



# COLOMBIA

Bogota, Salento, Medellin, Santa Marta, Baranquilla, Cartagena, Rosario islands



**10<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

**€4380 per person double/twin sharing**

**€5550 single**

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Compass Travel Ltd.  
The Peak Business Centre  
Triq il-Kappella tal-Mirakli  
Attard ATD 2691, Malta





**Price Includes:**

- Flights with Ryan Air and Air Europa: Malta – Madrid – Bogota - Madrid – Malta
- Internal flights Bogota – Pereira – Medellin – Santa Marta/ Cartagena - Bogota
- Itinerary as below for 18 days including all transfers, all excursions with English-speaking guides and meals where mentioned
- 4star and boutique accommodation with breakfast included in all cities and island
- Experienced tour guide
- Airport Taxes and Service Charge
- Insolvency Fund Certificate

**Not Included:**

- Tips to guides and drivers: We will give you tipping guidelines
- Travel Insurance: We provide Travel Insurance with Gasan Mamo Insurance should you wish a quote
- Vaccinations: Please check with the Floriana Health Centre on what is recommended.
- Optional Excursion: Please refer to Day 8 on the tour programme

**ITINERARY IN BRIEF**

- Day1 – 10 Jul: Depart Malta with Ryan Air at 1440hrs and arrive in Madrid at 1730hrs  
– Transfer to city centre and overnight in Madrid (Gran via area)
- Day 2 – 11 Jul: Fly to Bogota departure 1515hrs and arrival 1815hrs – overnight Bogota (B)
- Day 3 – 12 Jul: Bogota City tour and Monserrate. Fly to Salento – overnight Salento (B)
- Day 4 – 13 Jul: Cocora Valley and Coffee Farm tour - overnight Salento (B)
- Day 5 – 14 Jul: Santa Rosa de Cabal Hot Springs tour. Fly to Medellin - overnight Medellin (B)
- Day 6 – 15 Jul: Communa 13 and Pablo Escobar tour - overnight Medellin (B)
- Day 7 – 16 Jul: Penol and Guatape Boat tour with lunch - overnight Medellin (B/L)
- Day 8 – 17 Jul: Free day for adventure activities – see below options – overnight Medellin (B)
- Day 9 – 18 Jul: Flt to Santa Marta – overnight Santa Marta (B)
- Day 10 – 19 Jul: Tayrona National Park tour with lunch – overnight Santa Marta (B/L)
- Day 11 – 20 Jul: Minca tour with lunch - overnight Santa Marta (B/L)
- Day 12 – 21 Jul: Transfer to Cartagena – enroute short stop in Magdalena River  
– Sunset cruise. overnight Cartagena (B)
- Day 13 – 22 Jul: Half day walking tour of Cartagena.  
– overnight in Cartagena (B/L)
- Day 14 – 23 Jul: Mangrove Fishing tour with lunch – overnight Cartagena (B/L)
- Day 15 – 24 Jul: Morning boat transfer to Rosario Islands - overnight Isla Grande (B)
- Day 16 – 25 Jul: Afternoon boat transfer to Cartagena – overnight Cartagena (B)
- Day 17 – 26 Jul: Fly to Bogota and then fly to Madrid (B)
- Day 18 – 27 Jul: Arrive Madrid 1300hrs. Transfer to city centre. Overnight Madrid (Gran via area)
- Day 19-28 Jul: Fly to Malta departure 1225hrs, arrival 1505hrs.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### **10<sup>th</sup> July: Fly to Madrid**

Departure from Malta in the afternoon with Ryan Air, Upon arrival, transfer to your city centre hotel.

### **11<sup>th</sup> July: Fly to Colombia**

Transfer back to the Airport early afternoon for our morning flight to Bogota. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Bogota. (B)

### **12<sup>th</sup> July: - Bogota City Tour**

Enjoy a city tour of Bogota and the famous area of La Candelaria, visiting the historical landmarks. After we visit Monserrate climbing up the mountain by cable car to enjoy the most amazing and breath-taking views of this city from the best vantage point. In the afternoon we transfer to the Airport for our short flight to Pereira, upon arrival transfer to the heart of the coffee region in Salento. Overnight in Salento (B)



### **13<sup>th</sup> July: Cocora Valley and Coffee Farm Tour**

Cocora Valley, in Salento (one of the places that belong to the Coffee Triangle) is one of the few entrance areas to Los Nevados National Natural Park, an environmentally protected park of snowy peak mountains. Besides, the valley was considered as the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia Heritage Site by UNESCO. We hike through this magic valley and enjoy some of the best views of very tall Wax Palm trees in the world. Be sure to have your cell phone fully charged, we know you'll want to take pictures of the amazing nature.

Salento and the Cocora Valley will show you their best natural spots along with their traditional coffee farms and the warm people who take care of the territory. After some free time for lunch, we'll head to the coffee farm. If you are one of those who are passionate about this drink, or even if you aren't but you want to learn more about it, you will meet a coffee expert who will walk you along the different areas of the farm in order to explain to you the phases coffee has: from the plantation, picking up the coffee cherries, taking out the bean, the washing, roasting and grinding. Enjoy a coffee-tasting lesson with the baristas, who will teach you how to recognize Colombian high-quality coffee characteristics and you will get the chance to answer all your questions while enjoying fresh and tasty coffee. Overnight Salento (B)





### **14<sup>th</sup> July: Santa Rosa de Cabal and Hot Springs – Medellin**

Santa Rosa de Cabal is a small town near Pereira city. Due to its closeness to the Cocora Valley, it belongs to the areas UNESCO declared as Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia's Heritage. We head out to Santa Rosa, where you will have a glimpse of how humble farmers and locals live. Later you will be headed to the two hot springs. After a short walk near the mountains, you will get to the first one where a small waterfall will be running water into dozens of hot tubes, all of them at different temperatures. The second one will need a short hike to the foot of a different hot waterfall. It is well known that thermal spring minerals help cleanse your body of toxins and improve oxygenation and blood flow. And, of course, the sole purpose of coming to the hot springs is actually to be in them, so, after all the talking we will give you time enough for you to take a break and only focus on yourself. Our day will end with food sampling with the most famous chorizo santarrosano. Visit one of the best local food stands in the area, taste and learn fun stories about how it became so popular.

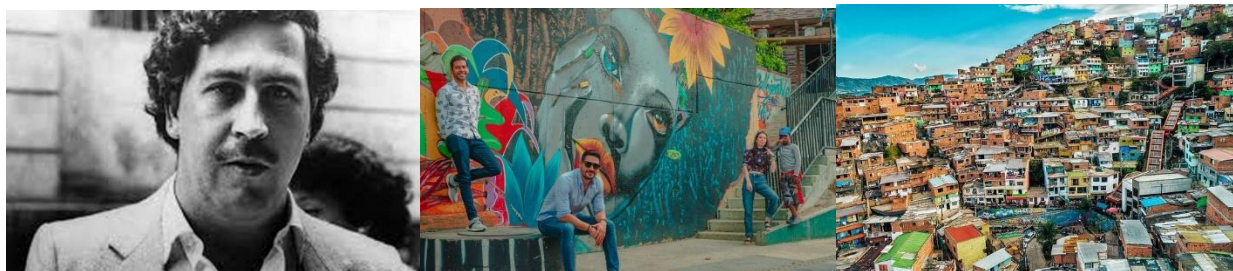
We continue to the Airport for our flight to Medellin this evening. Transfer and overnight in Medellin (B)



### **15<sup>th</sup> July: Comuna 13 and Pablo Escobar Tour**

The Comuna 13 in Medellin is a place known once for its complex social background, but now it's a graffiti and street art reference in the country. We will walk along the brick-made houses in the San Javier neighbourhood, understanding the war that terrified its families due to narcotrafficking and guerrillas and how this, combined with poverty, made it one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods in Latin America in the past. You will learn the history of how graffiti started as an act of vandalism, even punished with jail, and grew into the most iconic features of this Comuna. We also dwell on the life of Pablo Escobar, the drug lord who in 1991 voluntarily entered his own built prison, with the only objective of avoiding his extradition to the United States.

We will review some episodes that marked the fight of his organization for the control of drug trafficking and the creation of Envigado cartel. We will also talk about how he escaped from his prison and had a last but brief sort of freedom, until his death in 1993. We will approach the building where Pablo Escobar died in the La América neighbourhood. We will finish the tour in the Montesacro cemetery, where Pablo Escobar's tomb is one of the most visited in the churchyard. Overnight in Medellin (B)



### **16<sup>th</sup> July: El Peñol and Guatapé with a boat trip with lunch included**

We drive north for 2 hours to the first stop: El Peñol. As we start approaching Guatapé, right away you will start seeing the imposing rock of El Peñol in the distance. This is an enigmatic rock and although it looks challenging, you'll see how rewarding it'll be to climb its 700 stairs, after having one of the most breathtaking views Colombia may offer.

Once all of you have made it downstairs, we will continue to drive through El Peñol town and then make it to Guatapé. Here you will tour the colourful streets along the dam, learning about the history behind this man-crafted beauty. We will go to a local restaurant to have a marvelous traditional lunch. The dam was created after flooding the old Peñol town. Now it is responsible for generating energy for millions of people. We will explore Guatapé lake on a boat tour after lunch and will visit one of the only houses that remain after the flooding, at this place you will listen to stories and the history behind the town. Return back to Medellín – overnight in Medellín (B,L)



### **17<sup>th</sup> July: Free Day for optional activities**

Today, you can decide whether you want to embark on some adventure in Medellín or simply take it at ease and perhaps do some shopping at one of the large shopping malls in the Poblado region of Medellín.

#### **Choices for the Adventure Excursions as follows:**

Horseback riding 4 hours

Quad biking 2.5hours

Tandem paragliding

Quad biking 1.5hours and water rafting 3hours

**There are other options to explore which are more cultural also, please speak to your travel consultant for further tours.**

Overnight Medellín (B)





### **18<sup>th</sup> July: Medellin – Santa Marta**

Transfer in the afternoon to the Airport for your flight to Santa Marta. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel. Overnight Santa Marta (B)



*Stroll through Santa Marta Centro this evening and watch sunset by the marina right near your hotel.*

### **19<sup>th</sup> July: Tayrona National Park with lunch included**

Early Breakfast at hotel. Today we head out to the Tayrona National Park.

In this full-day-tour one of our professional drivers and an experienced guide will pick you up from your hotel in Santa Marta and drive you for less than hour to get to the Park. Once inside, you will start this adventure that has a little bit of everything. From the entrance you will start hiking deep in the woods along the marked trails until you get to the first beach: Arrecifes (reefs). This is the biggest beach of the park and one of the campsites but, as it is not possible to swim in its waters due to the strong sea currents, you will only stay there for a couple of minutes to have a break. Ready again, you will keep walking down and up the natural paths with its incredible nature Crystal-clear beaches. These are one of the top 25 most beautiful beaches of South America due to its turquoise crystal-clear calm waters. And last but not least you will get to the final destination: San Juan's Cape, known for having a picturesque viewpoint from a kiosk and another campsite. Once in here, you will enjoy a traditional Caribbean lunch by the sea and you will have the rest of the day to lie under a palm tree's shade, relax, swim, walk by the seashore, or even talk with some other travelers. Later we will return back to your hotel.



### **20<sup>th</sup> July: Minca with lunch included**

Early Breakfast at hotel. Today's excursion takes you out to Minca with lunch Included.

Visit Minca, a place with unparalleled landscapes and eco-friendly constructions in the middle of the nature of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. During this guided tour in the Minca area you will hike inside the mountain range with a trail that crosses bamboo forests, water streams and jungle. We will then reach a sacred waterfall of our indigenous communities where you can take a swim, and mix with the locals if any. Later enjoy a delicious lunch in Minca with your tour guide before returning back to Santa Marta.

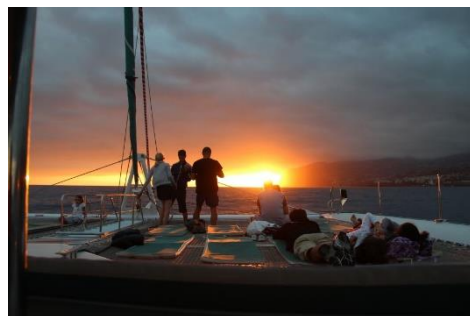
Overnight in Santa Marta (B,L)



### **21<sup>st</sup> July: Santa Marta – Magdalena River – Cartagena**

This morning we depart from Santa Marta and head to Cartagena, however en-route we will stop along the Magdalena River in Baranquilla for refreshments and a small break before continuing to Cartagena.

In the late afternoon we embark on a luxury yacht as we sail out of Cartagena to witness the skyline of skyscrapers across the bay of Bocagrande. Enjoy the peaceful view of sunset and the city lights start to illuminate. Overnight Cartagena (B)







### **22<sup>nd</sup> July: Cartagena City tour**

Our tour guide will walk us through a half-day city tour exploring the Centro and the colourful neighbourhood of Getsemani with the centre of it all at the Holy Trinity Square. Laid-back groups gather to drink beer, listen to street musicians, and snack on grilled arepas from nearby stalls. Lively pizzerias and casual bistros serving Colombian staples line the surrounding streets, which are also known for their vivid murals. Brewpubs, cocktail bars and the famed salsa bar Cafe Havana, keep the party vibe going till the early hours. Endless colorful buildings, beautifully designed wooden doors and balconies, creative street art, women in local costume and reggaetón music on every corner are just some of the many reasons why Getsemani and the Centro is a must. You will undoubtedly fall in love with this well-preserved historical city. Overnight Cartagena (B)



### **23<sup>rd</sup> July: Mangrove Fishing with Lunch included**

Today we try out an authentic eco-tourism experience outside the walled city as we go fishing in La Boquilla, a community of native fisherman in Cartagena with a delightful culture. This tour is the perfect opportunity for those who enjoy connecting with the local people and sharing their way of life. This activity begins with a 20minute journey that will bring us far from the colonial and modern architecture that you have already seen in Cartagena, where we will arrive in a modest neighbourhood with dirt roads, small houses, and an ambience of incomparable friendliness and joy. Here we will be met by a local guide who will explain to us the importance of our visit and the development of Eco tourism within the community of la Boquilla.

Once we are ready, we will get into a canoe and begin our journey through the swamp of Juan Polo, travelling through mangroves while our guide and fisherman teaches us about the local ecosystem. Next, we will begin fishing the traps for catching "jaibas" (a type of crab) that have been left in our path, and we will learn how to use the fishing nets to catch our lunch. Then, in the home of the fishermen, their family will await us with a wood oven ready to prepare what we have caught alongside rice, fried plantains and salad, a lunch typical of the region. Overnight in Cartagena (B,L)







**24<sup>th</sup> July: Cartagena – Rosario Islands (Isla Grande)**

Check out and walk to the port (10 minutes) for your fast boat ferry (1 hour) to Isla Grande. Upon arrival at your resort check-in for a 1night island stay. Enjoy your free day on the island either snorkeling the beautiful sea or visiting the aquarium. The resort will offer multiple options on how to spend your day here. Overnight Isla Grande, Rosario Island (B)



**25<sup>th</sup> July: Rosario Islands (Isla Grande) - Cartagena**

Morning at leisure to take advantage of morning excursions. In the afternoon we take the boat back to Cartagena and return back to our hotel for our final night in Colombia. Overnight in Cartagena (B)

**26<sup>th</sup> July: Cartagena – Bogota – Madrid**

Early afternoon transfer to the airport for our flight to Bogota. Check-in for our flight to Madrid.

**27<sup>th</sup> July: Madrid**

Upon arrival, transfer to your city centre hotel. Overnight in Madrid.

**28<sup>th</sup> July: Madrid – Malta**

Transfer back to the Airport for your flight to Malta with Ryan Air.

**To Book, we need a deposit of €2000 per person, a copy of your passport, and the booking form to be completed.**



## **HOTEL LIST**

### **Madrid**

Hotel Preciados – <https://preciadoshotel.com/en/>

### **Bogota**

Best Western Plus 93 Park Hotel – [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-bogota/best-western-plus-93-park-hotel/propertyCode.76420.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-bogota/best-western-plus-93-park-hotel/propertyCode.76420.html)

### **Salento**

Hotel Salento Real – <https://en.hotelsalentoreal.com/>

### **Medellin**

Diez Hotel Categoria Colombia – <https://www.diezhotel.com/>

### **Santa Marta**

Hilton Garden Inn Santa Marta – <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/smrgigi-hilton-garden-inn-santa-marta/>

### **Cartagena**

Hotel Voila Centro – <https://www.bevoila.com/centroHistorico>

### **Rosario Islands – Isla Grande**

San Pedro de Majagua – <https://www.hotelmajagua.com/>