

Abercrombie & Kent



## COLOMBIA: BOGOTÁ TO CARTAGENA - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2024)

Explore today's Colombia, discovering its  
incredible culture, gastronomy and biodiversity.

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Small Group Journeys, Marco Polo Small Group Journeys



Latin America, Colombia



9 days from AU\$16,010 pp



18 Guests

## Journey Overview

Explore today's Colombia, discovering its incredible culture, gastronomy and biodiversity on a journey that reveals how a commitment to social transformation made it a must-see destination. Marvel at the vibrant street art of once-troubled Medellín and bask in the many splendours of beautiful Cartagena.

### Journey Highlights

- Experience the lively and colourful Paloquemao market in Bogotá and sample the fruits, vegetables and herbs on display while also learning about the Peace Agreement
- Descend into the inspiring Salt Cathedral and learn the history of this amazing underground church built by miners
- Try the indigenous sport of Tejo and taste viche, a traditional sugar cane liquor originated by colonial-era slaves
- Discover the parks and graffiti art of Medellín and learn how it overcame its troubled past
- Visit Cartagena to immerse yourself in the rich local culture, gastronomy and music
- Explore an organic flower farm in Santa Elena and meet with a flower vendor in the mountains of Antioquia



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Bogotá, Colombia**

Arrive in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, where you are met and privately transferred to your hotel. Tonight, gather for a festive welcome dinner.

***Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá / Meals: D***

### **Day 2: Bogotá | A Market Visit & the Peace Agreement**

Explore Paloquemao market with a guide, sampling local delicacies as you go. Peruse the flower market before heading to Monserrate, a 10,000-foot peak you ascend by funicular railway or cable car. Explore La Candelaria, the oldest part of Bogotá, distinguished by its many colonial-era buildings. Visit the Plaza de Bolívar and the Gold Museum, viewing its vast collection of pre-Hispanic artifacts. Throughout your day, listen as your Resident Tour Director explains crucial aspects of Colombia's history, including the build up to the Peace Agreement (signed in September 2016) that ended more than 50 years of conflict. In turn, gain insight into the current moment, which is setting the foundation for a bright future. Tonight, savour dinner at Criterion, one of the country's finest restaurants.

***Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá / Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Bogotá | Salt Cathedral & Viche Tasting**

Venture to the Salt Cathedral near Zipaquirá. Descend into this amazing underground church built in a salt mine, passing naves depicting the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and enter the 82-foot-high main cathedral. Afterward, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before trying the indigenous sport of Tejo. Then, taste viche, a liquor originated by colonial-era slaves that's become a symbol of modern Afro-Colombian culture.

***Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá / Meals: BL***

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#### **Day 4: Medellín | A Triumph of Social Transformation**

Fly to Medellín, to visit the Parque San Antonio and view sculptures by Fernando Botero, and continue to the Museum of Antioquia to marvel at its pre-Columbian treasures. Next, ride on the Metrocable gondola lift system for views over the once-notorious neighbourhood of Santo Domingo Savio, and now an example of the social transformation the city has undergone. Stop in the Comuna 13 neighbourhood to learn more about public renovation projects undertaken here and visit a business they positively impacted. Then, Ride Like a Local by tram and cable car, which have greatly improved community accessibility. Tonight, dine at renowned El Cielo Restaurant.

***Marriott Medellín Hotel | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 5: Medellín | Guatapé, El Peñol Rock & Santa Elena**

Journey to picturesque Guatapé, admiring breathtaking Antioquia along the way. Stroll Guatapé's cobblestoned streets past colourful pastel-painted buildings and view massive Peñol rock. Meet with a local silletero (flower vendor) to learn about life at their organic flower farm.

***Marriott Medellín Hotel | Meals: BL***

#### **Day 6: Cartagena | Private Rum & Chocolate Tastings**

Fly to Cartagena to indulge in a private tasting of a variety of rums paired with chocolate and local bites, as you listen to colourful tales of pirates. Dine this evening at the hotel.

***Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Cartagena | Meals: BD***

#### **Day 7: Cartagena | Wonders of the City**

Discover the best of this exuberant city. Start at La Popa hill, taking in surrounding vistas. Continue to Cartagena's colonial walled city and walk its picturesque streets and plazas. Then, visit the Castle San Felipe Barajas, built to defend the city from pirates. Proceed to the church of San Pedro Claver with its fine collection of stained-glass windows as well as the Naval Museum. Stop at the Inquisition Palace to view its Baroque entrance hall and finish at the city's 16th-century cathedral. Dine in the enchanting Getsemaní district.

***Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Cartagena | Meals: BD***

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## **Day 8: Cartagena | Culinary Experience & Sunset Cruise**

Explore the peaceful waters of La Virgen swamp, a coastal lagoon separated from the Caribbean Sea by a narrow bank of sand and inhabited by dense mangrove forests as well as over one hundred species of birds. Board a boat to navigate tunnels of overhanging vegetation that lead to a paradise of native crustaceans. There, in the midst of a shallow mirror of water, cast a fishing net or pull up traps to access some of the abundant seafood, such as blue crab, dwelling here. Back on shore, gather at a kitchen to watch how a traditional fishermen and local food concierge prepare what you've caught during a cooking class that highlights local ingredients and the catch of the day. Savour the results for lunch to culminate a richly authentic Chef 's Table experience. This evening, transfer to a private catamaran for a harbor cruise and enjoy a Scenic Sundowner while taking in the views of the city. Once back on shore, celebrate your extraordinary Colombian adventure with a farewell dinner.

***Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Cartagena | Meals: BLD***

## **Day 9: Depart Cartagena**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

Internal air included: Bogotá/Medellín/Cartagena

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 8:00 p.m. on Day 8.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

## Included with every Marco Polo Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.



## Map



## Accommodation

### Four Seasons Casa Medina, Bogota



Newly opened, the historic Four Seasons Casa Medina in Bogota has been declared a monument of cultural interest by the Colombian Ministry of Culture boasting impressive stone columns, a brick façade and colonial beamed ceilings. The hotel has 62 rooms and suites, each different yet with common amenities such as hand-carved dressers, leather armchairs, thermo-acoustic windows to keep the city noise of to a minimum and customisable beds. There is a choice of restaurants and tapas bars, a lush atrium courtyard and sidewalk terrace plus fitness centre and Spa with four treatment rooms.



## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### May 20, 2024 - May 28, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$16,010 pp</b>	AU\$5,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Aug 5, 2024 - Aug 13, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$16,010 pp</b>	AU\$5,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Sep 16, 2024 - Sep 24, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$16,010 pp</b>	AU\$5,530	Included	Call for Availability

### Oct 21, 2024 - Oct 29, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$16,010 pp</b>	AU\$5,530	Included	Call for Availability

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