

COLOMBIA: COLOURS & FLAVOURS

11 - 26 November 2026



FROM
£5,980
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Chris Caldicott


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Join Chris Caldicott on a tour of one of Latin America's most alluring destinations and discover a rich cultural heritage, grandiose colonial churches, verdant coffee plantations, atmospheric villages and unspoiled natural landscapes.

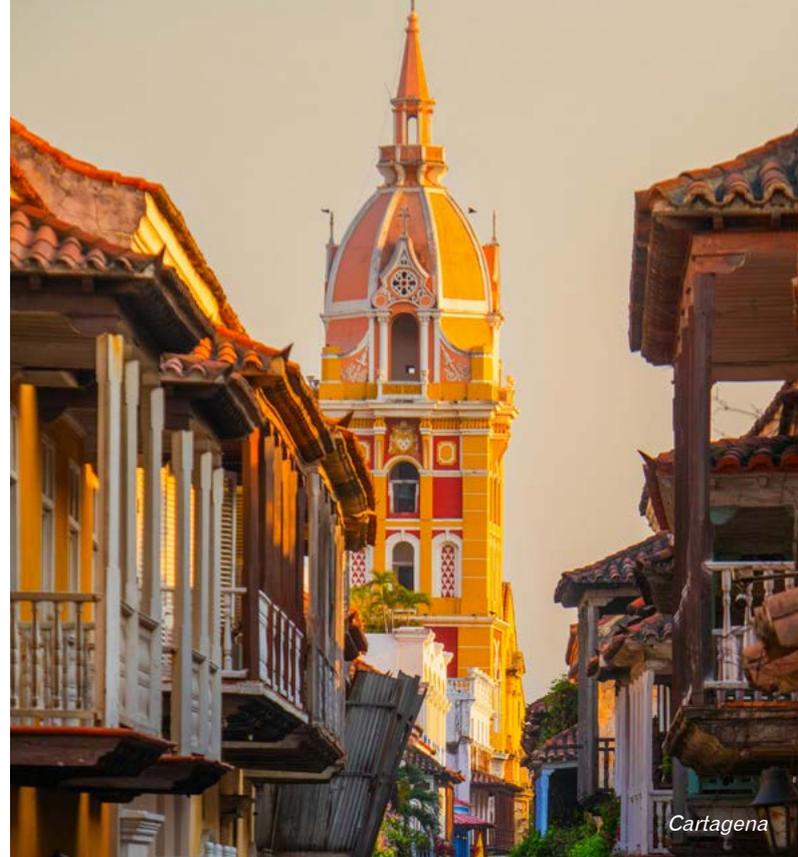
Our tour starts in the thriving modern and affluent city of Bogota, where we explore the historic centre known as La Candelaria with its old casonas or grand colonial Spanish houses with iron windows, thick wooden doors and balconies.

From here we travel, via the impressive salt cathedral at Zipaquirá, to the village of Villa de Leyva, one of the most beautiful colonial towns in the area which was founded in 1572 and declared a national monument in 1954.

We continue to Pereira in the Coffee Region, where enjoy excursions to the Valle de Cocora to see the amazing wax palm trees that can reach a height of 60m and the neighbouring town of Salento. We also visit one of the coffee plantations set on the steep hills which are typical of this area.

We then travel to Medellín, in the central Andean highlands which, for many years had a bad reputation due to Pablo Escobar's drug cartel. However the city has gone through a major transformation and regeneration over the last few years and was recently awarded the title of the most innovative city in the world.

Our journey ends in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cartagena de las Indias, built within the largest fortifications in the Americas to protect it from the constant attack of pirates and buccaneers, and wander through the city's picturesque streets, plazas and wealth of 16th- and 17th-century buildings and churches.



16-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 11 NOVEMBER 2026

11 November London / Bogota

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) Avianca AV121 departing London Heathrow at 21.40 hrs.

12 November Bogota

Arrive in Bogota at 03.45 hrs and group transfer to the Hotel B.O.G. where rooms are ready for immediate occupation and where two nights are spent. The first Design Hotel in Colombia with décor inspired by Colombian gold and emeralds, the hotel is located in the exclusive neighbourhood of La Cabrera. Morning at leisure.

Lunch at a local restaurant followed by an afternoon tour of Bogota including the historic centre of La Candelaria. The focal point is Plaza Bolivar which has a statue of Simón Bolívar, El Libertador, in the centre and is overlooked by the Cathedral, on the site of Bogotá's first church built in 1539. Continue to the Museo del Oro, which features nearly 34,000 gold objects of the Quimbaya, Calima, Tairona, Sinu, Muisca, Tolima, Tumaco and Magdalena cultures, and is considered the most important collection of its kind worldwide. Dinner at the hotel.

13 November Bogota

Early morning visit to Paloquemao Market to see its stalls of exotic

fruit, vibrant flowers and other local delicacies. Take a cable car up the mountain side to the sanctuary of Monserrate for a marvellous panoramic view of the city on one side and the impressive Andean mountain range on the other.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Botero Museum, a colonial house exhibiting works of art by Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous and beloved artist. Dinner in an exclusive venue with innovative cuisine prepared by a local chef.

14 November Bogota / Villa de Leyva

Depart for Villa de Leyva with a stop en route at Zapiquira to visit the impressive Catedral de Sal, an underground cathedral built within the tunnels of a salt mine 200 metres underground. It is a magnificent work of engineering, starting with a tunnel showing the Stations of the Cross, leading to the dome with a great cross sculpted in low relief, then to the three naves of the cathedral joined by openings that represent the birth and death of Christ.

Lunch at a local restaurant. On arrival at Villa de Leyva, check into the Hotel Posada San Antonio where two nights are spent. The hotel is situated in a beautiful colonial house built in 1860 and classified as

a national monument. It is situated on an attractive plaza close to the spectacular Plaza Mayor of Villa de Leyva. Dinner at a local restaurant.

15 November Villa de Leyva

Full day walking tour of Villa de Leyva, one of the most beautiful colonial towns in the area which was founded in 1572. The Plaza Mayor is largest square in the country and is surrounded by charming cobblestone streets. Here see the Cathedral (Iglesia Parroquial) and the House of Congress where, on 4th October 1812, the first Congress of the United Provinces of Nueva Granada took place. Also visit the house of Antonio Nariño, the Independence hero.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive out of Villa de Leyva to visit the Convento del Santo Ecce Homo, founded by the Dominicans in 1620. Of special note here is the pavement made of local stone embedded with fossils, and the chapel's magnificent golden altarpiece with a small Ecce Homo image. Also visit El Fossil (The Fossil) museum which has an almost complete kronosaurus dinosaur fossilised skeleton on display; and El Infiernito (Little Hell), an old astronomic observatory consisting of cylindrical stone monoliths. Dinner at a local restaurant.



Valle del Cocora



Salento



Hummingbird

16 November Villa de Leyva / Pereira

Transfer to Bogota (journey time approx. 4 hrs).

Lunch at a local restaurant en route. Fly from Bogota to Pereira in the Coffee Region and transfer to Casa San Carlos Lodge where three nights are spent. The small luxury hotel has modern décor designed by local artisans, a swimming pool, Turkish bath and Jacuzzi. There are wonderful views of the surrounding mountains and lakes and nature trail on which you can see brightly coloured birds such as hummingbirds. Dinner at the hotel.

17 November Pereira

Visit Finca La Romelia which has been owned by Arango family for generations and where the current owner aims to conserve and protect native flora and fauna. Enjoy scenic views as you walk along the farm's nature trails, spot many species of wild birds including hummingbirds and see the owner's extensive collection of orchids.

Lunch at Finca Romelia. Visit Finca Venecia to learn about coffee production, from the sowing of seeds through the growing of the crop and harvesting and finally the roasting process. Enjoy a coffee tasting session. Return to the hotel.

Dinner under own arrangements.

18 November Pereira

Early morning departure for an excursion to the Valle del Cocora. Located within the central mountain range, it is part of Los Nevados National Park, the ideal spot to admire the palma de cera del Quindío or wax palm, Colombia's national tree which can reach a height of 60 metres and was worshipped by the local indigenous people. Numerous bird species inhabit the area including the hummingbird and the orejiamarillo or palmero parrot, which is in danger of extinction. Take a ride on a traditional Willys jeep before a walk in the national park.

Lunch at Donde Laurita restaurant. Visit the town of Salento, famous for its streets of old and colourful houses (many housing handcraft shops where you can buy a poncho or Panama hat) that trace their origin to colonial times. Dinner at the hotel.

19 November Pereira / Medellin

Depart by road for Medellin (journey time approx. 6 hrs).

Lunch at a local restaurant en route. On arrival check in at the Hotel Quinta Ladera where three nights are spent. The charming boutique hotel offers a unique blend of rustic

elegance and modern comfort with lush gardens and a peaceful atmosphere. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

20 November Medellin

Tour of Medellin including a visit to the Parque San Antonio, also known as La Plazoleta which houses around twenty-three Botero sculptures donated by the artist in 2000. Visit some of the most emblematic places in the life of Pablo Escobar who during the 1980s controlled large parts of the drug trade, creating a powerful network of corruption and social control with his Medellín Cartel, a unique example of how organized crime can impact an entire country.

Lunch at a local restaurant to try local dishes such as Bandeja Paisa or Mondongo. Take the Cable Car to San Javier which has beautiful views over the city. Visit Comuna 13 which was once one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods but gone through a great transformation that is showed in thousands of art forms expressing the hope of the people, specifically urban art and graffiti which are not just artistic expression but also have a strong cultural and political component. Dinner under own arrangements.



Guatapé

21 November Medellín & Guatapé

Full day excursion to Guatapé and El Peñol (journey time approx. 2 hrs) to see the enormous rock which may have been a meteorite due to its size. It is possible to climb to the top of the rock but there are 740 steps! Enjoy the breathtaking views of the surrounding undulating green hills and blue lakes.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit to the town of Guatapé, a picturesque village of pastel-coloured houses adorned with zocolos (decorative panels). Return to Medellín and dinner at a local restaurant.

22 November Medellín / Cartagena

Transfer to Medellín airport for a flight to Cartagena.

Lunch under own arrangements. On arrival in Cartagena transfer to the historical Old Town and check into the Hotel Bantu where three nights are spent. The hotel is set in a restored colonial house from the 19th century with interior courtyards and a terrace with a pool. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at La Mulata restaurant which serves Caribbean food.

23 November Cartagena

Half day city tour of Cartagena, which was founded in 1533 by the conqueror Don Pedro de Heredia and rapidly turned into a jewel in the Spanish crown. Cartagena was the first province to gain independence from Spain on 11 November 1811 and remains a real architectural treasure of civil, religious, military and governmental buildings. Start with a panoramic view of the city from the monastery and church of La Popa. Built in 1606, it is perched on the area's best vantage point and was formerly called La Popa del Galeon, due to its incredible resemblance to the stern of a

galleon. Also visit the fortress of San Felipe de Barajas, built on the San Lázaro hill to defend the city from pirate attacks.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner under own arrangements.

24 November Cartagena

Further half day tour of the old town to visit the monastery of San Pedro Claver, named after the Spanish-born monk Pedro Claver (1580-1654), known as the Apostle of the Blacks or the Slave of the Slaves, who spent all his life ministering to the slaves brought from Africa. Visit the Gold Museum which exhibits archaeological objects of the local pre-Hispanic culture. Also visit the Palace of the Inquisition, recognisable by its magnificent baroque entrance, where meetings of the tribunal took place and which housed the prison. It now exhibits a truly horrifying collection of implements of torture.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure. Evening walk through the colourful streets of the Getsemaní area of the city. Dinner at Celele restaurant with a local chef followed by cocktails at Alquimico Bar.

25 November Cartagena / Bogota

Morning at leisure. Option to visit Las Bovedas handicraft market set in archways built into the city walls.

Lunch under own arrangements. Group transfer to Cartagena airport. Suggested flights (not included in the cost of the tour) Avianca AV9773 departing Cartagena at 18.20 hrs arriving Bogota at 19.55 hrs. Connect to Avianca AV120 departing Bogota at 23.25 hrs.

26 November Bogota / London

Arrive London Heathrow at 14.35 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£5,980
Single Supplement	£1,570

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 9 lunches; 10 dinners
- Group airport transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits and excursions
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to driver/s; portorage
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 31/12/2025





YOUR TOUR LEADER

Chris Caldicott

Since travelling to some of the most remote parts of the world as Photographer-in-Residence to the Royal Geographical Society, Chris Caldicott has continued his globetrotting lifestyle as a freelance photographer, writer and lecturer specialising in food and travel. He has had several books published about food, travel and the spice trade and visited 118 countries on assignments to capture evocative images and write about memorable experiences for publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *The Sunday Times*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Tatler*, *House and Garden* and *The Telegraph*.

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