

Cartagena, Coffee & the Coast

Colombia

Cultural Walking Adventure



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DAILY ITINERARY

Colombia: Cartagena, Coffee & the Coast | Cultural Walking Adventure



“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

Medellín 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

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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 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

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



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

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of Hotel Park 10, Medellín, Colombia
END	Lobby of Casa San Agustín, 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

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 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

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

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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!

Samuel
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 excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,