



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Active: Peace Process & Jungle Trekking **March 6-13, 2021; November 13-20, 2021**

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. 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. Head south from Bogota to the adventurous Guaina, “the land of many waters,” in indigenous language. The rivers and landscapes in this region offer a perfect opportunity for adventure seekers, boasting great rafting and trekking trails.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Bogotá, Colombia

Arrive in Bogota. Enjoy a group welcome dinner this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Rosales Plaza, Bogota (Dinner included)

Day 2: Bogotá Peace Process

Begin the day with the Tejiendo Paz (Weaving Peace tour) where you will learn the story of Colombia's conflict and Peace Agreement from a positive narrative, and meet with peace leaders who will inspire you with their life stories. Your tour will be guided by a journalistic expert in the Colombian peace process. In the evening, 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: Hotel Rosales Plaza, Bogota (Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 3: Local Life in Bogotá

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. Visit the Banco de la República Gold Museum, which houses one of the most important collections of pre-Hispanic metallurgy in the world. Afterwards, continue on to 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 Bogota.

Hotel: Hotel Rosales Plaza, Bogota (Breakfast, Lunch included)

Day 4: San Vicente del Caguán to ETCR

Transfer to the airport and fly to San Vicente del Caguán. Upon arrival, your host will pick you up and transfer you to Miravalle, where you will be welcomed by the community. Settle into the ETCR (Territorial Spaces for Capacitation and Reintegration) before joining the group for dinner with ex-combatants and other members of the community.

Hotel: ETCR, Miravelle (Breakfast, Dinner included)

Day 5: Coreguaje Jungle

Arise early and head toward Coreguaje, one of the most important regions during the war. Coreguaje's village was victim of various bombings, vestiges of which are still noticeable today. This virtually untouched jungle, known only by those who lived in it during the war, is now a well-preserved natural attraction. Hike (medium level difficulty) through this virgin jungle in the footsteps of former combatants. Enjoy a traditional jungle lunch before heading out on a wildlife observation expedition. Your guides, who gleaned their detailed knowledge of this dense jungle environment during wartime, are now experts in the flora and fauna of the forest. Join the group for dinner before settling in to sleep in your hammock or campsite, right in the middle of the Coreguaje jungle.

Hotel: Coreguaje Jungle Camping (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 6: Coreguaje Jungle to ETCR

Arise early and make your way back through the jungle to the ETCR, stopping for lunch along the way. Visit some local community sustainability projects including pisciculture and organic gardens. Through these projects and their attraction for natural tourism, the local community has achieved a sustainable economy. Return to the ETCR for a delicious group dinner.

*** During the two nights that you spend in the ETCR, there will be various cultural activities, including singing of wartime songs and dances, wartime storytelling, and recitation of local legends. You will also have an opportunity to learn about the community's reintegration process.*

Hotel: ETCR, Miravelle (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 7: Rafting

This morning, head out on a rafting expedition (Level 4) on the Pato river. Begin with a quick safety briefing and rafting tutorial, before setting off down the river. During the expedition, you will listen to more wartime stories and visit different locations that were important during the war in the jungle. Pass by various obstacles in the river, used to stop the enemy during the war. Learn the background stories of high ranking officers of the FARC, as you make your way down the river. Stop for a delicious lunch before arriving back at San Vicente del Caguán. Transfer to the airport and fly back to Bogota. Transfer to your hotel in Bogota and join the group for a farewell dinner this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Rosales Plaza, Bogota (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included)

Day 8: Departure

Enjoy the morning at leisure in Bogota before departing for home today.
(Breakfast included)