



# MEJDI TOURS

**Tour:** Inside Colombia: A Multi-Narrative Exploration

**Included:** 9 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hotel BH Parque 93 (Bogota), Hotel BH El Poblado (Medellin), Hotel Monterrey (Cartagena)  
Local guide for 10 days  
10 days of private bus transportation including arrival and departure transfers  
Internal flights (Bogota-Medellin; Medellin-Cartagena)  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 4 dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
Water on the bus throughout the tour  
US-based customer service representatives

**Not included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**  
Single Supplement-\$830  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Gratuities  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

**Pricing:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$2,900 Per Person

## **Overview:**

Explore the many facets of Colombia. This beautiful and eclectic 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 of Colombia's conflict and peace agreement from ex-gang members and hear first-hand stories about the transformations that have taken place in their neighborhoods. Meet local community leaders and peace experts and learn about the projects that are helping to change Colombia for future generations. Trace Colombia's tumultuous history and path toward progress through its graffiti and street art. Explore Colombia's mega-diversity through its exotic fruits at one of the most amazing markets in the world. Try your hand at Colombian rhythms in an ancestral drum workshop. Learn about fair trade, eco-farming, and local coffee production. Experience the varied and stunning landscapes of Colombia - mountains, coffee haciendas, mangroves, tropical islands, beaches, and colorful colonial cobblestone streets.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Arrival - Bogotá, Colombia**

Arrive in Bogotá. Transfer to your hotel and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Meet the group for a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant this evening.

*Hotel: Hotel BH Parque 93, Bogota (D)*

### **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 peace leaders who will inspire you with their life stories. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Banco de la República Gold Museum, which houses one of the most important collections of pre-Hispanic metallurgy in the world. Meet with an expert on the peace process and the U.S./Colombia relations.

*Hotel: Hotel BH Parque 93, Bogota (B, L)*

### **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, wind down with a Colombian Music 101 session. Let Colombian rhythms and beats take you over as you spend an amazing time with a local musician who will guide you on a trip throughout Colombia via music.

*Hotel: Hotel BH Parque 93, Bogota (B, L)*

### **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: Hotel BH Parque 93, Bogota (B, L)*

### **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. In the evening, enjoy a cooking class and traditional Colombian meal with a local chef.

*Hotel: Hotel BH El Poblado, Medellín (B, D)*

**Day 6: Medellin, City of the Eternal Spring**

Start the day with a visit to the Memory House Museum. From drug cartels and gangs to a terrible civil war, Casa de la Memoria aims to amplify the voices of victims and preserve their history so that we might learn more about it and avoid these pitfalls in the future. After lunch, enjoy a walking tour in the city including the Botanical Gardens. This evening, meet with some of the city's most respected academics regarding the conflict and peace process.

*Hotel: Hotel BH El Poblado, Medellín (B, L)*

**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. This evening enjoy dinner at a restaurant where female prison inmates are trained in food preparation, crop cultivation, and food etiquette as a means to learn useful trades and lessen their sentences.

*Hotel: Hotel Monterrey, Cartagena (B, D)*

**Day 8: [The Lesser Known] Cartagena**

Travel outside of Cartagena today. Take a Canoe trip through the lagoons of a remote fishing village in Ciénaga 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: Hotel Monterrey, Cartagena (B, L)*

**Day 9: Cartagena & The Rosario Archipelago**

Today, take a boat 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. Meet the group for a farewell dinner this evening.

*Hotel: Hotel Monterrey, Cartagena (B, L, D)*

**Day 10 - Departure**

This morning, awaken the senses with a Colombian coffee brewing workshop, or enjoy a morning at leisure to explore Cartagena's Old Town on your own. Then, transfer to the airport and depart for home. *(B)*