

COLOMBIA - BOGOTA & CARTAGENA TOUR



INTRODUCTION

Colombia is the new black in terms of travel destinations, adorned in enigmatic history (both ancient and recent), lush coffee plantations, incredibly friendly people, stunning beaches, tropical islands, great restaurants, great infrastructure, incredible architecture and laid back cobble stoned pueblos, it's a destination simply waiting for flocks of tourists, but they are not there yet, so go before the rest of the world catch on!

This tour of Bogota and Cartagena plus a little more, will offer you a great taste for this wonderful country and leave you wanting to see more.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Bogota

Arrival into Bogota and private transfer from El Dorado International airport to hotel with an English speaking tour guide.



TRIP CODE

CMTSBCT

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Colombia



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DAY 1: Bogota

Colombia's capital Bogotá is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city located in central Colombia on a vast plain 2,600m above sea level, cradled by the Andean mountains. The "Old City" of La Candelaria is the historic cultural centre of the city. Its cobbled streets are lined with colonial buildings housing museums, libraries, restaurants, hotels and bars set amongst convents, churches and homes that date back 300 years. Bogotá's most famous museum is the Gold Museum with over 55,000 pieces of gold, bone, ceramic and textiles from the Pre-Hispanic cultures such as the Tayrona, San Agustín, Chocó, Quimbaya, Muisca and Tierradentro.



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DAY 2: Bogota city tour-Zipaquira

This morning we head to the town of Zipaquira famous for its salt mine, where the underground salt cathedral will be visited. Return to Bogota.



DAY 3: Bogota Ceremonial Lake of Guatavita

Breakfast at the hotel and departure leaving the plateau where Bogota is located and passing the towns of Tocancipa and Gachancipa. We will detour from the Panamerican highway toward the legendary Sacred Lake of Guatavita, where the Muisca Indians used to celebrate the most important ritual of their religion. In that ceremony the main chief of the tribe covered with gold dust was taken to the centre of the lake on a wood raft and there, by taking a bath, left the gold as an offering to their gods. We take a 1.5 hour walk around the lagoon that gave rise to the famous legend of "El Dorado". After sufficient time for pictures, we continue the tour to the town of Guatavita, built completely in 1967 and located at the shore of the reservoir of Tomine. The buildings and houses are a combination of colonial and modern architectural styles. After a comprehensive visit we return to Bogota with an included lunch on the way.



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DAY 4: Bogota-Armenia

Breakfast and transfer to the airport to take a flight to Armenia. On arrival in Armenia, meet with your guide and transfer to HACIENDA COMBIA. In the afternoon, tour the Botanical Garden and Butterfly Park - a perfect place to relax, listen to the sound of nature and just take in deep breaths of air. Return to the hotel, dinner and rest.



DAY 5: Armenia Recuca Farm Coffee Tasting

Breakfast and visit to Recuca Farm, to take a tour of the coffee culture, where you will walk through the paths of a coffee farm and learn about the plantation, ripening of the beans, collecting, washing and drying to get a good cup of coffee. During a coffee tasting you will learn how to choose the best quality of coffee. Lunch included. Return to the Hacienda and rest.



DAY 6: Armenia, Filandia, Salento & Cocora NP

Breakfast and tour to the town of Salento, one of the typical towns of the coffee region, where you can observe the architecture of the houses and the daily way of living. Continue to the National park COCORA, where the wax palm, the national tree of Colombia can be seen. Return to the Hacienda and rest.



DAY 7: Armenia-Bogota-Cartagena

Breakfast and early morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Cartagena, where you meet with your guide and transfer to your hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.



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DAY 8: Cartagena City Tour

Breakfast and tour to the most important monuments of Cartagena. Drive to the Convent of La Popa built at the beginning of the XVII century on the hill of the same name. From there, a beautiful view of the city and the bay can be seen. Continue the tour with a stop at San Felipe's Fort, built in the XVII century to protect the city. After a careful look at the construction, continue to the walled colonial city and stop at the handicraft stores of Las Bovedas. Then visit the Convent of San Pedro Claver. Return to the hotel and rest.



DAY 9: Cartagena-Rosario Islands-Cartagena

Breakfast and morning transfer to the tourist pier and departure by motorboat to the beautiful islands of El Rosario, located 1 1/2 hrs south of the Bay of Cartagena. These islands have been declared a National Natural Park, being sited on a very important complex of coral banks, populated with a great variety of reef fauna. The white sand beaches and beautiful crystal waters are complements of this impressive scenery. There is the opportunity for swimming or snorkelling. If you prefer you can also take a rest on a hammock. Lunch is included and return to Cartagena. Overnight.



DAY 10: Cartagena Free day

Free day to enjoy the city or the comfort of your hotel.



DAY 11: Cartagena-Bogota-Final Destination

Breakfast and during the day transfer to the airport for the flight to Bogota and connection to your next destination.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels (4*)
Inclusions	Accommodation with breakfast everyday Meals as stated on the itinerary Tour and transfers as stated on the itinerary Domestic air tickets: Bogota to Armenia - Armenia to Cartagena - Cartagena to Bogota.
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	FROM US\$450 - Subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.
Notes	Contact us for more details.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.