

Colombia

Colombia: A Private Boutique Eastern Andes and Beach Adventure

Bogota – Villa de Leyva – Barichara – Tayrona Beaches and National Park

BEST SEASON

All year

PRICE

From US \$6,485 pp including
local flights

HOW LONG

12 Days / 11 Nights



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Your Colombian adventure begins on the Cundiboyacense Plateau, nestled within the heart of the eastern mountain range. This region, cradled by the ancient Muisca civilization – Colombia’s largest pre-Columbian tribe – is now home to Bogotá, the capital city, and the departments of Boyacá and Cundinamarca. Dive into a captivating tapestry of ecosystems, where the unique “páramo” – a high-altitude Andean ecosystem only found in a few countries – takes center stage. Charming towns, each with its own story to tell, will spark your passion for Colombia. You’ll also visit Bogotá’s renowned Gold Museum, a treasure trove of pre-Columbian artifacts, and the awe-inspiring Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá, a marvel carved deep within a salt mine. Following a relaxed exploration, we head north to Santander, a department northwest of the eastern range. Characterized by its golden soils, abundant rivers, and dry tropical forests, Santander boasts the majestic Chicamocha Canyon – the second deepest in Latin America. Santander is crisscrossed by a network of “Caminos Reales” – royal trails – built by the pre-Columbian Guane people. Originally designed for travel on foot, the Spanish added

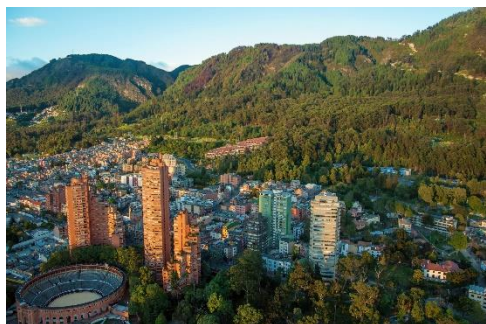
cobblestones to accommodate mules and horses. Trekking these ancient paths is a journey through time, revealing Santander's rich history and Colombia's colonial legacy. Our Colombian adventure culminates at the breathtaking Tayrona National Park. Traverse lush rainforests and pristine beaches and discover the fascinating legacy of the indigenous Tayrona people. Unwind on pristine sands, explore ancient archaeological sites, and immerse yourself in the beauty of this natural sanctuary.

Quick Summary

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner OV: Overnight

Day & Location	Transportation, Highlights and Accommodations	Meals
Day 1 Bogota	Arrival, transfer to your hotel OV: Bog Hotel	D
Day 2 Bogota	Bogota City Tour OV: Bog Hotel	B, L
Day 3 Bogota	Chingaza National Park OV: Bog Hotel	B, L
Day 4 Villa de Leyva	Salt Cathedral, transfer to Villa de Leyva OV: Casa Terra	B, L, D
Day 5 Villa de Leyva	Candelaria desert, Raquira Town OV: Casa Terra	B, L
Day 6 Villa de Leyva	Terracota House, Paleontological Research Center OV: Casa Terra	B, L
Day 7 Barichara	Transfer to Barichara, Walking city tour OV: Casa Barichara	B, L, D
Day 8 Barichara	Guane Hike and Paper Factory OV: Casa Barichara	B, L
Day 9 Barichara-Bogota-Santa Marta, Tayrona National Park	Transfer to the airport, flight from Bucaramanga to Bogota (included) to connect with your flight to Santa Marta (included), transfer to hotel OV: Villa Playa Tayrona	B
Day 10 Santa Marta, Tayrona National Park	Tayrona National Natural Park Tour OV: Villa Playa Tayrona	B, L
Day 11 Santa Marta, Tayrona National Park	Day at leisure OV: Villa Playa Tayrona	B
Day 12 Santa Marta-Bogota, Departure	Transfer to the airport, flight back to Bogota (included) to connect with your international flight back home.	B

ITINERARY IN DETAIL



Day 1 | Bienvenidos a Bogotá!, Colombia

Upon your arrival at El Dorado International Airport, our dedicated representative and private driver will warmly welcome you. They will accompany you on the approximately 45-minute drive to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, we can arrange a dinner reservation at one of Bogotá's renowned restaurants. Colombia's capital, Bogotá, enthralles visitors with its invigorating climate, a rich tapestry of history, and infectious energy. Nestled at an altitude of 2,585 meters (8,530 feet) above sea level, in the Eastern Hills, the city offers something for every traveler. Overnight at B.O.G. Hotel.



Day 2 | Bogotá Bustling Markets and Artistic Treasures

Dive into the heart of Bogotá, starting with a hearty breakfast and a transfer to the bustling Paloquemao Market. Here, vibrant displays of local fruits, exotic delicacies, and Colombian crafts immerse you in the city's rural culture. Following this sensory experience, delve into Colombia's rich past at the renowned Gold Museum. Housing over 56,000 pieces of pre-Hispanic gold and artifacts; it offers a captivating window into the artistry and heritage of the country's major pre-Columbian cultures. The afternoon unfolds with a walking tour through La Candelaria, Bogotá's historic district. Marvel at the architectural tapestry, where Spanish Colonial grandeur blends seamlessly with Baroque flourishes and Art Deco details. Explore Bolívar Square, the city's vibrant heart, and witness key government buildings like the Palace of Justice, Colombia Congress, and the Primate Cathedral. A highlight of the tour is the Botero Museum, showcasing an impressive collection by Fernando Botero, Colombia's renowned artist known for his distinctive "oversized" style. The museum also boasts masterpieces by globally acclaimed artists such as Dalí, Monet, and Van Gogh, offering a truly enriching artistic experience. Overnight at B.O.G. Hotel.



Day 3 | Chingaza National Park

During this day trip, we will explore the high Andean forest and paramo, which are the predominant ecosystems of the Chingaza National Park and its surrounding buffer zones, showcasing one of the most stunning neotropical landscapes and serving as the habitat for the Andean Bear, the sole bear species in South America. Guided by our local experts who have tracked the bear's path in advance, we will venture into the National Park or buffer areas situated between 2,700 – 3,100 meters above sea level / 8,800 – 10,200 feet. In this chilly, high-altitude

environment, you will have the chance to witness a diverse array of bird species, including the captivating Blue-throated Starfrontlet (almost endemic) and Amethyst-throated Sunangel hummingbirds, the vocal Brown-breasted Parakeet (endemic), the diminutive Rufous Conebill (nearly endemic), the striking Black-billed Mountain-Toucan, the elusive Rufous Antpitta, Green-and-black Fruiteater, among others. Our expedition will also include an exciting quest to spot the Andean Bear or Spectacled Bear, the vulnerable bear species unique to South America. Lunch is served at the Park, followed by an afternoon visit to the 'Hummingbird Observatory' nestled high in the mountains of the town of La Calera. This sanctuary, brimming with vibrant flowers, serves as a haven for these enchanting winged creatures, revered as winged messengers in indigenous cultures. Colombia boasts a rich diversity of hummingbirds, with over 160 species calling it home, and visitors to this observatory can marvel at up to 18 different species in this breathtaking setting. Overnight at B.O.G. Hotel.



Day 4 | Zipaquirá's Salt Cathedral and Enchanting Villa de Leyva

This day starts with an early departure to Zipaquirá, home to the remarkable Salt Cathedral. Carved within an active salt mine, this underground Roman Catholic church is a marvel of Colombian engineering, revered as a "Jewel of Modern Architecture." Explore the mining tunnels, chapels, and grand Basilica on an enlightening walking tour. In the afternoon, journey to the captivating town of Villa de Leyva, a designated National Monument and Heritage Site. This colonial gem transports you to a bygone era, seamlessly blending history, architecture, culture, and nature. Villa de Leyva's charm, cool year-round weather, and delightful eateries make it a favorite escape for Bogotanians seeking a break from city life. Overnight at Casa Terra.



Day 5 | La Candelaria Desert and Ráquira's Town

An early morning departure takes you to the captivating La Candelaria Desert. Hike through this unique landscape, with a stop at the mystical "El Patio de Brujas," an ancient astronomical observatory, which adds a touch of intrigue to your day. In the afternoon, transfer to Ráquira, known as Boyacá's most colorful town. Vibrant houses and an abundance of ceramic crafts create a lively and artistic atmosphere. Overnight at Casa Terra.



Day 6 | Villa de Leyva Sightseeing Mountain Biking tour

We start our day in Villa de Leyva with a visit to the Terracota House, the world's largest ceramic piece, crafted entirely from clay by a local artist. Next, embark on a scenic bike ride (10 miles) along Villa de Leyva's dirt roads, offering contrasting desert landscapes. Explore the Paleontological Research Center, home to a 110-million-year-old kronosaurus fossil and other ancient

relics from the region's coastal past. Continue to Villa de Leyva's desert area for a beautiful view of the blue lakes before returning to town. Prefer a van tour or more hiking? We can adjust the itinerary to include other areas! Overnight at Casa Terra.



Day 7 | Scenic Transfer to Barichara and Village Exploration

On a scenic 4-hour drive, witness Colombia's diverse countryside unfold as we travel to Barichara. Watch the vegetation, temperature, architecture, and cultural nuances change as you enter Santander, a region known for its rivers, valleys, and rugged terrain. Santander's diverse topography is a haven for adventure seekers, offering rafting and mountain biking activities. Upon arrival in Barichara, check into your

hotel and embark on a tour of this charming village. One of Colombia's 17 Heritage Towns, Barichara is celebrated for its well-preserved history, culture, and traditional architecture. Built using local terracotta-colored soil, Barichara showcases traditional construction methods like "bahareque" (bamboo and adobe) and "tapia pisada" (walls compacted with clay). This afternoon stroll unveils the town's unique character and rich history. Overnight at Casa Barichara.



Day 8 | Hiking Guane's Ancient Trails and Visiting the Women Paper Factory

Barichara and Guane are connected by one of the Lengerke trails, a historic 6 km (3.75 miles) cobbled pathway originally constructed by the Guane indigenous people and later restored in 1864, this trail provides a scenic route for hikers to traverse between Barichara and Guane. The hiking experience along this trail is gentle and suitable for all levels of hikers, offering

breathtaking views of the valley and an authentic glimpse into Colombian rural living. Returning to Barichara, explore a traditional paper factory. Learn the fascinating process of crafting paper from fique, a cactus-like plant native to the Andes. Overnight at Casa Barichara.



Day 9 | Barichara to Santa Marta, Tayrona Beaches

Early morning, depart on a private van transfer that takes you to Bucaramanga airport (83 miles 3.5 hours) for a 1 hour flight to Bogota. After checking in for your flight to Bogota, you'll have some time to grab a pre-flight lunch at the airport or relax before your connecting 1.5 hr flight to Santa Marta. Finally, paradise awaits! A private van will transport you directly to your beachfront hotel (51 km, 1 hour). The rest of the

afternoon is yours to savor – unwind on pristine sands, take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters, or explore the vibrant coastal town. The choice is yours! Overnight at Villa Playa Tayrona.



Day 10 | Exploring Tayrona National Park

Tayrona National Park entralls visitors with its perfect blend: lush rainforests meet pristine Caribbean beaches, embraced by turquoise waters. No wonder it's Colombia's most popular park! The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the world's highest coastal range, rises dramatically from sea level to nearly 5,800 meters (19,000 ft) at Colón Peak, creating a unique spectrum of

microclimates. This morning, traverse a fascinating network of jungles, mangroves, rivers, and beaches, leading you to La Piscinita, one of Tayrona's popular swimming spots. For the adventurous, extend the hike towards Cabo San Juan, arguably Tayrona's most photogenic location. Exploring Tayrona's beaches, it's easy to understand why *Discovery Channel* dubbed them some of the world's most beautiful. Imagine: stunning sandy beaches adorned with smooth, rocky formations emerge from jungle-clad hills, cascading dramatically into the sea. A true tropical paradise awaits exploration on foot. Overnight at Villa Playa Tayrona.



Day 11 | Day at leisure at Tayrona National park

The day is free to relax on the pristine beaches, or perhaps explore the park's diverse ecosystems, including areas you haven't yet discovered. Overnight at Villa Playa Tayrona.



Day 12 | Santa Marta-Bogota, Departure

After soaking up the last rays of Caribbean sunshine, a private car will whisk you comfortably from your hotel lobby directly to Santa Marta Airport (1 hour). There, you'll board your flight back to Bogota (included), ready to return home, heart full of Colombian memories.

Pricing

2025	Price per person sharing double occupancy
Based on 2-3 participants	\$6,785
Based on 4-5 participants	\$6,485

Internal flights are all included. Prices are valid until December 15, 2025. Christmas surcharges may apply. This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability at time of booking.

Included

- All guided tours and excursions as specified
- Internal flights within Colombia
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the above itinerary
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner] also snacks and hydration
- Safety and emergency equipment
- Hotel accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
- Groups of up to 4 people: professional local guides in all destinations
- Groups over 4 people: Tour Leader during the whole trip
- Permanent assistance during the trip
- Green Planet Expeditions travel consultation and pre-departure services

Not included

- International flights
- Drinks, additional alcoholic beverages, and meals other than those listed above
- Early check-in, late check-out, services, and non-mentioned meals in the itinerary
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Gratuities. Details will be provided in our pre-departure material for your convenience.
- Mandatory Travel Insurance: To ensure a smooth travel experience, all participants are required to have a comprehensive travel insurance policy. This policy should include trip cancellation, medical services, and coverage for active adventures or evacuations. "Cancel For Any Reason" (CFAR) coverage is highly recommended to protect your investment in case of unforeseen circumstances .
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATIONS



B.O.G. Design Hotel

B.O.G. Hotel is a luxurious boutique property located in the vibrant heart of Bogotá. Designed by the renowned Portuguese designer Nini Andrade Silva, the hotel exudes contemporary elegance inspired by Colombia's rich natural resources—gold and emeralds. Each room is an oasis of sophistication, offering modern comforts like plush bedding, complimentary Wi-Fi, and a minibar

stocked with local delicacies. Guests can indulge in gourmet dining at the on-site restaurant, where a fusion of Colombian and international flavors takes center stage. For relaxation, the rooftop terrace provides a serene escape with a heated pool and stunning panoramic views of the city's skyline and surrounding mountains. The hotel's wellness facilities include a state-of-the-art fitness center and a tranquil spa offering rejuvenating treatments. Leisure guests can enjoy personalized concierge services to explore Bogotá's cultural gems.



Hotel Casa Terra, Villa de Leyva

Casa Terra is a charming boutique hotel located in the heart of Villa de Leyva, a picturesque town known for its colonial architecture and breathtaking landscapes. This elegant retreat combines rustic charm with modern comforts, creating an inviting atmosphere for guests seeking relaxation and exploration. Each thoughtfully designed room features stylish decor, plush bedding, and large windows that frame stunning views of the surrounding mountains and gardens. Guests can enjoy

a delightful array of amenities, including a tranquil outdoor pool, perfect for refreshing dips under the sun, and beautifully landscaped gardens that invite leisurely strolls. The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast featuring local ingredients, allowing guests to savor the flavors of the region each morning. For those looking to unwind, the on-site spa provides a selection of rejuvenating treatments and wellness therapies tailored to promote relaxation and well-being. Casa Terra also features cozy common areas, including a lounge with a fireplace, ideal for enjoying a book or socializing with fellow travelers.



Casa Barichara Boutique Hotel, Barichara

Casa Barichara Boutique Hotel is a stunning sanctuary nestled in the heart of Barichara, a town celebrated for its cobblestone streets and colonial architecture. This elegant boutique hotel seamlessly blends traditional charm with modern luxury, offering guests a unique and unforgettable experience. Each beautifully appointed room features stylish decor, plush furnishings, and private balconies that overlook the lush gardens and scenic vistas of the surrounding

mountains. Guests can indulge in a range of upscale amenities, including a refreshing outdoor pool, perfect for leisurely swims while soaking up the sun. The hotel's restaurant serves a delightful selection of gourmet dishes crafted from locally sourced ingredients, providing an exquisite dining experience that showcases the flavors of Colombia. For those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation, the wellness area offers a tranquil spa where guests can enjoy a variety of massages and treatments designed to revitalize the body and mind. Casa Barichara also features inviting communal spaces, including a cozy lounge and a library, perfect for serene moments or sharing the day's outings with your travel mates.



Villa Playa Tayrona, Tayrona

Villa Playa Tayrona, Los Naranjos is a picturesque retreat located just a 2-minute walk from the stunning Playa de Los Naranjos. This charming accommodation offers guests a serene escape with a refreshing outdoor pool, complimentary private parking, and beautifully landscaped gardens. Guests can unwind on the inviting terrace while enjoying the gentle sea breeze. The property is conveniently situated within a short stroll of

Playa Los Ángeles and a 2.3 km distance from Playa de Mendihuaca, making it an ideal base for beach lovers. The historic Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino is only 37 km away, providing a glimpse into the region's rich heritage. Guests can savor delicious meals at the on-site restaurant or enjoy a refreshing drink at the café. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the property, ensuring you stay connected during your visit. Each well-appointed room features a wardrobe, private bathroom with a shower and complimentary toiletries, and air conditioning for your comfort. Some rooms offer stunning views of the sea, allowing you to wake up to the sound of waves gently lapping the shore.

Booking your Green Planet Expedition

How to reserve a trip

To secure your spot on a trip, you can conveniently book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling **1-800-430-9498**. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of the reservation form and the initial 50% trip deposit.

Please note that we are unable to hold space until the deposit is received. If the requested space is unavailable, we will promptly provide alternative options for your consideration (if an upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply).

Pre departure service

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will email you a comprehensive Predeparture Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions, and more. You will receive a final trip email including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks before departure.

Terms and Conditions

Green Planet Expeditions has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels, and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary; however, it is possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays, and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All

optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included.

Caring for our planet is integral to our ethos. In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, a carbon emissions mitigation fee is incorporated into all our trips. This fee contributes to environmental initiatives that offset the carbon footprint associated with our journeys, ensuring a positive impact on the destinations we explore. Your safety and peace of mind during the journey is our top priorities. **The purchase of traveler's insurance is mandatory for all participants, and it must cover trip delays, trip cancellations, baggage, accident, or sickness. In some specific cases like Antarctica, it must cover evacuation.**

All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

At Green Planet Expeditions, we craft strategically curated journeys that immerse travelers in the finest of nature, culture, and local traditions, always seeking out opportunities for exceptional dining experiences. Our expertise lies in tailor-made trips to destinations where we maintain close relationships with local partners, ensuring flawless execution with the assistance of passionate guides deeply connected to their heritage and committed to its preservation.

We believe that tourism, when harnessed thoughtfully, becomes a powerful catalyst for conservation and community upliftment in the destinations we visit.

As with any good recipe, our trips are infused with the following flavors:

- Positive impact on the areas you choose to visit, directly or indirectly.
- Amazing private local guides.
- Lovely small boutique hotels according to your budget.
- Good food, no matter how remote the destination is, we strive to offer good cuisine.
- Our trips frequently include surprises, which often turn out to be the highlight of the journey.
- When open to it, visits to less-known destinations, reserved for the daring few, and engages in intimate and meaningful encounters with locals—a cherished treasure highly valued by discerning travelers, as we have discovered through our years of experience in the industry.

Still haven't found what you're looking for?

We offer a wide range of amazing trips that may not all be listed on our website. Plus, we can custom-build pretty much whatever your heart desires, so let us know what we can do for you. If you have any questions about our expedition cruises, private trips, or just want to talk travel, give us a call at +1 800- 430 9498 or contact us via email at travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com