

Colombia,
the only risk
is wanting
to stay



INCENTIVES



COLOMBIA

Welcome to Colombia. We invite you to discover a different country, strategically located in the northern part of South America, with coasts on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, the tallest seaside snow peak in the world, incredible historic sites, unbelievable natural landscapes, and a privileged climate with 365 days of sunshine and placid, charming nights. Our tourist infrastructure and highly professional, creative and resourceful tour operators, are up to the challenge of making each incentive trip a unique experience for your clients and a success for your company.

Colombia will seduce you with the most surprising destinations and a complete portfolio of tourist services that bureaux and tour operators will offer to you according to your detailed requirements, yet always surpassing your expectations. (See details on the Congresses and Conventions Manual).

Cartagena de Indias, Santa Marta, San Andres, Bogota, Medellin, the Café Triangle, Cali and Santander will amaze you. Gala dinners in a museum or an eighteenth century fortress, theme parties, animated routes, trekking, rafting, canopying, extreme ropes, adventure parks, a mud volcano, spas, guided tours of historic monuments, tours on sailboats and galleons or horse-pulled carriages, golf tournaments, kart races, and even ostrich races are some of the activities that you can make happen in this country of incentives.



M I C E

The country's imposing and modern convention centers have been the venue of the following important world events, among many others: the Inter-American Bank Assembly (1982), the XI Summit of Non-aligned Countries (1995), the IV International Congress of the Spanish Language (2007), the XXXI TravelMart LatinAmerica (2007) and the XVII General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (2007).

You can imagine what Colombia is like, but you will not be able to guess correctly; even when our visitors come for the second time, their amazement continues. It is a worthwhile experience. This is a country that defies the imagination, a country of dream-like places, with the best coffee, flowers, emeralds, and people who show their friendliness from the very first moment. Not in vain did the foreigners who fell in love with this country find the exact words to describe their experience: Colombia, the only risk is wanting to stay.

UNESCO World Heritages in Colombia

Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (1984)

Los Katios National Park (1994)

San Agustín Archaeological Park (1995)

Tierradentro Archeological Park (1995)

Historic Center of Santa Cruz de Mompox (1995)

Carnival of Barranquilla (2003)

Palenque de San Basilio (2004)

Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (2006)



DESTINATION

Heredia Theater, Cartagena de Indias.



CARTAGENA

A Walled City Open to the World

Eleven kilometers / 6.8 miles of walls enclose the historic center of this warm, coastal, ancient, and sophisticated city of the sixteenth century. This is the main destination for congresses and conventions on Colombia's Caribbean Coast.

Its old churches and impressive architecture, its legendary colonial houses that belonged to counts and marquises, its lively narrow streets that exhibit immense respect for their architecture, the Fortress of San Felipe de Barajas, the Adolfo Mejia Theater, places such as the Inquisition Museum, the Gold Museum, the Naval Museum, the Museum of the Zenu Culture and each one of its fortresses along the walls, are unequalled locations and additions for incentive programs.

Several tours depart from the Old City. One is known as the Garciamarquian Route and takes visitors to places that inspired Colombian Nobel prize-winning Gabriel Garcia Marquez, including Barranquilla and Santa Marta, a true voyage across his life and his works.

Allow Cartagena de Indias to charm you while an unbeatable human team makes your incentive trip the most enriching experience of your group.

Hotels in Cartagena de Indias offer a variety of atmospheres to meet the profile of the incentive trip and the group. They include luxury hotels that operate in exquisitely restored and decorated convents, cozy boutique hotels inside the walled city, modern hotels in the city's modern section, and a resort hotel in the surroundings, just ten minutes by car from the historic town.

DE INDIAS



Panoramic view, Cartagena de Indias



Diving and Nature

Only 45 minutes away by boat, is an archipelago of 23 islands by the name of Islas del Rosario, with turquoise-colored water, beaches of white sand, and coral reefs on the Caribbean Coast. These are ideal sites for relaxing, diving, and nautical activities. Just 45 minutes away by car from Cartagena de Indias, visitors may visit the Volcan del Totumo, a 15-meter / 49 feet tall mud volcano. A ladder built by the locals allows visitors to climb to the top and float on the mud. The idea is to then allow the mud to dry on the body. The experience ends with a bath in the waters of the *"Cienaga del Totumo"*, a nearby swamp. A canoe tour of the mangroves in the area is another possibility.

Galleons and Sailboats

Unforgettable times may be shared in the Bay of Cartagena de Indias by sailing on a Spanish galleon or a sailboat in this cruise destination and main maritime port of the country.

Gastronomy and Rumba: Nights in Cartagena de Indias

Nights in Cartagena de Indias are famous for their romanticism, charm, liveliness, and party atmosphere. Following a tour in the heart of the walled city and its surroundings in a horse-pulled carriage or on a chiva (the famous open-sided bus), visitors can delight a Caribbean or an international cuisine in a multitude of restaurants, several of which are located on a bastion, in a museum, or in a plaza in front of a seventeenth century church. Son, salsa, and crossover rhythms played by folk music groups or professional musicians may be enjoyed in bars, discos, and even on the bastions. All of these have been part of the settings for countless corporate events and incentive trips.



Santo Domingo Plaza, Cartagena de Indias.



Bay of Cartagena, Cartagena de Indias.



Palenquera, Cartagena de Indias.



Walled City, Cartagena de Indias.



The Barranquilla Carnival

The industrial and port city of Barranquilla is located just an hour away by land from Cartagena de Indias. This tropical dry climate city is the owner of a treasure declared by UNESCO a World Heritage: the Barranquilla Carnival, which moves souls and bodies to the rhythms of the *garabato*, and the *cumbia*. At the beginning of every year, the characters of the festival and their thousands of paraders and followers cross the city from south to north inviting all to join a festival Colombia offers to the world. The reading of the city ordinance declaring the opening of the carnival, the coronation of the queen, the costumed groups party, the night of the orchestras, the battle of the flowers and the King Momo parade are part of this fourteen-day agenda. The festival begins a month before with pre-carnival activities that take place on weekends. The carnival is celebrated forty days before Easter.

Golf in Barranquilla

Barranquilla Country Club and Lagos de Caujaral Club

Marvelous golf experiences may be enjoyed in two par-72, 18-hole courses located just twenty minutes away. Prepare yourself to brave the course and the breezes of the Caribbean.



Cruise, Cartagena de Indias.
Courtesy of Port of Cartagena.



Barranquilla Carnival.
Courtesy of Barranquilla Carnival Foundation.

Schedule of Events in Cartagena de Indias

January

Bullfighting Fair
International Music Festival

February

Hay Festival

March

International Film and TV Festival

November

Independence Feasts
National Beauty Pageant
Race of the Stars (Formula 1 pilots, every other year)

Schedule of Events in Barranquilla

February

Carnival of the Arts
Barranquilla Carnival

March

Platform K

September

Barranqui-jazz

Valledupar

May

Festival of the Vallenata Legend



SANTA

This is an adventure destination where a majestic nature seems to reign over the port city and capital of the Department of Magdalena. This is the land of Aracataca, the birthplace of Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and the land where Liberator Simon Bolivar passed away in a beautiful country estate: the Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino, which is also the location of fantasy-filled business events.

Santa Marta is proud of its location at the foot of the tallest seaside mountain range in the world. The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta reaches heights of 5,775 meters / 18,946 feet above sea level only 40 kilometers / 24.5 miles from the Caribbean Sea. This is the land of the Arhuacos and the Kogis, native tribes who struggled valiantly against the Spanish conquerors, as well as the land of the beautiful natural pools of Quebrada Valencia. Santa Marta is famous for its natural beauty as well as for its archaeological remains at Ciudad Perdida. Its beauty in the Tayrona National Natural Park merited the construction of an eco-tourist boutique hotel.

Nature

Tayrona

Fifteen thousand hectares / 37,065 acres of palm trees, beaches, hills, forests, and scrubland, share the landscape with a surfing sea, mangroves, coral reefs, 100 species of mammals, 200 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles, and the archaeological remains of the Tayrona Indians. It truly has no equal on the Colombian Caribbean coast. Horseback rides, rafting in the copious Don Diego River with its rapids and falls, and hiking are especially worthwhile in this amazing park. Lodging is easy in campsites, traditional tourist inns, or the Ecohabs, modern replicas of Tayrona Indian dwellings.

MARTA

EcoHabs, Tayrona Park



Minca

On the way up the Sierra Nevada, there is a coffee village with temperatures ranging from 17° to 24° C / 62° to 75° F. This is just the place for an astounding view of coffee and flower plantations, the Sierra Nevada, San Lorenzo, Las Piedras, and Pozo Azul.

Diving Taganga

This village of fishermen and seagulls is located just 15 minutes by car from Santa Marta: It is a diving station, as well as a preferred site for snorkelers.

Adventure Mamancana

Mamancana Park is ideal for adventure incentive trips. It boasts 600 hectares / 482 acres of tropical dry forest and experiences in delta winging, canopying, paragliding, motor gliding, rock and tree climbing, mountain biking, rappelling, down hilling, horseback rides, diving, bird watching, and all-terrain vehicle tours. This challenging natural reserve has a lodging infrastructure with all the basic services, a camping ground, a restaurant, and places for meetings.



Sunset in Taganga, Santa Marta.





SAN ANDRES,

In the seventeenth century, pirate Henry Morgan sought refuge from ferocious battles and quarrels in a small coral cave that protects a small lake on the island of San Andres. Various upheavals have shaken the island since, but nowadays, time seems to have come to a stop in this archipelago where the sea invented seven colors to show itself off. In 2000, UNESCO declared it a Biosphere Reserve. A charming Creole English-speaking population, amazing coral reefs, palm trees, beaches, pedestrian walkways, and excellent free port shopping make the 27 square kilometers / 10.42 square miles of San Andres Island a magical place. Outings on the Morgan Galleon, accompanied by the rhythms of reggae and socca and delicious seafood cooked in coconut milk are a favorite activity of all kinds of visitors. *The rondon* (run down) and dumplings are the emblematic dishes of the island.

The neighboring island of Providencia, is surrounded by a coral reef and joined to the island of Santa Catalina by the Lovers' Bridge. The beauty of the three islands is truly exuberant; they constitute a great option for incentive trips for small groups.



Lover's Bridge, Providencia.

PROVIDENCIA AND SANTA CATALINA



Panoramic view, San Andrés.



Diving The Cays

The nearby Johnny Cay, Acuario, and Haynes Cay are ideal for relaxing; the Bolivar and Albuquerque Cays, at some distance, become the frenzy of snorkelers and divers thanks to their large coral reefs. All of them contribute to rounding off the spectacular paradisiacal vocation of this destination.

Nautical Sports

Windsurfing, kitesurfing, light sailing, cruise and ski sailing, diving with or without oxygen tanks, aqua-biking, underwater and surface fishing make part of the portfolio of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina.



San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina.

Nature

Admiring marine fauna and flora on a tour of the cays and mangroves from a pirate galleon or semi-submersible or glass-bottomed boats is one of the main attractions in this Caribbean destination.



Johnny Cay-San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina.



Kids, San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina



BOGOTA

A cosmopolitan city, World Book Capital 2007, an average temperature of 16° C / 60° F, and 2,600 meters / 8,530 feet closer to the stars are a good choice of words for describing Bogota. Located on a high plateau on the Andes Mountains, it is the main city in the country, the seat of the National Government, and a destination *par excellence* for congresses and conventions. Modern and classical structures intertwine the frenzy of this capital city with the placid natural scenery that surrounds it in places like Paipa and its thermal waters and Sochagota, where it is possible to hold a sport competition.



Andrés Carne de Res Restaurant, Bogota.



La Candelaria, Bogota



Corteras, Bogota



La Candelaria, Bogota



History and Culture

Museums

One of the oldest museums on the American continent is one of the prides of this capital city. The imposing stone-walled facade of the Museo Nacional, or National Museum, does not allow it to go unobserved. Over 20,000 pieces confirm its wealth. The Museo del Oro, or Gold Museum, houses the most important metalwork collection in the world, with over 34,000 pieces and 20,000 objects from diverse pre-Columbian cultures.

Bogota is ideal for a cultural incentive. Over 40 museums house collections in the fields of archaeology, history, numismatics, philatelic, religion, technology, art, bullfighting, marine ecosystems, architecture, and photography. Several are available for theme parties; the Chico Museum, for instance.

La Candelaria

This is Bogota's most bohemian section, as well as its historic, cultural, and intellectual center. Steep cobbled streets and large colonial houses with wide eaves make up most of the landscape. However, public buildings built in the republican and modern styles, such as the President's offices, the Mayor's offices, the Cardinal's Palace, the Courts and several Ministries, are also located in La Candelaria. This is actually a circuit of museums, restaurants, and beautiful places. Touring it is a must.

Villa de Leyva

This is one of the better-preserved colonial towns in the entire country. Its idyllic landscape is full of chivalrous tales, cobbled streets, huge colonial houses, museums, fossils, waterfalls, and caves that make this town an excellent stage for a cultural incentive trip that also includes nature activities. The Santuario de Iguaque is the preferred spot of nature lovers.



Monserate Peak, Bogota.



Gold Museum, Bogota.



Villa de Leyva, Boyaca.



Nature in the Extreme The Zipaquira Salt Cathedral

Hidden under the plains and hills of a town with narrow streets, lies one of Colombia's marvels: the Salt Dome of Zipaquira, one of the world's largest salt deposits, with 50% of the salt of the whole country. Salt was the preferred currency for trade for the first inhabitants of the area, the Muisca Indians.

Time, light, sound, color, movement, and wind keep changing during the descent into the Cathedral. Those who have been able to describe this authentic cultural experience say it takes them on the road to a different inner world. This is a mysterious place that invites reflection. Offers for visitors include the following: the route of the miner, complete with hardhats, protective gloves, and head beams; the Via Crucis, or Stations of the Cross; the descent ramp, the chorus and balconies; the Nartex Complex; and the Great Chamber of the Miners.

Nemocon

Behind the 3 meter / 9 feet tall German doors from 1817, buttressed by eucalyptus logs, is the site of an adventure that descends 60 meters / 196 feet underground and then advances horizontally for 2,500 meters / 8,200 feet more. This is a trip to the core of the Earth, passing by interesting salt formations, water mirrors, a wishing well, the chapel of the Virgen del Carmen, and the heart of Nemocon, a village that dates back 470 years.

Adventure

Paintball, ascending La Gran Pared (the big wall) in Colombia's largest rock-climbing gym, trekking, canyoning, wet rappelling, rafting, recreational diving, karts competitions, and even ostrich races take place in the Department of Cundinamarca, of which Bogota is also the capital city. Sites with the specialized services for performing these activities are: Tobia, Suesca, Chingaza, and Melgar.



Farm on the outskirts of Bogota, Bogota.





Rumba and Gastronomy

Typical, international, and fusion cuisines in several styles are available in Bogota. Wining and dining, and ending up dancing in one of the hottest spots in the savanna are possible in Bogota. The 93rd Street Park, the T and G Zones, La Macarena, Usaquen, and Chia concentrate the best restaurants of this exquisite destination.

Golf

Colombia is the third country in Latin America in terms of number of golf courses. The offer is spectacular. Over 25 golf clubs can be reached in less than forty minutes and can be enjoyed 365 days a year. All courses have 18 holes and were designed by famous world professionals. Enjoy this marvelous sport and experience the intense shades of green of these courses. At present, Bogota is the seat of a valid tournament for the European Challenge Tour. It was voted as the best in 2007 by the professional players of the circuit. Enjoy the experience.

Bullfighting Seasons: Plaza de Toros de Santamaria

The above is the name of Bogota's bullfighting ring. Since 1931, the season takes place in January and February. "La Santamaria", short for its full name, is an imposing work of architecture, which includes a museum that exhibits bullfighter's attires, bullfighting capes, and *banderillas* (the barbed sticks that are planted on the bull's flanks).



T Zone, Bogota.



Andres Carne de Res Restaurant, Bogota.

Events Schedule in Bogota

March

Ibero-American Theater Festival (every other year)

April

International Book Fair

June

El Malpensante Festival, a cultural fair sponsored by El Malpensante magazine

August

ARTBO, the International Art Fair of Bogota

October

Bogota Film Festival

November

Rock at the Park

December

Handicrafts Fair



Set - up for a special event,
by Adriana Satizabal.



MEDELLIN

The City of Eternal Spring lies in the Aburra Valley in the midst of parks, plazas, and vegetation, and the 23° C / 73° F temperature that gave it its nickname. The inhabitants of this charming destination are called "paisas". With their drive and friendliness, they have made Medellin the second city in Colombia. This is a city where culture expresses itself in a multitude of ways. Just think of the sculptures by Fernando Botero, the Flower Fair, fashion, textiles and tango in honor to Gardel. Architecturally, Plaza Mayor, stands out as the most modern exhibit and convention center in Latin America.



Panoramic Medellin.



Park of the lights, Medellín.



History, Culture, and Tradition

Cerro Nutibara: The top of the Nutibara hill offers one of the best panoramic views of the city. "Pueblito Paisa", a replica of an early twentieth century village, was built on the hill and includes a chapel, a school, the mayoralty, a barber's shop, a pharmacy, a liquor shop, a two-story house, and a monument to an important person.

Plaza Botero: With 23 sculptures, this is the world's largest exhibition of works by Fernando Botero.

Museo de Antioquia: This is the second most important museum in the country and a site for important cultural events.

Botanical Garden "Joaquin Antonio Uribe": This botanical garden is ideal for corporate events and theme parties. Inter-Andean forests, orchids, bird, and flowers are part of the attractions.

Cerro El Volador Eco - park: The land of this 12 Hectares / 29 acres eco-park used to be a ceremonial site of the Indians who inhabited the Aburra Valley. Main activities are the observation of space on full moon nights and guided tours through its archaeological museum.

Cisneros Plaza: This is a public plaza that is visited mostly for its historic value. Its greatest attraction is a complex of 360 towers that are lit according to the phases of the moon. It is 24 meters / 78 feet tall and has 2,100 spotlights. At ground level the plaza has 170 lampposts.

Pies Descalzos Plaza: Located near the Alpujarra Administrative Center, this park offers interactive encounters with nature. Its name reflects a guided barefoot tour through water fountains, a sand park, a Zen garden, and several streams.

Los Deseos Park: This is an interactive park that shows the impact of astronomy on water, energy, and communications. Its eight attractions bear witness to the dreams, wishes, and achievements of humanity at different times.

Metro Transportation: The Metro lends itself to a historical, tourist, and industrial tour on land, and offers the best panoramic tour of Medellin on its two-kilometer long, aerial Metrocable section.



Botero Plaza, Medellín



Nature and Entertainment

In Medellin it is impossible to separate these two concepts. This is an ideal destination for a nature and adventure incentive trip.

Explora Park: Is a 37,000 square meters / 398,277 square feet interactive park with indoor and outdoor spaces that combine nature and architecture, a place for the dissemination of science and technology. It exalts creativity and offers visitors the opportunity to experiment, to learn while having fun, and to construct new knowledge that contributes to development, welfare, and dignity. It will soon have the largest freshwater aquarium in Latin America with a variety of fish from the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers. A saltwater section will have species from the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

Juan Pablo II Park: Besides its aquatic vocation, evidenced by pools and water slides, it has areas devoted to cycling, skating, motorcycling, and outdoor spaces for 5,000 people.

North Park: A list of the activities of this park suffices to describe its potential as an incentive trip destination: fishing, water sports, an observation point overlooking the lake, a jungle with animated effects, merry-go-rounds, an events plaza, pedestrian walkways, and a boulevard with skills areas along 16 kilometers / 10 miles of vegetation.

La Macarena Sports Complex and Entertainment Center: With facilities for 34 sports, this complex is among the most complete in Latin America. Besides being a bullfighting ring, La Macarena was remodeled for other types of events like concerts. Remodeling included the installation of a removable roof.






The city also becomes the platform for access to the various sub-regions in the Department of Antioquia.

The East – The Green Route of Antioquia: Offers a complete service infrastructure, as well as the fondas paisas (typical eateries), roadside inns, parks, restaurants, and complete lodging options in hotels and hostels.

The West – The Sun and Fruit Route: Takes you along the road that goes in the direction of the Pacific Ocean. It is necessary to cross the longest and most modern road tunnel in Latin America: the “*Tunel de Occidente*”. The main tourist offer here is Santa Fe de Antioquia, a wonderfully preserved colonial town that used to be the capital of the Department of Antioquia.

Cañon del Rio Claro Natural Reserve: This is a marble canyon carved by the waters of a crystalline river in the midst of a tropical rain forest. Visitors are lodged in cabins that are virtually embedded in the rocks. The park and its surroundings are perfect for incentive trips based on nature. Activities include canopying, ordinary and inner tube rafting, snorkeling in Las Dantas, cave exploration in the Caverna de los Guacharos, the Templo del Tiempo, and expeditions to the Rio Claro River falls.





Cauca Viejo: Is a housing complex built as a replica of a typical Antioquenean village. Its infrastructure is suitable for groups. Sailing on the Cauca River and riding on the traditional sports vehicles called "mules" are two ways of getting to know this mountainous landscape.

Golf

Medellin is the birthplace of great golfers. Four eighteen hole courses are located in the city and its vicinity. All were designed by renowned experts. Enjoy their beautiful landscapes while you exercise in an ideal climate.



Flower Fair, Medellin



Christmas in Medellín.

Events Schedule in Medellín

January - February

La Candelaria Bullfighting Fair

April

La Fanfarria International Puppet Festival

May

The Great Fair of Antioquia

Junio

XV Porro Festival
Solsticio de Verano Music Feast
International Tango Festival

July

Colombiamoda
National Handicrafts Fair
International Poetry Festival

August

Flower Fair – Silleteros Parade
Festival of Colombian Films
Design Week – Via Primavera

September

Book and Culture Fair
Contemporary Dance International Season
Tourism Trade Fair of the Americas

October

National Feast of Chamber Music by Colombian Composers
Altavoz international Festival (a contest of modern music groups)

December

Heliconia exhibition
Christmas Feast (parade of dances, myths, and legends)



CALI VALLE

This destination is framed by the Pacific Ocean and immense fields of sugar cane, and permeated by the beat of excellent salsa. Its capital, Santiago de Cali, a city that boasts the largest convention and events center in the country, is also known as the World Capital of Salsa. In 2007, Swiss Tourism Awards gave the city the title of Capital of Salsa and of Joy in its Capitals of Creativity category. The Department of Valle del Cauca is a destination of museums, houses of culture, and sites that have been declared architectural heritage sites. World class orchestras, salsa schools, and professional dancers add to the versatility of Cali as a destination. Salsa dancing and gastronomy take over the free time of visitors in the evening; nature and adventure have acquired sufficient strength to take over the free time of visitors during the day.



DEL CAUCA

Calima El Darien, Valle del Cauca.

Nature

Watching of Hump - Backed or Yubarta Whales

From July to November, with the peak during occurring from June to October, over 800 whales migrate from the Antarctic to the Colombian Pacific coast for their mating season. The ideal places for watching these 17-meter / 56 feet long yubartas are Buenaventura, Bahia Malaga, and Tribuga.

Bird Watching

Colombia is the country with the highest diversity of birds in the world. The department of Valle del Cauca has 44.7% of the country total with 818 bird species that may be admired in natural reserves and eco-parks found in coastal areas, lakes, paramos, and dry forests. The best sites are the Laguna de Sonso Natural Reserve, the Yotoco Forest Reserve, Los Farallones Park, the San Antonio Cloud Forest – Kilometer 18, and El Vinculo Biology Station.

Adventure

Nautical Sports

The lake with the fastest winds in America is called Calima and is located in the Municipality of Calima El Darien. It is a top site for water-skiing; catamaran, sunfish, and laser sailing; and wind and kite surfing. Calima El Darien is the setting for regional competitions, as well as national ones like the Copa Moto Neumatica de Occidente, the Triatlon Copa Colombia, and the national windsurfing tournament. Ultralight flying is also practiced.

Aerial Sports

Two factors make Valle del Cauca a first rate destination for aerial sports: the presence of winds coming from the Pacific Ocean and the two mountain ranges that cross the destination. Specialized instructors accompany practitioners of paragliding, ala delta, and parachuting on these experiences that seek to conquer the heavens in what many call the Paradise Destination. Sites in the municipalities of El Cerrito, Ginebra, Buga, Guacari, and Palmira have been especially adapted for these sports.



Grachalito Beach, Nuquí, Colombian Pacific coast



Sunset, Pacific Coast



More adventure

Mountain biking, Tibetan bridges, wall climbing, rappelling, rafting, and canopying are also part of the offer of Valle del Cauca in Paradise Destination, in the municipalities of Santa Helena and Jamundi.

The Salsa Circuit

There is no doubt that this destination specializes in salsa: over 5,000 professional dancers and the title of World Salsa Tri-champions in contests performed in Cali and Las Vegas attest to the fact.

You can go beyond admiring salsa. Learn to dance it with the experts and take it back home with you. Learning to dance in Cali is considered a privilege. Group lessons in over fifty schools, the Salsa Circuit, and the Salsa Culture Tour are fun-filled entertainment options.

Gastronomy

Cali's gastronomy routes are among the most varied in the country. We are not exaggerating when we say that a major part of the cuisines of the world may be sampled in Cali in five well-defined areas: El Peñon, the Parque del Perro, Santa Monica, Ciudad Jardin, and Granada, with a total of over 400 restaurants. Granada concentrates 70 places for exquisite and varied national and international food, live music, and a series of unique shows.

Golf

With four 18-hole courses (one of them par 73), Cali is a magnificent destination for the sport. A warm climate and interesting designs will convert your golf experience into a challenge.

The Cali Fair and Other Events

The events schedule from December 25 to 30 is tight. All of the following take place in those six short days during the Cali Fair: bullfights, horseback rides on the streets, parades of antique and carnival cars, the National Salsa Dancing Contest, the Tascas, the Panamerican Sugar Cane Beauty Pageant, and the Super Concert with the best salsa orchestras in the whole world. These are some the most vivid expressions of the Cali culture.



Whale, Pacific Coast.



Salsa, Cali - Valle del Cauca

Schedule of Events in Cali - Valle del Cauca

1. The Cali Fair: Cali, December 25 – 30, 2008
2. Mono Núñez Colombian Andean Music Festival: Ginebra, May 29 – June 1, 2008
3. Petronio Alvarez Festival of Music from the Pacific: Cali, August 13 – 17, 2008
4. Guacari International Dance Festival: Guacari, August 7 – 10, 2008
5. Bandola de Sevilla Festival: Sevilla, August 15 – 17, 2008
6. Cali Exposhow: Cali, October 14 – 18, 2008
7. Deleitarte - Salsa and Flavor: Cali, July 10 – 12, 2008
8. World Salsa Festival: Cali, September

THE CAFÉ

Three Colombian departments make up this impressive coffee setting in a fertile land where the emblematic product of the country is placed right in front of the five senses of their visitors. The Café Triangle is Caldas with its capital, Manizales; Risaralda with Pereira; and Quindío with Armenia. This is a land of coffee cultivation, trails, waterfalls, valleys, cloud forests, *paramos*, and a diverse fauna whose outstanding species are the spectacled bear, the mountain toucan, the puma, the howling monkey, the paramo tapir, deer that dot green valleys, and eagles and other birds that cruise the sky.

This is a land for meeting as well as discovering. A land of adventure, as well as peace. Coffee plantations get lost in the horizon; getting to know them in a coffee country is a privilege.

Two great products define experiences in the Café Triangle: adventure and nature.



Coffee plantation, Café Triangle.

TRIANGLE



Santa Rosa de Cabal, Café Triangle



Adventure

From several hill and mountain tops you can descend into a valley in just 30 minutes. Rafts made from guadua (a type of bamboo) steered by knowledgeable oarsmen can take visitors down the gentle currents of La Vieja River on a 6-hour, 8-kilometers / 5 miles tour of intense green vegetation and pink sunsets. The Barragan River rapids, with their 7.5-kilometers / 4.6 miles and 3-hour trips have a Level 3 international classification. Sports fishing, rock climbing up river canyons, hanging bridges, and climbing walls make the Café Triangle an adventure destination and a challenge for paragliding, rafting on La Vieja River, kayaking, trekking, and rappelling. Cable flying is done over a 2-kilometers / 1.24 miles stretch divided into stages by the names of Platanal, Café, Guadual, Nogal, Las Heliconias, and Los Cafeteritos.

Nature

Bird watching, mountain climbing, golf and fishing, interpretive paths through the forest, a park of snow peaks, sailing in an ancient boat, hiking on trails of varying levels of difficulty, and admiring 1,500 specimens in a butterfly garden. The Café Triangle has an entire portfolio that contains everything to make your incentives trips a unique experience.


QUINDIO

- **Territorio Aventura** - Lodging, rafting, kayaking, high-roping, paragliding, rappelling, horseback riding, and a tour of the theme park, among others.
- **Panaca** - National Farming Theme Park.
- **Barco Pereira** - A typical Cauca River boat.
- **Quindio Botanical Garden**.

RISARALDA

- **Los Nevados National Natural Park** - Los Nevados National Natural Park, with five snow-capped peaks at a maximum altitude of 5,000 meters / 16,400 feet. Favorite activities are: off-road all terrain rides, rock and ice climbing, paragliding, and mountain biking. A visit to Termales del Ruiz (hot spring waters) is a wonderful choice before the ascent to the snow peaks.
- **Otun Quimbaya Fauna and Flora sanctuary** - Tours, observations of stars, ecological paths, story-telling, restaurants and history complete the proposal of this destination.
- **San Vicente Hot Springs** - Santa Rosa de Cabal – a daring combination of nature and relaxation. Horse trails, a spa, whirlpool baths, a pool, and a restaurant are included in this offer.
- **Tatama National Natural Park**
- **El Nudo Natural Regional Park**
- **Mirador del Rio Barbas** - This observation point on the Barbas River is truly beautiful. There is a golf clinic nearby.
- **Otun Lake** - This spot is ideal for ending an excursion or beginning the excursion to Los Nevados; excellent for hiking and camping.





Coffee Tour

This is about coffee culture and all the rituals that are woven around this Colombian tradition. It is possible to observe coffee processing at the “*Parque del Cafe*”, or Coffee Park. This is truly a monument to the harvest, to the traditional processing plant, a garden with multiple varieties of coffee, imposing guadua groves, a replica of an old train station, and an encounter with the region’s myths and legends.

Golf

Each of the capital cities of the three departments that make up the Triangle has an 18-hole golf course. Being surrounded by landscapes of coffee makes them unique. They are located only 60 minutes from one another. So, a golf tour is a real possibility, and a memorable one on account of the warmth of the people and the climate.

The Manizales Fair

Manizales welcomes every New Year with its January fair. The city fills up with bull fights, horse parades, beautiful candidates to the coffee beauty pageant, processions, cattle herding shows. A true spectacle of coffee growing traditions.



Jipao, Cafe Triangle.



Golf course, Café Triangle
Carlos Hoyos Photograph.



Coffee plantation

SANTANDER

Bucaramanga is the capital of this adventure land that has the best flying spots in Colombia for ten-minute paragliding flights 60 meters / 197 feet cable flying, and rappelling 65 meters / 213 feet down one of the best waterfalls in Santander, Juan Curi Paramo.

Words are not enough to describe white water rafting on the Fonce River, cave exploration in the Cueva del Indio, and a chiva tour from Floridablanca to San Gil to Giron and Barichara, known as "the prettiest village in Colombia".



Rafting, Fonce River, Santander



Waterfall rapelling, Juan Curi, Santander

Adventure

El Gallineral Natural Park

Framed by the Fonce River, this is the port of arrival of canoe and raft adventurers.

Chicamocha Canyon and the Chicamocha National Park

Very close to the Chicamocha Canyon, this 8,600 hectares / 21,250 acres area has been devoted to tourist adventure activities like paragliding, rafting, cable flying, hiking trails, horseback rides, buggy tracks, and wall climbing, all in the midst of awesome scenery.

Golf

With two spectacular 18-hole golf courses designed by Nicklaus and Mark Mahannah, golf experiences are unparalleled. In an ideal climate and surrounded by beautiful landscapes, the people of Santander will make you want to repeat your golf experience on these courses.



Chicamocha National Park, Santander



Paragliding, Ruitoque.-Santander.



Chicamocha Canyon, Santander.



Golf, Santander

Johenry Cay - San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina



"So, what other reasons do you need to select Colombia for your next incentives trip? Go for a country that has it all and more. A place full of natural marvels, impassioned people, history, and adventures where you and your company will take all the credit."

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