



COLOMBIA: FROM BOGOTA TO CARTAGENA

MARCH 12-23, 2020

No longer a country with a dangerous reputation, Colombia offers a wealth of distinct landscapes, authentic indigenous cultures, and a bold, infectious spirit. Our program begins in Colombia's bustling Andean capital, Bogotá, where the pre-Colombian, colonial, and contemporary vie for visitor's attention. Fly to San Agustín and learn about the 5,000 year-old indigenous statues that dominate the area. In Popayán, we explore what is widely recognized as the best-preserved colonial town in Colombia that also represents a major religious and educational center.

En route to Pereira, the lush coffee zone of Colombia's interior, experience a truly authentic indigenous market where the Guambiano people convene once a week to sell produce and hand-crafted products. Travel to Medellín, Colombia's phoenix from the ashes and a city that successfully used community beautification and engagement to fight poverty and violence. Our journey ends in Cartagena, a fortified colonial port city whose very walls and vibrantly painted buildings seem to have their own energy and radiate a warmth and serenity that stays with visitors long after they've left. Return home from Cartagena.

GROUP SIZE: 10-20 guests

PRICING:

- \$7,595 Per person double occupancy
- \$1,270 Single supplement
- \$580 Domestic (In-Tour) Airfare

STUDY LEADER: JEFFREY QUILTER is the former Director of Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology a post he held from 2012 to 2019. Prior to that, he was Curator of Intermediate Area Archaeology at the Peabody (2005–2012), Director of the Pre-Columbian Studies Program at Dumbarton Oaks (1995–2005) in Washington, DC, and Professor at Ripon College, Wisconsin (1980–1995). He has been conducting research on pre-Columbian art and archaeology for four decades, including a decade-long project in Costa Rica, part of the prehistoric cultural realm in which Colombia was located. He is the author of five books including *Cobble Circles and Standing Stones: Archaeology at the Rivas Site, Costa Rica* (2004) and, soon to be published, *Magdalena de Cao: An Early Colonial Town on the North Coast of Peru*.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

BOGOTA

Depart on independent flights to Bogota.

Arrive in Bogotá, Colombia and transfer to your hotel.

Late this afternoon, meet in the Library room for a welcome reception and a chance to meet your fellow travelers. Enjoy dinner at the Basilic Restaurant located nearby.

Overnight: *Sofitel Bogota Victoria Regia (R, D)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

BOGOTA

This morning, meet with historian **Sergio Castillo** who will lay the framework for understanding Colombia's history, focusing mostly on the last 50 years.

After the briefing, depart the hotel and drive to the market of Paloquemao, recognised as the Mecca of food sites in Bogotá, bringing together suppliers from all over the country.

Drive to La Candelaria, the historical heart of Bogotá, for lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, walk through La Candelaria and discover its cobbled streets oozing with history. Admire the Catedral Primada, the most recognizable symbol of Bogotá.

Continue up the hill to the Botero Museum, which houses 208 works donated by the Colombian master Fernando Botero – 123 of his own works and 85 by international artists such as Joan Miró, Max Ernst, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall and Pablo Picasso. Stroll by Plaza Bolivar where a bronze statue pays tribute to the great Simon Bolívar and stop at the Plaza de Chorrode Quevedo to hear a story teller regaling the crowd with creative accounts of Colombia's history.

End your day at the Center for Memory, Peace, and Reconciliation where Ms. Laura Cuéllar will meet the group. Ms. Cuéllar,

previously Associate Editor at Harvard University's Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy, has been part of the center's Strategic Projects division since late 2016.

Enjoy dinner this evening at Club Colombia.

Overnight: *Sofitel Bogota Victoria Regia (B, L, D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

BOGOTA

Depart this morning for the Gold Museum, which provides an excellent understanding of the artistic soul of Bogotá. It displays the largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold work in the world, as well as pottery and other archeological artifacts of the dominant indigenous population.

Next, head to the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá, an underground Roman Catholic church built within the tunnels of a salt mine 650 feet below a Halite mountain. Carved entirely out of salt, it is one of only three similar churches in the world.

Enjoy a lunch of local cuisine at Casa el Chorro.

This afternoon, return to Bogotá and stop at Casas Riegner for a meeting with Felipe Villada to learn about the emerging young Colombian artists the gallery represents.

Visit nearby Peace Bridges International (PBI), an independent non-governmental organization whose mission is to provide a protective space for human rights defenders who suffer attacks as a result of their work. Meet with Hannah Matthews who has been a field volunteer with PBI for the past three years and watch a very short presentation on the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó.

Dinner is at leisure this evening.

Overnight: *Sofitel Bogota Victoria Regia (B, L)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

SAN AGUSTIN

Early this morning, fly to Pitalito.

Upon arrival, drive about 45 minutes to San Agustín, a region that was inhabited by two mysterious and enigmatic indigenous cultures that created fantastic sculptures using volcanic rocks approximately 5,000 years ago.

Begin exploring with a visit to the Archaeological Museum and an excellent introduction to the San Agustín culture. Continue on to the Archaeological Park itself where 130 statues are displayed alongside the Funete de Lavaapatas where images of serpents, lizards and human figures are carved in the rocky bed of a stream.

From here, walk up to the Alto de Lavapatas, the oldest archaeological site in San Agustín, featuring a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

If time permits, the group will visit a number of lesser-known sites, including Alto de las Piedras, Doble Yo, and La Chaquira, where carvings overlook the stunning gorge of Rio Magdalena.

Check in to the Monasterio San Agustín for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: *Monasterio San Agustín (B, L, D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 16

POPAYÁN

This morning, begin the drive toward Popayán, passing through the Parque Nacional Natural Purace, a geothermal land of waterfalls and a snow-capped inactive volcano.

Along the way, stop at Isnos, a site with its own archaeological importance and understated natural beauty.

Enjoy lunch en route from San Agustín to Popayán.

Please note that part of this road is unpaved.

Upon arrival, meet with Adolfo Conejo from the Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca, a local community group whose mission is to recover ancestral territory and protect the rights of indigenous people and their customs.

Check into the Hotel Dann Monasterio before walking to El Camino Real for a delightful dinner in a traditional restaurant.

En route to dinner, enjoy a walking tour of this graceful colonial town located at the mid-point in the journey that gold would make between Lima, Quito and Cartagena on its way to Spain. Lit beautifully by night, admire stunning churches built in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Overnight: *Hotel Dann Monasterio (B, L, D)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

PEREIRA

Depart early this morning to drive just over an hour to the mountain town of Silvia where you will join the indigenous Guambiano for the weekly Tuesday market.

Drive about three hours to Cali, the capital city of the region, for lunch at La Comitiva. Joining the group for lunch will be Berenice Celeita from NOMADESC, a human rights organisation that advises and accompanies organisations working on a variety of issues.

After lunch, enjoy a salsa performance by the Jacaranda dance troupe, winners of many international salsa competitions.

Continue on to the area of Colombia officially known as the “Coffee Axis,” the best coffee growing region in Colombia, if not the world. Admire the beautiful landscape dotted with coffee farms and poncho-wearing coffee workers.

Arrive early this evening at the Hotel Boutique Casa San Carlos for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel Boutique Casa San Carlos (B, L, D)*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

PEREIRA

This morning, drive just over an hour to Salento, a quaint town with colonial architecture. After a short tour, continue on to the Valle de Cocora and enjoy a gentle walk in the valley resplendent with native wax palms

(*palmas de cera*), the largest palm in the world.

Enjoy lunch and sweeping views at the El Portal de Cocora before visiting Finca El Ocaso Salento. At this coffee farm, learn about the process for growing quality coffee and get a chance to sample different brews while gazing out on a blanket of coffee groves.

Later, return to Pereira for dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Overnight: *Hotel Boutique Casa San Carlos (B, L, D)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 MEDELLIN

This morning, fly to Medellin, located deep in the fertile and mountainous Aburra Valley in the central Andean highlands.

Upon arrival, drive a short distance to Comuna 13, formerly Medellin's most dangerous barrio. These days, Comuna 13 is an internationally renowned example of how "innovative" urban regeneration projects can be used to transform and revitalize communities, from the installation of escalators, to creating safer and more efficient public transportation.

Meet with Dr. Marta Domínguez Mejía, a professor at the Universidad de Antioquia, who will speak about the paradoxes of neoliberalism, the broadening of political participation, and the result of her latest project which focuses on urban violence in Medellín.

Before lunch at a local restaurant, drive to the Metrocable stop at Santo Domingo to learn how public transit has transformed a once-blighted area.

After lunch, take the metro-cable – a new ski lift-like aerial tramway— and soar over the Santo Domingo community. The new cable car allows residents to connect easily to the city to attend schools and seek work. Switch to a faster, longer gondola line at Santo Domingo where you pass over farms and eucalyptus and pine forests on the way to your destination, Parque Arví, a beautiful city park now accessible to all.

Check in to your hotel and enjoy a short walk to the Restaurante La Provincia for dinner this evening.

Overnight: *NH Collection Royal Medellin (B, L, D)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 MEDELLIN

Drive to Botero Square this morning to admire the work of artist Fernando Botero, known for paintings and sculptures of figures of exaggerated volume including his *Torso Femenino*, a bronze sculpture nicknamed *La Gorda* (The Fat Lady) by locals.

End the morning at the 35-acre Botanical Garden showcasing Colombia's fauna and flora with hundreds of plant species and an "Orquideorama" displaying over 400 orchid plants.

Enjoy lunch at the delightful En Situ Restaurant located in the heart of the Botanical Garden

This afternoon, visit a former steel mill reborn as MAMM, or the Modern Art Museum Medellin, in 2009 exhibiting Colombia's contemporary artists like Beatriz González, Carlos Rojas, and the hometown expressionist Débora Arango.

Dinner this evening will be across from the hotel.

Overnight: *NH Collection Royal Medellin (B, L)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 CARTAGENA

This morning, fly to Cartagena, the jewel in Colombia's crown,

Explore the inner town of the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on a walking tour within the city's thick walls. Learn about Cartagena's colonial history and stroll through the immaculately restored colonial core of the city where the upper class lived.

Visit the Gabriel García Márquez Foundation for New Latin American Journalism (FNPI), created in 2012 by García Márquez, the

national hero and Nobel Prize-winning author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. The Foundation and the Ministry of Culture of Colombia joined forces to establish this international program where reporters from five continents have the opportunity to expand their journalistic range, explore Colombia, and recount, in Spanish and in English, stories of culture that mix the richness of the traditional and the popular.

Check into your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: *Sofitel Santa Clara (B, L)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

CARTAGENA

Visit the Bazurto market this morning for a glimpse at the day-to-day life of real *cartageneros*. Anthony Bourdain brought a small corner of the market to fame in his TV show *No Reservations*. It's not a trip for the faint-hearted though – the smells and visual experiences are quite unique. Please note that the group will be split in two for the cooking and dining part of this excursion.

After shopping, we will go to a small hotel where you will prepare and cook your own lunch alongside a native chef.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight at El Santisimo, close to the hotel.

Overnight: *Sofitel Santa Clara (B, L, D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 23

DEPART

Transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S.