



Compact & Active Colombia

Culture, Coffee & Caribbean

Fixed Departure Tours 2027

(12 Days / 11 Nights)

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Bogotá – San Agustín – Tatacoa-Desert – Salento – Santa Marta –
Tayrona National Park – Cartagena – La Boquilla



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Description and Highlights

Embark on a diverse journey through Colombia and discover the fascinating variety of this unique country between the Andes, coffee mountains, and the Caribbean coast. Our shared group tour combines impressive natural landscapes, authentic encounters, and cultural highlights into an active and immersive travel experience.

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From the vibrant capital Bogotá, the journey leads south to the mystical region of San Agustín with its archaeological treasures and lush mountain scenery. The adventure continues through the spectacular Tatacoa Desert into Colombia's famous Coffee Region around Salento and the Cocora Valley. Finally, the tropical Caribbean coast, Tayrona National Park, and the colonial beauty of Cartagena await you.

This tour is ideal for active and culturally curious travelers who wish to experience Colombia in an authentic, diverse, and immersive way.

Some highlights of the program include:

- Discover Bogotá actively – city tour by bicycle including the Gold Museum, street art, and a traditional Tejo game
- Experience San Agustín – markets, agriculture, and authentic encounters in the Andes
- Farm and cooking experience on a local finca with regional specialties
- Archaeological Park of San Agustín – UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring mysterious stone statues
- Optional active experiences such as horseback riding, hiking, or rafting on the Magdalena River
- Tatacoa Desert with its red and grey canyons explored by Tuk Tuk
- Hike through the Cocora Valley among the tallest wax palms in the world
- Traditional coffee tour in Colombia's famous Coffee Cultural Landscape
- Sunset sailing tour in Santa Marta (depending on flight schedule)
- Hike in Tayrona National Park with rainforest and Caribbean dream beaches
- Historical and culinary walking tour through Cartagena and the creative Getsemaní district
- Canoe tour through the mangroves of La Boquilla on the Caribbean coast
- Optional extensions available, for example to Barú, the Rosario Islands, Medellín, or the Amazon region



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Itinerary

Day 1 / Sat: Bogotá

Arrival in Bogotá, Colombia's capital located at 2,600 meters above sea level. After meeting at the airport, transfer to the center of the city. Depending on arrival time, there may already be an opportunity for an initial self-guided walk through the lively old town of La Candelaria with its colonial facades, small cafés, and colorful streets. Overnight at Hotel BH Bicentenario or similar.

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Day 2 / Sun: Bogotá (B)

Today we discover the cultural and historical highlights of the Colombian capital. The city tour is conducted partly or entirely by bicycle – one of the city's most popular means of transportation and an integral part of Bogotá's urban culture. Our tour takes us through the historic La Candelaria district with its colonial facades, colorful streets, and lively plazas. We visit the central Plaza Bolívar with the Cathedral, Congress building, and Presidential Palace before immersing ourselves in the fascinating world of pre-Columbian cultures at the famous Gold Museum. The Botero Museum featuring works by Colombia's most renowned artist, Fernando Botero, is also included. Along the way, we discover alternative neighborhoods, impressive street art, and daily life in the capital from an especially authentic perspective. Today, Bogotá is considered one of the most exciting cycling cities in Latin America and offers ideal conditions for exploring the city actively. In the afternoon, we immerse ourselves in one of Colombia's most sociable traditions: the game of "Tejo." Surrounded by music, local snacks, and cold beer, we experience the humorous and relaxed side of the country. Overnight as previous day.

Day 3 / Mon: Bogotá – Pitalito – San Agustín (B)

In the morning, transfer to Bogotá airport and flight to Pitalito in southern Colombia. Upon arrival, we continue through the green landscapes of the Huila department to San Agustín, one of the country's most fascinating cultural and natural destinations. After arrival, we take a first walk through the village of San Agustín and experience the relaxed rhythm of life in the region. At the local market, we discover exotic fruits and regional products before strolling through the small streets lined with handicraft shops and traditional ceramic workshops. Along the way, we gain our first insights into the culture and history of the region. Overnight at Finca El Maco or similar.



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Day 4 / Tue: San Agustín (B, L)

Today we immerse ourselves deeply in the rural life of the region. During our visit to a traditional farm, we learn about the daily lives of farming families in San Agustín. Surrounded by coffee plantations, fruit gardens, and small agricultural fields, we gain insight into sustainable farming practices and traditional life in the Colombian Andes. Together with our hosts, we collect fresh ingredients directly from the finca and prepare typical regional dishes during a small cooking workshop. Along the way, we learn more about the local cuisine as well as traditional cultivation and preparation methods. Besides coffee, products such as bananas, beans, medicinal plants, and tropical fruits are cultivated here. Cooking and sharing the meal together creates a particularly authentic encounter with everyday life in this region. In the afternoon, depending on interest, there is the possibility to choose from several optional local activities (additional cost). One of the most popular options is an archaeological horseback riding excursion to the sites of La Chaquira and El Tablón, combining impressive views over the Magdalena Valley with mysterious stone statues. Alternatively, a hike to El Cinco Waterfall can be organized, beautifully nestled within the lush mountain scenery. Depending on water levels and weather conditions, there is also the optional possibility of rafting on the upper Magdalena River. Overnight as previous day.

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Day 5 / Wed: San Agustín – Villavieja (B)

This morning we visit the famous Archaeological Park of San Agustín, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of South America's most important archaeological locations. Among mysterious stone statues, monumental tombs, and ceremonial religious sites, we learn more about the enigmatic culture that created these impressive sculptures centuries ago. Particularly fascinating is the "Lavapatas" fountain, an elaborately carved ceremonial site with water channels and spiritual significance. During our walk through the extensive park, we discover different sectors and dive deeper into the history of this mystical region. Afterwards, we continue through the Andean landscapes of Huila towards Villavieja, gateway to the Tatacoa Desert. Overnight at Hotel Colonial Villavieja or similar.

Day 6 / Thu: Tatacoa Desert – Salento (B)

Today we explore the fascinating Tatacoa Desert, one of Colombia's most extraordinary landscapes. Surrounded by red and grey rock formations, cacti, and labyrinth-like canyons, we experience an



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almost surreal environment. During short walks, we discover different areas of this tropical dry forest and learn more about the formation of this unique landscape. To explore the desert, we generally use typical Tuk Tuks, perfectly adapted to the dry and partly sandy roads and adding an authentic character to the excursion. Particularly impressive are the formations sculpted by wind and water that give the region its exceptional atmosphere. Afterwards, we continue our journey toward the Coffee Region. Depending on local conditions, it may be possible to shorten part of the journey by crossing the Magdalena River on a small ferry. On the opposite side, our driver will meet us in the town of Aipe. As this crossing strongly depends on current local conditions, it cannot be guaranteed. The journey then continues through green Andean landscapes, small villages, and numerous plantations before reaching the charming colonial town of Salento in the evening. Overnight at Hotel Salento Plaza or similar.

Day 7 / Fri: Salento – Cocora Valley – Salento (B)

In the morning, we travel by traditional Willys jeeps into the famous Cocora Valley, one of Colombia's best-known landscapes and part of the UNESCO-protected Coffee Cultural Landscape. Even the drive through the green hills and cloud forests provides a first impression of the spectacular nature of this region. In the Cocora Valley, we hike through the impressive mountain scenery of the Central Andes. Between dense cloud forests, small rivers, and open valleys rise the wax palms reaching up to 60 meters high – Colombia's national tree and the tallest palm species in the world. During the hike, we discover various plant species typical of the cloud forest and repeatedly enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Afterwards, we return to Salento, one of the most beautiful villages in the Coffee Region. With its colorful facades, handicraft shops, and relaxed atmosphere, the town still preserves much of the region's traditional character. In the afternoon, we visit a traditional coffee finca and learn about the entire coffee production process – from planting and harvesting to roasting. We also gain insight into the importance of coffee for Colombia and the daily work of local family-owned farms. Naturally, a tasting of the aromatic highland coffee is included. Overnight as previous day.

Day 8 / Sat: Salento – Santa Marta (B)

Today we leave behind the green Andean landscapes of the Coffee Region and travel to Pereira (or Armenia) airport. From there, we fly to the Caribbean coast to Santa Marta, the oldest city founded by the Spanish in South America and gateway to some of the country's most spectacular natural regions. Depending on flight schedules and availability, the connection generally includes a stopover in Bogotá, meaning arrival time in Santa Marta may vary accordingly. Already during the

flight, the scenery changes dramatically: tropical vegetation, palm trees, and the imposing Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta dominate the landscape. Upon arrival, transfer to the historic center of the city. If flight schedules allow, we enjoy a sunset sailing tour in the bay of Santa Marta in the late afternoon. As we sail along the coast and the silhouette of the mountains slowly disappears into the golden light, we experience the relaxed atmosphere of the Colombian Caribbean from a unique perspective. The sailing tour is shared with other travelers. Small snacks and drinks are served on board. If the sailing tour cannot be operated, an alternative walking city tour through the historic center of Santa Marta will be organized instead. Overnight at Hotel Akuamarina or similar.

Day 9 / Sun: Santa Marta – Tayrona National Park – Santa Marta (B)

Today we visit the famous Tayrona National Park, one of South America's most spectacular natural areas. The park combines tropical rainforest with wild Caribbean beaches and is considered sacred territory by several indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada. Our hike begins in the Cañaveral sector and initially leads through dense tropical forest. With some luck, monkeys, iguanas, colorful birds, and other wildlife may be observed along the way. Again and again, breathtaking views open up over the rugged coastline with its enormous granite boulders and palm-fringed beaches. Passing beaches such as Arrecifes and the natural swimming area "La Piscina," we eventually reach Cabo San Juan, one of Colombia's most iconic beaches. Here there is enough time for swimming, relaxing, or having lunch by the sea before hiking back along the same trail in the afternoon. The combination of tropical nature, sea, and dense vegetation makes this one of the scenic highlights of the journey. Return to Santa Marta and overnight as previous day.

Please note that Tayrona National Park may close during certain periods of the year for spiritual and ecological reasons. Should this occur during the trip, we will organize an alternative excursion to the Taironaka Nature Reserve instead. There, a combination of nature, river landscapes, and cultural insights into the Sierra Nevada region awaits us. Depending on water levels, we may also enjoy a relaxing tubing tour on the Don Diego River through tropical vegetation toward the Caribbean coast.

Day 10 / Mon: Santa Marta – Cartagena (B)

Today we continue our journey along the Caribbean coast toward Cartagena de Indias. The transfer is operated as a shared shuttle service together with other travelers. The route connects Tayrona, Santa Marta, and Cartagena and offers interesting impressions of Colombia's northern coastal region along the way. Upon arrival in Cartagena, we explore the historic old town during an extensive walking tour through the colonial streets of this UNESCO World Heritage city. Surrounded

by colorful facades, flower-covered balconies, and historic churches, we immerse ourselves in Cartagena's rich history as one of South America's most important port cities over centuries. During the tour, we not only discover historical landmarks such as Plaza Bolívar, the Clock Tower, and San Pedro Claver Church, but also experience the culinary diversity of the Caribbean coast. At small street stalls, we taste local specialties, tropical fruits, and typical regional snacks. Finally, we visit the lively Getsemaní district, now considered the city's creative heart. Among street art, music, small bars, and colorful houses, we discover a completely different side of Cartagena. Overnight at Hotel Casa Villa Colonial or similar.

Day 11 / Tue: Cartagena – La Boquilla – Cartagena (B)

Today we discover a quieter and more authentic side of the Caribbean coast in La Boquilla. This small fishing village is located just a few kilometers outside Cartagena and is surrounded by an extensive mangrove ecosystem. In traditional wooden canoes, we glide through narrow mangrove tunnels and peaceful lagoons, which provide an important habitat for wildlife as well as a livelihood for the local population. During the excursion, we learn more about the flora and fauna of this fragile ecosystem as well as the traditional lifestyle of the local fishing families. Especially in the early morning, the atmosphere here is truly unique: birdsong, mirror-like waters, and the quiet movement of the canoes create a strong contrast to bustling Cartagena. If you are traveling with a permanent guide, he or she will say goodbye to the group after the activity. Afterwards, free time in Cartagena. Overnight as previous day.

Day 12 / Wed: End of the Tour in Cartagena (B)

Depending on departure time, there may still be some time today to enjoy Cartagena's colonial atmosphere one last time – whether during a walk through the old town, with a coffee on one of the small plazas, or while admiring the Caribbean Sea from the city walls. Afterwards, transfer to the airport. With unforgettable impressions of the Andes, coffee mountains, archaeological sites, and Caribbean dreamscapes, our shared journey through Colombia comes to an end.

Upon request, we are also happy to organize individual extension programs within Colombia. Particularly popular are relaxing beach and island stays on the Barú Peninsula or the Rosario Islands with their white sandy beaches and turquoise waters. The journey can also be perfectly combined with additional destinations such as Medellín, the Pacific Coast, the Guajira Desert, or the Amazon region – for example with a multi-day stay in the Colombian rainforest around Leticia.

Important Notes

- The tour requires a **minimum of 2 participants**. For small groups (2–3 participants), activities are conducted with local bilingual guides. For larger groups (4 or more participants), a permanent guide accompanies the tour.
- The official **registration deadline** for the tour is **6 weeks before the departure date**. After this period, registrations are only possible upon request.
- The itinerary and order of activities may vary and be adjusted on short notice depending on weather conditions, group preferences, flight schedules, and other unforeseen circumstances.
- Pre- and post-tour extension programs can be requested individually.
- This tour is also available as a private journey on the same or different dates. Upon request.
- No advance hotel reservations are made for this tour. Once we receive a booking, we secure allotments in the planned (or comparable) hotels. Depending on availability, we usually work with trusted accommodations per destination:

Destination	Option A	Option B	Option C
Bogotá	BH Bicentenario	Casa de la Vega	Casa Deco
San Agustín	Finca El Maco	Estorake	Yuma
Villavieja	Colonial	Oasis de la Tatacoa	Star ECO
Coffee Region	Salento Plaza	Piedemonte Salento	Rancho San Antonio
Santa Marta	Akuamarina	Casa Isabella	Placita Vieja
Cartagena	Casa Villa Colonial	Casa del Curato	3 Banderas

Services:

Included:

- 🌿 Flights: Bogotá – Pitalito | Pereira – Santa Marta
- 🌿 Spanish-Speaking Transfers
- 🌿 Bilingual Guides:
 - 2-3 PAX: Local Guides for Activities
 - From 4 PAX: Permanent Guide (Until Day 11)
- 🌿 Accommodation in simple local-style hotels in double rooms
- 🌿 Meals according to itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- 🌿 All Activities, Hikes, and Excursions according to itinerary.
- 🌿 National Park fees, local taxes, tourism fees, and entrance tickets.
- 🌿 Contribution to Social Project: Magdalena Music School

Not Included:

- 🌿 Any other Flights
- 🌿 Drinks, Tips, and Personal Expenses
- 🌿 Services not mentioned in the itinerary
- 🌿 Optional Activities
- 🌿 Extension Programs
- 🌿 Travel Insurance
- 🌿 All other Meals
- 🌿 Single & Twin Room Supplement

Dates 2027:

German-Speaking Departures	
Start (SAT)	END (WED)
30. JAN 2027	10. FEB 2027
06. MAR.2027	17. MAR 2027
03. APR 2027	14. APR 2027
17. APR 2027	28. APR 2027
29. MAY 2027	09. JUN 2027
12. JUN 2027	23. JUN 2027
26. JUN 2027	07. JUL 2027
17. JUL 2027	28. JUL 2027
28. AUG 2027	08. SEP 2027
18. SEP 2027	29. SEP 2027
02. OCT 2027	13. OCT 2027
20. NOV 2027	01. DEC 2027

Englisch-Speaking Departures	
Start (SAT)	Ende (WED)
16. JAN.2027	27. JAN 2027
20. FEB 2027	03. MAR 2027
01. MAY 2027	12. MAY 2027
15. MAY 2027	26. MAY 2027
10. JUL 2027	21. JUL 2027
24. JUL 2027	04. AUG 2027
07. AUG 2027	18. AUG 2027
21. AUG 2027	01. SEP 2027
16. OCT 2027	27. OCT 2027

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