



MEJDI TOURS

Inside Colombia: A Multi-Narrative Exploration

(Scheduled Departure)

Dates & Pricing:

January 16 - 25, 2025 (\$3,800 per person, + \$630 single room supplement)

December 15-24, 2025 (\$3,990 per person, + \$662 single room supplement)

Included: 9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar

- 4 nights at Mercure BH El Retiro Hotel, Bogota
- 2 nights at BH El Poblado Hotel, Medellin
- 3 nights at Monterrey, Cartagena

1 MEJDI-Trained Expert for 10 days

1 Local guide for 9 days

10 days of private bus transportation including private airport arrival and departure transfers

2 Domestic flights - Bogotá-Medellin & Medellin-Cartagena

Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners

Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹

Water on the bus throughout the tour

US-based and local customer service representatives

Not

included: International airfare
Travel insurance- highly recommended

Single Supplement

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Drinks at included meals

Custom Gratuities for guides, drivers and hotel staff

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section



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Overview

Explore the many facets of Colombia. This beautiful country has been emerging from its challenging past and is now at a turning point; Now is a special time to travel to Colombia. Learn about the turbulent history and the transformations that have taken place, and are currently taking place right now. Immerse yourself in the local culture. You'll have some amazing opportunities to meet local community leaders and learn about the projects that are helping to change Colombia for future generations. Experience the varied and stunning landscapes of Colombia - mountains, coffee haciendas, mangroves, tropical islands, and colonial cobblestone streets.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival - Bogotá, Colombia

Arrive in Bogota and transfer to your hotel for check in.
This evening, enjoy a group opening session and welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Hotel: Mercure BH El Retiro Hotel, Bogota (dinner included)

Day 2: Bogotá Peace Process

Begin the day with the gastronomic Tejiendo Paz (Weaving Peace tour) where you will learn the story of Colombia's conflict and peace agreement from a positive narrative, and meet peace leaders, change makers, artists and chefs who will inspire you with their life stories.

After lunch, visit the Banco de la República Gold Museum, which houses one of the most important collections of pre-Hispanic metallurgy in the world.

This evening, meet with an expert on the peace process and the U.S./Colombia relations.

Hotel: Mercure BH El Retiro Hotel, Bogota (breakfast and lunch included)



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Day 3: Local Life in Bogotá

This morning, get acquainted with the city on a Tour de la Fruta (fruit tour). Explore Colombia's mega-diversity through its exotic fruits at Paloquemao, one of the most amazing farmer's markets on earth. The market is one of the larger flower markets in the area. Afterwards, continue on a Breaking Borders tour, where you will hear first-hand from ex-gang members, how they transformed their lives and their neighborhood from one of the most dangerous to one of the safest in Bogotá. After lunch, head to the salt cathedral, a Roman Catholic church built in a salt mine. Finally, wind down with a Colombian Music 101 session. Let Colombian rhythms and beats take you over as you spend an amazing time with a great pianist, composer, and percussionist who will guide you on a trip throughout Colombia with their music.

Hotel: Mercure BH El Retiro Hotel, Bogotá (breakfast, fruit tour and snacks included)

Day 4: Colombian Countryside and Coffee Experience

Today, you'll make your way outside Bogotá to La Palma y El Tucán, a coffee farm nestled amongst steep mountains and dense forests, that supports fair trade and eco-farming as well as the local coffee-growing community. Take a guided coffee farm tour with a local barista, and learn about the most expensive coffee in Colombia (180 USD/pound). Enjoy lunch against a backdrop of sweeping mountain views. Return to Bogotá for dinner on your own and an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Mercure BH El Retiro Hotel, Bogotá (breakfast included)

Day 5: Bogotá to Medellín

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for a group flight to Medellín. Transfer to your hotel. Visit Comuna 13, which is known now for its graffiti and art, after going through a major transformation. Take a walking tour in the city including plaza Botero and park Lleras. Visit Museo de Antioquia before joining a local chef for a cooking class and traditional Colombian meal.

Hotel: BH El Poblado Hotel, Medellín (breakfast and dinner included)



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Day 6: Medellin, Pablo Who?

Today, hear from multiple standpoints of locals how Medellin has endured through its dark times and how the cocaine boom has conditioned politics, armed conflict, social norms and even fashion. Journey through the context of the narco-trafficking emergence and how the problems are still present today. Understand the impacts on the environment and society and how that deep wound after the infamous war on drugs has been defining for the resiliency and the whole social transformation that has made Colombia internationally known for. End the day at the Botanical Gardens, and the cemetery of San Pedro.

Hotel: BH El Poblado Hotel, Medellin (breakfast included)

Day 7: Medellin - Cartagena

Transfer to the airport and fly to Cartagena in the morning. Upon arrival, set out on a walking tour throughout Getsemani and the Old City. Take in the juxtaposition of the hip and lively neighborhood of Holy Trinity Square against the historic walled streets of the Old City, and stop and sample rum with a local rum expert.

Hotel: Monterrey, Cartagena (breakfast, rum tasting included)

Day 8: [The Lesser Known] Cartagena

Travel outside of Cartagena today. Take a Canoe trip through the lagoons of a remote fishing village in Cienaga de la Virgen, a lesser-known gem for bird-watching and rich cultural experiences. Hear first-hand stories directly from the local fishermen while on the boat. Slowly navigate into the intricate natural channels formed by the mangrove forest and wonder at its exuberant biodiversity. Enjoy lunch and an ancestral drum workshop and jam at La Boquilla beach. Get to know the local community and take advantage of prime photographic lighting with an afternoon stop at the local market. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Monterrey, Cartagena (breakfast included)



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Day 9: Cartagena & The Rosario Archipelago

Today, take a speedboat ride off the coast to one of the islands of the Rosario Island Archipelago, such as Bandita Beach for kayaking, snorkeling, swimming, and relaxation beside crystal clear turquoise waters. Return to the hotel and prepare for a group farewell dinner out.

Hotel: Monterrey, Cartagena (breakfast, dinner included)

Day 10: Departure

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart to the airport for your flight home.

Overnight: N/A (breakfast included)