lunch, visit Bolívar Square and several important Colonial- and Republican-style buildings, including the Palace of Justice, Colombia Congress, mayor's office, and the Primary Cathedral of Bogotá. Visit the Botero Museum, a permanent exhibition of artwork by Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous artist, whose "oversized" art is instantly recognizable. The museum not only houses work by Botero but also other world-famous artists such as Dalí, Monet, and Van Gogh. Return to the hotel to freshen up. Dinner will be at the house of a local Bogotano who will prepare a variety of Colombian bites

and appetizers worthy of a sampling menu for dinner. For each dish he will go through its ingredients, their cultural significance, and of course, flavors. For larger groups (over 6 people) a suitable alternative venue will be chosen. *Overnight at Cite Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - BOGOTÁ

Take a half day trip to Zipaquirá to visit the Salt Cathedral, one of the marvels of Colombia. Zipaquirá is famous for this underground cathedral, a Roman Catholic church carved from a still functioning salt mine just west of the town. As you explore the cathedral, your guide will explain its construction. Then, head to the nearby town of Tocancipa for lunch and visit the beautiful Hacienda Normandia, a typical construction of the Altiplano Cundiboyacense (plateau that spans two departments, Cundinamarca and Boyaca). Here, the typical Altiplano dish will be prepared and explained. A short tour of the hacienda will follow, with a focus on Altiplano history, agriculture, and the economy, before finishing with a show



of traditional Colombian Paso Fino creole horses. Return to Bogotá. Dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Cite Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - PEREIRA

In the morning, transfer to the Bogotá airport and take the domestic flight from Bogotá to Pereira in Colombia's coffee growing region. Upon arrival to the coffee region, transfer directly to the coffee mountain town of Marsella. This town has some of the most representative examples of Colombian Coffee Cultural Landscape architecture. Sample some coffee at a local shop on arrival while meeting with a local expert who'll take you through a short walking tour of the plaza and explain the significance of the town in this region of Colombia. Visits will be made to the Casa de la Cultura (Culture House) to see a superb example of Spanish-influenced Antioquian colonization architecture. The afternoon and evening are at leisure on the hotel grounds. *Overnight at Casa San Carlos Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - PEREIRA

Today, head out to the town of Santa Rosas, through some stunning scenery, carpeted rolling hills of lush green coffee, plantain, and yuca. As campesinos (local rural workers) pass by on their way to work in the fields, and children walk to school or wait for the morning bus, start to imagine what life is like for these rural Colombian populations. With a tour of one of the region's coffee plantations, see the whole process, from seeding to coffee cup and every step in between. Learn about the trials and tribulations the region's coffee growers face and how their whole way of life is affected by this simple bean. From the planting to the picking to the toasting and the tasting, you'll never look at coffee the same way again. After this morning's tour, you will have the option to observe various preparations of coffee, a show of "barismo" or tasting, depending on what's chosen. Lunch at coffee hacienda. A short jaunt into town will take you to the home of Colombia's famous "chorizo santarrosano." Head to a local producer to see how these tasty chorizos (sausages) are prepared. Then, head back to the coffee hacienda for an afternoon cooking workshop with a local chef, an expert in Afro-Indigenous cuisine. Transfer back to the hotel. *Overnight at Casa San Carlos Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - PEREIRA

Today explore the culture of the region along with the stunning natural beauty of the Cocora Valley. First visit the town of Filandia in the far northeast of the Quindío department and take a coffee break at one of the small

coffee shops here. The guide will explain the culture and people of the region and how small villages like this form the backbone of rural agricultural life. Enjoy a "latte art" activity at Café Jesus Martin. From Filandia, continue to the Cocora Valley and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. This is one of the few places where Colombia's national tree, the magnificent wax palm, grows in its natural habitat. Finally head to Salento, Quindío's first modern settlement, and visit the fine houses of traditional architectural style. Take an afternoon walking tour of Salento and later return to Pereira. *Overnight at Casa San Carlos Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - CARTAGENA

Transfer to the airport and take a domestic flight to Cartagena via Bogotá. Upon arrival in Cartagena, meet with the local guide and driver and transfer to the hotel.

An orientation meeting will be held after lunch to explain where relevant spots are within the Walled City. Evening at leisure in Cartagena. Dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel Ananda. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - CARTAGENA

Take a half day walking tour with your local guide in the historical center of Cartagena. The tour leads through the old town under the Puerta Del Reloj (clock tower entrance), a symbol of Cartagena, and into the Plaza de los Coches. The guide will divulge the myths, legends, and history of Cartagena from ancient times up to the present.

Continue from the Plaza San Pedro Claver with its stunning church, on through to the Plaza Bolívar with its shady areas, where a fresh lemonade can be enjoyed while watching the world go by. In the afternoon, enjoy your free time at leisure. *Overnight at Hotel Ananda. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - CARTAGENA

Today, experience the local fishing community of La Boquilla and explore the nearby mangrove swamps by canoe. First, head to La Boquilla village, where many villagers are of African descent. Upon arrival, enjoy a refreshment of fresh green coconut milk and attend a dance performance. Then, take a tour through the mangroves by canoe, paddled by local fishermen. See a variety of bird life as well as a wealth of flora and fauna as you glide through the mangroves. Evening at leisure. Dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Hotel Ananda. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



LAND PRICING

\$3,785 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$4,335 (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, full-time guide for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

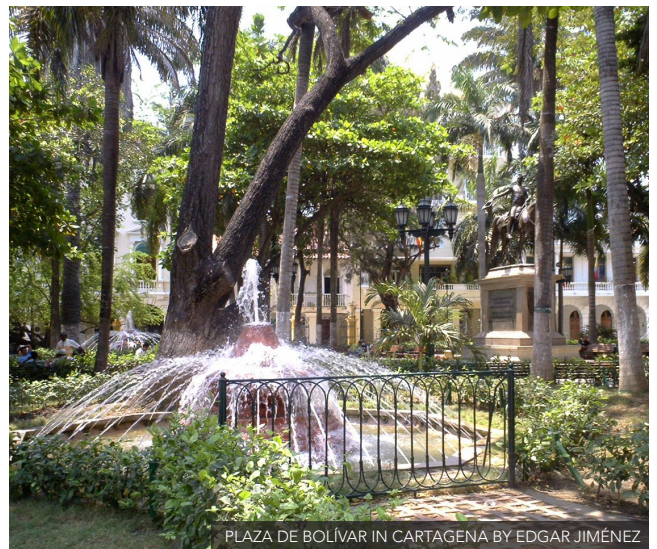
MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Colombia will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.



GRASS-GREEN TANAGER BY MICHAEL WOODRUFF



PLAZA DE BOLÍVAR IN CARTAGENA BY EDGAR JIMÉNEZ



WAX PALMS BY DICK CULBERT