# **SOLOMBIA**



#### WHY COLOMBIA?

Colombia has a bit of everything thanks to the incredible diversity of ecosystems, cultures, cuisine, music, and experiences. With six distinct regions to explore, each with something totally unique to offer.

#### **FUN FACTS**

- # 2 most biodiverse country in the world
- #1 Most Biodiverse Country in Birdlife
- # 1 Most Endemic Species in the World
- #1 in Emerald Exportation (70-90% of the world's emeralds come from Colombia!)
- #2 in Flower Exportation & # 1 with most orchids in the world with to more than 4,000 species
- # 2 Largest Carnival Celebration in all of South America
- 102 Different Indigenous Groups
- 71 different languages
- 1,025 musical rhythms





# THE CARIBBEAN COAST

Cartagena Santa Marta La Guajira



Department: Bolivar Weather: Min: 24°C (75°F) Max: 31°C (88°F) Rain Period: Between April and November Best Time To Visit: December to March Recontreended Stay: 3 or 5 nights

Cartagena, a historic coastal city in Colombia, is renowned for its vibrant culture and stunning colonial architecture. The walled city, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a treasure trove of narrow, cobblestone streets lined with brightly colored buildings, charming balconies, and lively plazas. Notable landmarks include the impressive Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, a fortress that dates back to the 16th century, showcasing the city's strategic importance during the colonial era.

The city's rich history is matched by its dynamic cultural scene. Cartagena hosts various festivals throughout the year, including the renowned Cartagena International Film Festival and the Hay Festival, attracting artists, writers, and intellectuals from around the globe.

In addition to its cultural and historical allure, Cartagena boasts beautiful beaches and stunning natural landscapes. Nearby, the Rosario Islands provide a serene escape for snorkeling and sunbathing. The culinary scene is equally enticing, featuring a mix of fresh seafood and traditional Colombian dishes. As the sun sets, Cartagena transforms into a lively hub of nightlife, with bars and clubs offering music, dance, and entertainment, making it a captivating destination for visitors seeking relaxation and adventure.



#### **GETTING THERE**

Easily accessible, Cartagena 3 hours from Miami, under 1.6 hours from Panama city, and just 3.7 hours from Lima.

#### FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN

- •Culture & History
- •Gastronomy
- •Art & Design
- •Arquitecture

#### WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GO?

Santa Marta or Tayrona Park - 4.5 hour by car Barranquilla - 2.5 hour by car Baru – 1.5 hours by car





Private city tour in Cartagena





### **Private city tour in Cartagena**

Cartagena de Indias is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in America. Its historic center, walled by the fortifications built in colonial times, preserves its original architecture and is displayed today in endless colors that fill it with life and Caribbean joy.

The tour starts with a visit to the Fort of San Felipe de Barajas, the largest fortification built by the Spanish in their colonies. In a one-hour tour, you will be able to appreciate this masterpiece of military architecture in coral stone and we will understand the strategy of defense of the city in relation to its topography. Then, you will head to the historic center to visit the San Pedro Claver Convent Museum, former Jesuit Cloister (1605) and home of the called "Slave of the Slaves."

The tour finishes with a 2-hour walking tour through the main squares, churches and streets of the city. You will also walk on the ramparts to have the best views of the city and see the most important bastions.

#### **Duration:** 4 hours

**Included:** 

- Private transportation with Spanish-speaking driver
- Bilingual-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to the Fort of San Felipe and the San Pedro Claver Convent Musem



Private walking tour in Cartagena





### Private walking tour in Cartagena

The colorful streets of Cartagena are made for walking. Explore the Historic Center with a guide who will show you all its peculiarities. He will tell you about Cartagena's past and present as you tour monuments such as the Clock Tower and Don Pedro de Heredia, the founder of the city, as well as other less visited areas of the old city.

During the tour you will notice the different influences - Romanesque, Moorish, colonial, military, Arab, Spanish and North American - that have shaped Cartagena.

You will also see the Palace of the Inquisition, one of the most beautiful buildings in the city, or the Sanctuary of St. Peter Claver, dedicated to the Spanish priest and missionary who is known today as the "Slave of the Slaves" for dedicating his life to caring for Africans brought as slaves to the Spanish colonies.

#### **Duration:** 2 hours

**Includes:** 

- English speaking guide
- Guided walk through the Historic Center.



### Graffiti Tour in Getsemaní







### **Graffiti Tour in Getsemaní**

Our Graffiti and Street Art tour immerses you in the authentic daily life of Cartagena, focusing on the vibrant neighborhood of Getsemaní. Experience the history of this place, narrated through its murals showcasing palenqueras, local flora and fauna, tropical landscapes, and both famous and anonymous faces, where the spirit of the neighborhood remains alive.

Getsemaní has transformed its perception of Graffiti into Street Art, allowing local artists and residents to express their voices. This change was solidified with the first Graffiti Festival in December 2013.

We invite you to discover the unique stories and characteristics of this emblematic Cartagena neighborhood. Though you arrive as a tourist, you will leave feeling like a part of the community.

#### Included:

- Historical, social and cultural information
- Transport
- Introduction into the world of Graffitis in Getsemani
- Bilingual guide



Sunset Baytour







### **Sunset Baytour**

Enjoy the serene waters of Cartagena Bay, majestic sunsets and night views of the modern and historic walled city. With a cocktail in hand and the sea breeze in your hair, immerse yourself in the essence of the Caribbean.

Duration: 2 hours

#### Includes:

- 90-minute boat ride
- Open bar: Cuba libre, lemonade, water, soft drinks.





Cartagena Bike Tour





### **Cartagena Bike Tour**

There is no more efficient or pleasant way of getting around Cartagena than by bicycle. Criss-crossing its colorful streets, full of Caribbean life and joy, is an unforgettable adventure. Our first ride takes us to Bocagrande and Castillo Grande. Here we stop to talk a bit about the history of Cartagena. From there we pedal back to the historic center with its fortifications, where we visit its main squares and streets, and refresh ourselves with a delicious cold coconut, to continue our journey through the authentic neighborhood of Getsemaní and arrive at Fort San Sebastián del Pastelillo, which lies on the island of Manga and serves as the sea entrance to the smaller bay of the city.

#### **Duration:**

3-4 hours

**Included:** 

- Conventional bicycles and helmets
- English-speaking guide (possibility of other languages)
- Bike tour through the historic center, bastions, Manga and Getsemaní neighborhood, Bocagrande and Castillo Grande and Fort San Sebastian de Pastelito





San Basilio de Palenque Tour





### San Basilio de Palenque Tour

A corner of Africa in America! Benkos Bioho, a runaway slave who, accompanied by 36 other male and female slaves, hid in the area found what is now known as San Basilio de Palenque, the first slavery-free town in Colombia. Their palenquera language and traditions and rituals remained intact since they had no connection with the main road and the city and remained isolated until the seventies when the famous boxer "Kid Pambelé" placed this settlement on the map and brought with him access roads to the village. Located an hour and a half's drive from Cartagena by road, this African corner, declared by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage of humanity, offers to visitors a window on Afro-descendant history in Colombia and America. A guide and private vehicle will pick you up at your hotel and take you comfortably to San Basilio de Palenque, where a local guide will receive us and we will learn a little of the Palenquero dialect, history and culture of this great town. Through craft arts such as the work of the Spinners, who with their strong movement prepare the corn to feed their families, and the beautiful art of weaving through the hands of artisans who tell their stories through their handicraft we get even closer to the culture. After exploring the village and its surroundings we will enjoy a delicious typical lunch in the palenquera way.

#### Included:

Private transfer hotel - Palenque – hotel, Bilingual tour guide, Local Palenquero Guide, Spinners (pilanderas) and weavers demonstration, Palenque language class, Guided tour through San Basilio de Palenque, Typical Palenquero lunch with a drink





Chocolate Workshop





### **Chocolate Workshop**

"Love is like eating large amounts of chocolate." We will start this delicious workshop with a direct connection to cocoa beans, using the senses to delve into the flavor, texture, smell, and distinctive notes, showcasing the quality of Colombian cocoa and chocolate. Each scent offers a unique experience.

In this workshop, you will learn about the entire production process until reaching the products derived from cocoa.

After that, you will apply what you have learned and learn how to make your own chocolate product. Celebrate life, eat chocolate!

Duration: 1 Hour 45 min

Included:

- Chocolate workshop.
- Transportation to/from hotel.
- Tour escort guide from/to hotel





Private Rum tasting





### **Private Rum tasting**

The Spanish brought many things and customs to America, they transformed the continent. Likewise, we Americans are in charge of transforming many of them and creating an identity and own product. This is the case of sugar cane, which was taken to another level and today by today it is the base of one of the most exquisite drinks in the world. Venture into a time of knowledge and fun learning about the most famous drink in the Caribbean: the Rum.

We pick you up from your hotel and start our walking tour to the picturesque bar, where an expert mixologist will tell you about the history and characteristics of this drink. This journey of flavors will take you to taste different Colombian rums, some cataloged as one of the best in the world and learn its secrets. You will discover how broad and rich in flavors can be and how small changes in the process can give life to spirits as different, while having fun and telling anecdotes. After living this experience drinking a rum will become quite an experience.

#### Duration: 2 hours

Included:

- Bilingual-speaking guide
- Welcome drink
- 8 shots of Colombian rum
- Mixologist in English



Visit to national aviary of Colombia on Baru island





### Visit to national aviary of Colombia on Barú island

Colombia is the first country in the world in bird diversity. It has 1,903 species, which is equivalent to 20% of the bird species on Earth. There are 197 species of migratory birds and 71 endemic species. Near Cartagena, on the Barú peninsula, is the largest aviary in the Americas. A tourist attraction that promotes the conservation, reproduction and repopulation of Colombian avifauna.

On your visit to the National Aviary of Colombia you will tour through 6 environments, including the tropical rainforest, the coast and the desert. These are located in an area of seven hectares where you will be able to observe 138 species of birds and close to 1800 specimens, including among them: the Harpy Eagle, the Caribbean Toucan, the Pink Flamingos, the Crowned Crane and the Condor. The transfer from the hotel to the Baru Peninsula takes approximately 1 hour and goes through the port and industrial zone of the city, as well as the dike channel. The guided visit to the Aviary will take about 2 hours. Aviary guides will provide information about the different birds found there.

#### **Duration:** 4 hours.

Included:

- Private transportation in air-conditioned vehicle to/from hotel
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees



The Literary Menu of Gabriel García Márquez





### The Literary Menu of Gabriel García Márquez

Only an emotional and colorful cuisine could inspire in our Nobel Prize winner, Gabriel García Márquez, the flavors of his magical realism.

Immerse yourself in our gastronomic tour, awarded by the Ministry of Culture of Colombia, and explore with us the traditional gastronomy of the Colombian Caribbean discovering it through the food with which Gabo fed his stories and made them even more captivating.

Relive the magic of some of his most celebrated texts by walking through streets full of charm while tasting some of the snacks or drinks that Gabo served to his characters in delicious passages extracted from "Love in the Time of Cholera", "Of Love and Other Demons" and the award-winning "One Hundred Years of Solitude".

Talk to the guardians who guard our culinary treasure and take home the secrets of their recipes.

#### Duration: 2.5 hours

Includes:

- Food Concierge expert in Colombian Caribbean cuisine with costumes inspired by character from "Love in the Time of Cholera".
- Tour of 9 García Márquez sites in the historic center.
- Includes stops at Plaza de los Coches and Plaza de Bolivar.
- 8 tastings between snacks and drinks. Includes Colombian coffee and local rum drink.
- Bottle of water.





**Best of Colombia** 





### **Best of Colombia**

Cartagena is the trendy place in Colombia to eat and party, its places are booked in advance by diners and rumberos eager for avant-garde and tasty food.

Those who know it know that here are hidden real must-see places. Surprise yourself at the first stop with a menu that celebrates the Caribbean in haute cuisine dishes that are the product of a rigorous research work for which each year they climb the list of the 50 best in Latin America. At the second, a Republican mansion - with the most beautiful floors in the city - is the setting for cocktails inspired by the colors and biodiversity of the country, using ingredients grown on their own farm. If there is always a line, it is because everyone knows that this is one of the 50 best bars in the world.

Savor the pride of both for the local culture in signature creations that become another reason to visit the stone corralito.

#### **Duration:** 2.5 hours

**Includes:** 

- Food Concierge. Guided experience by an expert chef in Colombian cuisine. Ideal to understand the proposal of each stop, the geographical/social context of the ingredients and the techniques applied.
- Walk through Getsemaní and historic center.
- Stop #1 at Celele, #16 Latam's 50 Best Restaurants 2023: Entrée, Dessert, Drink (Water + Local beer or soft drink).
- Stop #2 at Alquimico, #9 The World's 50 Best Bars 2023: Cocktail, Bar Dish to Share





Cartagena Cooking Class





### **Cartagena Cooking Class**

The warmth and tastiness of Cartagena's cuisine come right from the generosity of the local cooks who celebrate their culture with joy and passion using fresh ingredients and defined flavors old and new, all with the care and dedication served in their traditional cauldrons every single day. How can you choose between so many delicious treats everywhere you look? We took it upon ourselves to curate the must-try flavors where you will get a chance to prepare some of the most authentic dishes from Cartagena's recipe books and create such pairings that'll have you craving for more.

#### **Duration:** 3.5 hours

included:

- Private transportation with a Spanish-speaking driver hotel/restaurant/hotel
- English-speaking chef
- English-speaking tour guide hotel/restaurant/hotel
- A traditional cooking class where you would learn to make: Coconut lemonade, ceviche (vegetarian option), Fritos (patacones), Main course (chicken a la monteriana with rice and beans, or mote de queso), Dessert (enyucado or cocadas)

Notes: the menu can be adapted for vegetarians, celiacs and vegan preferences.

# VOYAGE • COLOMBIA •

# OUR PREFERRED HOTEL IN CARTAGENA

#### **HILTON CARTAGENA**

To access the special event price, use the following code to reserve GLBIOM



### **TOURISM SEASONS**



Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec







**High Season** January - April - June - July - August - December



# AUTHENTIC COLOMBIA

DAY 1-3: Bogota / Medellin DAY 4-6: Coffee Zone DAY 7-9: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta / Tayrona DAY 10-12: Cartagena DAY 13-14: Rosary Islands DAY 15: Cartagena - Departure

## CARIBBEAN VIBES

- DAY 1-3: Cartagena Rosario Islands
- DAY 4: Santa Marta
- DAY 5-7: Palomino Guajira
- DAY 8-9: Cabo de la Vela-Guajira
- DAY 10-12: Santa Marta Tayrona
- DAY 13-14: Cartagena Departure





# WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

#### OPTION 1: BOGOTÁ, CAÑO CRISTALES AND CARTAGENA

- DAY 1-2: Bogotá
- DAY 3-5: La Macarena Caño Cristales
- DAY 6-9: Bogotá Amazonas
- DAY 9-10: Cartagena
- DAY 11-13: Rosario Islands
- DAY 14: Cartagena Departure



# Andes to the Sea

DAY 1-2: BOGOTÁ
DAY 3-6: COFFEE REGION
DAY 7-9: CARTAGENA
DAY 10: BARU
DAY 11: CARTAGENA - DEPARTURE



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