

## Classic Colombia - SMCC

16 days: Bogotá to Santa Marta

### What's Included

- Your Foodie Moment: Coffee Farm Tour, Calarcá
- Your Discover Moment: Cartagena
- Hacienda stay
- Valle de Cocora hike
- Medellín city tour
- City tour in Cartagena
- Hike to Pozo Azul (2hrs)
- Tayrona NP (excluding February departures)
- Hike with local guide (5hrs)
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2019 - February 29th, 2020

### Itinerary

**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

## 2019

### Day 1 Bogotá

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h18:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

#### Optional Activities - Day 1

##### National Museum of Colombia Visit

Bogotá

3000COP per person

Visit the largest museum in the country and one of the oldest on the continent. Built in 1823 and originally used as a prison, the National Museum of Colombia houses a collection of over 20,000 pieces. Explore exhibits of archeological and ethnographic artifacts and admire works of art by masters including Andrés de Santa María and Fernando Botero.

##### Gold Museum Visit

Bogotá

4000COP per person

Explore this veritable treasure trove! Be amazed by the Bogotá Gold Museum's collection of over 30,000 gold pieces in addition to thousands of bone, stone, ceramic, and textile artifacts from 13 different pre-Hispanic societies.

### **Montserrat Hill Cable Car**

Bogotá  
20000COP per person

Ride the cable car up the hill for spectacular views of the city.

### **Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral Visit**

Zipaquirá - Villa De Leyva

Marvel at this large church constructed over 60m (200 ft) underground in the tunnels and caves of an old salt mining operation. Explore the unique architecture, lighting, and features of this subterranean place of worship, including 14 small chapels representing the Stations of the Cross.

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hotel Regina (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 2 Bogotá/Armenia**

Visit Paloquemao market before an afternoon flight to Armenia, in Colombia's coffee region. Spend two nights outside Armenia in a traditional hacienda.

### **Paloquemao Market Visit**

Bogotá1h Morning

Visit the city's historic, bustling market centre. Frequenting daily by Bogotá's residents and chefs alike, Paloquemao offers everything from new-age ingredients to traditional Colombian staples. Get caught up in the whirlwind of food stalls, flower shops, boutiques and cafés before determining your route through the market to sample the best the city has to offer.

### **Hacienda Stay**

Armenia

Spend the night in a traditional hacienda (Spanish for "estate") and get a closer look at life in Colombia's beautiful coffee region.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hostal Mi Monaco (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 3 Armenia**

Enjoy a tour of a coffee farm in the Calarcá area to learn more about the coffee culture here.

Visit Armenia town before heading out for a tour of a coffee farm in the area and learn more about this important export.

### **Your Foodie Moment: Coffee Farm Tour**

Visit a local coffee farm to learn more about the production of this important crop, from the planting stage all the way to your coffee mug, and savour a taste of this famous export.

### **Hacienda Stay**

Armenia

Spend the night in a traditional hacienda (Spanish for "estate") and get a closer look at life in Colombia's beautiful coffee region.

### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hostal Mi Monaco (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 4 Armenia/Salento**

Take a morning hike through the Cocora Valley before an afternoon arrival to Salento. Continue the full coffee experience in the region of Quindío.

Enjoy exploring Salento and getting a feel for the town.

### **Cocora Valley Hike**

Valle del Cocora - Bogotá 2h-3h

Head into the Cocora Valley by 4x4 and take in magnificent views. Get active with a hike through the area and learn more about this fertile region. Want to mix it up? Opt to explore the landscape on horseback.

### **Private Vehicle**

Armenia - Salento 30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hotel Salento Real (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 5 Salento/Medellín**

Drive through beautiful landscapes to Medellín. Opt to explore the city in the evening.

### **Local bus**

Salento - Medellín 8h-9h

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hotel Florencia Plaza (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 6 Medellín**

Enjoy a neighbourhood tour of the city and learn the fascinating recent history of the city's ongoing transformation. Spend the rest of the day with free time to explore this vibrant city.

### **Medellín City Tour**

Medellín Morning

Really get to know Colombia's second largest city with a neighbourhood tour. Medellín has been revitalized since the issues of the 80s and 90s and is now one of South America's most innovative and artistic cities. Explore the city's varied barrios filled with shops, green parks, museums, churches, markets, and delicious cuisine.

### **Free Time**

Medellín Full Day

Opt to visit the famous rock El Peñol or hop on a sightseeing bus. Ride the MetroCable, part of Medellín's public transportation, for sweeping views of the city and surrounding mountains.

### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

#### **Nutibara Hill (Cerro Nutibara) Visit**

Cerro Nutibara

For a breath of fresh air 80m (263 ft) above the city, visit Nutibara Hill. Ride a colourful bus, take a taxi, or climb winding paths through the greenery to get to the top of the hill and enjoy great views of the city. Pueblito Paisa waits at the summit: stroll through this replica of a traditional Antioquian town and enjoy the charm of whitewashed buildings, bright-coloured doors and tiled roofs. Try some local food here or shop for souvenirs.

## **Paragliding**

Medellín  
45-60USD per person

Get ready for a thrilling ride! Take off from one of the surrounding hills and enjoy spectacular views of this sprawling city and the picturesque green mountains that encircle it as you glide through the air.

## **Explora Park**

Medellín  
24500-37500COP per person

A symbol of transformation in the northern part of Medellín, the park is a large piece of modern architecture housing a variety of scientific exhibits. Learn about the flora, fauna, and astronomy of Colombia while exploring the vivarium specializing in the Amazon River, the planetarium, or one of the many interactive exhibits on display.

## **Modern Art Museum**

Medellín  
10000COP per person

Wander around the Museum of Modern Art and enjoy the work of Colombian artists in a variety of medias. Make sure to check out the Débra Arango permanent collection.

## **Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Accommodation**

### **Hotel Florencia Plaza (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 7 Medellín**

Enjoy another free day and opt to visit the nearby town of Guatapé, with its colourful houses and famous rock. Or ride the metrocable, a cable car part of Medellín's public transportation, for sweeping views of the city and surrounding mountains.

## **Free Time**

Medellín Full Day

Enjoy another full day to explore one of Colombia's most popular cities.

## **Optional Activities - Day 7**

### **El Peñol Stone (La Piedra Del Peñol) Visit**

Medellín - Guatapé

Formed approximately 70 million years ago, El Peñón de Guatapé, also known as El Peñol, is a giant monolith rising 2,135m (7,005 ft) above sea level. Climb the 649 steps that have been built into one side of this famous rock and enjoy breathtaking views of the Guatapé Dam and surrounding area from the peak.

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**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

**Hotel Florencia Plaza (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 8 Medellín/Cartagena**

Hop on a morning flight to Cartagena and arrive in time to spend the afternoon exploring the old walled city. Opt for dinner and a night out in this lively town.

### **Plane**

Medellín - Cartagena 1h-1h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

**Hotel Don Pedro de Heredia (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 9 Cartagena**

Enjoy a free day exploring all Cartagena has to offer. Opt to enjoy the beautiful coast or explore the charming colonial city.

### **Your Discover Moment**

Cartagena Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Cartagena, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like taking a day trip to Rosario National Park, visiting Castillo de San Felipe, and exploring the Gold Museum. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

### **Optional Activities - Day 9**

#### **Islas del Rosario National Park**

Cartagena - Islas del Rosario  
165000COP per person

Take a boat to this park with a lengthy name--Rosario and San Bernardo Corals National Natural Park--and be wowed by the beauty of the Rosario Islands. Admire the clear blue water and natural landscape of the islands. Opt to snorkel and explore the park's lively reefs or sit back and relax on the beach.

#### **Totumo Mud Volcano**

El Totumo

Climb up the stairs and descend into the healing mud of the Totumo Mud Volcano. As your body become weightless, lie back and relax in the cool mud. The mud is packed with rejuvenating minerals, so you're bound to come out looking ten years younger.

### **Naval Museum of the Caribbean Visit**

Cartagena  
6000COP per person

Located in the historic walled city, visit this spacious museum housed in two heritage buildings. Explore the various exhibits relating to the naval history of the Caribbean Sea and enjoy the charming patios.

### **Museum of Modern Art (Museo de Arte Moderno) Visit**

Cartagena  
5000COP per person

Housed in two historic buildings, one a former weapons storehouse, is the collection of the Museo de Arte Moderno de Cartagena. Stroll through the unique space and admire Latin American paintings from the 1950s along with contemporary Colombian art.

### **Palace of Inquisition (Museum) Visit**

Cartagena  
30000COP per person

Visit the museum and learn about the Spanish Inquisition in Colombia. Explore this fine example of colonial and Baroque architecture and see artifacts and torture equipment on display.

### **Gold Museum Visit**

Cartagena  
7000COP per person

Head to Plaza Bolivar and pay a visit to this well-curated and informative museum. Admire the intricate, pre-Columbian gold works and pottery of the indigenous Zenú people while learning about their history and traditions--all on display in a charming colonial home.

### **Night Exploration on Chiva**

Cartagena  
45000COP per person50000COP per group

Get ready to party and explore the city by chiva bus. These colourful vehicles are a national symbol and feature open sides making it easy to truly experience vibrant Cartagena as you go. Drink, dance and enjoy Colombian music on this fun-filled ride.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

#### **Hotel Don Pedro de Heredia (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 10 Cartagena**

Enjoy a city tour, visiting the colonial walled city and fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy free time to take in the Caribbean vibe of the city and beach.

Please note hot water is uncommon in the Caribbean region of Colombia. Showers are likely to only have cold water while visiting this area.

### **Cartagena City Tour**

Cartagena4h-5h

Learn more about Cartagena's history from a bilingual guide on a tour of this lively city. Travel between sights by private transport and visit the clock tower, Plaza Bolivar, and the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas. Take in sweeping views of the city from the hilltop Convento De La Popa and enjoy a walking tour from San Pedro Claver Church to Santo Domingo Church.

### **Free Time**

Cartagena Afternoon

Get out and explore this vibrant colonial town. Refuel with some local fare--"patacones" or fried plantains are a must!

### **Optional Activities - Day 10**

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#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Accommodation**

#### **Hotel Don Pedro de Heredia (or similar)**

Hotel

#### **Day 11 Cartagena/Minca**

Travel to the small town of Minca, breathe in the fresh mountain air and enjoy free time to explore.

Please note that if the group is full, we may be required to use multi-share rooms in Minca due to the small size of this unique hotel.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Cartagena - Minca4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Free Time**

Minca

Enjoy free time to explore the lovely town of Minca. Go looking for unique birds, explore the area on foot or hang out at a local café by the river.

#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Accommodation**

## **Hotel Minca La Casona (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 12 Minca/Taganga**

Journey into the hills around Minca and hike to a beautiful waterfall. Take a tour of a coffee farm and indulge in a local lunch. Continue to Taganga, a perfect base for exploring nearby Tayrona National Park.

### **Minca Excursion**

Minca2h-3h

Nestled in the rainforest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains-- the town of Minca is beautiful. Explore the town before heading up to a coffee farm to learn more about the production of one of Colombia's most important crops. Continue on to the scenic watering holes of Pozo Azul, after a short hike, enjoy an invigorating dip under a waterfall before taking a break for an included lunch.

### **Private Vehicle**

Minca - Taganga45m

Head downhill in a 4x4 on a jungle road, take in the scenery and hold on tight, it can be a bumpy ride.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Accommodation**

## **Ocean Taganga (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 13 Taganga/Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona**

Enjoy a free morning to explore Taganga. After lunch, drive to Tayrona National Park and settle into the lodge. Relax in the evening and go to the beach or take a walk around the lodge.

### **Free Time**

Taganga

Spend the morning soaking up the Caribbean feel of this coastal town. Be sure to indulge in the area's fantastic fresh seafood or hang out in one of the many cafés along the beach.

### **Private Vehicle**

Taganga - Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona1h20km

Settle in for a quick ride to Tayrona National Park.

### **Free Time**

Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona

This evening get to know the area surrounding Tayrona National Park, enjoy the tranquil setting or relax in a hammock.

## **Optional Activities - Day 13**

### **Snorkelling**

Taganga

80000COP per person

Strap on some fins and a mask and explore the active reefs in Taganga's clear water. Keep an eye out for fascinating brain coral!

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

## **Posada Villa Margarita (or similar)**

Hotel

## **Day 14 Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona**

Head into Tayrona National Park for a moderate hike with a local guide. This is a perfect opportunity to experience nature and learn a little more about the rich, natural diversity of northern Colombia. Stay in a lodge close to the park.

Please note that Tayrona National Park is usually closed during the month of February. The indigenous groups in the area believe that mother nature needs a month of rest, and maintenance to the park is done during this time. If your trip falls in February, you will visit Taironaka Park, to learn more about the local Kogi people and their cultural practices.

### **Hiking**

Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona 3h-4h

Lace up your hiking boots and get to the next stop under your own power.

### **Tayrona National Park Excursion**

Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona 5h-4h

Get outside with a hike into this beautiful park! Learn more about the rich diversity of Tayrona's natural heritage and explore Tayrona's gorgeous scenery with a local guide. Spend the night surrounded by nature in a lodge close to the park.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

### **Accommodation**

**Posada Villa Margarita (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 15 Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona/Santa Marta**

Return to Santa Marta for an optional evening out on the town.

### **Private Vehicle**

Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona - Santa Marta 1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Accommodation**

**Hotel Tayromar (or similar)**

Hotel

### **Day 16 Santa Marta**

Depart at any time.

### **Departure Day**

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

### **Optional Activities - Day 16**

#### **Gold Museum Santa Marta**

Santa Marta

Free

Explore the colonial mansion that houses indigenous artifacts from the Tayrona area including an impressive gold collection.

#### **Quinta San Pedro Alejandrino**

Santa Marta

21000COP per person

Visit Simon Bolivar's final resting place, la Quinta is the estate where the famous libertador spent his final days. The former rum plantation now includes a restored house, museum, library, and extensive gardens perfect for exploring.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## What's Included

Your Foodie Moment: Coffee Farm Tour, Calarcá

Your Discover Moment: Cartagena. Hacienda stay. Valle de Cocora hike. Medellín city tour. City tour in Cartagena. Hike to Pozo Azul (2hrs). Tayrona NP (excluding February departures). Hike with local guide (5hrs). Internal flights. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## Highlights

Wander the streets of Bogotá, Learn how coffee is made in Salento, Hike to a remote beach in Tayrona National Park, Get to know locals in the small town of Taganga.

## Dossier Disclaimer

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## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## Group Leader Description

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders, a G Adventures representative, or an expedition team. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12

## Meals Included

15 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

## Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## Transport

Plane, private van, 4x4, walking

## Local Flights

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

## Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## Accommodation

Hotels/guesthouses (13 nts), hacienda (2 nts).

## Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## Joining Instructions

El Dorado international Airport is approximately 30 minutes away from the joining hotel. We recommend organizing a taxi from within the airport at the registered taxi counter. The cost of a taxi to the joining hotel is approximately 65.000 COP.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time.

## Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office Quito, Ecuador

During office hours (Weekdays 9am-6pm Local Time)

From outside Ecuador: +593 2250 6610

After hours Emergency number

From outside Ecuador: +593 999 506 000

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

Most people automatically assume that the weather is hot in South America, but because of the higher altitude in the Andes, the temperature can feel quite cold, especially at night. Remember that although near the Equator, the higher altitude on some parts of the trip make for cool evenings and you will need a warm sweater or pullover. It's best to layer clothes rather than bring a heavy parka so that you can take layers off.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage.

## Packing List

### Documents:

- \* Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- \* Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

### Essentials:

- \* Binoculars (optional)
- \* Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- \* Cash, credit and debit cards
- \* Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- \* Ear plugs
- \* First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- \* Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- \* Fleece top/sweater
- \* Footwear
- \* Hat
- \* Locks for bags
- \* Long pants/jeans
- \* Moneybelt
- \* Outlet adapter
- \* Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Shirts/t-shirts
- \* Sleepwear
- \* Small travel towel
- \* Sunglasses
- \* Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- \* Watch and alarm clock
- \* Waterproof backpack cover
- \* Windproof rain jacket

### Warm Weather:

- \* Sandals/flip-flops
- \* Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- \* Sun hat/bandana
- \* Swimwear

## Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your responsibility to have the correct travel documentation.

PLEASE NOTE - Canadians must pay an entry fee (approx. CAD\$95) to visit Colombia.

Exempted to pay this tax are Canadians:

- under 14 or over 79 years old
- travelling only to the archipelago of San Andrés, Santa Catalina and Providencia
- travelling to Cartagena's Rafael Núñez International Airport via a charter flight from Canada

For all other points of entry, Canadians travellers must pay this tax to customs officials, in cash (Colombian pesos or U.S. dollars) or by credit or debit card. Use the separate immigration line designated for Canadians only.

Upon entering Colombia, officials will issue you a "platinum card" (tiquete platinum). You must keep this card and show it upon leaving Colombia.

**YELLOW FEVER:** This trip visits Tayrona National Park. Some national parks in Colombia may deny entry to travellers who do not show proof of yellow fever vaccination. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

## Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## Money Exchange

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are widely available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Latin America. Check with your bank. You should be aware that to purchase products or services on a credit card a fee of 5%-10% usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US dollar cash, travellers cheques and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

**CURRENCY EXCHANGE TIP:** Please be advised that slightly torn notes, notes that have been heavily marked or are faded may be difficult to exchange. It is best to bring notes in fairly good condition, in denominations lower than 100USD (or equivalent).

## Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Departure Tax

USD \$33

## Tipping

It is customary in Latin America to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$5-10 USD per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer (CEO) did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-25 USD per person, per week can be used.

## Optional Activities

### Bogotá

- National Museum of Colombia Visit (3000COP per person)
- Gold Museum Visit (4000COP per person)
- Monserrate Hill Cable Car (20000COP per person)

### Zipaquirá

- Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral Visit

### Medellín

- Paragliding (45-60USD per person)
- Modern Art Museum (10000COP per person)
- Explora Park (24500-37500COP per person)
- El Peñol Stone (La Piedra Del Peñol) Visit

### Cerro Nutibara

- Nutibara Hill (Cerro Nutibara) Visit

### Cartagena

- Islas del Rosario National Park (165000COP per person)
- Gold Museum Visit (7000COP per person)
- Museum of Modern Art (Museo de Arte Moderno) Visit (5000COP per person)
- Palace of Inquisition (Museum) Visit (30000COP per person)
- Naval Museum of the Caribbean Visit (6000COP per person)
- Night Exploration on Chiva (45000COP per person, 50000COP per group)

### El Totumo

- Totumo Mud Volcano

Taganga

- Snorkelling (80000COP per person)

Santa Marta

- Gold Museum Santa Marta (Free)

- Quinta San Pedro Alejandrino (21000COP per person)

## Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

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## Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewelery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## Trip Specific Safety

Please take care when wandering about the main cities on your own, as pickpockets and purse-snatchers are common. Be safe and leave your passport, credit cards, traveller's cheques and cash you don't need in the hotel's safety deposit box. Most Colombianos are honest and genuinely helpful and friendly, but be safe and enjoy the city!

## A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they engage in any form of paid sex work.

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

The Planeterra Foundation [planeterra.org](http://planeterra.org) is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps empower local people to develop their communities, conserve their cultures, and create humane and supportive systems for their endeavours. Planeterra provides capacity building and catalyst grants to get community social enterprises off the ground. These businesses address local challenges by providing benefits for indigenous people, empowering marginalized women, and granting disadvantaged youth access to education, employment, and brighter futures. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating programs into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

### Dollar-a-Day Program

G Adventures' Dollar-a-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar for every day you are on trip. 100% of these donations go directly to support community development projects worldwide that are implemented by Planeterra.

## Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customerservice@gadventures.com](mailto:customerservice@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.