

Friends of Colombia
The Colors of Colombia Trip
March 11-21, 2011



**Bogotá, Coffee Triangle
Popayán & Cartagena**



Day One

Bogotá

Depart your home city for Bogotá today. You'll be met at the airport by our representative and transferred to the hotel. Bogotá sits on a mountain-rimmed plateau at 8,660 feet above sea level, only four degrees north of the equator. A combination of elevation and proximity to the equator graces Bogotá with a wonderful spring-like climate. One of the most historic and traditional buildings of the city and your home for the next three nights, Charleston Casa Medina has been declared a Monument of Cultural Interest by the Colombian Ministry of Culture. The remainder of the evening is at leisure to settle in. *Overnight Charleston Casa Medina*

Day Two

Bogotá (B/L/D)

Gather with old friends and new for a full day of exploring Bogotá including a walking tour of the historic neighborhood of La Candelaria and a stroll through Plaza Bolívar where you will see the Presidential Palace, the National Congress Building, Primada de Colombia Cathedral and more. Visit the most important collection of pre-Colombian gold in the world at the Gold Museum which houses an estimated 34,000 gold relics as well as the worlds largest uncut emerald. Finally, tour the Fernando Botero Museum, which apart from having the largest collection of this most famous of Colombian artists' work, has a phenomenal display of pieces by Dali, Renoir, Monet and Picasso. This evening we'll take the funicular (tram) to the cathedral atop Cerro de Monserrate, 2,000 feet above the city center, for a panoramic view of Bogota and a heavenly dinner at San Isidro Restaurant.

Overnight Charleston Casa Medina

Day Three

Bogotá (B/L)

Today we'll travel an hour north of Bogotá, to visit Zipaquirá, famous for its salt mines which are dug into the mountain. Archeologists believe these mines have been under continual excavation as far back as 5500 BC, but large-scale salt mining began with the Muisca culture just prior to the Spanish arrival in the 1500s. The most interesting attraction in Zipaquirá is the Catedral de Sal (Cathedral of Salt), which is hewn 650 feet into the heart of the mountain. Twisting tunnels lead you down past 14 small chapels, each representing one of the 14 Stations of the Cross, before you arrive at the main temple with its huge cross carved into the salt which is lit from behind. Return to Bogota in the afternoon for leisure time to rest or explore on your own. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight Charleston Casa Medina





Day Four

Bogotá-Coffee Triangle (B/L/D)

This morning we'll take a short flight from Bogotá to Pereira. Located in the western foothills of Cordillera Central on the Otun River, Pereira is a market center for coffee, livestock, sugarcane, fruit, cocoa and corn, as well as a manufacturing center for processed coffee, food products, textiles, cigars and paper. Today it is estimated the livelihood of more than 4 million Colombians is directly connected with the coffee industry. A visit to the "Coffee Triangle" is a memory that just may return every time you purchase a bag of Colombian coffee (who knows, you might have met the folks who picked it!). After lunch and a panoramic tour of Pereira, we will drive to Alcalá for two nights spent at a simple farm-style hotel set amidst a lush coffee plantation. Dinner is at the hotel.

Overnight Bosque Del Samán

Day Five

Coffee Triangle (B/L/D)

Let's discover the Colombian Coffee Region! Touted as the locale where the finest mild coffee in the world is grown, this area is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, including a myriad of birds and butterflies, as well as the immense wax palm. These towering trees measure up to 200 feet high and are scattered throughout the area. Today we will drive to Salento for some leisure time spent exploring this charming town (great handicraft shopping!) and then hop in typical WWII-era "Willy" jeeps (optional) for a 30-minute drive to Valle de Cocora for lunch at a local restaurant. Next we will visit a coffee farm for an up-close view of local coffee production and may have an opportunity to plant and collect coffee, as well as brew and drink a cup. Finally, return to the hotel for dinner and a relaxing evening spent amid the rolling hills of coffee plantations.

Overnight Bosque Del Samán





Day Six

Coffee Triangle-Popayán (B/D)

Today we will fly from Pereira to Popayán (through Bogotá). The stunning “white city” of Popayán has retained its original colonial character~ which is quite remarkable given that it was partially destroyed by an earthquake in 1983. Today the city is extensively restored and you can stroll along cobblestone streets which are shaded by two-story Rococo Andalusian style buildings including beautiful old monasteries and cloisters of pure classic Spanish architecture. Upon arrival, we’ll check into the hotel and have free time to wander around the town. Certainly the most unique accommodations in Popayán, you will spend the next two nights in a former monastery turned hotel! This evening join your friends for dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight Monasterio Hotel

Day Seven

Popayán (B/L)

Today we begin with a visit to the colonial district of Popayán including the main square (circa 1537), Caldas Park and the famous “Humilladero” Bridge. The bridge was built in 1873 by an Italian friar and takes its name from the heavy loads workers carried up the slope to the main square. Continue with stops at several area churches (most from the 17th century) to learn about the Neoclassical, Late Baroque, Moorish and Renaissance styles of these living museums and see the simply “divine” works of art in silver, wood and oil which are housed here. Lunch is served in a typical local restaurant. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure for you to enjoy Popayán on your own (suggestions provided).

Overnight Monasterio Hotel



Day Eight

Popayan-Cartagena (B/D)

This morning we'll fly from Popayán to Cartagena (through Bogotá). A fairy-tale city of romance, legends and simply sheer beauty, Cartagena de Indias is a fortified Spanish town that was vital to the Spanish empire in the 16th-18th centuries. Surrounded by thick stone walls that required almost one hundred years to complete, this Spanish colonial jewel contains plazas, churches, narrow streets and balconied houses in admirable states of preservation. Housed in a former Carmelite convent, your unique hotel stands inside the walled city, surrounded by (and part of) the World Heritage Site that is Cartagena. After checking into the hotel, there will be leisure time to rest or to opt for one of Cartagena's favorite pastimes: "andar sin rumbo" (literal translation: wandering aimlessly)! Your guide will be available to offer suggestions. This evening we'll travel by horse and carriage to dinner at Santisimo Restaurant.

Overnight Charleston Santa Teresa

Day Nine

Cartagena (B)

We thought you might like to design your own days in Cartagena! Today you may chose from among several optional activities such as the **City Tour**: visit the residential districts bordering the Bay of Cartagena, Popa Hill for a panoramic view of the city (including the monastery and the Chapel of the Virgin of Candelaria), the Fortress of San Felipe de Barajas and the Bóvedas Handicraft Center OR head out to **Rosario Island** by speedboat for a leisurely day spent lounging on sparkling beaches and swimming/snorkeling in the turquoise sea OR enjoy the **"Art of Cartagena Tour"** including the Enrique Grau Museum to see his small bronze sculptures, the unique house of former President Rafael Nunez, the Teatro Adolfo Mejia to view the Graus painting on the ceiling and finally the Modern Art Museum OR even a round of **Golf** at Campestre Golf Course! Of course, you can always just wander on your own... (Once you have made your trip reservation, we will help you book optional activities at registration time. Note all optional activities are an additional cost and have minimum participation numbers to operate.) Dinner this evening is at leisure (suggestions provided).

Overnight Charleston Santa Teresa



Day Ten

Cartagena (B/D)

Enjoy another day of optional activities (or leisure time) in Cartagena! Today you may chose from the **City Tour** (same tour/see "Day Nine") OR participate in a traditional **Colombian Cooking Class** OR learn about the **Inquisition** from an historian from the Inquisition Palace (includes a walking tour of relevant local sites). (See the booking procedures and pricing details for all optional activities on "Day Nine"). Finally, say good-bye to new friends and old while sailing around the Bay of Cartagena at sunset and arrive at the dock of Club de Pesca for an unforgettable farewell dinner.

Overnight Charleston Santa Teresa

Day Eleven

Cartagena (B)

This morning is at leisure to relax and pack for your journey home. A transfer will be provided to the Cartagena Airport for your onward flight.

What are the dates of the trip including travel dates?

The group arrival date in Bogotá is March 11, 2011. The event ends in Cartagena with a transfer to the airport on March 21, 2011 for onward flights.

What does the trip include?

- Accommodations in unique/boutique-style hotels
- Airport transfers on group arrival/departure dates
- Activities, tours and transfers as indicated in the itinerary including private English-speaking guides
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Two beverages with all event lunches and dinners (includes soft drinks, bottled water, juice or local beer), bottled water on all transfers, cocktails on the Cartagena Bay sunset cruise and wine at the farewell dinner
- All entrance fees for included sightseeing
- Personalized service and logistics management, including experienced USA-based travel staff accompaniment throughout your trip in Colombia
- Complete itinerary, luggage tags and thorough information documents
- Gratuities to airport skycaps in Colombia, hotel bell staff, guides, drivers and to wait staff for all included meals

What does the trip exclude?

- International flights from your home city to/from Colombia
- Domestic flights within Colombia (group flights Bogotá-Pereira-Popayan-Cartagena will be booked in your behalf)
- Overweight or additional luggage costs assessed by the airlines
- Any items of a personal nature including but not limited to hotel mini bars, telephone calls, laundry, purchases, etc.
- Meals not indicated on the itinerary and additional & alternate beverages with included meals
- Optional activities in Cartagena
- Airport transfers on non-group arrival/departure dates (can be arranged)
- Gratuities to airport skycaps at airports not in Colombia
- Medical and trip insurance (see "What about trip insurance?")
- Airport arrival/departure taxes/visas: currently no visa needed for US citizens
- All expenses due to flight misconnections or personal accidents/mishaps. You are personally responsible for all additional expenses incurred in your behalf by Global Visions staff and/or agents due to personal accidents/mishaps and/or any other circumstances which may result in early departure and/or additional costs rendered in your behalf. See "Terms & Conditions" on the Global Visions website for full disclosure. www.globalvisionstravel.com

What about trip insurance?

We strongly suggest that you contact your insurance provider to discuss the extent of your personal coverage while traveling to/in/from Colombia. You may want to purchase additional coverage including but not limited to medical and/or evacuation insurance. You may also want to consider trip cancellation insurance, especially if you feel there may be a possibility of change in your circumstances and/or ability to travel. Insurance costs will vary based on your circumstances (and for trip cancellation, the amount of travel funds you would like to insure/recover in the event you cannot travel).

We recommend "Insure My Trip" for reliable and affordable insurance options. On this site you may choose the insurance that best suits your needs. Log onto the Global Visions Travel account by entering the following address in your browser:

<http://www.insuremytrip.com/index-7107-0-0-0.html>

If you do not have access to the internet, you may also call 800-487-4722, but in that case please notify Global Visions Travel of your coverage information. Note "Insure My Trip" is not associated with and is a separate entity from Global Visions Travel.

What about airline tickets?

You are responsible for booking your own international airline tickets to/from Colombia. Assistance will be provided as needed as well as information regarding arrival and departure dates (see "Remind me of the dates of the trip").

Domestic airline tickets (within Colombia) will be booked for you and are an additional cost to the land program. The estimated cost for flights within Colombia is \$515 USD. This is an estimate only and the actual cost cannot be confirmed until flights are booked. Separate deposit and cancellation policies apply to airline bookings.

May I/we extend our stay in Colombia?

Yes, feel free to extend your stay in Colombia! Pre and post extension group rates are available at your hotels in Bogota and Cartagena. Just let us know if you would like our Colombia agent to assist you with planning other travel in conjunction with this trip.

How do I book optional activities in Cartagena?

You will receive e-mail confirmation of your reservation and later this summer or early fall you will be sent registration details including booking information for optional activities in Cartagena. Don't worry~ we will be in touch! Remember the cost of optional activities in Cartagena is additional to your land program.

What is the cost of the trip?

Land cost per person

(based on double occupancy)

\$3,075.00 USD (based on 46-50 travelers)

\$3,146.00 USD (based on 36-45 travelers)

\$3,325.00 USD (based on 25-35 travelers)

A single supplement of \$1080.00 USD applies for guests occupying a single room

How do I make a reservation?

To make a reservation,
(or if you have questions):

E-mail: lynn@globalvisionstravel.com

Reservations close

JULY 18, 2010

If you do not have access to e-mail or wish to speak with us
Phone 414-202-4125

Please book early!

Only a limited number of reservations are available!

A wait list will be maintained if the trip fills up

Note that a deposit of \$500 per person is due immediately to hold your reservation (see Payment and Cancellation Terms).

Upon receipt of your deposit you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Payment Terms: To hold your reservation, a deposit of \$500 per person is due immediately. A second payment of \$1250 per person is due September 30, 2010. Your final payment is due December 1, 2010. A reminder will be sent via e-mail for the second deposit and a final invoice will be sent via e-mail for the third payment. Please advise us if you do not have access to e-mail and arrangements will be made to mail an invoice to you. Payment terms for domestic flights (within Colombia) will be provided at booking and are dictated by the airlines and beyond the control of Global Visions, LLC.

Cancellation Terms: Your initial deposit of \$500 is non-refundable. Effective November 1, 2010, 35% of your total trip cost per person is non-refundable. Effective February 15, 2011, all payments are completely non-refundable. Cancellation terms for domestic flights (within Colombia) are based on airline regulations and beyond the control of Global Visions, LLC. Upon booking you will be provided the airline cancellation terms. Name changes are not permitted on flights.

You may want to consider trip cancellation insurance, especially if you feel there may be a possibility of change in your circumstances and/or ability to travel (see "What about trip insurance?"). If your roommate cancels in a double occupancy room, the remaining traveler is obligated to pay the single supplement (or find another roommate; note name changes are not permitted on airline reservations). All cancellations must be received in writing or via e-mail by the above cancellation dates. If the minimum of 25 travelers is not met, Global Visions, LLC reserves the right to cancel the trip and deposits/payments will be returned (alternatively the trip may operate although the per person costs may increase). If costs increase due to minimum participation not being met, you reserve the right to cancel your participation (cancellation dates will be adjusted accordingly and deposits returned).

We understand that unforeseen circumstances happen and it is our guarantee to act in your behalf to obtain refunds. If you must cancel we guarantee the preceding refunds, but will also make every attempt to obtain additional refunds for you. If you cancel and a wait listed traveler replaces you, all but \$250 per person of the land costs will be refunded (this does not apply to airline costs).

Events Beyond Our Control: Please note that although every attempt will be made to adhere to the published trip itinerary and costs, these could change due to circumstances beyond the control of Global Visions, LLC. This includes but is not limited to fluctuations in the exchange rate of the USD to the Colombian Peso (local costs have been quoted to Global Visions, LLC at the current exchange rate of the USD to the Colombian Peso and unlike some other travel companies we do not believe in adding an "automatic percentage" to cover currency fluctuations).

GLOBAL VISIONS TRAVEL

SPECIALIZING IN INTIMATE JOURNEYS TO EXTRAORDINARY PLACES

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