
GEEO ITINERARY

Colombia 6/29/2024

Day 1: Bogotá Arrive in Bogotá at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Bogotá at any time. The Bogotá airport is **El Dorado International Airport (BOG)**. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in South America at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to rest and adjust to any time difference. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Bogotá before and/or after the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Joining Instructions El Dorado International Airport is approximately 30 minutes away from the starting hotel. We recommended organizing a taxi at the airport's registered taxi counter. The cost of a taxi to the hotel is approximately 65,000 COP (\$15 USD). **Accommodation:** Hotel Regina (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Bogotá/Armenia Fly to Armenia in Colombia's coffee region, where you will spend two nights in a traditional hacienda.

After breakfast in Bogotá, catch a flight to Armenia in Colombia's coffee-growing region. Spend the next two nights in a traditional hacienda (Spanish for "estate") and coffee farm to get a closer look at life in Colombia's beautiful *Eje Cafetero*. **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by plane **Accommodation:** Hostal Mi Monaco (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 3: Armenia Visit the town of Armenia and the local market. Enjoy a tour of a coffee farm in the Calarcá area to learn more about the coffee culture here.

Visit Armenia town and the historic, bustling market. Frequented daily by Armenia's residents and chefs alike, Armenia Market offers everything from new-age ingredients to traditional Colombian staples. Get caught up in the whirlwind of food stalls, flower shops, boutiques, and cafés before determining your route through the market to sample the best the city has to offer. Then, head out to a local coffee farm to learn more about the production of this important crop and its route from seed all the way to your coffee cup. Savor a taste of this famous Colombian export. **Accommodation:** Hostal Mi Monaco (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Armenia/Salento Take a morning hike through the Cocora Valley before an afternoon arrival in Salento. Continue the full coffee experience in the region of Quindío.

Head into the Cocora Valley by 4x4 and take in the magnificent views. Get active with a 2- to 3-hour hike through the area and learn more about this fertile region. **Approximate travel time:** 30 minutes by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Salento Real (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Salento/Medellín Drive through beautiful landscapes to Medellín. Opt to explore the city in the evening.

Drive to Medellín, passing through beautiful landscapes of the Andes Mountains, coffee plantations, and

small towns along the way. Opt to explore Medellín in the evening. **Approximate travel time:** 8-9 hrs by local bus **Accommodation:** Hotel Seven Inn Medellin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 6: Medellín Enjoy a neighborhood tour of the city and learn the fascinating history of the city's recent and ongoing transformation. During your free time, spend the rest of the day exploring this vibrant city.

Really get to know Colombia's second-largest city during a neighborhood tour. Medellín has been revitalized since the issues with drug cartels in the 1980s and 1990s, and it is now one of South America's most innovative and artistic cities. Explore the city's varied barrios filled with shops, parks, museums, churches, markets, and delicious cuisine. You will have the afternoon free, with plenty of optional activities to choose from, such as a visit to the famous rock El Peñol or a ride on a sightseeing bus. **Accommodation:** Hotel Seven Inn Medellin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 7: Medellín Enjoy another free day and opt to visit the nearby town of Guatapé, with its colorful houses and famous rock. Or ride the metrocable, a public cable car, for sweeping views of the city and surrounding mountains.

Enjoy another free day and opt to visit the nearby town of Guatapé, with its colorful houses and famous rock, El Peñol, a giant monolith formed approximately 70 million years ago. Or ride the metrocable, a cable car that is part of Medellín's public transportation, for sweeping views of the city and surrounding mountains. **Accommodation:** Hotel Seven Inn Medellin (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 8: Medellín/Cartagena Hop on a morning flight to Cartagena and arrive in time to spend the afternoon exploring the old walled city. Opt for dinner and a night out in this lively town.

Arrive in Cartagena after a morning flight from Medellín, and spend the afternoon exploring the old walled city. Your tour leader will take your group on an orientation walk before setting you loose to see the city on your own. Opt for a group dinner and a night out in this lively town. **Approximate travel time:** 1.5 hrs by plane **Accommodation:** Casa Villa Colonial (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 9: Cartagena Enjoy a free day exploring all Cartagena has to offer. Opt to enjoy the beautiful coast or explore the charming colonial city.

Enjoy a free day in beautiful Cartagena. Opt to pre-book the Totumo Mud Volcano as an optional activity; the mud is packed with rejuvenating minerals. **Accommodation:** Casa Villa Colonial (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 10: Cartagena Enjoy a city tour, visiting the colonial walled city and fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spend some free time taking in the Caribbean vibe of the city and beach.

This morning, learn more about Cartagena's history from a bilingual guide during a tour of this lively city. Travel between sights by private transport and visit the clock tower, Plaza Bolivar, and the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas. Take in sweeping views of the city from the hilltop Convento De La Popa, and enjoy a walking tour from San Pedro Claver Church to Santo Domingo Church. Afterward, spend your free time taking in the Caribbean vibe of the city and beach. See the optional activities section below for some suggestions on what to do during your free time. **Accommodation:** Casa Villa Colonial (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 11: Cartagena/Minca Travel to the small town of Minca, breathe in the fresh mountain air, and enjoy free time to explore.

Travel by private vehicle to the tiny, off-the-beaten-path, mountain town of Minca, where you can

breathe in the fresh mountain air. Enjoy some free time to explore, go looking for unique birds, explore the area on foot, or hang out at a local café by the river. **Approximate travel time:** 4 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Minca La Casona (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 12: Minca/Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona Head into Tayrona National Park to spend the day with the Katanzama indigenous community. Enjoy a textile weaving demonstration before enjoying free time at your accommodations just outside the park.

Visit the Katanzama community, located 30 minutes from Tayrona National Park, near Buritaca. Made up of approximately 80 Arhuaco indigenous families, you will visit and experience firsthand their ceremonial center, houses, coca and cacao plantations, and daily way of life. Your experience here will be led by a local Arhuaco guide, and you will enjoy a traditional textile weaving demonstration. Next, transfer to your accommodations just outside Tayrona National Park, where you will have free time to enjoy the property and its amenities. Relax in a nearby hammock, find a local restaurant for dinner, and enjoy the cool ocean breeze. **Approximate travel time:** 1.5 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Posada Villa Margarita (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 13: Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona Head into Tayrona National Park for a moderate hike with a local guide. This is a perfect opportunity to experience nature and learn a little more about the rich biodiversity of northern Colombia.

During a 3- to 4-hour guided hike of Tayrona National Park, learn more about the region's biodiversity and natural heritage. Lunch is included during your hike. Spend your free time in the evening unwinding after a full day of exploring the beautiful park. **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Posada Villa Margarita (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 14: Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona/Taganga In the afternoon, travel from Tayrona to Taganga. Go on an orientation walk with your tour leader upon arrival.

Travel to Taganga, where you will take an orientation walk through this traditional fishing village and get acquainted with the main sites. Soak up the Caribbean feel of this coastal town with some free time. Be sure to indulge in the area's fantastic fresh seafood or hang out in one of the many cafés along the beach. **Approximate travel time:** 45 min by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Ocean Taganga (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 15: Taganga/Santa Marta Take advantage of free time in this coastal town by relaxing on the beach or exploring the waters with a snorkel.

With a free day at leisure, tour Taganga on foot or don a snorkel and mask to explore the water. In the evening, travel to Santa Marta and join your group for an optional evening out on the town. **Approximate travel time:** 30 min by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Tayromar (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 16: Santa Marta Depart Santa Marta at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Santa Marta at any time. The Santa Marta airport is **Simón Bolívar International Airport (SMR)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Santa Marta, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEE0 program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public

and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*