

# Santa Marta and its communities

4 nights

04-08 September 2022

## Day 1.

To start this itinerary the passengers, have to be in Santa Marta before 04:00pm

Arrival to Santa Marta city. Welcome and assistance at the Simon Bolívar International Airport. Transfer to the hotel and check-in. At night we will have a dinner at hotel.

## Day 2. Santa Marta- Old City

Breakfast at the Hotel, then in according previous time we will leave Santa Marta to Aracataca. During the 4x4 car tour, you will travel around the banana zone, which is characterized by large banana and African palm crops, from the vehicle you can see how agriculture develops in this area through the extensive crops located alongside the main coast road of the Caribbean. This journey takes about 30 minutes to reach the Aguja Bridge that will lead us to the El Congo- Antigua Ciudad Station, in the Siberia district. It will take us about 2 hours by car to cover the 24 kilometers to Congo.

Upon arriving in Congo, you will leave cars and continue your journey walking for about 30 minutes to the Old City, at about 951 meters above sea level. The Congo is a conservation area surrounded by one of Colombia's most famous ecosystems: the coffee belt of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. As such, the site is an Area of importance for the Conservation of Birds (AICA) in the Rio Frio Valley and is recognized worldwide for the natural and logistic conditions for the sighting of native and migratory fauna. There it is possible to appreciate some endemic and endangered species such as the Blue-billed Paujil (*CraxAlberti*) While in the Congo we get closer to the cultural discovery called Colombian archaeological heritage. After walking along a pleasant path with medium difficulty level you reach the old city. Upon arrival check in and then enjoy lunch, after which you will have time for rest.

**Level of the activity:** Moderately Strenuous, Hiking around 8-10 kilometers

At about 4 in the afternoon we will have a tour of the Ancient City guided by an expert who will tell us the story that frames this sacred place, the indigenous mythologies that left an ancestral mark on the city built in stone. You will have the opportunity to tour the terraces with their housing rings that were once inhabited by the Tayronas, the muddy roads the retaining walls and the road marking stones that served to indicate where the Mamo or town leader should walk.

If during the tour you step on some stone and it moves causing a slight sound, then you have stepped on a "false stone". Do not worry, these stones were strategically placed by the Tayronas in pre- Hispanic times to intentionally produce this sound. This technique works as a form of alarm bell or alert. All members of the community knew which were the stones that were located in a loose or false way and for this reason it was forbidden to step on them.

When an intruder or a person outside the community came walking through it and, unaware of the location of the false stones, this person stepped on them it caused a sound of shock between

the stones that immediately alerted the presence of an intruder in the community. This alerted the indigenous warriors who with their cunning defended their people from attacks and looting of their precious gold art works.

At nightfall the guided tour ends with a bonfire, the ideal setting to learn with the silence of the mountain about the beliefs, ways of life, and popular knowledge characteristic of the Tayronas, their ancestral legacies and their worldview of Mother Earth. At the end of the talk you go to the dining room to eat and then rest.

### **Day 3. Old City- Santa Marta**

After breakfast, we enter to the exuberant and pristine nature of the Sierra Nevada with a beautiful fall of crystalline water, here you will have free time to enjoy the natural environment and the refreshing waters that descend from the high mountain.

Before starting the ecological walk we recommended that you prepare a light bag where you can pack a bathing suit, insect repellent, sunscreen, camera and water. The estimated time from the reservation to the water fall is 2 hours. Because it is an area of environment conservation, you will hear the songs of all kinds of birds, many of which are typical of the region, as well as migrant birds, and on the large trees one can see and hear howler monkeys and herons.

**Level of the activity:** Moderately Strenuous, Hiking around 8-10 kilometers

The humid tropical forest predominates here, where there are trees up to 40 meters high. The greenery of its lush landscape and its refreshing waters surrounded by a natural environment, inhabited by endemic flora, confirm the Sierra Nevada, as one of Colombia's lungs for the world. Upon reaching the waterfall you can enjoy the refreshing water and the landscape. After this trip we return to the Old City to have lunch, check out, and board the vehicle to return to Santa Marta. Arrival to the Hotel and check in. At night we will have a dinner in a local restaurant.

### **Day 4. Santa Marta- Katanzama**

Breakfast at the Hotel, then we will start our tour from Santa Marta we travel 70 km along the interesting coastal road to the Perico Aguao Village in Magdalena. Here a community guide will receive us and after a short talk we start a walk of about 2.5 km through the tropical humid forest to the Katanzama indigenous community leader of the town we take a tour of the houses and community halls, we learn about the cuisine and customs of the Arhuacos and we enter the plantations to learn about their crops and work materials.

**Level of the activity:** easiest, walking in a flat land around 2.5 kilometers

Then we sit around a tree, in a sacred space, where we have the opportunity to chat with Mamo, the spiritual leader of the community. After a brief visit to the school we make our way to the seaside to enjoy a delicious picnic which those who want to, can learn to weave traditional backpacks. To end our experience, we enter the community plantation and plant together with indigenous people and endemic tree of the region; this will be the mark we leave as a visitors of honor. Return to the hotel to be ready for a dinner.

At night we will have a dinner in a good restaurant that includes (main course, soft drink and dessert) and transfer from the Hotel – restaurant- Hotel

**Day 5. Santa Marta – Origin City**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Simon Bolívar International Airport.

\*End of services\*

**Minimum of passengers:** 10

**Maximum of passengers:** 15

**Package includes:**

- ✓ 03 Nights in Santa Marta
- ✓ 01 night in Old City in a Cabin
- ✓ Inner flight Bogota – Santa Marta – Bogota
- ✓ Transfer Airport- Hotel- Airport
- ✓ 4 breakfast, 3 lunch and 4 dinner.
- ✓ Activities described in the program.
- ✓ English Speaking Guide
- ✓ Local Medical assistance

**For the beginning and the end of the Pre Tour in case, you need it.**

Additional nights in Bogota		
HOTELES	SGL	DBL
NH ROYAL URBAN 26	56	28
Tequendama	61	31

**Does not include:**

- ❖ Services not specified in the program

- ❖ Food not specified.
- ❖ Voluntary tips (Guides, drivers)
- ❖ Personal expenses, such as: phone calls, laundry, room service, among others.
- ❖ Air tickets.

## Pasto and its roots

12-15 September 2022

### Day 1. Bogotá – Pasto

To start this itinerary the passengers, have to be in Bogota before 10:00am

Arrival to Pasto city. Welcome and assistance at the Antonio Nariño Airport.

Start with the lunch then we will enjoy our city tour with a journey by the churches located in the historical center; they represent an architecture of republican style. Similarly, we will have the opportunity to appreciate images from the colony time, woodcarving and paintings of Quito art. By the high amount of churches located in the center, Pasto is also called "The Theological City of Colombia". we will visit the temples of the Cathedral of Pasto, San Juan, Cristo Rey, La Merced; to know the historical and cultural part of the city we will visit the Nariño Square, the Carnival Museum, the workshops of varnish de Pasto, a unique technique in the world declared cultural patrimony of Colombia, in the gastronomic part we will participate in the elaboration of an artisan ice cream, the famous "paila ice cream", we will finish our city tour learning about coffee tasting from the hands of an expert barista and tasting a typical snack of the city.

Return to the Hotel and dinner at Hotel's restaurant.

**Level of the activity:** easiest, walking in a flat land for 30 minutes

### Day 2 Pasto – Las Lajas shrine

Breakfast at the hotel.

We begin two hours - journey from the Pasto city to the city of Ipiales. During the tour, we will be told about the history, culture, and geography of the region. Upon arrival, we will go through the commercial area of the village of Las Lajas, we will descend to the Sanctuary where the image of the mestiza or Lady of Las Lajas is found. The visitor will be able to have a spiritual encounter, praying or attending the celebration of the Eucharist. We will also be able to enjoy the impressive architecture of the Shrine, visit the museum and the lower levels of the Shrine, take short walks that fill you with energy and renewal, enjoy the landscape in which the Shrine is located, or simply contemplate the miracle of God in the abyss, always accompanied by expert guides who will detail the history of the image and the Shrine. We finish the visit to the Sanctuary by taking a cable car ride where you can see the imposing Guaitara Canyon that crosses the entire department of Nariño from south to north.