

## COLOMBIA CULTURA Y PLAYA 9 DAYS BOGOTÁ+ CARTAGENA+ SANTA MARTA



*Bogotá is the capital district of Colombia and the country's most populated city. It is the most important political, financial, educational, cultural city in the country. It is located at an altitude of 2640masl on a plateau known as the Savanna of Bogotá on the eastern range of the Andean Mountains. It was founded on August 6, 1538 originally named Santa Fe by the 'Conquistador' Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada who arrived in pursuit of 'El Dorado' gold legend and defeated the native Chibcha in Bacatá, which meant capital of the Zipa confederation. In 1717 the kingdom of New Granada was established here, and in 1819 Simon Bolivar chose it as the capital of the Grand Colombia. Today, Bogotá is a modern city with a bubbling cultural scene and vibrant social life.*

### **DAY 1**

You will be welcomed at the airport from your guide and transferred to your hotel.

### **DAY 2: Tour Bogotá**

Half day visit to the historic center known as La Candelaria. This antiquated barrio is of great architectural and cultural heritage and is made up of old "stately homes" or large Spanish colonial buildings with iron windows, thick and sturdy wooden doors, balconies and internal patios with beautiful yet hidden gardens. Visit the Plaza de Bolivar, the Cathedral, on the eastern side of the plaza, is constructed on the remains of the first church built in Bogotá in 1539 and houses an important collection of religious artefacts such as textiles and artwork that has built over four centuries. The Capilla del Sagrario is located just beside the Cathedral and is a gem of religious architecture and which houses valuable pieces of colonial religious art by Gregorio Vasquez de Arce y Ceballos. The Capitol, built between 1847 and 1926, shows its renaissance and neoclassical influences with its carved stonework and tall columns and, it is the first republican piece of civil architecture. The central area of the Capitol, known as the Salon Eliptico, is where congress meets and is the actual chamber for politicians and the Senate. In the internal plazas are busts of former presidents such as General Tomás Cipriano Mosquera, president on four occasions, and Rafael Núñez, the composer of the Colombian national anthem. Around the Plaza de Bolivar are the Palacio de Justicia, the Mayor of Bogotá's offices called the Edificio Liévano, the oldest school in the county called San Bartolome and the Casa de los Comuneros who participated towards the end of the XVII Century in some of the first movements towards independence from Spain and the formation of the Republic.

The visit continues with the Museo Botero (Closed on Tuesdays), a colonial house filled with works of art done by and donated by Fernando Botero in addition to artwork from his own personal collection that includes pieces by Picasso, Renoir, Dalí, Matisse, Monet and Giacometti.

Next is the Museo del Oro (closed on Mondays) which has a permanent exhibition of some 32,000 pieces of gold, 20,000 stones, ceramics and textiles all precious to the Quimbaya, Calima, Tayrona, Sinu, Muisca, Tolima, Tumaco and Magdalena cultures. The Museo del Oro is considered as one of the most important museums of its type internationally and it has been functioning since 1939. In 2007 it underwent a complete overhaul to make this an interactive museum that would awake senses to the objects on display and it belongs to the International Network of Museums (ICOM).

End the visit in the Santuario de Monserrate, a symbol of Bogotá. Ride the cable car or funicular up to it, at 500 mts above Bogotá (total of 3140masl). The site offers the incredible panorama of the city on one side and the Andes on the other. Return to hotel.

### **DAY 3: Guatavita and Zipaquirá**

"El Dorado" legend comes to life in Guatavita lagoon, an ancestral place that fascinates all visitors. During approximately an hour and a half you will be enjoying the beautiful landscapes of the highways outside the city up to the very last minute when you arrive to "Guatavita la nueva", a picturesque town with colonial architecture located next to Tominé dam. From there you will follow your way to the sacred lagoon of Guatavita, where you will learn the popular legend of El Dorado; based in a worship Muisca ritual where gold was the main element.

Get to know all the mysteries from this place where the indigenous magic lives, from the beginning of the tour you will enjoy viewpoints strategically located.

Continue to Zipaquirá, a well-known town and famous worldwide for hosting one of Colombia's Marvels. There, lies a majestic salt-mine Cathedral buried 180mts underground.

This amazing place is famous for its religious, cultural and architectural value. The mine's interior is decorated with lights in the tunnels lighting up the fourteen stages of the Way of the Cross. Enjoy attractions like the Miner's route, Water Mirror, Convention Center and the Coffee bar, to have a delicious Colombian coffee 180mts underground. (not included)

Afterwards, see "San Antonio" Cathedral, and a panoramic view of colonial architecture in Zipaquirá's heart. At the end of the tour, return to hotel in Bogotá.

### **DAY 4**

Today you will be transferred from your hotel with you guide to the airport to board your flight to Cartagena. From there you will be transferred to your hotel in Cartagena.

## CARTAGENA



*Colombia's most popular city Cartagena de Indias was declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site because of its colonial walled city; and just walking through to its cozy narrow streets is enough to understand why. It is divided into three sightseeing zones: the Historic Centre with Clock Gate, Carriage Square, San Peter Square, Palace of the Inquisition, The Cathedral, dating back to the 16th century, Santo Domingo Square, the Heredia Theatre and masterpiece San Felipe de Barajas Castle, built between 1639 and 1762 which is the greatest fortress ever built by the Spanish. The San Diego zone, with its enchanting Hotel Santa Clara, formerly Convent of the Saint Claire Order and Las Bóvedas The Vaults by the Santa Catalina Fortress and Getsemani; the zone used to be a slave neighborhood and now hosts Cartagena's Convention Center and popular nightlife clubs. The real joy of Cartagena is exploring it's exhilarating narrow streets by foot or on a horse-carriage, an experience that awakens all senses with the flavors and warm breeze of its sunset, making it an incredibly romantic destination and the most fascinating Caribbean hidden treasure.*

### **DAY 4: Panoramic & Colonial city tour Cartagena**

Tour begins with panoramic view from 'La Popa' Monastery and Church. Continue to "San Felipe" castle-fortress built on "San Lázaro" hill to defend the city from pirate attacks. Walk-around the fortress and see the castle tunnels, underground galleries and passageways. Continue to Walled City, go to 'the Vaults', archways built within the walled-city used until late 1700s to store armament and later as prison in the XIX century. Nowadays, it's an artisans' center to appreciate local handcrafts.

At night, all aboard for a night of partying, Colombian - style. A "chiva" is a large, colorful, open-air bus that features an open bar with a variety of national tropical drinks.

Travel along the coast and through the "movida" areas of the city to experience all the fun of a Cartagena night.

### **DAY 5: Rosario Islands with typical lunch**

All day tour by boat to the Archipelago Islas del Rosario located 45km southeast, approximately one hour from Cartagena bay. The national park is surrounded by coral reefs and lapped by clear blue waters and is the natural habitat for a large variety of marine fauna. Three ecosystems thrive here: coastal lagoons, mangroves surrounding them and tropical forest. Free time for snorkeling and relaxation. Enjoy a typical lunch during the tour.

### **DAY 6**

This day remains at your leisure. Please ask for optional tours.

### **DAY 7: City tour Santa Marta**

Today you will be transferred from your hotel to the Santa Marta. After that you will go on a Half day city tour through Santa Marta.

### DAY 8: Tayrona National Park

Leave from Santa Marta, walking-through the forest vegetation and its different microclimates. There are Birds in abundance and on some occasions is possible to see monkeys playing on the trees. After 45min-hike arrive at Arrecifes Beach, one of the park's most scenic and beautiful areas, will astound you with its beautiful landscape with a restless sea crashing onto huge ocean boulders. Continue walking-along the coast to "La Piscina", a natural calm stretch of beach ideal for bathing. Then,head onto El Cabo de San Juan de Guía which leaves an indelible mark on your memory due to its enormous boulders. Enjoy some time on the beach to rest or take a bath. Return to Santa Marta in the afternoon.

### DAY 9

Today you will be transferred from your hotel to the airport to board your flight home

**- END OF OUR SERVICES -**

#### Prices Quoted in USD

8 days Bogota- Cartagena - Santa Marta	1 pax SGL	2 pax DBL	4 Pax	SGL Supp
Hotel Casa Deco, Don Pedro de Herdia & Hotel Casa Etnia 3*	\$3.270	\$1.827	\$1.417	\$405
Hotel de La Opera, Ananada Hotel Butique & Hotel Don Pepe 4*	\$4.268	\$2.309	\$1.899	\$923

**This tour can start on any date of 2017 except holidays and congresses and booked for 1 pax or more**

#### THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Hotels according to the program or similar
- ✓ Transfers according to the program
- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Excursions mentioned in the program

#### THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- ✗ International flight
- ✗ Additional excursions
- ✗ Food and drinks not mentioned in the program
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Laundry service
- ✗ Personal spendings

\*All the hotels can be substituted by a similar class hotel

\*\* This programme availability and prices will be confirmed upon booking

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