



## Colombia

A Country of Contrasts



# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

## ITINERARY

## Luxury Colombia • A Country of Contrasts

**9 DAYS • 8 NIGHTS**

Bogota – Coffee Region – Cartagena – Rosario Islands  
Optional : Tayrona Region Extension

This trip can be tailored to your interests.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Bogota & Cartagena with history experts
- Visit a traditional coffee hacienda
- Explore Cocora Valley and its 60-meter palm trees
- Go island hopping aboard a private speedboat in the Rosario Islands archipelago

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Exploration Tour
Tour Start	Bogota
Tour End	Cartagena
Accommodation	Hotels & Private Bungalows
Included Meals	8 Breakfasts
Difficulty Level	Medium

## LUXURY COLOMBIA



This expedition takes travellers through the most contrasting destinations in Colombia: Bogota's cosmopolitan restaurants and neighbourhoods, the Coffee Region's verdant hills and lush nature, Cartagena's streets lined with colourful colonial mansions, and the Rosario Islands' turquoise waters. Get a taste of the Colombia's incredible diversity and breath-taking landscapes, through authentic and personalized experiences with local experts.



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# COLOMBIA, *an overview*

Colombia is in the midst of a new era in its history. It has one of the top regional economies and is one of the most politically stable countries in Latin America. The significant improvement in the country's safety has also positioned Colombia as a top travel destination that people from all around the globe are eager to discover. Boasting beaches on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, as well as the stunning Andes mountain region and the legendary Amazon rainforest, Colombia is proud to be the second most bio-diverse country in the world. Furthermore, booming cosmopolitan cities like Bogotá, Medellín, and Cartagena can impress anyone with their magnificent views, innovative architecture, rich culture, exceptional restaurants, and enthralling ambience.

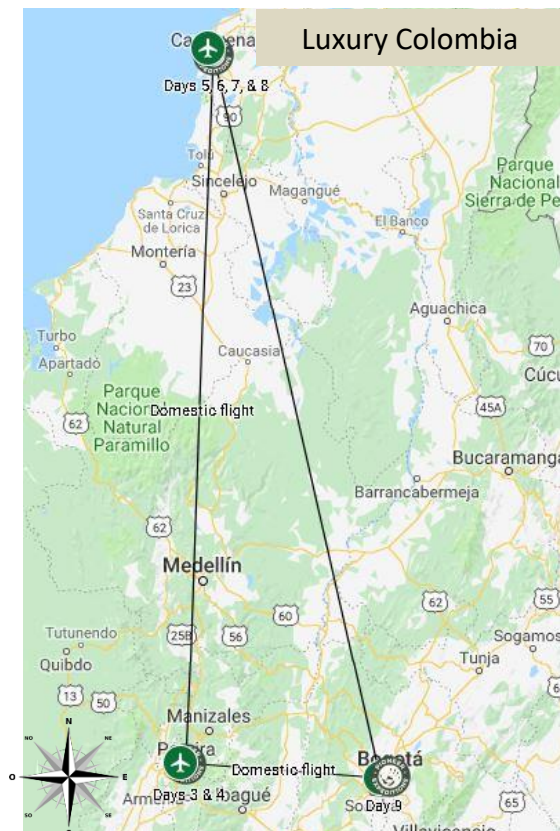
## WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

## ITINERARY



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## DAY 1: Arrive into BOGOTA

A host and a driver will be waiting for you at Bogota Airport. Your host is a local who will introduce you to Bogota, and serve as a guide, translator and concierge. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

*Founded in 1538 this cosmopolitan city of almost 8 million people, sits high up in the Andes Mountain Range – 8,660 feet (2,640 meters) above sea level. As the third highest capital city in South America. Before the Spanish arrival, various indigenous tribes inhabited Bogota and the region surrounding it. Remnants of these tribes can be seen in Bogota's spectacular gold museum and in the traditions of the small rural communities. Bogota has been the epicentre of Colombia's dramatic yet fascinating history, so visiting it is the best way to understand the country's tough past and recent revival.*



Overnight Four Season Casa Medina



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**Nil**



Distance:  
**Approx. 30min drive**



Activity:  
**Travel**

## DAY 2: BOGOTA'S HISTORIC DISTRICT & MUSEUMS (B)

Travel through the winding streets of La Candelaria accompanied by a history expert and live the stories behind the streets, plazas, cathedrals and street art pieces you will see along the way. Your guide will not only give you an insight into the country's history and architecture, but also into Colombia's political and economic revival. Your next activity continues after your lunchbreak, visiting some of Bogota's most important museums such as Botero Museum and the Gold Museum.

In the evening, enjoy an exclusive dinner talking history, culture and the thrilling issues the country has faced with a political and economic expert of the country (cost of meal not included).

Overnight Four Season Casa Medina



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Culture and Discovery**

## DAY 3: BOGOTA – COFFEE REGION

Your chauffeur will drive you to the airport from where you will take a short flight to Pereira.

*The Coffee Triangle is not a city or a particular place. It is a beautiful blend of lush mountains, rich culture and incredibly kind people. The triangle consists of three states Quindio, Caldas and Risaralda. This region sits high up on the western Andes mountain range, where the altitude, climatic conditions and fertile terrain induce the production of what many consider to be the best coffee in the world.*



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Visit a traditional coffee farm. The owner will walk you through the coffee plantation as he explains the intricate process of harvesting and producing coffee, from the seed to the cup. Enjoy the lush landscapes, exotic flowers and many birds that inhabit this area. *Duration: 1-2 hours walk.*

Overnight Hotel Sazagua



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Short flight**  
**Approx. 30min drive**



Activity:  
**Coffee Farm**

#### DAYS 4: EXPLORE THE COCORA VALLEY & PLAY TEJO IN SALENTO

Today we explore the heart of the coffee region. Among the beauties of the Valle del Cocora, you will have a chance to admire the towering 60-meter palm trees and the lush colourful surroundings, as well as some of the locals who live by. Thanks to this site, the wax palm tree was recognized as the official tree of Colombia, and classified as a protected species.

Spend the rest of the day exploring the towns of Salento, quaint little town in the heart of the coffee region and part of the UNESCO world heritage site of the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia. There, get to play Tejo, the famous regional sport. Your tour continues then to Finlandia, an authentic colonial Andean town in the mountains where you will still be able to witness this unique Andean culture.

Overnight Hotel Sazagua



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Coffee and culture**

#### DAYS 5: COFFEE REGION – CARTAGENA

Your private driver will be waiting for you at your hotel and will take you to the airport where you will take your flight to Cartagena.

*Cartagena, founded by Spanish explorers in 1533, is a stunning example of Spanish colonial architecture, African culture and Amerindian heritage. Its picturesque historic centre is enclosed by impressive fortifications that protected the city from pirates, but they now provide unparalleled views of the ocean. To top it off, Cartagena is the cultural hub of Colombia. Boasting premier literature, music and film festivals, along with traditional cultural celebrations, there is always something to see and do. Whatever you want, Cartagena has it all.*



Overnight Casa San Agustin



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Short flight**  
**Approx. 30min drive**



Activity:  
**Travel**



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## DAY 6: THE COLONIAL LEGACY OF CARTAGENA

Taking advantage of the cooler morning hours, your history expert will lead you through the historic centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, you will learn about the colonization and the Inquisition era. Your visit continues accompanied by your history expert explaining the importance of the city's strategic location during the Spanish colony. Drive to *Castillo de San Felipe*, to explore the dark tunnels and lookout points, and recount the stories and strategies used to defend Cartagena from invaders.

Overnight Casa San Agustin



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Culture**

## DAY 7: DISCOVERING THE ROSARIO ISLANDS

Meet your host at the hotel lobby. Depart from your hotel in a private car that will take you to the dock, before you head off to Islas del Rosario on a private speedboat (28ft – 30ft). Spend the day cruising between islands, snorkelling among colourful reefs and enjoying the pristine waters of the Rosario Islands. The boat will be staffed with an English-speaking host and equipped with snorkelling equipment, water bottles, fresh fruit and snacks. Lunch will be arranged at one of the beach restaurants in the islands (not included).

Overnight Casa San Agustin



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Short speed boat**



Activity:  
**Snorkelling**

## DAY 8: RELAXING IN CARTAGENA

Enjoy your morning at leisure wandering at your own pace in the historic centre. In the afternoon, meet your guide at the hotel lobby. A sommelier in Colombia will guide you through an exquisite tasting experience. Sample a variety of premium rums, understand how rum is processed and aged, and learn how to recognize its numerous characteristics. An English-speaking translator will be available.



Overnight Casa San Agustin



Overnight:  
**Hotel**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Culture and heritage**

## DAY 9: CARTAGENA – BOGOTA

Your private driver will be waiting for you at the lobby of your hotel and will drive you to Cartagena Airport. After a layover in Bogota, check-in for your next flight home.



Overnight:  
**N/A**



Meals:  
**B**



Distance:  
**Approx. 30min  
drive to airport**



Activity:  
**Travel**



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# ACCOMMODATION, *at a glance*

Subject to availability

## Four Seasons Casa Medina

Bogota

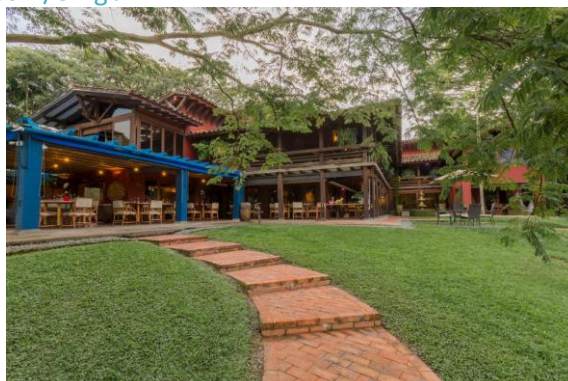
<https://www.fourseasons.com/casamedina/>



## Hotel Sazagua

Pereira

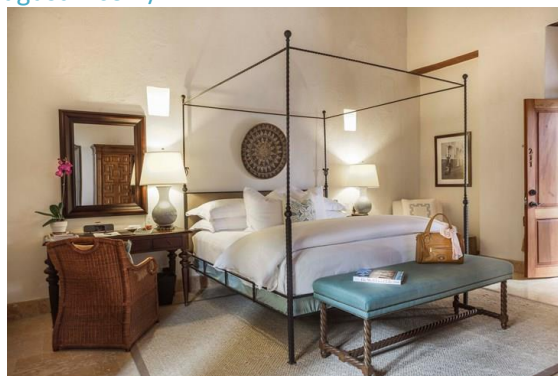
<https://www.sazagua.com/en-gb>



## Casa San Agustin

Cartagena

<https://www.hotelcasasanagustin.com/>



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## INCLUDED

- Hosting services in Bogota, Coffee Region, Cartagena and extension (if applicable)
- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Accommodation as described
- All transfers
- Internal flight ticket
- All entrance fees

## NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Alcoholic and soft drinks (water included)
- Tips
- Personal expenses
- Optional tours/activities and extensions

# WHEN TO GO

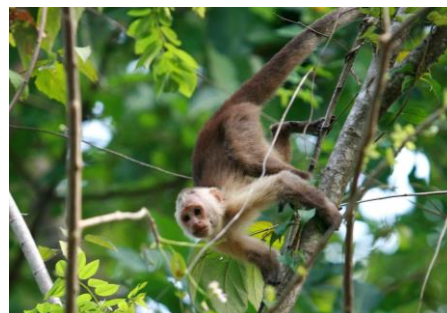
- Due to Colombia being on the equator, temperatures are fairly stable at 24°C throughout the year, getting cooler if you move higher inland.
- Colombia wet seasons vary depending on where you are in the country. In the North, there are 2 rainy seasons, between April and June, and between September and November. However in the South the rain is more constant but the showers never last that long.
- As for when to avoid the tourists! The busy tourism season tends to be between December to February and Easter Week (the week before Easter weekend).

# OPTIONAL EXTENSION

## DAY 9: TAYRONA REGION

Your private driver will be waiting for you at the lobby of Casa San Agustín and will drive you to your next destination in the Tayrona Region.

*The Tayrona National Park is located 4.5 hours driving from Cartagena, between white sand beaches and the foothills of the impressive Sierra Nevada. It is famous for its lush vegetation, beautiful virgin beaches and extraordinary biodiversity. The Tayrona region gets its name from the ancient Tayrona tribe, which ruled this area for many years. The original Tayrona civilization almost disappeared once the Spanish colonizers settled in Latin America in the 17th century. Part of it remains strong and alive through 4 indigenous tribes in the region who still maintain the culture, language, religion and traditions they inherited from the original Tayronas.*



After having settled in your hotel room, drive to the Don Diego region (approximately 30 minutes). After a 20-minute walk into the jungle, you will arrive at a river bank from where you will float down a crystalline river all the way down to the ocean. Along the way you will find exuberant vegetation, exotic birds and howler monkeys that will make this “mini river safari” worth it.

*Overnight at Merecumbe*



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Overnight:  
**Merecumbe**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**4.5hr drive**



Activity:  
**Wildlife**

## DAY 10: EXPLORING TAYRONA NATIONAL RESERVE



Drive to Tayrona Natural Reserve's main entrance (15 minutes). Alongside a local English-speaking guide, go on a nature walk to explore various parts of the Tayrona Natural Reserve. Find monkeys, birds, and spectacular flora along the way. Explore rivers, jungles and small bays where one can take refreshing swims in the turquoise waters.

*For those with more physical endurance...*

Drive to Tayrona Natural Reserve's Calabazo entrance (25 minutes). Trek to Chairama (Pueblito), the ruins of a small pre-Columbian indigenous city. You will be accompanied by a Wiwa tribe member who can provide insight into the history of the ruins and the tribe's current culture, religion and traditions. Continue the walk down to the beautiful beaches of Cabo San Juan in Parque Tayrona. The trek is approximately 5-6 hours along an ancient path built by the Tayronas, and requires physical endurance. (*Duration: full-day*)

Overnight Merecumbe



Overnight:  
**Merecumbe**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**15-25 min drive**



Activity:  
**Wildlife and trekking**

## DAY 11: CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN TAYRONA

Drive to the area of Rio Ancho, where the Sierra Nevada Mountains meet the Caribbean beaches of La Guajira Department. Alongside an English-speaking guide and a member of the Kogui tribe, walk 2-hours beside the river banks of Ancho River, and arrive at a large Kogui village, hidden in the midst of this mountain range. Explore the village and learn about the Koguis' traditions, beliefs and role as the *elder brothers* that protect Mother Nature.

Overnight Merecumbe



Overnight:  
**Merecumbe**



Meals:  
**B, L, D**



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Trekking**

## DAY 12: END OF TRIP

You will be transferred to the airport where you will catch your flight home



Overnight:  
**N/A**



Meals:



Distance:  
**Varies**



Activity:  
**Travel**



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# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 5 hours per day. This is a tailor-made trip so can be as active as you wish it to be
SEASON	This part of Colombia is best explored from December to April, but can be visited at any time
BEST TIME TO GO	December – April, July - August
GROUP SIZE	Tailor-made
RESPONSIBILITY	As part of our commitment to responsible travel, we propose activities that are respectful of the environment and communities working at the same time exclusively with local partners.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2 – 5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

## THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

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Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at [info@pioneerexpeditions.com](mailto:info@pioneerexpeditions.com) if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website [www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com) to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

**1. Contact us -**

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

**2. Leave everything to us -**

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

**3. Wait for your adventure to begin -**

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

