



SAFARI COLOMBIA

BOGOTÁ | HATO LA AURORA | CAÑO CRISTALES | SAN AGUSTÍN | MOMPOX | CARTAGENA
7 Nights – 8 Days

DAY 1 | Bogotá – Hato La Aurora

Depart in the morning to the airport for your flight to Hato La Aurora during 1:30 hour flight. Hato La Aurora is a natural reserve that preserves freely a great variety of species inside its territory. Upon arrival to La Aurora you will start the safari on a Jeep. During the excursion, if you are lucky you will be able to watch deers, armadillos, wild pigs and turtles, besides other species. After the excursion, check-in at the hotel and lunch. Free afternoon to enjoy La Aurora. Overnight stay.

MEALS: - / L / D

DAY 2 | Hato La Aurora

Activities depend on the weather, but there are different excursions that can be made around the “hato”. Two activities can be made during the day.

Optional Activities:

Search for the anaconda: Walk with a local guide to the places where these animals hide. If you are lucky you will be able to watch it and appreciate it on their natural habitat.

Horseback riding: Enjoy the “hato” riding a horse and appreciate the different birds and species that live there.

Excursion by boat through the Ariporo River: Leave on a wild journey to watch the alligators and turtles. With the company of the local guide you will be able to watch different species during the excursion.

In the afternoon go on a jeep to appreciate the sunset, famous on this area for its beautiful colours.

DAY 3 | Hato La Aurora - La Macarena – Caño Cristales

In the morning take direct flight to La Macarena in a private plane during 1:45 hour. Transfer to the hotel. Welcome speech. Once checked into your hotel you make your first excursion along Guayabero River to Caño Cristales.

Transfer by boat along the Guayabero River (15 minutes). Land transfer from the disembarkation point near Caño Cristales. Begin the eco hike to Caño Cristales where you will visit Karol Cristal swimming pool, Los Ochos, Piedra de la Virgen and Piscina del Turista.

Lunch will be given during the eco hike. Return to La Macarena Town at 3:30PM approximately, the same way that we entered the park. Dinner and overnight stay.

MEALS: B / L / D

DAY 4 | Macarena – Caño Cristales

Breakfast. In the morning, depart to the park by boat along Guayabero River (15 minutes). Continue by land transport from the point of disembarkation near Caño Cristales. Begin of the eco hike to Caño Cristales where you will visit the Quartz waterfall, Pianos Waterfall, Love Waterfall and Virgin Waterfall. Lunch will be given during the eco hike. Return to the Macarena Town at 3:30PM, in the same way that we entered the park. Have dinner and overnight stay.

MEALS: B / L / D

DAY 5 | Cristalitos or El Mirador – La Macarena Town – Pitalito – San Agustín

In the morning, depart to Cristalitos or El Mirador. Return to La Macarena town for your flight to Pitalito during 1:15 hours. Once in Pitalito private transfer to San Agustín by car during 1 hour approximately. Visit to San Agustín Archeological Park, World Heritage Site declared by the UNESCO in 1995. See these enormous stone statues up close with your own eyes; how the each raised plateau is man-made and has been created specifically for the stone monuments, making where you are trading, holy and sacred ground. You will walk on to the ceremonial Fuente de Lavapatas before heading up the hill to the Lavapatas terrace from which you can enjoy a remarkable view over the surrounding countryside. Also visit the small Museo Arqueológico. Check-in at the hotel and overnight stay.

MEALS: B / - / -

DAY 6 | Full Day Alto de los Ídolos & Salto del Mortiño

After breakfast, set off for the rural town of Isnos to see further Archaeological Parks such as the Alto de los Ídolos and the Alto de las Piedras where there are some well-preserved tombs that still show some of the original paintwork and some of the largest stone figures found so far. Moving between these sights gives you the breathtaking view of the Macizo Colombiano and the incredible waterfalls of Salto del Mortiño (180 Mts) and Salto de Bordonos (320 Mts). Return to San Agustín. Overnight stay.

MEALS: B / - / -

DAY 7 | San Agustín – Pitalito – Barrancabermeja – Mompox

In the morning, depart by car to Pitalito for your 2:30 hours flight to Mompox. Stop at Barrancabermeja to fill the gas tank and then continue to Mompox. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Check-in at the hotel and overnight stay.

MEALS: B / - / -

DAY 8 | Half day Mompox city tour - Cartagena

The visit will start walking among the antiquated streets through the main sights of this town, where it is possible to appreciate and study the colonial architecture, unique due to its blend of mudéjar and baroque styles.

The Calle Real del Medio stands out with its whitewashed walls and stately homes behind imposing wooden doors with latches and knockers all of varying styles and the finely carved wooden balconies that spill over with the flowering bougainvillea. The scenic Calle de la Albarrada runs alongside the river. It is recommended to visit the six colonial churches in town, the most striking of which is the Iglesia Santa Barbara in front of a plaza by the same name and beside the river. Constructed in 1630 contrasts with its yellow and white paintwork and is unique in Colombia in that it has an octagonal Moorish and baroque bell-tower with balconies at the top. The Iglesia San Agustin houses the ornate golden Santo Sepulcro which is carried through the streets on the shoulders of the Nazarene Pilgrims during the Semana Santa processions. The other churches are the San Francisco, the Santo Domingo, the San Juan del Dios and La Concepcion.

Continuing to the Cementerio Central, perhaps the most interesting and atmospheric place to visit. Here it becomes clear that the old tales from Mompox are still very much alive. The white tombs are lined up one above the other and form walls of memories around a

central chapel. Strolling here in the hours of dusk pass locals seated calmly in front of their homes enjoying the breeze in their rocking chairs.

Then, experience of such beauty frozen in time, visit the filigree workshops and observe how craftsmen make such intricate jewellery from threads of silver and gold, a tradition in Mompox that is passed down from generation to generation and is world famous. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Cartagena during one hour.

MEALS: B / - / -

Eco-Hotel Juan Solito

Cel: + 57 311 2397809

Web: www.juansolito.com

Address: Municipalities Ariporo Peace and Hato Corozal,
Colombia



The Reserve offers accommodation in a small eco hotel called Juan Solito, made of typical local materials keeping the architecture and palm roofs.

Location: Municipalities of Paz de Ariporo and Hato Corozal, 4 hours away from Yopal.

Facilities: The hotel has 8 rooms with private bathroom and maximum capacity for 21 people. Rooms do not have air conditioning or hot water. Light is available only four hours at night. Accommodation in hammocks and camping is also available.

Services: Food and beverage service.

Hotel Punto Verde***

Address: Calle 5 No 7-35

La Macarena – Meta - Colombia

Tel: (038) 5 60 31 32



Is a small hotel surrounded by green areas, with twin and double rooms, private and shared bathrooms, swimming pool and TV.

Location: It is 3 blocks (5 minutes) from the airport

Facilities: 9 rooms (doubles and singles) with private bathroom and fan.

Services: Swimming pool and restaurant.

Akawanka Lodge ***

Address: 600 mts cruce vereda El Maco

San Agustin, Colombia

Tel: + 57 320 2482564

Web: www.hotelakawankalodge.com/



Akawanka Lodge is surrounded by a beautiful landscape, and offers morning activities such as walks for ecological trails, biking and horse riding. It is a peaceful place where people can get in touch with nature, especially with animals such as birds.

Location: One kilometre from the town of San Agustín. 5 minutes away by car.

Facilities: The hotels offers 22 rooms divided into 18 standard and 4 suite, decorated with paintings of local artists. All of them have private bath & Hot Water.

Services: Restaurant, bar, domestic organic orchard, ecological path, coffee bar, live shows & Internet.

Casa Amarilla ***

Address: Calle 13 No. 1 – 05

La Albarrada con callejón de Cocosolo

Mompox, Colombia

Tel: +57 (5) 6856326

Web: www.lacasaamarillamompox.com



The Casa Amarilla, situated in an original 17th Century colonial house in front of the Magdalena River, opened its doors to receive guests in March 2008 with just 4 rooms, today this number has grown to a total of 10.

Location: Located just one block away from the iconic Santa Barbara church along the banks of the Magdalena River in the colonial heart of the town.

Facilities: The hotel has a total of 10 rooms which are divided into 5 luxury rooms and 1 Master Suite all equipped with air conditioning, ceiling fans, LCD cable TV, Wi-Fi internet and tastefully finished bathrooms. There are also 4 Colonial rooms with private bathroom and La Casa Amarilla European style Dormitory which offers accommodation for up to four people with own bathroom.

Services: restaurant service, Wi-Fi internet, book exchange, bicycles for rent, laundry service, hammocks, garden, TV and DVD room, roof terrace.



COLOMBIAN
JOURNEYS

GUIDE'S PROFILE

Richard McColl

He is the author of the Michelin Guide to Colombia and will also be doing the Bradt Guide to Colombia. He is a foreign correspondent here for various news outlets and is currently working on a book about García Márquez to be launched at the Bogota Book Fair next year. He also holds a MA in Conflict Resolution from La Javeriana University in Bogota and is host of a weekly one hour radio show called "Colombia Calling" available to download on iTunes.



He was born in 1976 in London, England, Richard spent a large part of his formative childhood years moving from house to house about London, Portugal, France, Mexico and the USA as his ever gregarious parents took advantage of a burgeoning property market in each location.

After schooling in the UK and briefly in the US, Richard embarked on a career in journalism, cutting his teeth in the industry in Costa Rica before returning to the UK to study for an MA. He subsequently spent time with various UK media outlets before falling into a job at an NGO. The commute did not suit and Richard opted out and became an expedition guide, social projects coordinator and freelance journalist dividing his time between Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

Then came some serious tropical illnesses which caused life to slow down a little, Richard settled in Colombia. He spends his time now between the guesthouse he opened in Mompos in 2008 with his wife Alba, La Casa Amarilla, and Bogota where he works as a journalist and conflict resolution specialist.

While not dreaming of out-of-bounds places to visit in Colombia he is considering writing a novel about his experiences in his adopted homeland.

Colombian Journeys

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Airplane information

Model: King Air C 90

Type: Two Turbo Airscrews

Cabin: Pressurized

Crew: Two (2)

Capacity: Nine (9) Pax or 1.000 Kg.

Operation: Daytime

Baggage: 9 Kg maximum per person.

