

Literature for All of Us Colombia Adventure:

A Taste of Culture, Literature and Art

February 28, 2019- March 7, 2019



Join Literature for All of Us on our next adventure to Colombia! Ranked number 2 on the New York Times List of the top 52 places to visit in 2018, visiting Colombia will be sure to please!

Colombia is one of the most spectacular and colorful countries in South America. It is the only country on the continent with both Caribbean and Pacific coastlines, and its culture reflects a mix of indigenous, Spanish, European and African influences. Colombia features the Andes at their most dramatic as well as the impressive Amazon region in the south. The magnificence of the landscape is equaled by some of the most beautiful colonial towns in South America. And, of course, you will enjoy some of the world's best coffee.

This geographical and cultural diversity has given Colombia an exceptionally rich literary heritage, from the pre-colonial legend of Yurupari to a lively contemporary fiction scene. Our focus will be magic realism, a genre born in Latin America and made famous in part by the beloved Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez. Márquez's writing blurs the line between what we perceive as reality and what lies in the supernatural realm— what Salman Rushdie calls "magic in the service of truth."

What is the truth of the Colombia of today and yesterday? We'll look for answers in energetic, artistic and wonderfully chaotic Bogotá. In this city of contrasts we will encounter centuries-old plazas and churches shadowed by skyscrapers and tree-lined bicycle routes cut through by avenues zipping with traffic. Bogotá has long enjoyed a great heritage of storytelling and the written word. With more than 100 bookstores and entire shopping districts dedicated to books, we, like Bogotá's literati, will have an entire world of literature to explore.

Cartagena, city of Márquez, is unexpectedly beguiling. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984, Cartagena encapsulates all the charm of Spanish colonial architecture, the republic period and today, the attractions of festive nightlife, cultural festivals, exotic scenery, superb beaches and wonderful food.

After decades of civil conflict, Colombia is now safe to visit and savvy travellers are flocking here from around the world. These numbers are expected to increase rapidly as word gets out from travellers returning home, spreading the word about the reality and magic of Colombia.

LITERATURE FOR ALL OF US COLUMBIA ADVENTURE

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 – Thursday, February 28: Arrive in Bogotá



Bogota: A Mix of Old and New

Participants will be met on arrival at Bogota Airport in the afternoon and transferred to our boutique hotel, Hotel de la Opera (or similar) where we can relax and get settled. Bogotá is Colombia's capital city with approximately 8 million people. Bogota has been transforming itself into a one of Latin America's most lively and exciting cities with lots of art, history, culture and architecture to explore, and it is an essential destination in order to understand the country.

Overnight: Bogota

Day 2 – Friday, March 1 – Gold Museum + Architecture and Street Art Tour

This morning, we will tour the well-preserved historical colonial neighborhood of La Candelaria. This is Bogotá's historic center with colorful colonial traditional buildings. This area is a must for photographers with its splendid colonial architecture; you will want to take the opportunity to capture the sights and sounds of this fascinating part of Bogotá. Walk through the streets permeated with the heady atmosphere of the past, as revealed by the library of Luis Angel Arango, and down to the prominent Plaza de Bolivar, the heart of Bogotá, where locals and visitors mingle amongst the magnificent and foreboding structures. You will want to discover the history of this old part of the city by visiting the Cathedral, the Congress Palace, the Cardinal's Palace, the colonial churches of El Sagrario and San Agustin, the Independence House, the Palace of Justice, and the City Hall which are all located in this impressive square. Return to the hotel. We will gather again for a welcome dinner.

Then we will visit the "Museo del Oro", the most important gold museum in the world and a 'must see' when traveling to Bogotá. Recently identified as one of the 16 best history museums in the world, the museum displays one of the largest collections of pre-Columbian gold. Galleries on three levels display exquisitely crafted pieces dating back nearly 2.500 years. Here we will learn about the spiritual lives



of the indigineous tribes who believed that gold contained the energy of the sun and assigned it no monetary value. We will also see pre-Colombian works that were used in traditional shamanic ceremonies and rituals.

Later, we will explore vibrant graffiti works which have traditionally been used to express the struggle of the people. . Our guide will take us to 26th street to admire a sample of the graffiti scene that highlight issues of feminism, resistance against war, social inclusion and native communities' inclusion in the society, among others. We will see impressive and awe inspiring pieces of urban artistic expression.



Vibrant Street Art

After lunch, we will enjoy an architectural tour of the city with an architect specializing in Rogelio Salmons—Colombia's greatest 20th century Modernist architect. The tour begins at Calle 26C with Carrera 4^a in La Macarena, one of Bogotá's most colorful neighborhoods, where renowned artist like Enrique Grau or Fernando Botero lived. After a short walking tour through charming restaurants and traditional art galleries, we will continue towards the Torres del Parque. Rogelio Salmons, one of Latin America's outstanding architects, designed this building that shows the concept and the legacy of his contribution to Bogotá's cityscape. The tour continues to Bogotá's Planetarium, a cultural and astronomical disclosure complex, which on its terrace offers a perfect view of the entire area where you can appreciate the urban harmony and beauty of the circuit.

After enjoying a warming coffee cup, the walk continues along San Diego Park, taking the Carrera 7 and

reaching the International Centre, the modern city downtown. We end in the National Museum, Colombia's oldest, which is located in the 'Panóptico', a spectacular building from the late nineteenth century, which was the local prison until 1946. The museum, which is in a constant process of renovation in its scripts and collections, shows representative elements of different historical stages of the nation with an approach that privileges the exhibition of Colombia's vast cultural and natural diversity. Appreciate fascinating pieces of art and innovative rooms such as Memory and Nation, which recount different facets and nuances of the history, imagination and composition of the Colombian people. We will gather tonight for a welcome dinner.

Overnight: Bogota
**Meals: Breakfast/
Welcome Dinner**

Day 3: Saturday, March 2 - Botero Museum + Virgilio Barco Library



Fernando Botero's unique sculpture and painting

The morning begins with a visit to the "Museo de Botero", housed in a renovated colonial mansion. The works on display are all donated by Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous contemporary artist. Around 120 pieces of his own work are displayed at the museum including his famous sculptures, paintings and drawings. His work is well-known for the 'proportionally exaggerated' rotund figures. In addition to his work, we will view his personal collection including works of Picasso, Renoir, Dalí, Degas, Chagall, Matisse, Monet and Giacometti.

After lunch we will visit Virgilio Barco Library. Rogelio Salmona designed the Biblioteca Virgilio Barco in Bogota Colombia. This amazing library (below) was completed in 2003 just a few years before Salmona's death.



Lawns of greenery, great strips of colorful mosaics, and flowing pools of water fill the rooftops in between skylights and walkways. The layers of bookcases swirl like terraces around deep lobbies with task lighting throughout the spaces. These circular spaces face the beautiful hills. The building's approach slopes down into the earth. Structure gradually accumulates overhead until it assumes a grand composition with full utilization of negative spaces. Truly a triumph of Modernism, it is central as a cultural and recreational staple for the country.

Then we will be treated to a private lecture on Colombian Modern History by a former university professor in the Library.

Overnight: Bogota

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4: Sunday, March 3 – A Day in the Country: Excursion to Coffee Plantation



Coffee culture and gardens

Today we will head out to the countryside for the day to visit Hacienda Coloma, a Colombian coffee plantation (about two hours from Bogotá). This hacienda offers a beautiful orchid garden and other iconic flowers of Colombia as well as a true Colombian coffee experience.

We will learn about the history of coffee growing in Colombia along with an explanation of the germination process. We will tour the coffee plantations, join in the coffee harvest, and observe the pulping, washing and drying processes. We will see the threshing area and the roasting process which changes the coffee's properties and produces the characteristic flavor of the Colombian coffee. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Return to Bogota in the afternoon with the evening free to enjoy the city.

Overnight: Bogota

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5: Monday, March 4- Cartagena: A Caribbean Paradise



Colorful Cartagena

After breakfast, we will transfer by private coach to the airport for the short flight to Cartagena (included in cost of trip). We will assist you at the airport during the check-in at the airline counter and you will be met on arrival by our Cartagena representative.

The nearly 500-year-old walled city of Cartagena de Indias, comprises a compact series of neighborhoods surrounded by giant Spanish walls and fortresses. With a backdrop of the Caribbean Sea, the city will not disappoint with its beautiful colonial architecture, horse-drawn carriages and narrow cobbled streets. This Caribbean colonial jewel was the first Spanish colony on the South American mainland and one of the main ports for the Spanish fleet, which turned the city into an important center of trade in the 16th century. It is a city full of history which has been an inspiration for artists, writers, historians and musicians. This afternoon we will get to know the city during our guided walking tour.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast



Day 6 – Tuesday, March 5– Excursion to Rosario Islands



Today we will step outside the walls of Cartagena and experience the beauty of one of the many islands located in Islas del Rosario: Isla Grande. The Rosario Islands are located about 30 miles away from the city. They are an archipelago formed by coral reefs with small white sand beaches, and clear Caribbean waters that invite you to appreciate the diverse marine life. These small islands have been protected by the authorities since 1977, when they were declared a National Park. The park's coral reefs, mangrove habitats and lagoons support more than 1,300 different species in nearly 500 square miles. The cruise to the island takes about an hour. Upon arrival we will disembark and have time to explore the island or just relax on the beach. We will enjoy lunch together on the island. Extra activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, biking, and massages are available for a fee at the island. Return to Cartagena in the mid-afternoon.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7 – Wednesday, March 6 - Gabriel Garcia Marquez Tour



The city that has marked most of the literary history and life of Gabriel Garcia Márquez is undoubtedly Cartagena de Indias. Enjoy a morning walking tour throughout street locations within the captivating historical city, that evoke his presence and that of his many characters, a place where reality mingles with magic. Discover the other side of Cartagena's wonders where each step there is a rendezvous with its history and the literature of Gabo. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Cartagena independently. We end the day with a farewell dinner.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 – Thursday, March 7 - Depart Cartagena for Chicago

We will be transported to Rafael Núñez Airport in the morning.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described here are intended as an example only. In the event of weather changes, logistical arrangements, or local events, we may need to make changes in the published itinerary.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): US\$3995* which includes \$1000 donation to Literature for All of Us
Single Supplement: US\$995

*Based on a minimum of 16 paying participants

Optional Group Flight: \$700 per person (based on a minimum of 11 people flying in the group)
baggage and seat assignment is extra (based on seat options)

February 28: Chicago to Bogota

American Air Flight 1411; Dep. Chicago @ 536AM & Arrive Miami @ 9:40AM

American Air Flight 913 ; Dep Miami @ 1050AM & Arrive Bogota @2:35PM

March 7: Cartagena to Chicago

American Air Flight 1144; Dep Cartagena @ 2:37PM & Arrive Miami @5:39PM

American Air Flight 2457; Dep Miami @ 7:35PM & Arrive Chicago @ 10:03PM

Tour Cost Includes:

- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in unique boutique hotels or similar
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (all breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners with wine/beer included)
- Internal flight: Bogota to Cartagena
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides and private bus for tours
- Literary discussions led by Karen Thomson, founder of Literature for All of Us
- All activities and entrance fees
- Bottled water in the vehicle during excursions
- Taxes and ALL gratuities (for guides, drivers, hotels, restaurants)- approximately \$300
- A full time national guide accompanying the group

Tour Cost does not include:

- International Airfare
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Travel insurance (\$200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance is required to go on the trip).
Lissa Karron will assist you in purchasing insurance.
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation

Tour details are being arranged by Lissa Karron, Travel Planners in concert with Worldwide Quest.

Payment Details

The full cost of the tour (\$3995 per person plus air and/or single supplement if applicable) is due by October 30, 2018 to reserve a space on this tour. After that time it will be based on hotel availability. LFAOU needs 16 people to sign up for the trip by October 30, 2018 in order for the trip to be viable. Do NOT purchase airline tickets or travel insurance before we know that the trip will run.

For Questions about the tour or if you would like to sign up, please contact:

Lissa Karron, Travel Planners @ 847-422-3026 or via email at lissakarron@att.net

Accommodations

Hotel de la Opera – (or similar hotel)

Standard Deco Room <https://hotelopera.com.co/en/home/> Meals: Buffet breakfast included

Located next to the Cristóbal Colón Theatre and opposite the Palacio de San Carlos, Hotel De La Opera offers rooms with free WiFi and cable TV. Facilities include an indoor pool. All rooms of Hotel De La Opera are equipped with a balcony and a private bathroom. De La Opera Hotel has two restaurants.

Hotel Cartagena de Indias (or similar hotel)

Superior Room <https://www.slh.com/hotels/hotel-cartagena-de-indias/> Meals: Buffet breakfast included

Situated on a quaint cobblestoned street, this boutique hotel blends modern elegance and Colombian luxury in downtown Cartagena. Its rooftop terrace features a swimming pool with 360-degree panoramic city views. The air conditioned rooms at the Cartagena De Indias Small Luxury Hotel feature contemporary furnishings with modern pop art decor. All have an LCD and cable TV and iPod docking station. The rooftop lounge bar offers sophisticated cocktails and views San Felipe de Barajas Castle and the Marina Park, half a mile away. The restaurant serves both fine international and fresh seafood cuisine. There is a 24-hour front desk and room service. An American breakfast is served daily, and free Wi-Fi is available. The castle of San Felipe de Barajas is just over half a mile from the hotel and the Marina Park near the old port is only a 5-minute walk away.