

Chaska Tours code: PV-ENG-04

From Lush Jungles to Vast Plains: Exploring the Diverse Landscapes of Colombia

Identity card

Duration: 18 days

★ Tailor-made trip.

Departures on request from July to November 2023 (Pacific whale watching season). Recommended starting day: Saturday.

This wonderful journey takes you across Colombia from east to west, visiting different ecosystems and communities of Afro, indigenous, and peasant origins, far from mass tourism.

The idea is for you to enjoy Colombia's impressive biodiversity: from deer, bears, and oilbirds in the central and eastern Andes, to capybaras, anacondas, and caimans in the plains, to the impressive humpback whales that come to visit the coasts of the Pacific jungles.

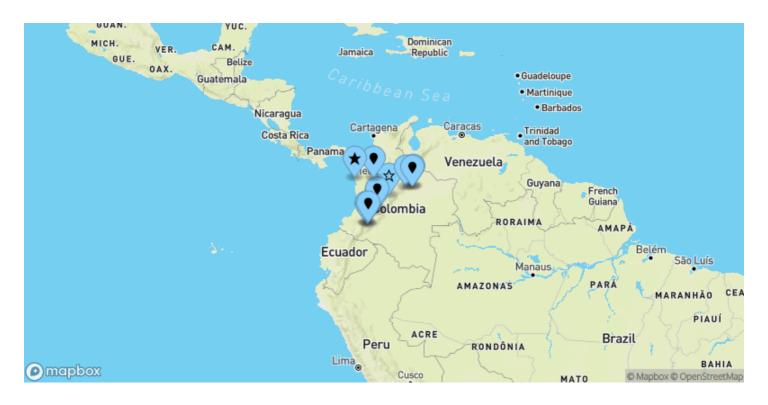
You'll get to experience rural life in Colombia where, although everything may seem more rustic, there is a deep connection and extensive knowledge of nature as a mother and provider of life and health. You'll also learn more about Colombia's ancestral culture while visiting the impressive Gold Museum in Bogotá and about the country's present in dynamic and assertive Medellin.

Venture to ride a bike through the Tatacoa Desert, ride horses in the endless Eastern Plains and the mountains of San Agustin, swim in waterfalls in the last

Andean forests, and sail the sea of Bahía Solano to greet the whales.

And best of all, you'll be supporting dozens of families who, through sustainable and small-scale tourism, supplement their income from farming, agriculture, and fishing, while valuing and sharing their natural and cultural heritage.

Itinerary map



Itinerary Summary

Day 2 - Sunday : BogotáDay 3 - Monday : Bogotá -

Day 4 - Tuesday : Bogotá - Yopal

☆ Day 5 - Wednesday : Hato El Boral

🖒 Day 6 - Thursday : Hato El Boral

🟠 Day 7 - Friday : Yopal - Neiva - Villavieja - Tatacoa Desert - Villavieja

Day 8 - Saturday : Tatacoa Desert - Villavieja - San Agustín

Day 9 - Sunday : NP Cueva de los Guácharos

Day 10 - Monday : NP Cueva de los Guácharos - San Agustín

Day 12 - Wednesday : San Agustín - Pitalito - Medellín

Day 13 - Thursday : Medellín - Bahía Solano

☆ Day 14 - Friday : Bahía Solano

🗘 Day 15 - Saturday : Bahía Solano

Day 16 - Sunday : Bahía Solano - Medellín

Day 17 - Monday : MedellínDay 18 - Tuesday : Medellín

Detailed itinerary

Day 1:Bogotá

Transfer in from Bogotá airport to selected hotel with guide

Hotel BH Bicentenario - Standard Room: Lodging at BH Bicentenario hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: transfer in with guide, lodging, breakfast

Day 2:Bogotá

Tropical Fruit Safari: Exploring Paloquemao Market in Bogotá: This tour is the best aperitif to fall in love with Colombia, to discover the flavor of its culture and all that it has to offer.

Thanks to its geographical location, in Colombia it is possible to find a great variety of fruits of all colors, sizes and flavors (if you don't believe us, you can check it in the fruit dictionary that we will give you at the beginning of the tour). In addition to knowing the secrets and history of this market, passing through the colorful "plaza de las flores" and the craft stalls, you can try fifteen different fruits, three shots of fresh juices and two typically Colombian snacks.



During the tour you will not only taste fruits, this is an experience that leads you to have a real contact with the history of this wonderful country through the senses, the kindness of its people and the joy that characterizes them.

The duration of the tour is approximately 2-3 hours and we recommend taking this tour as your breakfast of the day.

Bogotá's essential city tour: On this half-day tour we will visit Bogotá's historical center at La Candelaria neighborhood, passing through its main sights. We will visit the Plaza de Bolívar, where the headquarters of national and local government are located, also the Congress and the Justice Hall as well as the city's Catedral Primada. The tour continues walking this colonial area until reaching the Gold Museum, which has an impressive collection of pre-Columbian goldsmiths from Colombia's native communities. We will finish at the Museo de Botero, an interesting art collection that was donated to the city by the renowned Colombian painter Fernando Botero.

Gold Museum is closed on Mondays and Botero Museum on Tuesdays.

Hotel BH Bicentenario - Standard Room: Lodging at BH Bicentenario hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: excursion, bilingual guide, snack, local guide, entrance fees, lodging, breakfast

Day 3:Bogotá

The Chingaza National Natural Park is a protected area located only a couple of hours away from Bogotá, where it is possible to be in one of the best preserved and most beautiful *páramos* in Colombia. These unique tropical ecosystems are water factories and reservoirs, inhabited by several species of plants and animals such as *frailejones* or spectacled bears.

The excursion starts early in the morning heading towards the northeastern part of the city, in a route where after about 1 hour you can glimpse the rural landscape of the Sabana de Bogotá and the Eastern Andes. The hike begins from the Park's entrance through the municipality of Guasca at 3,200 m.a.s.l., and will take about 4 hours walking approximately 12 kilometers through the forest and ascending to 3,700 m.a.s.l.

We will pass through the Lagunas de Siecha, where the Muiscas performed offering ceremonies such as those described in the El Dorado Legend, and where in fact several gold pieces were found and extracted after several drainages. During the tour you can admire *frailejones*, deer, several species of birds and with some luck, even spectacled bears.

In the afternoon, return to Bogotá.

Hotel BH Bicentenario - Standard Room: Lodging at BH Bicentenario hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: entrance fees, local guide, snack, private transportation, bilingual guide, lodging, breakfast



Day 4:Bogotá - Yopal

Transfer out from selected hotel to Bogotá airport.

Domestic flight: Domestic flight from Bogotá to Yopal.

Llanos Wildlife Tour 4 days / 3 nights

Stay at a 'hato' inside a natural reserve, home to hundreds of capybaras, to white-tailed deer, to big cats such as pumas and jaguars, anteaters and stunning birdlife. Observe an overwhelming number of exotic wildlife before the spectacular landscapes of Los Llanos and lose yourself in the surreal beauty of prairies melding with big skies.

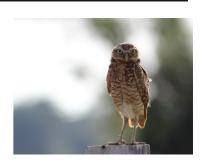
Day 1 – Wildlife Observation Hiking & By Canoe

Welcome at Yopal Airport and drive towards the town of Pore (approximately 1.5 hours). The little village is steeped in history and offers a lovely stop to stretch our legs.

Another half an hour drive will take us to Hato Berli'n, a typical Llanos farm. On walks around the lagoon and into the forest we can discover capybaras, spectacled caimans, howler monkeys, turtles, various herons, storks, ibises and iguanas. Lunch at farmhouse, followed by a break in the hammock.

We embark on a canoe tour in the afternoon to observe capybaras, caimans, groups of hoatzins, various species of kingfishers, black skimmers, birds of prey fishing, wood storks, roseate spoonbills, and many more.

We transfer to Posada El Diamante afterwards (20 mins). Dinner & Overnight at Posada El Diamante.



Hotel Hato El Boral - Standard Room: Lodging at Hato El Boral hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: transfer out, domestic flight, lunch, equipment rental, dinner, entrance fees, excursion, local guide, activity insurance, private transportation, bilingual guide, lodging, breakfast

Day 5: Hato El Boral

Day 2 - Wildlife Observation Safari in 4x4 vehicle

Today after breakfast we transfer to the natural reserves of San Luis (40-50 mins). Here we embark on a classic 4WD safari to sight hundreds of capybaras, deer, spectacled caimans, tortoises and interesting birdlife. With some luck we may also see an anteater, an anaconda (especially during dry season in February and March) and armadillos.



Traversing the large farm in a 4WD vehicle allows us to get close to an astonishing amount of wildlife in those typical wide and open Llanos sceneries and provides a taste of the region's landscapes and culture. We can opt for walks along the lakes to enjoy the sights of caimans and colourful birds.

Lunch at the farm's main house followed by a rest in the hammock. In the afternoon the game drive continues until night falls. Accommodation at farmhouse.

Hotel Hato El Boral - Standard Room: Lodging at Hato El Boral hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: lunch, equipment rental, dinner, entrance fees, excursion, local guide, activity insurance, private transportation, lodging, breakfast

Day 6: Hato El Boral

Day 3 - Horseback Ride and Walks

After an early breakfast we set out for a ride into the savannas and wetlands and keep our eyes peeled for wildlife. Depending on ability and interest this tour can last up to 4 hours.

If horses are not your fancy, we can embark on observatory walks to discover wildlife and birds. Lunch will be enjoyed at the farm's main house, followed by a rest in the hammock to contemplate the sceneries.



In the late afternoon we explore the forest edges for wildlife and enjoy the atmospheric golden hour. Eventually one of those gorgeous prairie sunsets enchants us. We can continue for a nocturnal walk to uncover anteaters and nocturnal species such as reptiles, amphibians, armadillos, porcupines, opossums and nighthawks.

Accommodation at farmhouse.

Hotel Hato El Boral - Standard Room: Lodging at Hato El Boral hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: lunch, equipment rental, dinner, entrance fees, excursion, local guide, activity insurance, private

Day 7:Yopal - Neiva - Villavieja - Tatacoa Desert - Villavieja

Day 4 - Transfer to Yopal

Early in the morning, as the sun rises, we can take a walk to look for anteaters and other wildlife, which are more active during the early hours. We can also opt for piranha fishing at the lakes of the reserve — fried these are a delicious snack for lunch!

After lunch we can relax before our return transfer to Yopal (2 hours).

Domestic flight: Domestic flight from Yopal to Villavieja.

Ground transfer from Neiva to the Tatacoa Desert / Villavieja. Approximate length: 1 hour.

Visit to Tatacoa Desert's Astronomical Observatory: Due to its geographical conditions, the sky of the Tatacoa Desert is usually very clear most of the year, which together with the absence of light pollution and its proximity to the equator, makes it an ideal place for astronomical observation as well as its special and almost poetic touch given by the beauty of the surrounding landscape. At night fall, we are invited to relax lying on the desert floor looking at the sky, while listening to an interesting and fun talk about astronomy. Then we can see various celestial bodies more closely from the observatory's telescopes and even take incredible photos of them.

The visit takes place in shared service starting at 7:00 pm. and lasts approximately 1 hour. Private talks can be arranged starting at 8:00 pm. There are three observatories in the Desert, of which only one offers talks in both Spanish and English. Generally, there is good availability in all 3 of them, although if assistance in English is required, this should be informed in advance, so we can consult the corresponding observatory.

Hotel Tatacoa Star Eco - Standard Room: Lodging at Tatacoa Star Eco hotel in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: lunch, equipment rental, breakfast, entrance fees, excursion, local guide, activity insurance, private transportation, domestic flight, lodging, bilingual guide

Day 8:Tatacoa Desert - Villavieja - San Agustín

Bike tour through Tatacoa Desert - Circuit 2: We offer an adventurous and fun way to explore the Tatacoa Desert: And that is by bike! We have 3 different routes that we can do in the morning or afternoon:

Your route:

* 2nd route - 30 Km.: Takes about 3 hours. Start in Villavieja, then stop at the "Cuzco" viewpoint (ochre part of the desert), continue to "Las Ventanas" (the fenseter) or the sand zoo, the "Cabuyal" settlement and the "Pisicilodos" (a kind of mud baths), before returning to the starting point. Difficulty: Bici level 2.

Ground transfer from Villavieja to San Agustín. Approximate length: 5 hours.

Finca Ecologica El Maco - Casita Room: Lodging at the Finca Ecologica El Maco in Casita room.



Day 9:NP Cueva de los Guácharos

2-day excursion to the Cueva De Los Guácharos National Natural Park from San Agustín:

This is a unique excursion that takes us to the first National Natural Park of Colombia, which is part of an extensive biological corridor connected with other protected areas which seek to conserve the transition ecosystems from the Andes to the Amazon.

Day 1:

We will leave San Agustín in the morning in private vehicle to Palestina in a journey of about 2.5 hours, continuing towards the Vereda La Mensura at 2,000 m.a.s.l. From here we will start a walk that passes by the Alto del Oso and La Cascajosa Creek (1,650 m.a.s.l. / 4 Km. / 1.5 hours of walking approx.) where the protected area of the Park begins. We will continue towards the Mirador sector (1,950 m.a.s.l / +1.2 km / +1 hour of walking) from where we will walk the last section of 2.3 km (1 hour of walking approx.) to the Los Cedros sector, where the parks visitors' center is located.



Return to the visitors' center, dinner and accommodation.

Private transportation by jeep Palestina - La Mensura - Palestina

Included: lodging (cat. basic), dinner, excursion, local guide, activity insurance, equipment rental, private transportation, entrance fees, porters, bilingual guide

Day 10:NP Cueva de los Guácharos - San Agustín

2-day excursion to the Cueva De Los Guácharos National Natural Park from San Agustín: Day 2:

In the morning, we will hike along the 3 km of the Camino de los Gigantes trail and also explore the Cueva del Indio cave where we can see limestone formations. We will explore the Cueva de los Guácharos in search of these nocturnal birds, as well as the El Lápiz geological fault and its interpretive trails. We will continue along the 3.4 km Lluvia de Cristales trail, where we will see fauna and flora characteristic of the Andean and high Andean forests, and at the end of the tour we will have the opportunity to bathe in the Cristales Waterfall

Box lunch, return to the visitors' center and return to San Agustín.

Special recommendations:

This 2-day tour has hikes of medium difficulty through bridle and marshy paths, especially in the rainy seasons, so it is recommended to wear plastic boots (we have boots available for rent, or you can buy some in San Agustín before leaving), bring shoes to rest, clothing for cold weather (4 - 10°C), flashlight, batteries, energy snacks and water for walks, trekking poles, swimsuit, sunscreen, bags for inorganic waste (you must take all waste with you when leaving the Park) and personal precautions deemed necessary.





Please bear in mind that in the Park area there is no Wi-Fi connection nor telephone signal, and the electricity supply is available for 3 hours at night. The accommodation is in standard category - Local Inn and the Difficulty Level is Trek Level 2.

Finca Ecologica El Maco - Casita Room: Lodging at the Finca Ecologica El Maco in Casita room.

Included: box lunch, breakfast, local guide, activity insurance, lodging, breakfast, bilingual guide

Day 11:San Agustín

Adventure in El Tablón, La Chaquira, La Pelota and El Purutal – Horseback riding: Today we can enjoy the most famous ride of San Agustín led by an expert local guide who will take us through a circuit that runs through four archaeological sites: we will cross the rural area of the town to arrive first at La Pelota, where we can see three statues located very close from where they were originally found, as well as vestiges of an original mound. A few meters from there is El Purutal, where there are four more statues of which two still retain the original coloration that is believed to have been characteristic to many other monoliths in the area.



Following this, we will continue to El Tablón, an archaeological site where five statues of approximately 2 meters classified as female are exhibited, and where there is a small ethnographic museum organized by the residents of El Tablón township. We will then go to La Chaquira, an archaeological site where there are different human and animal figures carved into volcanic stone that look towards the impressive Magdalena river canyon, one of the most spectacular views that can be seen in San Agustín. To get to El Tablón we will walk less than 15 minutes, while to get to La Chaquira we will descend a hill on foot in less than half an hour, although the ascent back takes about 1 hour.

Visit to the Archaeological Park of San Agustín: Today we'll get to know the famous San Agustín Archaeological Park located just 10 minutes by car from town where we can admire the legacy of a millenary civilization represented by iconic statues, as well as several tombs and monuments. We will visit the small Archaeological Museum, the Mesitas A, B, C and D, the Forest of the Statues, the spectacular Lavapatas Fountain and the Alto del Lavapatas.

The complete route is approximately 3 km long with some ascents of up to 70 m, although it can be adjusted to the interests and available time of visitors.

Finca Ecologica El Maco - Casita Room: Lodging at the Finca Ecologica El Maco in Casita room.

Included: equipment rental, excursion, entrance fees, local guide, activity insurance, private transportation, lodging, breakfast, bilingual guide

Day 12:San Agustín - Pitalito - Medellín

Ground transfer from San Agustín to Pitalito. Approximate length: 45 minutes.

Domestic flight: Domestic flight from Pitalito to Medellín.

Transfer from Medellín (José María Córdova) airport to selected hotel.

Hotel Boutique La Campana - Standard Room: Lodging at Hotel Boutique La Campana in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: private transportation, domestic flight, Transfer in, lodging, breakfast, bilingual guide

Day 13:Medellín - Bahía Solano

Transfer out from selected hotel to Medellín (Enrique Olaya Herrera) airport.

Domestic flight: Domestic flight from Medellín to Bahía Solano.

4-Days Whale watching tour to El Almejal Ecolodge in Bahía Solano

Our representative will find you at the small airport of Bahía Solano, from where after a ground transfer of approximately 40 minutes we will arrive at El Almejal, one of Colombia's first ecotourism projects, which has been operating since 1982. Bahía Solano is located in Chocó Bio-geographic, one of the places with the greatest biodiversity on the planet, which guarantees you a true encounter with nature.

Your program includes lodging, and three daily meals, beginning with lunch on the first day and ending with breakfast on the day of departure. It is important that you inform us in advance of any food preferences you have.

There are three additional charges not included in the price and that has to be paid directly by you in Bahía Solano. These are the entrance to Utría National Park (\$51.000 COP / 18 USD), airport tax in Bahía Solano (\$8.000 COP / 3 USD) and tourism tax (\$30.000 / 10 USD). All prices are per person and are estimated, subject to change.

The afternoon will be at your disposal for enjoying the lodge and its stunning natural surroundings. Dinner and accommodation.

Included: transfer out, domestic flight, lunch, lodging, dinner, excursion, local guide, Transfer in, shared transportation

Day 14:Bahía Solano

Whale watching morning:

Early in the morning we will take the boat to go out seeking for whales, and enjoy the spectacle they offer when they surface with their 7-meter breaths, loins, tails and playful babies.

Because it is an activity that involves a wild species in its habitat, there are chances of not seeing the whales, after all we are dealing with nature! If you did not see them during the tour, we will offer you another sighting at no cost.



Return to the hotel for lunch and enjoy the facilities. Dinner and accommodation.

Included: lunch, lodging, dinner, breakfast, excursion, local guide

Day 15:Bahía Solano

Visit to the Natural Reserve of El Almejal:

After breakfast we will visit El Almejal's conservation projects and organic garden. Starting the journey to the reserve and only 30 meters high, you can see from our viewpoint the spectacular sights of the sea horizon merging with the jungle. Already in the reserve our guide will offer interesting information about the species of the jungle and the ecosystem.

Return to the lodge and lunch. Afternoon for enjoying the beach. Dinner and accommodation.

Included: lunch, lodging, dinner, breakfast, excursion, local guide



Day 16:Bahía Solano - Medellín

After breakfast and at the appointed time, you will be transferred to Bahía Solano and then to the airport for taking your flight to your next destination.

Domestic flight: Domestic flight from Bahia Solano to Medellín.

Hotel Boutique La Campana - Standard Room: Lodging at Hotel Boutique La Campana in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: breakfast, transfer out, shared transportation, domestic flight, lodging, breakfast

Day 17:Medellín

History of transofrmation tour in Medellín: Just over 20 years ago, Medellín was one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Until the beginning of the new millennium, the struggle to be Escobar's successor continued, but since 2002 Medellín changed. Smart local politicians started to invest heavily in infrastructure and public education - successfully, of course.

Today, the "City of Eternal Spring" is one of the most innovative cities in the world. Come with us on a tour through the history and present of Medellín. Learn more about the transformation of this fascinating metropolis.

Hotel Boutique La Campana - Standard Room: Lodging at Hotel Boutique La Campana in Standard room with breakfast included.

Included: water, entrance fees, local guide, activity insurance, public transportation, bilingual guide, lodging, breakfast

Day 18:Medellín

Transfer out from selected hotel to Medellín (José María Córdova) airport

Included: transfer out

Hotel BH Bicentenario

Bogotá

Cra. 4 No.16-03, La Candelaria, Bogota

http://www.bhbicentenario.com/default-es.html



_

Hotel Hato El Boral

Vereda San Rafael de Guanapalo, San Luis de Palenque

http://elboral.com/



Villavieja

Carrera 5 # 6-18, Villavieja

Finca Ecologica El Maco

Vereda El Tablón, Finca El Maco, San Agustin http://www.elmaco.ch San Agustín

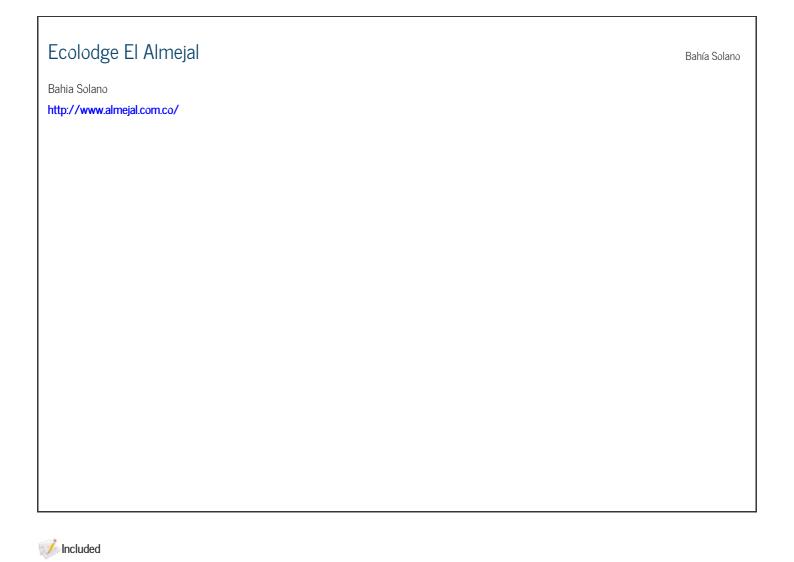


Hotel Boutique La Campana

Medellín

Calle 11A #31A - 70, El Poblado, Medellin

http://www.lacampanahotelboutique.com/



Domestic flights as mentioned, private transfers airport/hotel/airport, bilingual guides (English-speaking / other languages such German, French and Italian are available subject to availability in each destination / price can slightly change too), entrance fees to the sites described, accommodation with

Bilingual guide may not be available in the Llanos and in Chocó. Consult us when booking for alternatives.



Useful links

- → Consult here our Terms & Conditions
- → Our Comfort & Difficulty levels Guide
- → Download here our Travel Guide to Colombia & Our Code of Conduct for Travelers

breakfast in the hotels listed or similar category, meals as indicated in the itinerary.

→ COVID-19 Biosafety Protocol

Legal

Rates and availability of services are subject to change without notice.

Chaska Tours SAS, abides by Law 679 of the Congress of the Republic by publishing in its products and tourist information, the provisions that are given to prevent and combat exploitation, pornography and sexual tourism with minors. According to these provisions, everyone must prevent, avoid and denounce the exploitation, storage, use, publication, distribution of images, texts, documents, audiovisual files, use of global information networks or any other telematic link related to pornography or allusive to the sexuality of minors. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in criminal liability

and/or administrative action.

Colombian law applies. Please refer to our Terms and Conditions form.

Chaska Tours S.A.S. is subject to the liability regime of Law 300 of 1996, Decree 53 of 2001, Law 1101 of 2006, Decree 2438 of 2010, and other regulations, where its quality of intermediary as a Travel Agency is indicated.

Chaska Tours S.A.S. is committed to Sustainable Tourism in compliance with Law 17 of 1981 and Law 1333 of 2009 whose purpose is to prevent illegal trafficking of species of flora and fauna, as well as the laws Law 63 of 1986, Law 1185 of 2008 on Illegal Trafficking of Cultural Property, Law 2811 of 1973 on the National Code of Renewable Natural Resources and environmental protection, Law 0584 of 2002 where wild species that are endangered in the national territory are declared and Law 379 of 1997 General Law of Culture that respectfully manages information on the different attractions and activities related to the cultural and natural heritage of the country.

Seasons

Prices are valid for the specified travel dates. In case no travel dates are specified, prices are valid for the low season of the current year.

Low season: travel start date between 1 February and 30 November, excluding Easter week (Semana Santa in Colombia), 1 July to 1 September and local holiday dates which may vary at each destination.

For travel dates in high season, please consult us for prices and availability of services before booking.

On COVID-related travel requirements/restrictions:

Please check the entry/departure restrictions and requirements between your home country and Colombia prior to your trip. We recommend this site which provides up-to-date information on these: http://apply.joinsherpa.com/travel-restrictions

By booking with Chaska Tours Colombia, you are agreeing to the regulations and practices set out in our Biosafety Protocol regarding the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Your medical data will be treated only for the purpose allowed and required by Colombian law, which is to monitor possible infections during the provision of our services. If you have any questions about how your data will be treated or about the hygiene and social distancing practices that you should observe during your trip with us, please contact your Chaska Tours representative.

Please check the entry/departure restrictions and requirements between your home country and Colombia prior to your trip. We recommend this site which provides up-to-date information on these: http://apply.joinsherpa.com/travel-restrictions

If you inform us well in advance, we will be happy to assist you in any way we can regarding laboratory information, test transfers and similar services in Colombia, but we cannot be held responsible in case you have not verified the information regarding entry/exit requirements in your country, if you do not receive your test results on time and/or if you cannot board your return flight because you do not meet these requirements. Please note that test results usually take up to 24 hours, even longer when the test falls on Sundays or holidays, and some laboratories only receive payment in cash in Colombian pesos.

Acceptance

By accepting this quotation and making the corresponding payment/deposit for the reservation of the services described herein, the passenger/client declares to know and abide by the Terms and Conditions of Chaska Tours and declares to know and accept the Code of Conduct for Travelers of the company.

Vereda El Tablón, Finca El Maco, San Agustin, Huila, 418060, Colombia

http://chaskatours.co/en

RNT 13120

🖋 +57 311 2714802 / +34 665026857 - Emergency phone: +57 318 393 1897

☑ info@chaskatours.co

Viajar lo cambia todo

