



WWF EXPEDITIONS



Heritage Colombia: A Conservation Journey with John Myers

October 25 - November 3, 2018

Rapidly emerging as a premier destination for nature travel, Colombia boasts rainforests, dizzying snow-capped peaks, smoldering volcanoes of the Andes, lush cloud forests, and beautiful coastlines. Although perhaps known best for its vibrant culture and famed coffee, Colombia is one of the world's most biodiverse countries. Covering just 0.8% of the Earth, Colombia accounts for 10% of the world's known endemic species, including nearly 2,000 bird species—the most recorded anywhere in the world.

WWF has been working in Colombia for more than 50 years, identifying and implementing solutions to preserve the country's remarkable biodiversity. In the fall of 2018, WWF, its partners, and the government will celebrate the closing of the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) work, an initiative called Heritage Colombia. This innovative funding approach, inspired by similar work in Bhutan and the Amazon, will ensure more than 50 million acres of Colombian forests will be protected in perpetuity. However, the Heritage Colombia initiative is different from other PFPs WWF has been involved with because it includes land outside of the protected areas, such as private reserves and land managed by local communities.

Join WWF's John Myers for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore firsthand how WWF and our partners on the ground in Colombia are working together to protect the country's rich biodiversity including more than 340 threatened species.

Itinerary at a Glance

Day	Date	Location	Accommodation
1	October 25	Arrive Bogotá, Colombia	Hotel Sofitel
2	October 26	Bogotá	Hotel Sofitel
3	October 27	National Park of Los Nevados	Hotel Termales Del Ruiz
4 – 5	October 28 - 29	Pereira: Coffee Region	Hotel Sazagua
6	October 30	Riohacha	Hotel Taroa
7 – 8	Oct 31 - Nov 1	Santa Marta: Caribbean Coast	Don Pepe Hotel
9	November 2	Cartagena	Sofitel Santa Clara Hotel
10	November 3	Depart Cartagena	



Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1, October 25: BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Upon arrival at Bogotá International Airport you will be met by local representative and then transferred to the hotel located in the exclusive El Retiro neighborhood. Your Group Leader will be on hand to recommend nearby restaurants for dinner on your own. Please note that there will not be much time for sightseeing in Bogotá. If you wish to have more time, we are happy to arrange extra hotel nights and optional tours.

Overnight Hotel Sofitel

DAY 2, October 26: BOGOTÁ

After breakfast and a welcome orientation with our Group Leader, we will visit WWF's Bogotá office where we will meet the staff and learn about important conservation projects underway. Later, we will reach the summit of Montserrat by gondola for lunch overlooking Bogotá and the nearby forested mountains surrounding the valley. In the afternoon, we will visit Bogotá's Central Plaza with its Cathedral and nearby government buildings on a walking tour. There will be a welcome dinner in the hotel this evening.

Overnight Hotel Sofitel

(B,L,D)



Coffee Region © Adobe

DAY 3, October 27: BOGOTÁ - PEREIRA - NEVADO RUIZ NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for an early morning flight to Pereira and Colombia's coffee region. Colombia is known for its world-renowned coffee grown mostly in the departments of Caldas, Risaralda, and Quindío. Also known as the Eje Cafetero ("Coffee Axis"), this region is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its importance showcasing coffee culture in this mountainous part of Colombia. WWF works with small-scale coffee farmers around this region, helping them to raise their crops sustainably and adapt to the unpredictable rainfall and warmer temperatures impacting production.

On arrival, we will board a mini bus for a one-hour drive to Hacienda Venecia near the coffee producing town of Manizales. We will visit a 100-year-old farm to learn about coffee production and traditions. Here we will learn about the challenges facing farmers, the rural way of life, and the famed crop amid beautiful mountain scenery.

After lunch at the farm, we will continue to our hotel next to Nevado del Ruiz National Park. There, we will enjoy the natural thermal springs and bird watching in the high Andean region around the lodge.

Overnight Termales Del Ruiz (B,L,D)

DAY 4, October 28: NEVADO RUIZ NATIONAL PARK - PEREIRA

Take a morning excursion to Nevado del Ruiz National Park to experience three unique ecosystems: the upper-Andean forests, the páramo, and the upper-Andean wetlands. Nevado del Ruiz National Park is home to its namesake Nevado del Ruiz Volcano with an elevation of 17,400 feet above sea-level. The mountains and peaks within the park are richly biodiverse, and the high elevation páramo also acts as a hydrographic network that supplies water to over two-million coffee growers at much lower elevations.

Around mid-morning we will arrive at Tinamu Private Reserve to learn about conservation efforts and the growing importance of sustainable tourism in Colombia's emerging eco-tourism industry. After lunch, we will continue towards Pereira for a mid-afternoon arrival at the hotel.

Overnight Hotel Sazagua (B,L,D)

DAY 5, October 29: OTÚN QUIMBAYA AND COCORA VALLEY

Today, we will continue to learn about conservation efforts in Colombia as we visit Otún Quimbaya Wildlife Sanctuary, run by the Yarumo Blanco Community Association. The association was established 20 years ago to protect the Otún River watershed and promote environmental education in the area.

After lunch, we will travel through the Cocora Valley where WWF began some of its earliest work reestablishing forest corridors. We will have a short hike through the valley, which is dominated by the giant wax palm tree, the national tree of Colombia.

Overnight Hotel Sazagua (B,L,D)



Los Flamencos Wildlife Sanctuary © Alamy

DAY 6, OCTOBER 30: PEREIRA - RIOHACHA

Today, we will leave the Colombia's iconic coffee producing region as we head to Riohacha, a city on the country's Caribbean Coast. Our early morning flight from Pereira to Riohacha will allow us to arrive in time for lunch at our hotel. After lunch, we will visit a local Wayuu village to learn about the Torcoromana community's efforts to protect local customs and traditions.

Overnight Hotel Taroa

(B,L,D)

DAY 7, OCTOBER 31: RIOHACHA - LOS FLAMENCOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY - SANTA MARTA

After breakfast, we will transfer to Los Flamencos Wildlife Sanctuary for birding in dry scrubland. We will search for specialties such as Tocuyo sparrow, chestnut piculet, green-rumped parrotlet, and blue-tailed emerald. In the afternoon, we will arrive at Santa Marta and freshen up at our hotel before a walking tour around the old part of the city to learn about the history of Santa Marta.

Overnight Don Pepe Hotel

(B,L,D)

DAY 8, November 1: TAYRONA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK

After breakfast, we will explore Tayrona National Natural Park, a large protected area covering the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta as they meet the Caribbean coast. Elevations within the park's roughly 60 square miles range from sea level to close to three-thousand feet above sea level. The park is home to the cotton-top tamarin, mantled howler monkey, wild felines, over 70 species of bats, and close to 300 species of birds, including the montane solitary eagle, lance-tailed manakin, and white-bellied ant-bird. The park is also known for its palm-shaded coves, coastal lagoons, and tropical forest.

In the afternoon, we will visit Minca, a small town tucked in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada. Here, WWF is working with the Colombian government and indigenous communities to link private and public nature reserves to create what will be called "the mosaic."

Overnight Don Pepe Hotel

(B,L)

DAY 9, November 2: SANTA MARTA - CARTAGENA

After breakfast, transfer the 140-miles to Cartagena via Barranquilla where the Magdalena River flows to the Caribbean Sea. Learn about the wetlands and fishing villages of the coast along the way, stopping at Via Salamanca National Park to learn about the importance of mangroves and the threats to this fragile ecosystem. We will have lunch en route and then continue to the hotel. After checking-in, we will set off on foot with a local guide on a tour of the historical center of Cartagena to learn about the city's importance as a trading center during Spanish Colonial times. In the evening, we will have a delicious farewell dinner.

Overnight Sofitel Santa Clara

(B,L,D)

DAY 10, November 3: DEPART CARTAGENA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for return flights home. Please note that there will not be a lot of time available for sightseeing in Cartagena. If you wish to have more time, we are happy to arrange extra hotel nights and optional tours.

(B)

Accommodations

SOFITEL BOGOTÁ VICTORIA REGIA



The Sofitel Bogotá Victoria Regia is a modern hotel located in the tranquil, up-market and exclusive El Retiro neighborhood. The restaurant serves delicious Mediterranean and Colombian cuisine. The hotel is very well located to explore the local restaurants and shops, which are within walking distance. The Sofitel has spacious modern rooms, and the facilities you would expect from a first-class property.

HOTEL TERMALES DEL RUIZ



Hotel Termales del Ruiz is located high in the Andes Mountains in a natural sanctuary within Nevados National Park. Enjoy a good night's sleep surrounded by lush vegetation and spectacular views of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano. This beautiful property has a heated pool that is fed by the hot springs and a restaurant serving delicious regional dishes.

HOTEL BOUTIQUE SAZAGUA



Hotel Boutique Sazagua, situated in the heart of Colombia's coffee region in the Central Andes, is decorated with a mix of traditional furniture, bright colors and art collected throughout Colombia's history. The building evokes the historic local architecture with wooden structures, spacious corridors, colonial flooring, Spanish tiles, lively colors, and plenty of light and nature. The gardens feature tropical plants that attract a wide variety of birds.

TAROA HOTEL



The Hotel Taroa represents the new concept in boutique hotels—it is small, intimate, and modern, highlighting the quality of and attention to each service provided. Taroa Hotel is staffed by native Wayúu people whose colorful costumes, kindness, and warmth will show you the charm of the town. The Taroa Hotel has an excellent location and is close to Riohacha's main points of interest and commerce.

DON PEPE HOTEL



Don Pepe Boutique Hotel offers its guests travel experiences that combine history and tradition in the oldest city of America. Located near the shores of the Bay of Santa Marta and surrounded by the Sierra Nevada, Don Pepe is the most representative option of a luxury hotel in Santa Marta. The 12 rooms are carefully detailed with private terraces, and a restaurant, Bacota, that offers the unique combination of local ingredients and the flavors of the world.

HOTEL SANTA CLARA



The Sofitel Santa Clara is an elegant combination of the past and present. The Convent originates from the seventeenth century when it was inhabited by Clarissa nuns. The building is a beautiful example of Spanish Colonial architecture and many of its original features have been preserved to this day. The rooms have views of the Caribbean Ocean, the ancient city of Cartagena, or the peaceful internal courtyard and gardens.

Meet Our Expert

John Myers, Leader of Strategic Partnerships at WWF Colombia



John Myers works as WWF Colombia's Leader for Strategic Partnerships. John was first drawn to Colombia's incomparable Santa Marta mountains in 2001, after reading Steve Hilty's *Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia*. In addition to sharing his passion for Colombia and the Santa Marta mountains, John will tell us about Heritage Colombia, an unprecedented effort to expand and improve conservation efforts in Colombia following the recently signed peace agreement between the government and the FARC.

Before joining WWF, John was the Director of the National Audubon Society's Latin America Program, where he led the development of the Northern Colombia Birding Trail and co-authored "Peace is much more than doves: The economic benefits of bird-based tourism as a result of the peace treaty in Colombia," a landmark study on ecotourism recently featured in *The Economist*. In addition to working for ten years with The Nature Conservancy's Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Programs, John was a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia and Fulbright Scholar in Colombia. He has an MA in International Policy Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California and a BA in Government from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

What to Expect

This trip is rated moderate with some hikes ranging from 1-3 miles. This trip will cover a lot of distance by private vehicle, and some days, 3-4 hours will be spent in the vehicle to cover long distances.

October and November are in the slower tourism season of Colombia. The lowlands and the Caribbean coast enjoy a tropical climate year-round with little temperature variation, though more frequent rain showers are noticeable in the wetter months between April and June, and again between October and November. In the highlands, the nights are chilly due to the higher altitude.

Elevation in the highland on this trip will vary between Bogota at 8,661 feet and Termales Del Ruiz at 11,480 feet.

About WWF Expeditions

WWF Expeditions is an invitation-only conservation travel program for our closest supporters, along with friends and family, to see firsthand the positive impact World Wildlife Fund is making.

These custom-designed journeys are led by WWF experts and offer exclusive opportunities to discover the wildlife and ecosystems we protect; meet community members whose lives are being improved because of our work; and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground. Come explore the best of the natural world and see how *together* we are making a difference for our planet.

About Our Travel Partner



Holbrook travel's mission is to facilitate a true connection between travelers and their destinations. Since 1974, Holbrook Travel has taken thousands of travelers on expeditions across Latin America, Africa, and beyond. They combine reliable travel support with deep knowledge to create enriching travel experiences that last a lifetime.

Expedition Information

DATES: October 25 –November 3, 2018

LAND COST: \$5,700 per person, double occupancy

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$810 per person

GROUP SIZE: Limited to 10 guests

INCLUDED: Arrival and departure airport transfers; accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities listed in itinerary; private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary; non-alcoholic beverages with meals; internal flights; full-time guide for duration of program; most tips/gratuities; carbon offset for tour.

PARTICIPANT ACCOMMODATIONS

Price is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy arrangements are offered at additional cost. We will make every effort to match people who request to share with others seeking a roommate. Forced single supplements will be billed approximately 95 to 125 days prior to departure when the rooming list is finalized.

NOT INCLUDED: Travel to and from start and end points of the trip (Bogota and Cartagena; alcoholic beverages; passport and visa fees; gratuities for your group leader, items of a personal nature (phone calls, souvenirs, internet, etc.); airline baggage fees; required medical evacuation insurance and optional travel insurance.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommend protecting your investment with travel insurance. For details on various levels of individual protection, contact Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: A passport is required for international travel, and many countries require that passports must be valid for at least six months after the date of entry. Certain destinations may require a visa for entry, US citizens can check requirements at travel.state.gov; citizens of other nationalities should check with the appropriate embassy.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500 is required to reserve a space on the program. Reservations made less than 95 days prior to departure require full payment.

Unless stated otherwise in the payment schedule below, full payments are due no later than 95 days before departure. After this date, any reservations that have not been paid in full are subject to cancellation and cancellation fees will apply.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Deposit due: Upon reservation and no later than June 27, 2018

Full balance due: July 22, 2018

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: 95 or more days before departure: \$100 cancellation fee; remaining balance is refunded.

0 - 94 days before departure: 100% of program price is forfeited.

GETTING THERE & GETTING HOME:

Arrival: Please arrive in Bogota anytime on Day 1.

Departure: You are free to depart from Cartagena after 9 am on the final day.

We highly recommend that Holbrook Travel's air department staff make your reservations, as they are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program. They can also make any necessary extra night hotel arrangements for you.