



CLASSIC COLOMBIA

Discover life in Colombia, from the colonial charms of historic Bogotá to the tastes and aromas of its mountainous coffee region.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Latin America, Colombia



11 days from AU\$15,995 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Discover life in popular destinations across Colombia, as you admire the colonial charms of historic Bogotá and savour the tastes and aromas of its mountainous coffee region. Behold the resurgence of once-troubled Medellín, take in the cultural magic of Cartagena and crown your journey with an immersive day in the Rosario Islands, a true Caribbean paradise.

Journey Highlights

- Explore Bogotá's Paloquemao Market, sampling its bounty, and view the city's impressive monuments and museums
- Travel to Colombia's best-known coffee production region, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Witness the amazing social transformation of Medellín, experiencing its parks, infrastructure and meeting a family business owner
- Enjoy two nights in the UNESCO-listed Cartagena, where you admire the impressive colonial architecture and indulge in a culinary walk inside its 500-year-old walled city
- Discover the Rosario Islands, basking in a paradisiacal setting surrounded by white beaches and crystalline waters



Itinerary

Day 1: Bogotá

Fly to Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, set more than 2,590m above sea level. Founded by conquistadors in the 16th century, Bogotá today is a modern metropolis with a moderate year-round climate. On arrival at El Dorado International Airport meet your A&K representative who will transfer you to your colonial style accommodation in walking distance of the gourmet zone recognised for its wide selection of restaurants. Stroll out on your own, soak up the cool European atmosphere filled with museums, street art, markets and cafés, and perhaps even taste your first unforgettable Colombian coffee.

Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá

Day 2: Bogotá

Explore Bogotá, starting at Paloquemao Market, a colourful canvas of fruits and culinary ingredients, food stalls serving local delicacies and displays of native flowers. Proceed to La Candelaria, the oldest part of the city, distinguished by its many colonial-era buildings. Visit the nearby main square of Bogotá and the Plaza de Bolívar, surrounded by some of the country's most important and iconic buildings, including the National Capitol, the Palace of Justice, the neoclassical Cathedral Basilica of Bogotá and Primada de Colombia. Continue to the Botero Museum, housed in a restored colonial mansion. Peruse its impressive collection, featuring numerous works by Colombian artist Fernando Botero as well as pieces by Picasso, Renoir, Monet and others.

Next, discover the celebrated Gold Museum, the world's largest collection (over 34,000 dazzling pieces) of pre-Hispanic gold artifacts, which you observe up close alongside your guide. After a break for lunch at a local restaurant, journey to Monserrate, located in the hills to the east of the city. Ascend this 3,048m peak by funicular railway or cable car to take in inspiring vistas of the city.

Four Seasons Hotel Casa Medina Bogotá | Meals: B

Day 3: Bogotá - Coffee Region

Fly to Armenia, in Colombia's renowned coffee region, and continue to a coffee plantation for an immersive visit. Discover the heritage of Colombia's coffee culture as you enjoy a guided walk through the fields and facilities, learning about the entire coffee production process and taking part in a tasting that challenges you to differentiate between coffee qualities. Finish with a wonderful cup of coffee as you look out over a breathtaking landscape.

Hacienda Bambusa / Meals: B

Day 4: Coffee Region

Visit one of the most emblematic sites of the coffee region, the majestic Cocora Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin with a walk guided by an expert who explains the site's importance as a haven for the wax palm, Colombia's national tree. Afterwards, explore the municipality of Salento, walking its colourful streets, visiting the Cerro de la Cruz viewpoint and perusing local handicrafts. Continue to Filandia, a fine example of the architectural conservation underway across the region. Cap off your visit with a stroll through the town and a drink in its picturesque square.

Hacienda Bambusa / Meals: B

Day 5: Coffee Region - Medellín

Fly to Medellín, located in the fertile green hills of the Antioquia region. Known as the City of Eternal Spring due to its idyllic climate, Medellín is a city fizzing with civic pride, arts and innovation. On arrival meet your A&K representative who will transfer you to your boutique accommodation. Drop your bags, unwind on the rooftop terrace, or step out to visit the craft stalls at El Poblado Park.

El Cielo Hotel / Meals: B

Day 6: Medellín

Explore Parque San Antonio, also known as La Plazoleta, where there are 23 sculptures by the famous local artist Fernando Botero before visiting the Museum of Antioquia to marvel at its pre-Columbian treasures.

Continue on to one of the oldest parts of the city and the Plazuela de San Ignacio to see the baroque San Ignacio Church and statues of historical figures. Visit a number of Medellín's beautiful public parks, including the modern Parque de las Luces, and pass by the Metropolitan Theatre and the government buildings in the Alpujarra area.

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. Finally, Ride Like a Local by tram and cable car, which have greatly improved community accessibility.

El Cielo Hotel | Meals: B

Day 7: Medellín

Journey to picturesque Guatapé, admiring breathtaking Antioquia along the way. Stroll Guatapé's cobblestoned streets past colourful pastel-painted buildings, admire the beautiful surrounding scenery, and view massive Peñol rock — believed to be a meteorite — situated in the middle of the city's scenic reservoir. For the adventurous, climb up its 654 steps (additional cost) to the top for a fantastic view of the surrounding area.

After lunch, explore the area further on a boat trip around the reservoir before returning back to Medellín.

El Cielo Hotel | Meals: BL

Day 8: Medellín - Cartagena

Private transfer to Medellín airport for your flight to the vibrant port city of Cartagena, the jewel in Colombia's crown. Considered one of the most exquisite colonial cities in Latin America, it is famous for its pastel-coloured colonial-era architecture, bougainvillea draped balconies, cobbled streets and the grand churches of its old walled city. On arrival you will be met by an A&K representative and transported to your luxury small hotel at the heart of Cartagena's handsome old town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This afternoon, sample dishes served from small stalls in every corner of the old city, the heritage of the Spanish, African, Arab and Chinese immigrants who shaped Cartagena's culinary culture. Savour the melting pot of influences found in each bite and taste the original versions of the recipes that have inspired today's Colombian cuisine.

Casa San Agustin / Meals: B

Day 9: Cartagena

Starting at the imposing Castle San Felipe Barajas. Walk around the fortress to learn about its construction and explore the underground galleries, tunnels and passageways. Continue to Cartagena's colonial walled city and walk its picturesque streets and plazas. Visit the church of San Pedro Claver, with its fine collection of stained-glass windows, as well as Bolivar Park, an urban oasis surrounded by elegant balconied buildings, majestic shade trees and four fountains offering peaceful background ambience. In the centre of the square is an equestrian statue of Simon Bolívar, the Venezuelan-born soldier and statesman who spearheaded Latin America's liberation from Spanish rule.

Stop at the Inquisition Palace, which has a magnificent baroque entrance hall and torture chambers where presumed heretics were tried and executed and visit the 16th-century cathedral.

Casa San Agustin / Meals: B

Day 10: Cartagena

Departing by speedboat from the city, travel through the Bay of Cartagena and past the twin forts of the San Jose and San Fernando out into the Caribbean Sea to the sun-splashed Rosario Islands. Surrounded by clear waters and some of the best coral reefs in Colombia, the islands now form a national park. Enjoy an opportunity to relax on white-sand beaches, swim or snorkel before returning to Cartagena in the afternoon.

Casa San Agustin / Meals: B

Day 11: Depart Cartagena

Private transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

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.

El Cielo Hotel, Medellin



The five-star property features a choice of sleek rooms and luxury suites decorated with cool marble floors, wood veneer walls, Italian-style bathtubs and fine Egyptian cotton linen.

During your stay at this luxury hotel, you can relax on the rooftop terrace which has a sparkling pool and gym.

You can dine at the signature restaurant which creates dishes from local products – given a twist based on neuroscience. This creates a sensory experience that stimulates the senses and gives you a real taste of Colombia. For the ‘best Asian cuisine in the city’ enjoy dinner at Cuón.

The hotel is set on a residential street and is a short stroll from the craft stalls at El Poblado Park and only two kilometres from Medellín Modern Art Museum and Olaya Herrera Airport.

Other attractions nearby include Lokkus Contemporary Art, Santa Fe Zoological Park, and Juan Pablo II Airpark and events at Plaza de Toros La Macarena or Atanasio Girardot Stadium.

After a day exploring the city, you can relax with a massage from the hotel’s à la carte spa menu.

Why we like it

- Excellent location in the centre of Medellín – perfect for sightseeing and recreation
- A signature restaurant which will kick-start the senses
- Outdoor swimming pool on the rooftop terrace, fitness centre and spa
- Our top tip: take a short stroll from the hotel to browse the craft stalls at El Poblado Park or walk a little further to visit Medellín Modern Art Museum

Casa San Agustin



Designed around a 300-year old aqueduct, Casa San Agustin offers a characterful refuge from the sun-soaked city. Vine entwined balconies exploding with colourful flowers decorate the ivory façade of the former nunnery. Rooms are wonderfully large decorated in traditional Colombian style, evident in the traditional wooden furniture. The restaurant specialises in coastal Colombian cuisine and the service is warm and friendly throughout with a swimming pool situated in the central courtyard.

Abercrombie & Kent

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