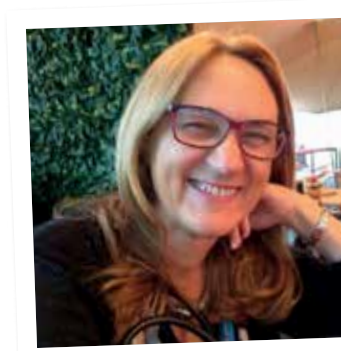




Peru, Cusco Province

# Welcome



Travel has been my life for 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today. A recent visit to the gorillas of Uganda has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains. And reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures here are no less enthralling. And everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

*Claire Farley*

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Cartagena

# Colombia

With its captivating mix of stunning Andean landscapes, charming colonial cities, pristine Caribbean beaches and fertile rolling hills, it's not hard to understand Colombia's attraction.

Heralded as Latin America's hottest rising star, Colombia is the one of the most bio-diverse countries in the world. From tropical forests and grasslands to coral reefs and semi-arid deserts, its scenic landscapes are rich in flora and fauna. Dominated by the magnificent Andes mountain range, Colombia was colonised by the Spanish in 1499 who dubbed it the New Granada. Bogota, the capital city located high in the Andes, is breathtaking and sets the tone for a holiday in this spectacularly beautiful country.

Bogota is a cultural revelation, with its astounding Gold Museum showcasing gold artefacts from pre-Spanish cultures, and the well-preserved downtown area, La Candelaria. The modern face of Colombia is on view at the Space Museum and the renovated Planetarium where you can watch absorbing video presentations on a giant domed screen. In contrast, the San Alejo Sunday flea market is home to hundreds of craftsmen, restorers and collectors, all displaying antiques, books and curiosities.

For spectacular views of the city take the cable car to the summit of Monserrate, at a height of 3,152 metres, or walk up if you are feeling energetic. Outside the city, visit the remarkable Salt Cathedral carved out from a former salt mine at Zipaquirá and don't miss Villa de Leyva, one of Colombia's most picturesque colonial villages. If adrenalin sports are your thing, head north of Bogota to San Gil and the Rio Fonce, Colombia's white-water rafting capital. Here you can also horse ride, fish and hike.



Cabo San Juan, Tayrona National Park

Southwest of Bogota, Colombia's most impressive archeological sites are found near San Agustín and Isnos. Here hundreds of pre-Columbian megalithic sculptures can be seen in the Parque Arqueológico. Dating from a civilization that lasted from 200 BC to 1300 AD, these stone tomb guardians have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

However, the jewel in Colombia's crown is undoubtedly another of its World Heritage Sites, the superbly preserved Caribbean coastal city of Cartagena. This magnificent walled city was built in the 16th century to withstand the attentions of pirates and privateers. The mix of old and new is stunning here, with cobbled alleys, balconies, bougainvillea and huge churches contrasting with modern hotels.

Forty-five minutes from Cartagena, the spectacular Rosario Islands archipelago is dotted like mother of pearl along the

Caribbean coast. With many luxury homes, it offers glorious beaches with snorkelling and diving.

For beaches with lots of activities, head to one of the many luxury hotels on Barú Island to the west of Cartagena or Santa Marta to the east.

For birding and wildlife, nowhere can the country's impressive bio diversity be seen better than in the thick tropical vegetation of Tayrona National Park, to the northeast of Cartagena. One of Colombia's most visited national parks, its verdant hills provide a spectacular backdrop to its pristine white sandy beaches. Swimming is limited by strong currents and there are few facilities, so for tranquil beaches with crystal clear water and more creature comforts, head to the coral islands of the San Bernardo archipelago, in the Caribbean Sea.



San Agustín

Colombian coffee is legendary and spending a few days at a 'finca' (estate) in the rolling hills of the Coffee Region, centred on Pereira, is a popular option with a visit to the great wax palms of the Cocora Valley and Salento a must. If time permits, to the north of the region, Medellín – formerly the home of drug baron Pablo Escobar – is now very much on the tourist map. With its unique blend of art, tango and cable car network it has become a model of regeneration.

In contrast to its lively cities, almost a third of Colombia is covered by largely unexplored rainforest. Located in the southeast of the country, Leticia is the gateway into the wildlife-rich Amazon Basin, where visitors can stay in eco-lodges run by indigenous communities. Birding here is some of the best in the world.



## Best of Colombia

- DAYS 1/2** Arrive in Bogota, with city tour
- DAY 3** Travel to Salt Cathedral and pretty colonial Villa de Leyva
- DAYS 4/5** Fly to Pereira in Coffee Region, with excursion to giant wax palms of Cocora Valley and Salento
- DAYS 6/8** Fly to Cartagena, with walking tour & visit to Rosario Islands
- DAYS 9/12** Travel to Santa Marta and Tayrona National Park, then relax on the beach
- DAY 13** Depart from Cartagena

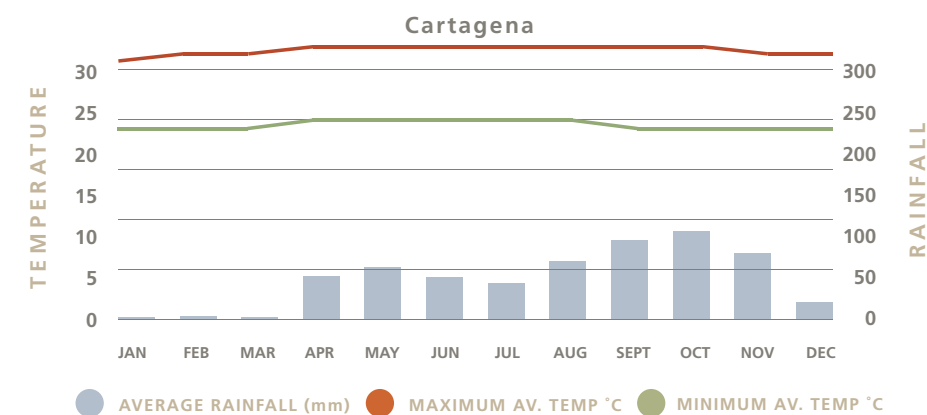
From £3,995 per person sharing including flights, mid season



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on **01582 766 122** or visit [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk)

## When to go

As Colombia is situated on the equator, it can be visited any time of year – but the best time to visit is during one of the two dry seasons – December to March or July to September. Bogota is situated high in the Andes, with a cool changeable alpine climate. Cartagena and the Caribbean coast are hot all year around.







# Book with confidence

We have ATOL certification and membership of the Association of Tour Operators (AITO).

## Booking your holiday

When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. In all our dealings we aim to be transparent and encourage you to read our terms and conditions thoroughly. These are on our website at [www.2by2holidays.co.uk](http://www.2by2holidays.co.uk). Please do contact us if anything is unclear.

## Financial Protection

Through our membership of ATOL (9025) and our Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is fully financially protected wherever in the world you live, regardless of whether you book land-only arrangements or a complete holiday package with flights.

## AITO Quality Charter

AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

## Exclusive Membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

## Financial Security

An AITO member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the AITO logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK Government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to AITO on a regular basis.

## Accurate brochures and websites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

## Professional service and continual improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

## Monitoring standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire from their tour operator, the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

## Sustainable tourism

Our members acknowledge the importance of AITOs Sustainable Tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

## Customer relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, either party can call on an arbitration service to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

To contact AITO call 020 8744 9280 or visit their website [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com)

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