

Essentials of Colombia

One history, a thousand inspiring stories.



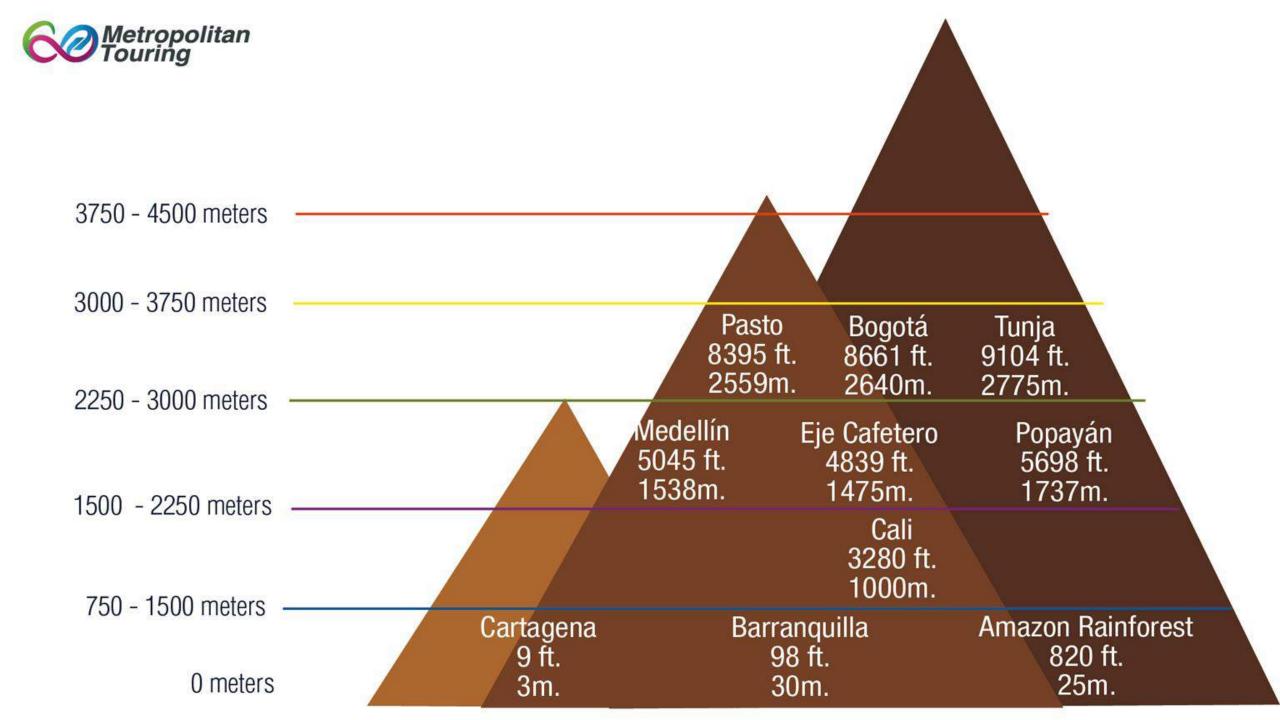
Capital: Bogotá **Official Language:** Spanish **Total population:** 47.704.427 people Two Oceans (Caribbean and Pacific)

• More than 860 international flights per week, with around 125.000 seats available.

•20 airlines operating 25 international destinations.

•The joyous, colorful cultural heritage of the Colombian people is visible in festivals and carnivals where music plays a leading role.

• Our roots are also reflected in crafts and archaeological sites, as well as paintings and sculptures by great artists.







Carnivals & Festivals

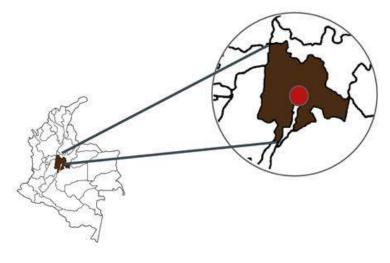








Bogotá is the capital and largest city in Colombia. A melting pot of people from around the country, it is diverse and multicultural, with a blend of modern and colonial architecture.





Museums



Gold Museum

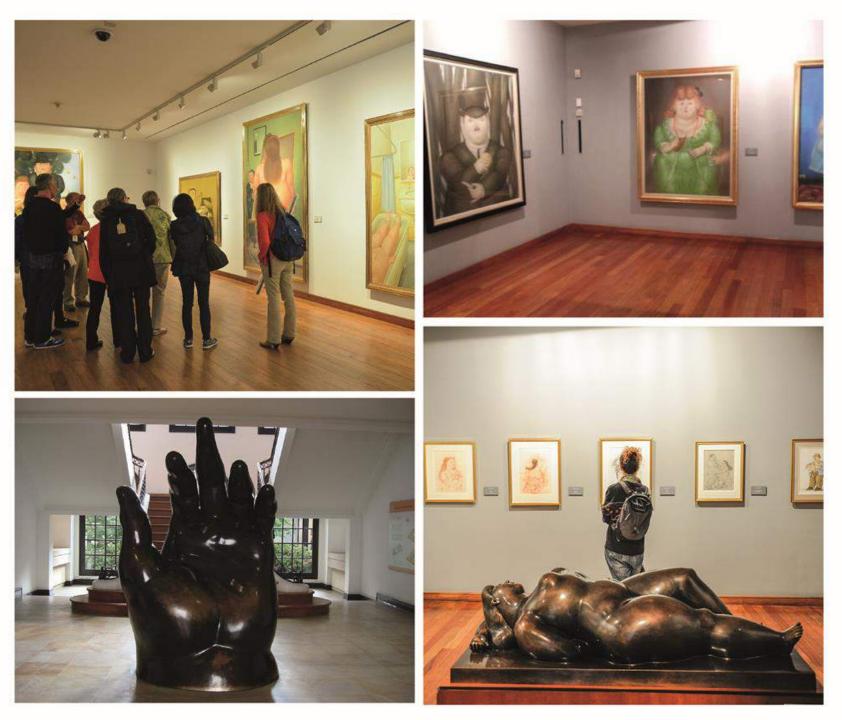
- Simply entering the Museum is enough to notice its magical character. This is largest collection of gold artifacts in the world and houses the legacy of mysterious pre-Columbian cultures.
- The Bogota Gold Museum contains close to 34,000 gold pieces, plus 20,000 bone, stone, ceramic, and textile articles belonging to 13 Pre-Hispanic societies.





Botero Museum

- Many works by the artist Fernando Botero are on display at the Botero Museum in the center of Bogotá.
- Botero is an abstract artist in the most fundamental sense, his work includes still-lifes and landscapes, Botero has concentrated on situational portraiture. His paintings and sculptures are united by their proportionally exaggerated, or "fat" figures, as he once referred to them.





National Museum

- The museum, houses about 20,000 artifacts, antiquities, and works of art.
- It is located in the former Central Penitentiary of Cundinamarca building since May 2, 1948.





Zipaquira's Salt Cathedral

Descend 180 meters below the surface and find a Catholic church built in the heart of a salt mine is what awaits travellers arriving in Zipaquirá. This place is the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá, where you can see carved salt sculptures, including a cross 16 feet high that is located behind the main altar.





"La Candelaria"

Many of the buildings of the La Candelaria neighborhood, the majority of which were built in colonial and Republican-era styles, have been declared properties of historical and cultural interest.





"Usaquén"

Walk through the narrow streets around it, buy crafts, and visit local bars and elegant restaurants serving traditional local or international food.





Paloquemao's Market

Paloquemao Square, in the west of Bogotá, is a traditional part of the city where fresh vegetables and other farm products fill an old abandoned railroad werehouse with color. The square, in operation since 1972, is much more that a market place, and attracts Colombian and foreign visitors who find a wide variety of fruit.







Gastronomy

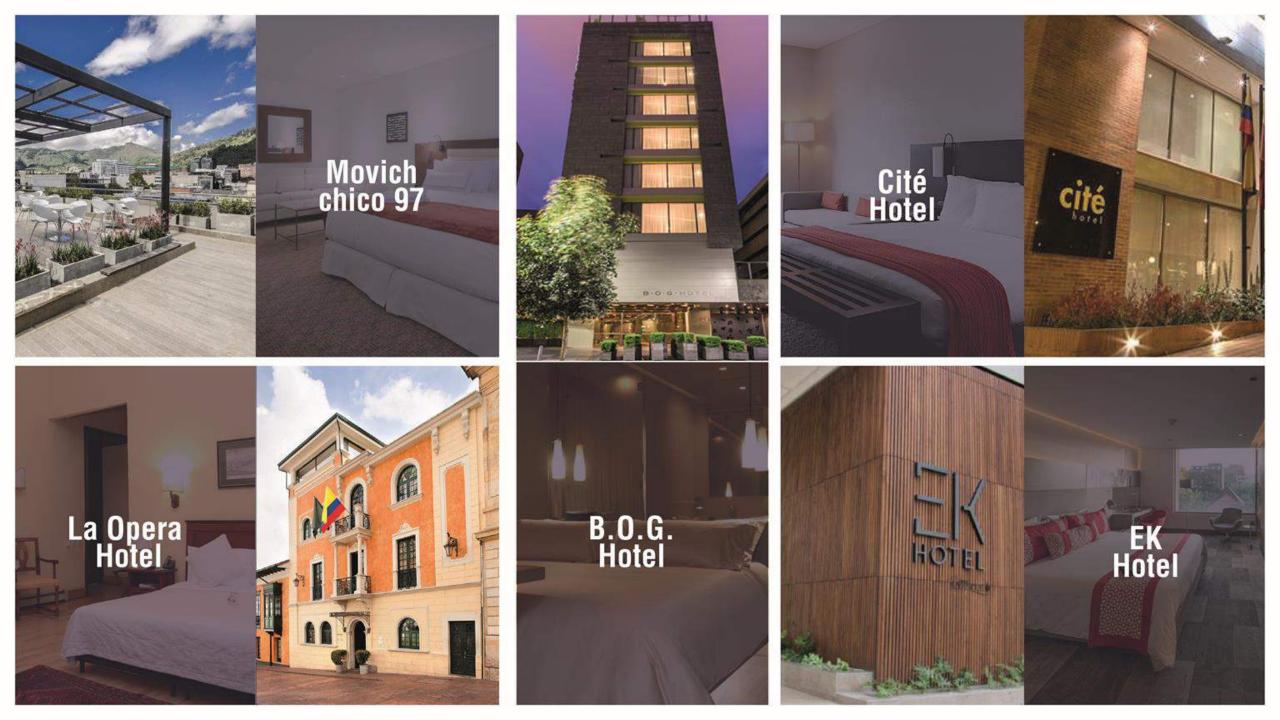


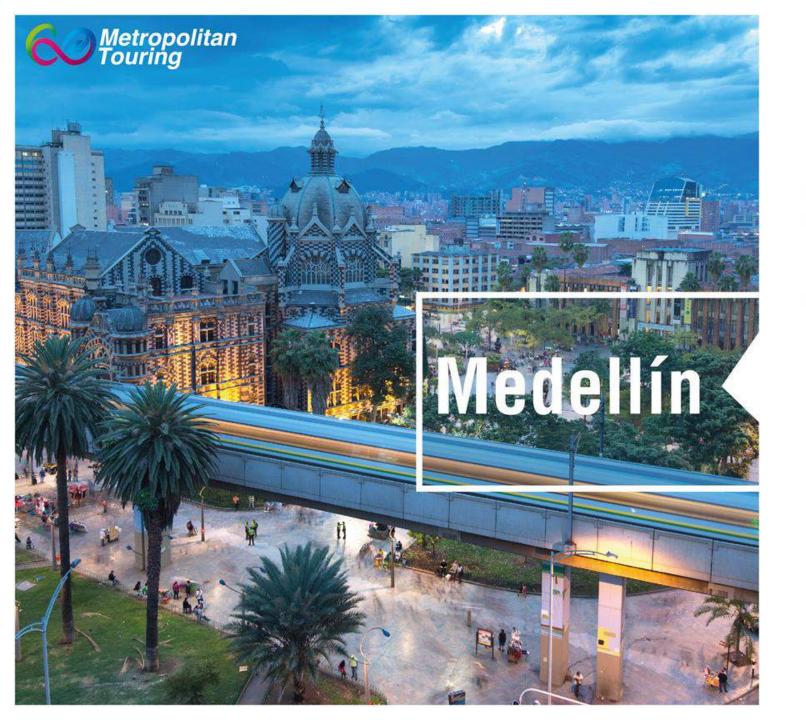


Graffiti

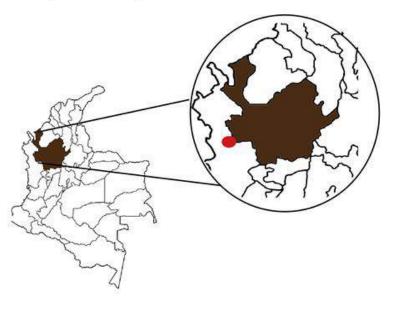








Medellín, capital of Antioquia department, has a pleasant climate of around 24°C; offers modern transport systems like Metro and Metro Cable an efficient infrastructure which has allowed it to host world-class events such as OAS and IDB meetings. Located in a valley surrounded by mountains, this city is always friendly to visitors.







Grafitti

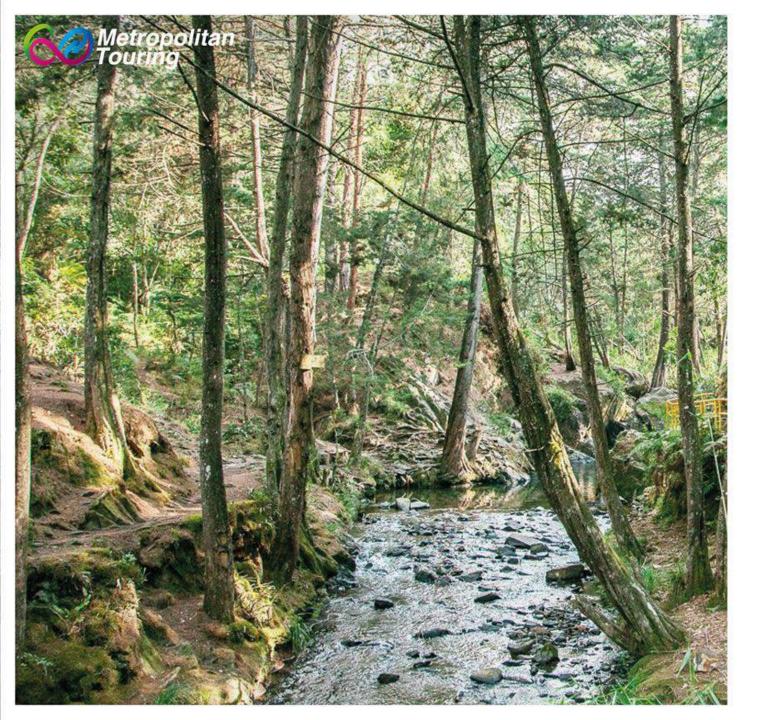




Botero´s Square

A good place to see outdoor sculptures of artist Fernando Botero is the square that bears his name, in the center of Medellin. There, in an area of 7.500 square meters, there is an exhibit of 23 works of the artist and two water fountains made by master. In the square famous works as such as 'The Hand'. 'Man and House' and 'Eva' are seen





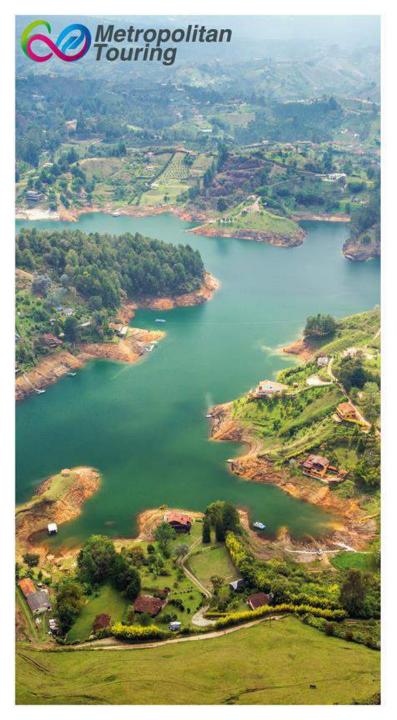
Arvi Park





Santa Elena





Guatapé & Peñol

62 kilometres east of Medellin travellers find a reflecting pool where they can fish and ride jet skis and boats. It is the Peñol -Guatapé reservoir, a dam built in the late 1970s in which 6,365 hectares which was flooded, covering the town of Peñol. The dam can store water between May and November for use in the summer.





Coffee Experience

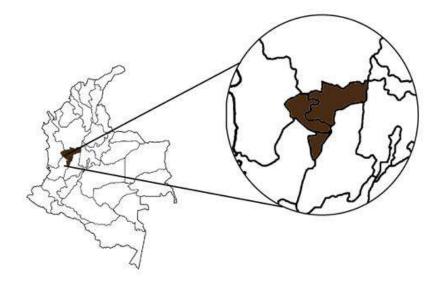








This journey will offer plenty of breathtaking sceneries where the mountain coffee fields are protagonists, as also the old-fashioned atmosphere of the coffee towns that will make you feel the close and ancient link that the inhabitants have developed with this land.



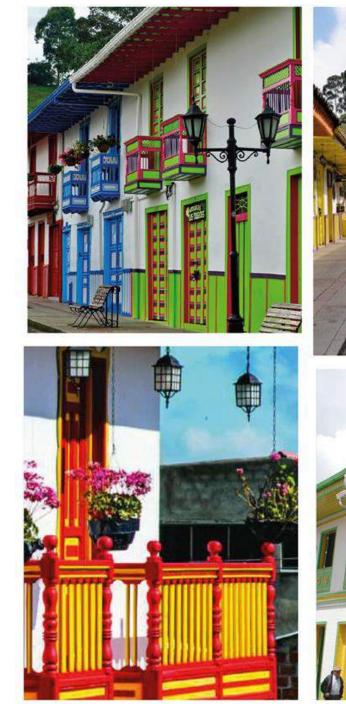


Coffee Experiences





Filandia & Salento









Helena Restaurant

















Otún Quimbaya Reserve

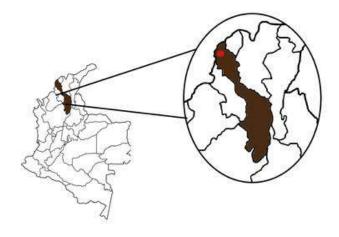








The sea breeze and the sunset that transform the colors of 400-year-old houses enchant visitors in Cartagena. A World Heritage Site, this city was founded by Pedro de Heredia in 1533; the colonial architecture of its buildings is protected by the most complete set of fortifications in South America.One of the most popular destinations on the rise in the world according to TripAdvisor







Historical Center & Monuments





Gastronomy





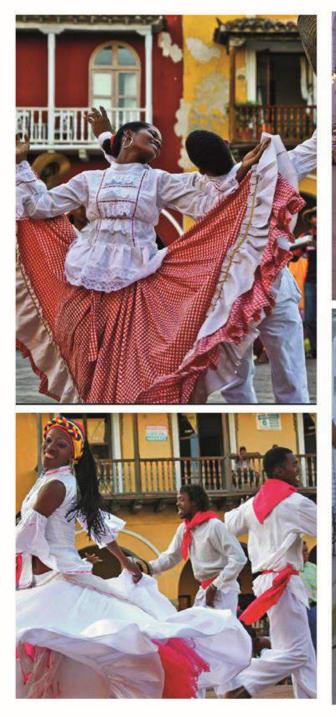








Dance & Folklore

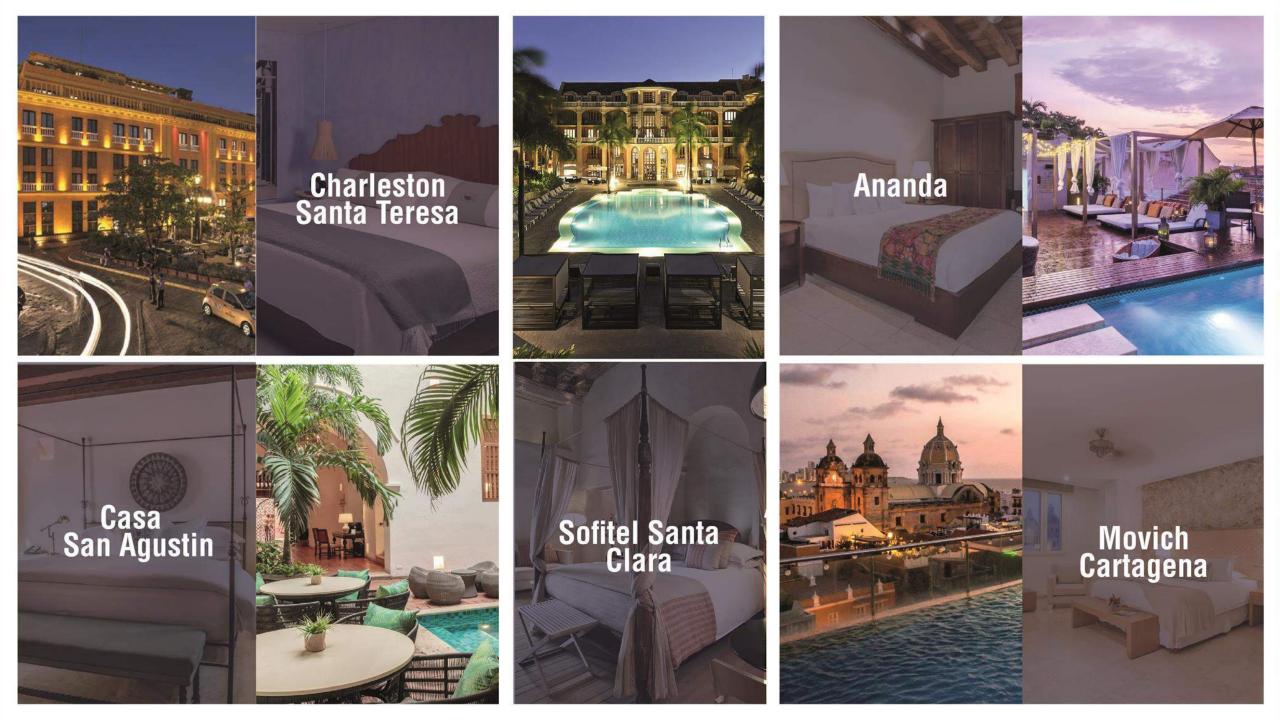
























Las Islas









San Basilio de Palenque

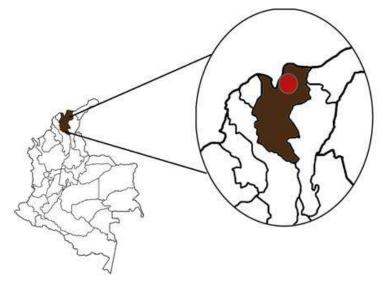
San Basilio de Palenque is a good place to observe Afro-Latino heritage. Palenque, as it is called, was one of the first free towns on the continent and has been home to premier boxers like Antonio Cervantes "Kid Pambelé. Palenque is located 34 miles from Cartagena and three miles down the road off the main highway leading to Sincelejo and into the country.







The Caribbean sea and snow make Santa Marta a difficult place to forget. The city is located on the shores of the Bay of Santa Marta on the Caribbean Sea, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, whose peaks can be seen on clear days from the beach. The capital of the department of Magdalena, which was founded in 1525, is one of the oldest cities in South America.



Tayrona

On one side the waves smash against volcanic rocks that are lined up next the beach: on the other side you seem to see a mirage because it would seem that a portion of the Amazon jungle arises in the midst of the Caribbean. Cañaveral is one of several beaches in the **Tayrona National Nature** Park, a nature reserve covering 12,000 acres.



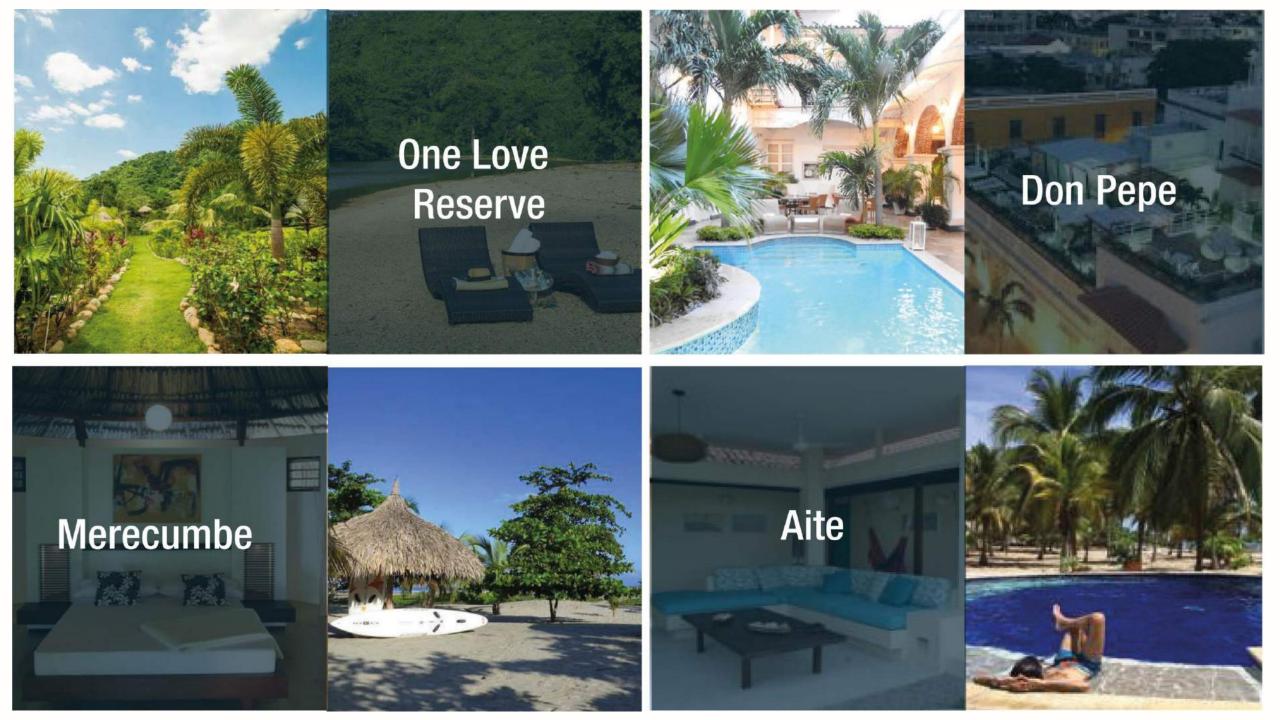
Lost City

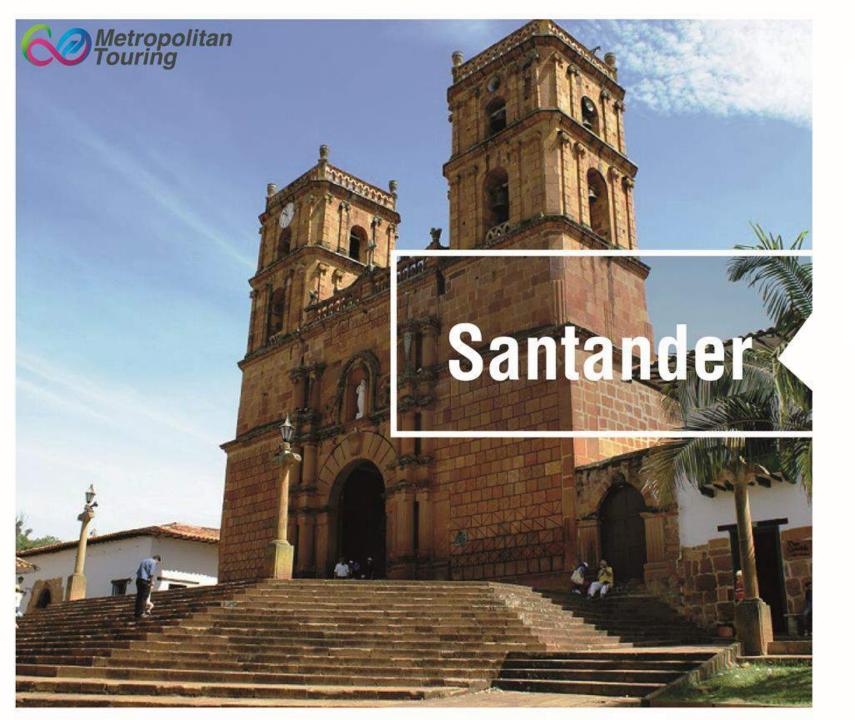
Visiting The Lost City is an unforgettable adventure. Built around 700AD, it was the main urban centre of the ancient Tayrona civilization and is one of the most important archaeological findings for the investigation of this culture.



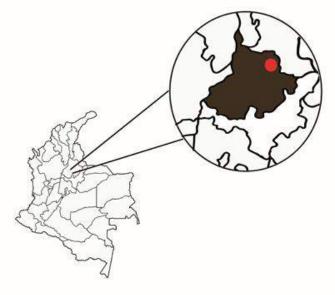


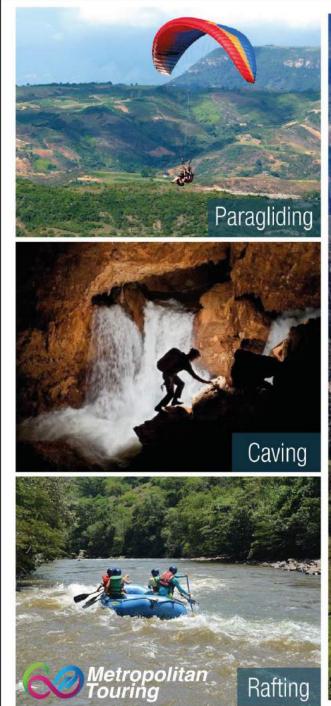


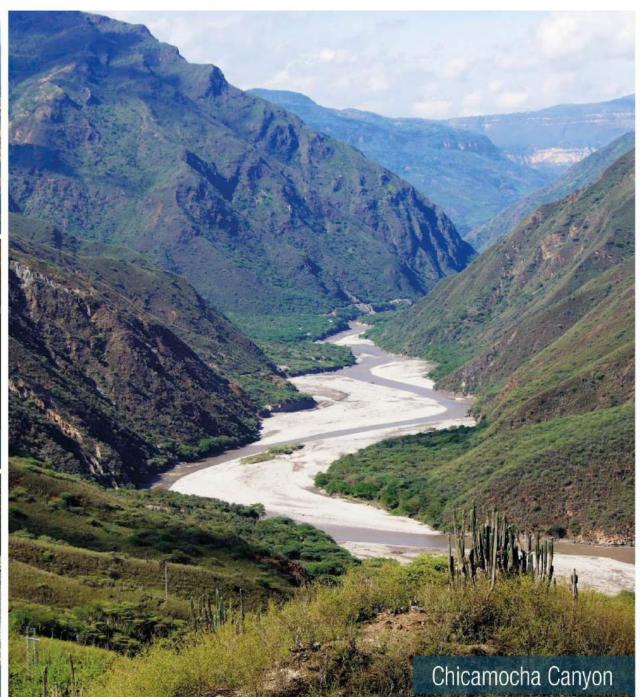


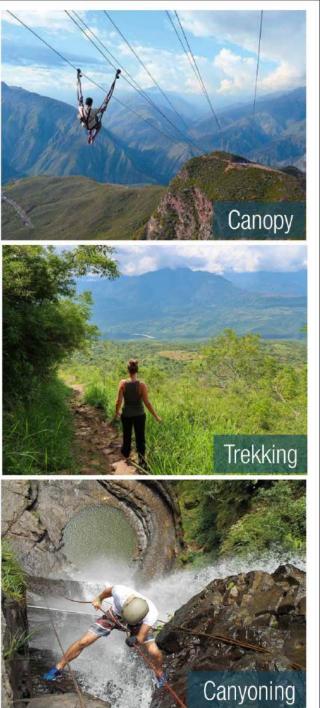


Santander is a charming department, where you can find different landscapes and thermal floors, is a place where rives abound, many of these have crystal clear waters, ideal for swimming and extreme sports. Its villages are full of adventures to discover. Its architecture and landscapes stand out for its beauty; definitely, Santander is a place where you can enjoy every corner.











Barichara



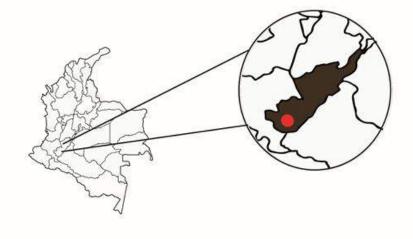


Experiences





This region occupies a strategic point where the three mountain ranges of the Colombian Andes branch off in different directions, and where the River Magdalena-Colombia's greatest river that flows to the Caribbean-is born. the civilizaton that carved the enigmatic statues and built the funerary mounds of San Agustin controlled a wide territory, benefiting from the country's amazingly mountainous geography and stunning biodiversity.





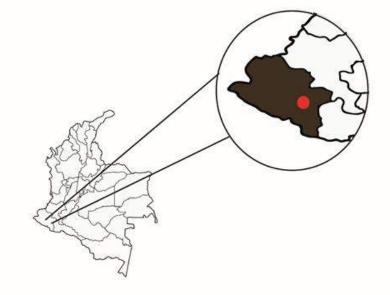
San Agustin Archeological park

One of the greatest mysteries of ancient civizations can be seen in the Archeological Park of San Agustin on the list World Heritage Site by UNESCO since 1995.





The department of Nariño, where the Nudo de los Pastos (Knot of the Pastos) divides the Andes in three parts in Southern Colombia, is filled with hundreds of small plots cultivated with different produce, creating a dazzling green landscape. From Pasto, the capital, you can travel to lagoons, volcanoes, moors, warm valleys.



Cali

Cali's cheerful nature is manifested in salsa, a Caribbean rhythm that is danced here among the sugarcane in its own unique way. In this city, nicknamed "Branch of Heaven," the peaks of Cristo Rey, the hill of the Three Crosses, and the hills of San Antonio jut upwards from the plains that make up most of Valle del Cauca.

La Guajira

The legacy of the indigenous Wayúu people, evident in their colorful blankets and knapsacks, among other handcrafted items, on the other hand, the natural richness of this place, make it a paradise.



Barranquilla

In Barranquilla, where the Magdalena River meets the Caribbean Sea, any street becomes a party. You don't need to visit during the famous Carnival to see a spontaneous crowd dancing around a makeshift stage to instruments such as drums, maracas, and millet flutes. Here, joy belongs to everyone.



Villages

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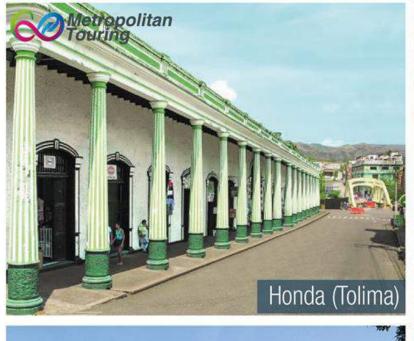
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- 1. Aguadas (Caldas)
- 2. Barichara (Santander)
- 3. Ciénaga (Magdalena)
- 4. El socorro (Santander)
- 5. Guadalajara de Buga (Valle del Cauca)
- 6. Guaduas (Cundinamarca)
- 7. Honda (Tolima)
- 8. Jardín (Antioquia)
- 9. Jericó (Antioquia)
- 10. La Playa de Belén (Norte de Santander)
- 11. Monguí (Boyacá)
- 12. Salamina (Caldas)
- 13. San juan girón (Santander)
- 14. Santa cruz de lorica (Córdoba)
- 15. Santa cruz de Mompox (Bolívar)
- 16. Santa fe de Antioquia (Antioquia)
- 17. Villa de Leyva (Boyacá)

Our Heritage Towns

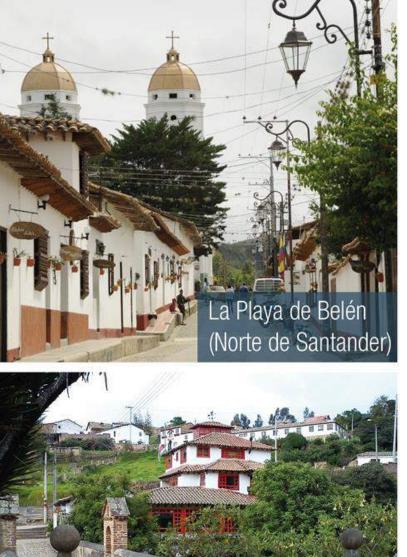




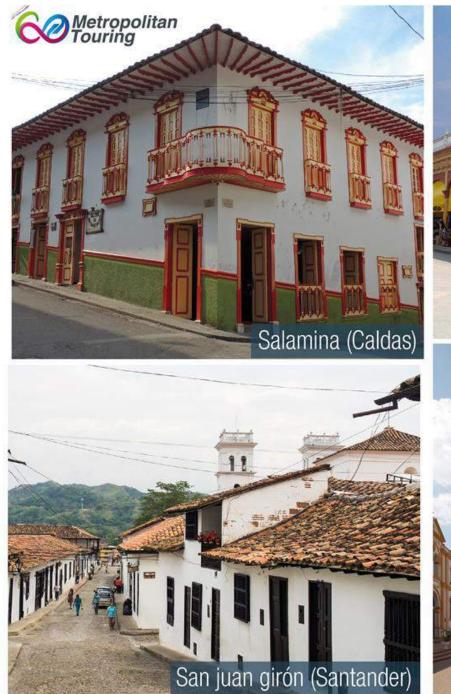


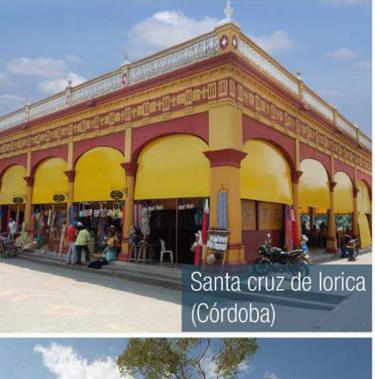






Monguí (Boyacá)









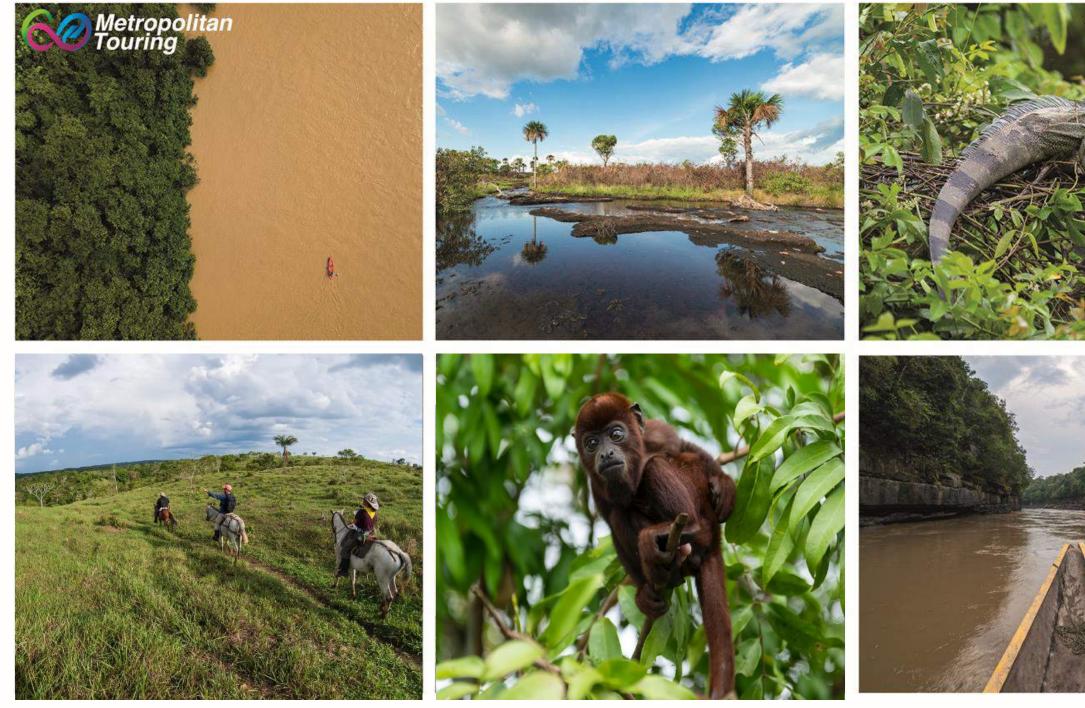




Macarena Massif



At the western extreme of the Guiana Shield, the Macarena Massif lies. Only here do the Amazon, the Andes and the Orinoquía ecosystems meet and meld. As a testament to its uniqueness, it was the first national reserve ever to be established in Colombia National Natural Park protects 6,200 Km2 (2,400sq miles).





Caño Cristales

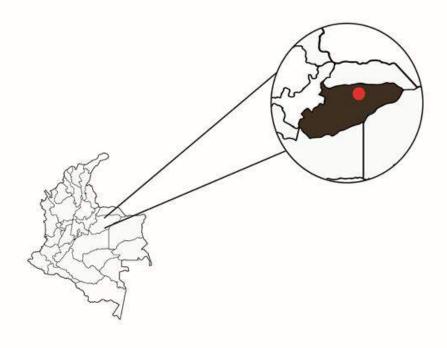
In the south of the Serrania de la Macarena, lies one of Colombia's most famous natural wonders: Caño Cristales. Also known as "the liquid rainbow" this small river is a unique spectacle of color that comes to life from July to November.







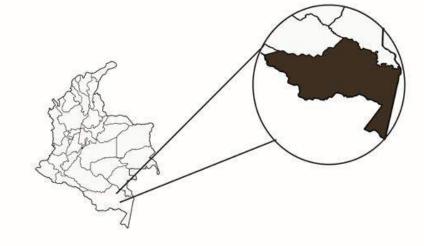
A huge natural reserve in the vast Eastern plains of Colombia that offers a stunning horse riding safari seeking for wild fauna. A thrilling adventure between cowboys, horses, anacondas, and a journey inside the fascinating Llanera culture.

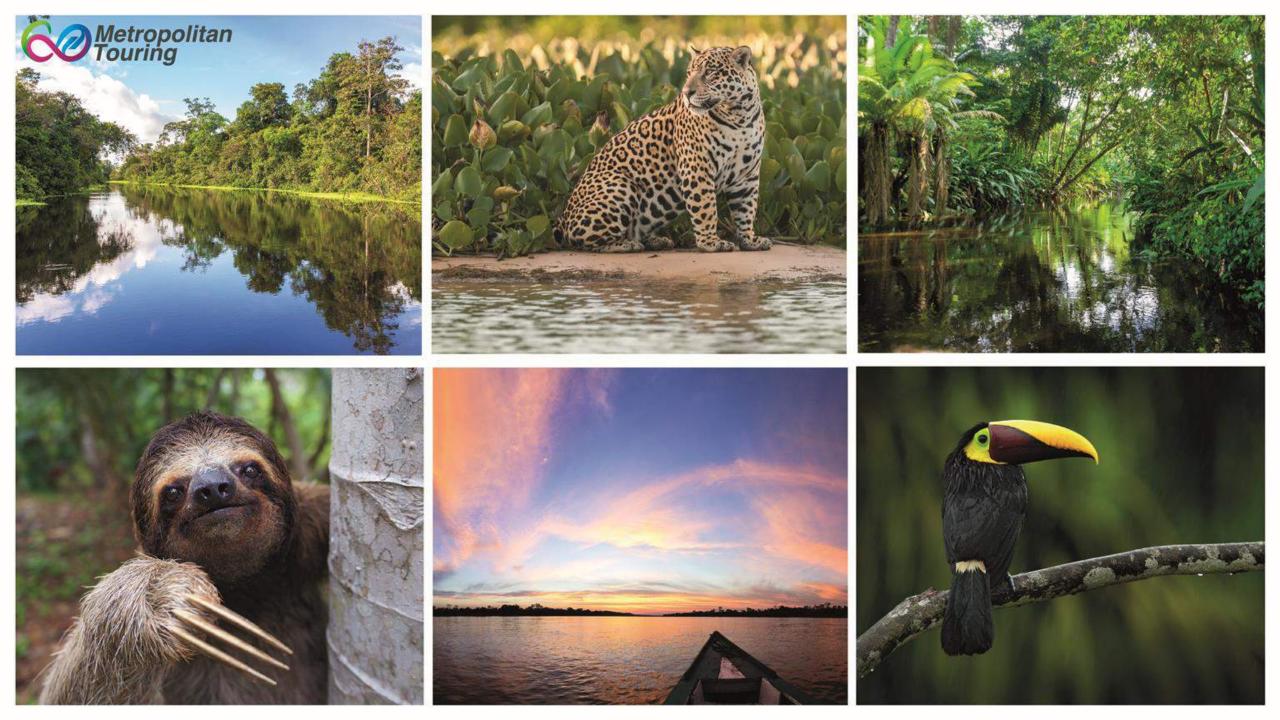






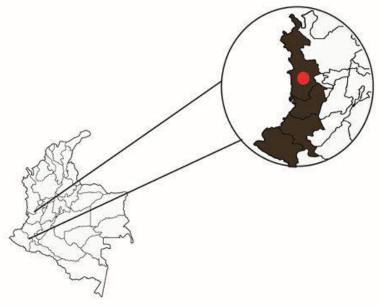
Amazonian life is so different from "civilization" as we know it. Seeing the world's largest water lily, the Royal Victoria, lying on the calm surface toa lake , or floating on the treetops, will feel like a dream. Here, at the southern tip of Colombia, bird watchers from around the world gather to observe over 674 species of native species.







The Colombian Pacific Coast, a vibrant rainforest full of life, is an ideal place to admire the humpback whales in their annual migration from July to November. Live This overwhelming experience in one of most pristine and beautiful places in the country.





An ocean of wealth The Pacific lends its name to this region of western Colombia where black sand beaches are ideal for walks and for activities such.

