



In collaboration with



Journey for the Greater Good: Expedition Colombia

9 days 

November 2020 

Join us in 2020 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.

For this impact retreat, we've partnered with AltruVistas, a sustainable travel company specializing in socially responsible and philanthropic travel experiences. For each journey, 50% or more of every tour dollar stays in and benefits the host economy. Additionally, donations are built into each journey in order to benefit local partners and collaborator organizations.

Join Greater Good Institute NOV 15-23, 2020
Sign up for trip and complete travel application [here](#).

Day 1: Bienvenidos Cartagena!

NOV 15, 2020 (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

NOV 16, 2020 (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.



While strolling the old streets we'll visit the local cathedral and make our way to **lunch at the CODE signer restaurant 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, a dinner reservation for those who would like to dine together at a CODE signatory restaurant, then explore the streets of colonial Cartagena.

Day 3: Getsemani

NOV 17, 2020 (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 for lunch, we'll take a **Street Food Tour** and fill our bellies with authentic Colombian fair.



In the afternoon, we'll engage with **the El Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar**, created in 1968, an NGO that works to protect children through adolescence in Colombia.

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

Day 4: FEM

NOV 18, 2020 (B, L,)

We'll begin our morning enjoying a **coffee roasting and tasting class at Cafe del Mural** to learn about Colombia's important export.

After we enjoy our morning coffee, we'll visit the **Museum of Oro Zenu** to admire pre-Columbian golden objects and the Historic Museum housed in the **Palace of the Inquisition**.

Then onto lunch at a CODE signatory restaurant.

After lunch, we'll exchange with **FEM**, a non-profit organization based in Cartagena, Colombia that seeks to make a daily difference in the lives of afro and indigenous communities in general and local Colombian women in particular by listening to their needs, connecting them with

relevant stakeholders, and fostering a sense of community ownership over sustainable development projects.

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



Day 5: La Boquilla

NOV 19, 2020 (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 Cienaga 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 us back to the hotel. Our dinner and evening are free to relax or explore the city.



Day 6: The Vaults

NOV 20, 2020 (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.

This morning we'll 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.

The next part of our day 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>

After eating lunch at a CODE signatory restaurant, we'll visit the **Vaults (las Bovedas)** to shop for local handcraft souvenirs.

Tonight, the evening is yours. Enjoy dinner on your own and spend time wandering the streets, soaking up the ambiance and discovering the most photogenic corners of Cartagena.



Day 7: San Basilio de Palenque

NOV 21, 2020 (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, 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



Day 8 : Rosario Islands

NOV 22, 2020 (B,D)

Today, we'll enjoy on our last full day in Cartagena. We'll begin our morning meeting with **beach patrol agents** to understand how they are part of the front lines against sexual exploitation.

No trip to Colombia would be complete without enjoying a little slice of paradise. Today, we'll visit the **Rosario Islands** a highlight of Colombia's Caribbean Coast, famous for their vibrant marine life and sun-soaked beach resorts. A cluster of 28 idyllic islands dotted offshore of the port city of Cartagena, this archipelago sits atop the **world's third-largest barrier reef** and makes up Islas del Rosario National Park. Today you can 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.

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)

NOV 23, 2020

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

Tour Price

\$3275* double occupancy

\$575 single supplement

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

TRIP INCLUDES:

Airport Transfers

Lodging in CODE Signatory boutique hotels

Comfortable, secure transportation by air-conditioned motor coach

Admission to all programmed activities

Expert Guides and Trip Leaders

Welcome and Farewell Dinners

Breakfasts daily

Meals according to itinerary-usually lunches are included daily

Water daily

Group donations and honorariums to NGOs, projects, and speakers

The cost for this delegation includes a tax-deductible donation to ECPAT-USA.

The price **does not include** the following: **

- Expenses of a purely personal nature.
- Flights to and from Colombia any airport taxes
- Gratuities to the bellboys and waiters, and your guide and driver
- 1 meal a day.
- Room service charges.

- Travel Insurance (We advise that each participant arranges for their own travel insurance yet it is not required).
- Extra Beverages or snacks

**Each participant is responsible for these charges.