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A TASTE OF COLOMBIA

27th Aug - 9th Sep 20

Travel Itinerary



Thurs 27th Aug :

Depart Malta on flight TK 1372 at 1940hrs arrival in Istanbul at 2305hrs.
Transfer from Istanbul airport to our hotel in the Bosphorus area. Overnight in Istanbul.

Fri 28th Aug :

Early breakfast and transfer to Istanbul airport.
Depart Istanbul on flight TK 800 at 1005am arrival Bogota at 1530hrs.
Transfer from Bogota airport to our hotel. Overnight in Bogota.

Sat 29th Aug :

Breakfast at the hotel.
Depart on a full day city tour of Bogota and Monserrate Hill. Light snacks & entrance fees included.

The Tour starts in the Bolivar Square where we can have a historical view and also contemplate the architecture that this important sector of the capital has. We will continue towards the Botero Museum where we can appreciate more than 123 masterpieces and more than 85 works by international artists. Then we move towards the Palace of San Carlos where we reach and visit the Gold Museum that holds one of the most important archaeological collections in the country. Then we will visit La Plaza del Chorro de Quevedo for finally moving to the Eastern mountains to climb to Cerro Monserrate best known as Bogotá's Eastern hills by funicular. Monserrate is located at 3152 m.a.s.l and is located in the Andea's Eastern range.

Overnight in Bogota. Dinner not included.

Sun 30th Aug :

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart on a full day tour of Zipaquirá and Guatavita . Lunch & entrance fees included.

Pick up from the hotel to travel to Zipaquirá, located an hour away from Bogotá where while travelling enroute we can appreciate the beauty of the unique landscapes of the Savannah of Bogotá until we reach our destination: The Salt Cathedral. Here it is possible to admire sculptures carved in salt, among which a 16 meters-high Cross located behind the main altar. Then, we can observe the Salmuera's water mirror, place for the salt saturation, which surroundings are reflected in static water and give a fascinating optical effect that seems like you were swimming in an empty underground. Then we move to visit the Guatavita lake and admire the scenic landscape. After the tour return back to our hotel in Bogota.

Overnight in Bogota. Dinner not included.

Mon 31st Aug :

Early breakfast and depart from our hotel to Bogota airport for our flight to the coffee region.

Once we arrive in Pereira, transfer to accommodation in the coffee region where after settling in our rooms, we depart on a tour of a coffee plantation.

A few minutes away from Pereira, we take you on a small coffee farm that expresses, according to its owners, the passion to produce, roast and prepare the best soft coffee in the world. Together with a family member from the farm, we will tour the plantations knowing the details of the production process. Different flavors and preparations accompany the journey, stimulating the senses, until you reach the place where you will share, together with a master roaster, the details to achieve the right point, where Colombian coffee expresses its best flavors and attributes. Learn about the preparation habits, thanks to which you will get an unforgettable cup of coffee.

After the tour we will return back to our hotel where dinner will be served. Overnight in Pereira.

Tue 01st Sep :

After breakfast, we depart on a full day tour to Salento, Filandia and Cocora Valley. Lunch included.

The Coffee Cultural Landscape is rich in contrasts, and this experience proves it. In the morning, we visit Cocora Valley where we walk under the highest wax palms in the world, going up to the mountain to meet up with the mysterious cloud forests (This is not a difficult walk. Who prefers not to go up the mountain, can wait at the bottom by having a coffee or tasting one of the delicious homemade Colombian ice cream from one of the shops in the valley). Leaving behind the Cocora Valley, we will proceed to Salento and walk through its colonial streets. A good place for buying local crafts products handmade by the Aborigines. For lunch we go to another town called Filandia. Lunch is another gastronomic experience, a fusion cuisine with typical products. After lunch we will then walk the main streets of Filandia observing its architecture with a variety of shapes and colors. At the end we share the experience of learning a local craft with an authentic craftswoman, living the challenge of weaving with our own hands a basket from natural fibers. After tour, we return back to our hotel where dinner will be served. Overnight in Pereira.

Wed 02nd Sep :

Breakfast at the hotel and we then depart for a full day tour where we visit the town of Marsella and a Chocolate Farm. Lunch and entrance fees included.

Leaving our hotel behind, we will proceed to the town of Marsella, one of the most beautiful towns of the Coffee Cultural Landscape, enjoying the fascinating mountain scenery viewed from its path. From there we will travel through the coffee lands in Jeep Willys, with viewpoints that look like postcards to discover the green of these mountains, the taste of fruits with the finest organic chocolate. Once we arrive at the farm we will walk among the cacao plantation, feel the sweet taste of mucilage in the mouth and mix it with oranges, tangerines and aromatic plants. Lunch will be served at the farm. Be part of the chocolate process, picking up seeds, roasting and melting them for a delicious chocolate cream, from which you can then make your favorite sweet or drink. Upon returning in Marsella, we will walk the main streets observing the local architecture, and enjoying an unforgettable sunset. Transfer back to the hotel where dinner will be served. Overnight in Pereira.

Thurs 03rd Sep :

Breakfast at the hotel after which we will depart to Pereira airport for our flight to Medellin.

Upon our arrival in Medellin, private transfer to our accommodation, settle in our rooms, have lunch (own expense) and then we depart on an afternoon city tour of Medellin.

Panoramic city tour of the city touring the sites of greatest interest: Populated Park, Golden Mile Tour, Lleras Park, Metropolitan Cathedral, Pueblito Paisa (replica of a traditional Colombian town) on the top of Cerro Nutibara. Here you will not only get the most beautiful Panoramic of the city but you can also see a beautiful display of craft shops, Parque De Los Pies Descalzos, Sculpture Park where we will find the works of the master Fernando Botero, famous for his representations of figures with an exaggerated volume. After the tour, transfer back to the hotel.

Overnight in Medellin. Dinner not included.

Fri 4th Sep :

After breakfast, we depart on a full day tour to Guatapé'. Lunch included.

Leaving our hotel behind, we will start our journey towards El Penol which is approximately two hours away from Medellín. En-route you can appreciate the landscapes of Eastern Antioquia. El-Penol is a monolith with 200 meters of height and approximately 724 steps. Anyone who wishes to climb the stairs can pay directly the fee on the spot (approx EUR 5 per person). At the summit one will be awarded with some of the most spectacular views in Colombia. About halfway up the stairs, there is a shrine to the Virgin Mary. Afterwards, we will proceed to have lunch in Guatapé and then a visit of the village. At the end of tour, we return back our hotel in Medellin.

Overnight in Medellin. Dinner not included.

Sat 5th Sep :

We will have breakfast at the hotel and depart to Medellin airport for our flight to Cartagena.

From Cartagena airport, we will be transferred to our accommodation located in Bocagrande Bay, settle in rooms, have lunch (own expense) and then depart on an afternoon city tour of Cartagena.

The City Tour starts by visiting the San Felipe de Barajas' Castle, the largest fortification built by the Spanish in their colonies. Afterwards, we will be transferred to the centre to visit the San Pedro Clavér Museum, ancient Jesuit Claustro (1605) and home of the so-called "slave of the slaves". At the end, we will have a two hour walking tour through the main streets of Cartagena historic town centre experiencing the local life, music, churches and everyday life in this colonial town. At the end we will walk on the ramparts to have the best views of the city. At the end of the tour, transfer back to our hotel. Whoever wishes to stay and experience the nightlife of Cartagena, can do so, and transfer back to the hotel will be at own expense.

Overnight in Cartagena. Dinner not included.

Sun 6th Sep :

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will have a full day excursion where we will experience the beauty of Rosario Islands and then we relax at one of the hotels where buffet lunch is included.

The Rosario Islands in Cartagena make up an Underwater Natural Park ideal for observing colorful coral reefs in shallow waters. Located 45 kilometers from the Bay of Cartagena, the park protects underwater ecosystems, mainly coral reefs, which are fragile ecosystems, inhabited by a multitude of invertebrates and fish. Extensive seaweed and seagrass beds are also found in the park together with beautiful beaches to enjoy a swim in the Caribbean Sea.

In the morning at around 0800am, we will be picked up from our hotel and walk to Bodeguita Pier. We will embark on a speedboat to take us to one of the hotels near Baru Island - Isla del Encanto hotel. The trip by boat lasts approximately 90min and enroute we will have a short stop to see the Forts of San Fernando and San José de Bocachica, which protected the bay from attacks by pirates and privateers in colonial times. Once on the island, we will have free time to swim in the Caribbean sea or at the hotel swimming pool. A buffet lunch will also be served. Optional activities e.g spa services, snorkeling, kayaking or scuba diving are available and these can be paid for directly at the hotel. It is also possible to visit the San Martin de Pajarales Aquarium. After our stay, at around 3pm, we will depart back to Cartagena by speedboat. Arrival at our hotel where we can enjoy our last night in Cartagena.

Overnight in Cartagena. Dinner not included.

Mon 7th Sep :

Unfortunately, all good things come to end. After breakfast, we depart to Cartagena airport for our outward flight to Bogota. We will remain in transit at Bogota airport where everyone can have lunch (at own expense). Depart Bogota on flight TK 801 at 1700hrs, arrival in Istanbul at 1655hrs on the 8th Sep.

Tue 8th Sep :

After our arrival at Istanbul airport, transfer to our accommodation in the Bosphorus area for our last overnight in Istanbul. Since, we have few hours to spare during our stay in Istanbul, each one is free to roam around on your own and experience this city.

Wed 9th Sep :

Early breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Istanbul airport for our flight back to Malta. Flight TK1369, departs Istanbul at 0810am arrival Malta at 0940am.

What's Included

- Return flights on Turkish Airlines, Avianca and EasyFly in economy class
- All excursions, entrance fees, transfers, English speaking guide as per itinerary
- 2 nights in Bogota, 2 nights in Medellin & 2 nights in Cartagena including daily breakfast
- 3 nights in Coffee Region including breakfast and dinner
- 2 nights in Istanbul, daily breakfast
- Baggage allowance on each flight
- Meals as indicated
- All airport taxes & service charge

Total Package Price **Eur 2830.00 per person**

Terms & Conditions

- We can only proceed to confirm reservations upon collection of deposit - EUR 800 per person. Remaining balance to be paid by the 1st July 20.
- Travel insurance is not included. We highly recommend that you purchase an adequate cover
- Passports must be valid for 6 months beyond your return date
- Please ensure that names provided at booking stage are correct as per passport
- We always try our utmost to communicate your specific requests to our suppliers, however, we can never guarantee that these will be definitely confirmed since adherence to these requests is always subject to availability
- We will try to run our tour as close to the itinerary as conditions will allow. On very rare occasions, local events may affect the way your itinerary operates. We ask for your flexibility and understanding in these situations.
- Unless otherwise stated, gratuities for guides and drivers are not included
- Vaccinations required for international travel vary and requirements change from time to time. The most updated information on vaccines required prior to travel to certain countries can be obtained from The National Immunisation Service Centre in Floriana Health Centre
- All our packages are protected by the Insolvency Fund
- To offer competitive prices, our preferred method of payment are cheque or bank transfer. Cash payments are also accepted.
- Airlines do occasionally change their flight schedule, which may or may not affect your itinerary. Royal Travel cannot be held responsible for any additional expenses incurred.
- Full balance due for packages is to be collected by no later than 6 weeks prior to departure
- Upon collection/receipt of documents, kindly double check that all details are correct
- Download the "Malta Travel Point" App for information and assistance whilst you are away
- You are entitled to cancel your booking with us at any stage prior to your departure, subject to a cancellation fee