



MEJDI TOURS

- Tour:** MEJDI Active: Colombian Adventure
- Dates:** August 21-31, 2021; December 4-14, 2021
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): BH Hotel Parque 93 (Bogotá), El Botalón del Abuelo (Mesetas), La Palma y El Tucán (coffee farm), Hotel Monterrey (Cartagena), Hotel Playa Koralia (Tayrona)
Local guide for 11 days
11 days of private bus transportation including arrival and departure airport transfers
Internal flights (Bogotá-Cartagena; Santa Marta-Bogotá)
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
Water on the bus throughout the tour
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** International airfare (US-Bogotá-US)
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement-\$1,190
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing²:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$2,900 Per Person

Overview:

Explore the rich culture, history, and ecological diversity of Colombia on this active, outdoor exploration, perfect for physical distancing. Learn about the country's turbulent history and the social transformation processes that have taken place in local communities from ex-gang members and former FARC fighters. Learn about sustainable food and coffee production from local farm-to-table restaurants and coffee farms. Immerse yourself in the varied and stunning landscapes of the Guiana Shield and Tayrona National Park. Hike along winding mountain trails to majestic waterfalls and unique rock formations, and visit a former FARC guerilla camp. Hear first-hand stories from local fishermen while canoeing

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

² Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

through natural mangrove channels rich in biodiversity in Ciénaga de la Virgen. Visit the Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve, and learn about the centuries-old initiative of Colombia's indigenous peoples to protect their sacred mountain ecosystem.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Bogotá, Colombia

Arrive in Bogotá. Enjoy a group **welcome dinner at a local farm to table restaurant that specializes in sustainability.**

Hotel: BH Hotel Parque 93, Bogotá (D)

Day 2: Barrio Egipto

This morning, visit **Barrio Egipto**, once one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Bogotá, run by warring gangs, and hear first-hand from ex-gang members how university sponsored tourism classes and guide training for former gang members has created an opportunity for locals to turn this community around and transition from gang-war to peace. Have lunch at **Madres de La Candelaria, an organization of and for victims of the violence and conflict** that has plagued Colombia for decades. This afternoon, **try your hand at Tejo, a traditional Colombian throwing sport** which combines national history, beer drinking, and exploding targets. Later, depart for Mesetas (~4 hour drive) with a stop for dinner en route. Arrive at your jungle lodge and get settled into your cabin.

Hotel: El Botalón del Abuelo, Mesetas (B, L, D)

Day 3: El Cañón del Güejar

This morning, **visit a former war zone in El Cañón del Güejar** in southern Colombia, that was impossible to visit prior to the peace agreement. **Enjoy an easy rafting trip down the Güejar River.** Return to the hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Hotel: El Botalón del Abuelo, Mesetas (B, L, D)

Day 4: Jungle, Former FARC Camp, & Acantilados

Today, explore the nearby jungle clad mountains, formerly the hiding place of FARC rebels. **Explore jungle trails, take in nature, and relax at the base of cascading waterfalls.**

After lunch, **visit a former FARC guerrilla camp** and learn about the history of the FARC.

This afternoon, **hike to Acantilados and marvel at the unique geology of the Guiana Shield**, a 1.7 billion-year-old Precambrian geological formation and protected area known for its plant and animal diversity, unique rock formations, and waterfalls.

Hotel: El Botalón del Abuelo, Mesetas (B, L, D)

Day 5: La Palma y El Tucán Coffee Experience

Early this morning, make your way **La Palma y El Tucán** (~6 hour drive with stops en route), 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 an evening spent against a backdrop of sweeping mountain views.

Hotel: La Palma y El Tucán (B, L, D)

Day 6: Cartagena

This morning, continue your coffee farm experience, then transfer to the airport in Bogotá and fly to Cartagena. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and settle in. This afternoon, **set out on a walking tour throughout Getsemani and the Old City of Cartagena**. Take in the juxtaposition of the hip and lively neighborhood of Holy Trinity Square against the historic walled streets of the Old City.

Hotel: Hotel Monterrey, Cartagena (B)

Day 7: Ciénaga de la Virgen

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**. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Monterrey, Cartagena (B, L)

Day 8: Cartagena - Tayrona National Park

Today, take a leisurely **drive up Colombia's Caribbean coast from Cartagena to Tayrona National Park** (~4.5 hours drive), a large protected area covering the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta as they meet the Caribbean coast, known for its palm-shaded coves, coastal lagoons, rainforest, and rich biodiversity. Stop for lunch and to take in the stunning seaside scenery. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Hotel Playa Koralia, Tayrona (B, L, D)

Day 9: Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve

Visit the Arhuaco Indigenous Reserve today and learn about the Arhuaco Indians, Colombia's indigenous peoples related to the ancient Tayrona civilization. **Learn about the tribe's centuries-old initiative to protect their sacred mountain ecosystem** in the valleys of the Palomino, Don Diego, San Miguel, and Ancho rivers, **hear first-hand stories of life in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta** as well as the issues the tribe faces today. Return to your hotel for dinner on your own this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Playa Koralia, Tayrona (B, L, D)

Day 10: Don Diego River

This morning, **set out on a relaxing tubing adventure (optional) on the Don Diego River**. Glide along, pulled by the river's current in an inflatable tube, and wonder at the surrounding jungle. Hear the sounds of howler monkeys and birds in the canopy and, as the river meets the sea, enjoy a picnic lunch at the beach. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure before joining the group for a farewell dinner.

Hotel: Hotel Playa Koralia, Tayrona (B, L, D)

Day 11: Tayrona - Santa Marta - Departure

Depart early this morning for Santa Marta Airport (~1.5 hour drive). Fly to Bogotá and depart on your international flight home. *(B)*