

CULTURE + WALKING

# COLOMBIA

Cartagena, Coffee & the Coast



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS





“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## The Next "It" Place in South America

Colombia is celebrating a new era of peace that wasn't imaginable even a decade ago. The fresh opportunity to explore its lively cities and biodiverse rainforests has turned this Caribbean land into one of the most exciting destinations today. This wonderful trip opens all kinds of doors for you into the country – from innovative and artsy Medellín to languorous Cartagena. In between, you'll explore one of the legendary coffee plantations, visit colorful Guatapé and discover virtually untouched nature in Tayrona National Park. You'll feel the pride and accomplishments of the Colombians as you're introduced to them by your fulltime local guide. And you'll get that special traveler's pleasure that comes from being among the first to explore a country that's being added to more and more bucket lists every day.

## DAY 1

## MEDELLÍN

- Explore the “City of Eternal Spring” on a guided walk
- Ride the innovative Metrocable cars

Medellin is a fantastic introduction to the new Colombia. Entrepreneurial, lively and beautiful to boot it captures the country's revived spirit perfectly. Your introduction to the city comes on a walk with your fulltime local guide. You'll stroll the wide esplanades and classical colonial streetscapes. You'll also experience one of the most remarkable public transportation systems anywhere in the world. Think of the Metrocable as a subway in the sky with birds-eye views of the city. Every day, about 30,000 locals commute from district to district on gondolas with regular stops throughout the city. You'll go for a ride that offers panoramic vistas and a feel for the city's unique personality.

**OVERNIGHT: MEDELLÍN**  
**MEALS: D**

## DAY 2

## GUATAPÉ

- Marvel at the world's most colorful town
- Ascend La Piedra de Peñon

Just past the outskirts of Medellín, the pueblo of Guatapé is a town like nothing you've ever seen. Virtually every square inch of the houses and shops is covered in vivid paint of every color and decorative tiles known as zocalos. There's no rhyme or reason to it – just an incredibly happy energy that's hard to resist as you go explore with your guide. (Be sure your camera batteries are well-charged, because you will wear them down here.)

Guatapé's other unmistakable claim to fame is La Piedra de Peñon. This crazy pillar of granite thrusts up to unlikely heights from a hill over the town. What from a distance looks like a zipper up its side is actually a switchback staircase to the top. You'll have time to zig-zag to the top if you like for what many people say are the best views in Colombia. If street-level is more your style, you'll have time to explore and grab a beer or coffee at a sidewalk café.

After we return to Medellín, the rest of the day is yours to relax and enjoy dinner at one of the city's many great restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: MEDELLÍN**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 3

## COFFEE FARM / SANTA MARTA

- Take a short flight to Santa Marta
- Walk the grounds of a coffee farm and enjoy a tasting

After breakfast, you'll make a short trip by air to Colombia's unspoiled northern coast on the Caribbean. The volcanic soil and mellow climate are ideal for agriculture from papayas and sugar cane to bananas and pineapples. But coffee is the real star of the show in this province, and you're in for a memorable firsthand look at the industry that touches most of us every day.

You'll be welcomed to a 500-acre family coffee farm that's been in continuous operation since it was founded more than a century ago. Near the town of Minca, the farm also

includes a nature reserve. You'll have time to wander the emerald landscape. You'll see how the beans are still grown and harvested in traditional style and be treated to a tasting. The property has streams and waterfalls, and the birdwatching is remarkable. After your days in the city, it's a fabulous introduction to quieter, tropical Colombia.

Later, you'll check into your boutique hotel in the town of Santa Marta and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure.

**OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARTA**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 4

## TAYRONA NATIONAL PARK

- Take a Caribbean boat ride to a gold sand beach
- Go for a rainforest walk in the biodiverse jungle

This morning, you head for the bright blue Caribbean waters for a 40-minute boat ride that feels like its taken you a million miles away. Tayrona National Park is a tropical paradise where the soaring Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains meet the sea. Gold sand beaches are fringed by palm trees. Hundreds of species of birds call the park home from blue-headed parrots to red-legged honeycreepers. Cotton-top tamarin monkeys are easy to spot and “Jesus Christ lizards,” named for their ability to run on water, can be found amongst the rocks and trees alike.

Throughout this wonderful day in nature, you'll go for a guided jungle walk, stroll on the beaches and stretch out with a midday picnic.

**OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARTA**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 5

## CARTAGENA

- Transfer from Santa Marta to Cartagena
- Join a local chef for a cooking instruction

You'll start your morning with a beautiful coastal drive as you say goodbye to Santa Marta, and head to the bustling city of Cartagena.

You'll meet a local chef who will invite you to roll up your sleeves to prepare some of the local food specialties that you've been enjoying throughout the week. It's an easy-going instruction with interesting insights and a lot of fun (not to mention maybe something to sip on during the process).

**OVERNIGHT: CARTAGENA**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 6

## LA BOQUILLA / CARTAGENA

- Visit the students in La Boquilla and learn how to play the Afro-Colombian wild drums
- Take a guided walk in the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site

Today you'll visit La Boquilla, an afro-descendant fisher village, to meet the students of the Batambora Drum Workshop School. They are committed to rescuing and preserving the cultural traditions of the African heritage by playing traditional, handcrafted drums. You'll experience

## DAILY ITINERARY

COLOMBIA | CARTAGENA, COFFEE & THE COAST | CULTURE + WALKING

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the sounds of typical rhythms of Afro-Colombian folk music such as Cumbia, Mapalé and Champeta, and have the opportunity to learn how to play these extraordinary drums.

After, you join a local guide on a walk in the Old Town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its narrow cobbled lanes invite you to explore. Vivid purple drapes of bougainvillea stream down from balconies. It's fascinating to see how the modern residents live so closely with centuries of the past.

Then you'll sit down to enjoy a lively farewell meal and reminisce about your week together.

**OVERNIGHT: CARTAGENA**

**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 7

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### DEPARTURE

- Part company at your Cartagena hotel

After breakfast, you'll transfer independently to the airport for the flight home. Or, if you like, arrange to spend extra days in Colombia to explore more on your own.

**MEALS: B**

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## DAILY ITINERARY

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### Tour Hotels



#### Hotel Park 10

Your home away from home, Hotel Park 10 prides itself on providing warmth and expertise along with first class service and facilities.

**OVERNIGHT: MEDELLÍN | NIGHTS: 2**



#### Hotel Boutique Don Pepe

This hotel exudes history and elegance throughout, with boutique charm in the heart of South America's oldest city.

**OVERNIGHT: SANTA MARTA | NIGHTS: 2**



#### Casa San Agustín

A unique hotel that provides luxury while maintaining the colonial heritage of Cartagena. This boutique property will surprise and delight from the exposed wood beams to the state of the art pool and spa.

**OVERNIGHT: CARTAGENA | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

| Tour Dates               | Price per Person | Price per Person |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                          | Double Occupancy | Single Occupancy |
| Jun 28-Jul 4, 2020       | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| August 2-8, 2020         | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| September 20-26, 2020    | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| Dec 27, 2020-Jan 2, 2021 | \$6,295          | \$7,590          |
| February 14-20, 2021     | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| Jun 27-Jul 3, 2021       | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| August 1-7, 2021         | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| September 19-25, 2021    | \$5,995          | \$7,290          |
| Dec 29, 2021-Jan 4, 2022 | \$6,295          | \$7,590          |

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE) to learn more about private journeys.

### INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes an internal flight which is priced separately from the land tour. The total cost for the internal flight is approximately \$175.00 per person.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 7 Days, 6 Nights

**START:** 1:00 PM Lobby of hotel, Medellín, Colombia

**END:** 9:00 AM City of Cartagena, Cartagena, Colombia

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**
- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Wine on Us**

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Colombia...

- Exploring eye-popping Guatapé, truly the most colorful town in Colombia
- Meeting coffee growers and tasting the brews on a family plantation
- Spotting parrots and tamarins on a jungle walk in Tayrona National Park
- Talking to the children at one of Shakira's schools in Cartagena
- Cooking with a local chef – and enjoying the meal you create

*"Classic Journeys has turned out to be a fantastic company to travel with - one I highly recommend. I truly feel as if I have been on vacation this past week."*

—Marcia B.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS



You might also enjoy...



## Chile

### Easter Island, Atacama & Vineyards

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Spotting flamingos in an Atacama lagoon
- Sharing lunch with a family in a pre-Inca village
- Coming face-to-face with the moai on Easter Island

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/chile-atacama-easter-island-walking-tour/>.



## Chile

### Lake District & Patagonia

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Spying on a joint colony of Humboldt and Magellanic penguins
- Walking at the foot of the snow-capped Andes
- Eating with the gauchos at a barbecue on a remote sheep ranch

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/chile/>.



## Cuba

### Havana, Cienfuegos & Trinidad

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking to a working finca in the scenic Escambray Mountains
- Snorkeling over a pristine reef in the Bay of Pigs
- Chatting with vintage car restorers in their workshop

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cuba-cienfuegos-trinidad-havana/>.



You might also enjoy...



## Cuba

### Havana & the Viñales Valley

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Meeting and talking to the Cuban people
- Walking in tobacco fields and seeing cigar rollers at work
- Chatting with vintage car restorers in their workshop

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cuba-travel/>.



## Panama

### Canal, Rainforest & Highlands

Multisport

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Swimming in a natural pool beneath a waterfall
- Being "buzzed" by fiery-throated and violet-tailed sylph hummingbirds
- Plucking coffee beans at a mountainside plantation

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/panama/>.



## Peru

### Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley & Cusco

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Witnessing ancient examples of architectural genius
- Sampling native delicacies at a mountain hacienda
- Mingling with craftsmen, shopkeepers and shepherds

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/peru/>.



# “Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.*



### **Congratulations! How did you get the news?**

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

### **And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?**

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

### **Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?**

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

### **What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?**

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

### **I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."**

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

### **Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?**

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



### **How can you top this?**

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

## **"I voted for you!"**

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

### **STAFF AND GUIDES**

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

### **ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS**

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

### **ACTIVITIES**

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

### **FOOD**

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

### **OVERALL VALUE**

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

### **Final thoughts?**

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.