




Journey for the Greater Good: Expedition Colombia

9 days 

March 2019 

Join us in 2019 as we embark on an extraordinary journey to Colombia. This journey will give travelers the unique opportunity to experience the stunning natural beauty, extraordinary diversity, culture rich and kind people of Colombia, and the rare opportunity to broaden their awareness about the global issue of child trafficking. During our journey, we'll also learn how the travel industry can play a role in preventing child sex trafficking, exploitation and human slavery and how you as a traveler, can Travel for Good.

Join Greater Good Institute March 10-18, 2019
Sign up for trip and complete travel application [here](#).

Day 1: Bienvenidos Cartagena!

March 10, 2019 (D)

Welcome to Colombia!

Arrive in Cartagena where you will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel located in Cartagena's Historic Center. We meet our fellow travelers at a wonderful welcome dinner overlooking the Cartagena Bay. Our hotel, is a signatory to the CODE*.

Welcome Meet and Greet Reception followed by an Orientation Briefing with your Greater Good program staff and AltruVistas representative. We will review the cultural and safety norms of the trip, discuss group dynamics and review the intentions for our journey together.

Welcome Dinner at a CODE signatory restaurant.

*The CODE is an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative, which provides awareness, tools, and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children. CODE signatories commit to implementing policies and training on how to identify and respond to potential victims of trafficking.

Day 2: Cartagena

March 11, 2019 (B, L,)

Today we will discover the history and development of Colombia starting with a Walking City Tour of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Situated in a bay in the Caribbean Sea, Cartagena has the most extensive fortifications in South America. A system of zones divides the city into three neighborhoods: San Pedro, with the cathedral and many Andalusian-style palaces; and San Diego, where merchants and the middle class lived. The area is now an

important UNESCO World Heritage Site. While strolling the old streets we'll visit the local cathedral and make our way to lunch at the CODE signer Restaurant of Oh La La.

After lunch we'll exchange with ECPAT's partner organization, Fundacion Renacer. We will spend the afternoon learning about their mission and projects preventing human trafficking, advancing legislative reform and promoting children's and women's rights. They have developed a training program for medical professionals, service providers, and teachers on how to prevent and respond to exploitation. We'll learn about their work and the historic reality of tourism in Cartagena, Colombia.

Afterwards, have some free time to relax or explore the city on your own.

Later, those who would like to dine together will enjoy dinner at Harvey Cartagena, a CODE signatory, then explore the streets of colonial Cartagena.



Day 3: Getsemani

March 12, 2019 (B, L,)

We start our morning with a guided tour to the beautiful Castillo San Felipe de Barajas. The fortress was begun in 1536. It was significantly expanded in 1657. Today bring your sunscreen and hat!

Continue with a tour of Getsemani, the 'popular quarter' & 'hippest 'hood' in Cartagena. Get your camera ready & bring your appetite. This afternoon we'll hit the vibrant streets of Getsemani to enjoy the colorful street art and fill our bellies with authentic Colombian street food.

In the afternoon, we'll meet at the NGO Juanfe to learn about their work with young girls. Since 2002, the foundation has improved children's health and has helped thousands of women and

babies in Cartagena, Colombia. <https://juanfe.org>

At the end of the day return to your hotel and dinner and evening are free for cultural activities, music, and dancing.



Day 4: La Muralla Soy Yo

March 13, 2019 (B, L,)

Our day starts with a briefing by a human resources representative at a CODE hotel to discuss why they support The CODE and how they have implemented it at their properties.

Spend time wandering in the streets, shopping for souvenirs, soaking up the ambiance and discovering the most photogenic corners of Cartagena. Then onto lunch at a CODE signatory restaurant.

The next part of our journey will be a visit with community leaders from the citywide campaign of La Muralla Soy Yo. Here, we will meet with the amazing people working on an initiative with government officials and law enforcement to protect children and teens from sexual exploitation within the hotel industry.

Afterwards the evening is free to enjoy dinner, relax, or take in sites of your choosing.



Day 5: La Boquilla

March 14, 2019 (B, L,)

This morning we are off to explore the stunning nature that surrounds Cartagena. We'll enjoy an excursion to the small village of La Boquilla and take an hour canoe ride through the mangrove forest. Cross the lagoon Ciénaga de Juan Polo, go through natural mangrove tunnels and observe the stunning flora, fauna and bird life. After the canoe ride we'll learn the ways and stories of the local fishing communities and the people who have made fishing their way of life.

We'll have a leisurely lunch on the beach then head on to engage with the DAMARTES project to learn about the vulnerability of young women here. The "Damas y Madres del Arte – Women and Mothers of Art" form a local association that produces jewelry, vases, belts and accessories out of coconut shells and are the first women of La Boquilla to produce their own income. We will join the ladies for a coconut workshop and craft our very own souvenirs.

Our last stop of the day will be an exchange with a local youth drumming project.

Then, back to the van where our driver will be waiting to take you back to the hotel. Our dinner and evening are free to relax or explore the city.



Day 6: San Basilio de Palenque

March 15, 2019 (B, L,)

Visit one of the most symbolic towns of Latin America: The World Cultural heritage village San Basilio de Palenque, was the very first liberated village of America! It was founded by Benkos Biohó, an escaped slave who hid here with 36 other men and women. Until the sixties, San Basilio de Palenque remained mainly isolated without connecting roads and was thereby able to maintain a unique creole language that is not spoken anywhere else in the world. In a language class, you can learn some basic words and try to communicate with the Palenqueros in their traditional way.

Enjoy a typical lunch in the village, for purchase there, visit the cultural center together with a local to learn about the historical development of this place, and witness the rhythms, dances and influences of Afro-Colombian music. Palenque de San Basilio continues to be home to about 3,500 residents who are direct descendants from those original African slaves. The town's most active ambassadors are the colorfully frocked Palenqueras who trudge the streets of Cartagena and the beaches of Boca Grande with giant silver bowls on their heads selling tropical fruits and traditional sweets (try the enyucado! Delicious!) and earning money to support themselves and the community.

Optional Activities in town may also include an African dance performance. Our afternoon concludes with a Palenquero cooking class as we prepare & indulge in a delicious traditional dinner. Then board the van back to our hotel.

No falling asleep yet. Get ready to dance! We'll make the most of today's journey by capping off the evening with salsa dancing (usually late around 11 pm) at Havana Café

<http://cafehavanacartagena.com>



Day 7: Relaxation or Boating Cartagena*

March 16, 2019 (B)

Today's options include enjoying some downtime and relaxation, creating your own adventure or hopping on a boat and heading to the beautiful beaches & islands of Cartagena!

For our seafaring lovers, join us for an optional excursion with Boating Cartagena where we'll charter a boat with our own personal captain. Relax on white sandy beaches, enjoy lunch under a hut in the water, relax in a hammock or snorkel and swim in the crystal clear turquoise Caribbean waters. Rated the Top Thing to Do in Cartagena, we couldn't leave Colombia without enjoying a slice of paradise. Not a boat lover? Stay on dry land and enjoy a day at your leisure.





*\$100 add on for Optional Full Day Boating Tour with [Boating Cartagena](#)

Day 8 : The Vaults

March 17, 2019 (B,D)

We'll start to wind down on our last full day in Cartagena. We'll begin our morning enjoying a coffee roasting and tasting at Cafe del Mural. Then pay a visit to The Vaults (las Bovedas) to do a little last minute handcraft shopping.

After eating lunch and spending some free time on our own, we'll cap off our journey by meeting with a local human rights lawyer to discuss a Colombia's human rights commission, where a "sex tourism alert" was issued as travelers came to the city during peak tourist season. About 35,000 minors face sexual exploitation in Colombia, and 2,000 of those are in Cartagena, UNICEF reported in 2015.

Before we celebrate our journey together and say our last good-byes your Greater Good Representative will host a wrap up meeting and we'll cap off the evening with a farewell dinner at el Santismo.



Day 9 : Depart Colombia, extend your stay in Cartagena or take your own excursion to Bogata or Medellin! (B)

Check out and transfer to the airport for your flights back home or onward.

PROJECT FOCUS:



Please Note:

Please note this program is subject to confirmation and evolution. Some activities times and dates may shift.

* signifies the meal included daily. B-Breakfast, L-Lunch and D-Dinner.

Prices and Inclusions

*The cost for this delegation varies on the amount of paying people.

TRIP INCLUDES:

Airport Transfers

Accommodations

Welcome and Farewell Dinners

Expert Guides and Trip Leaders

Comfortable / Secure Land Transportation

Breakfasts

Meals according to itinerary

Water

Entry Fees

Honorariums to non-profits, guest speakers and NGOs