

# Treasures of Barbacoco: Family Adventure Colombia

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## Meta description

Find pirate treasure in Cartagena, explore unusual landscapes and traditional towns in the Coffee Triangle and relax on the beach on a family trip to Colombia.

## Single line for homepage

Pirate treasure, Caribbean beaches, exotic wildlife, and excellent coffee and chocolate abound on this family adventure.

## Summary

Are you looking for the adventure of a lifetime? The captivating country of Colombia is perfect for adventurous families. From the cloud forests and traditional towns of the Coffee Triangle, to the gorgeous colonial port city of Cartagena and the Caribbean coastline of Tayrona, this family adventure takes you around some of Colombia's highlights.

The first leg of your trip involves verdant countryside, exotic wildlife, traditional towns and abundant chocolate and coffee, before taking you to one of Colombia's prettiest cities, Cartagena, where you'll enjoy an exciting treasure hunt and picnic in the Old Town. You'll finish your trip exploring the unspoilt beaches and tropical rainforest of Tayrona National park. Along the way, you'll see exotic wildlife, unusual landscapes and lots of foodie fun, while staying in luxurious accommodation.

## Highlights

- Walk among soaring wax palms in Valle Cocora
- Explore the traditional towns of Salento and Filandia
- Seek pirate treasure in the streets of Cartagena
- Relax in your beachside eco-cabin at Tayrona
- Trek into the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range
- Swim and snorkel in the Caribbean waters of Tayrona

## Itinerary section

### Day 1-4 | Resort: Armenia | Type: General Tour

After an overnight flight to Bogota and short flight to Armenia, you and your family will be buzzing with excitement as you touchdown for your family adventure in Colombia. Our English-speaking driver and guide will greet you at the airport and whisk you away to the Hacienda Bambusa, your accommodation for the first leg of your trip.

Located in the south of the famous Coffee Triangle, the Hacienda Bambusa is an oasis of tranquillity surrounded by plantations and herds of white Brahman

cattle. After checking in, you're invited on a complimentary two-hour tour of the grounds with an expert guide. They'll tell you about cacao growing and point out the rich flora and fauna – keep your eyes peeled for some of the 160 species of exotic birds found here, including rufous-tailed hummingbirds, spectacled parrotlets and fork-tailed flycatchers.

In the evening, settle down to enjoy a delicious family dinner – breakfasts and dinners are included here, made from ingredients grown at the hacienda.

On day 3, you're going on a full-day tour of the area. First, you're heading to the Valle Cocora, part of Los Nevados National Park, where a unique and striking landscape awaits. Colombia's national tree, the wax palm, dots the landscape stretching as high as 60 metres into the misty sky. Hike through the cloud forest or opt to explore on horseback for an additional charge. Along the way, you'll see exotic flora and fauna including brightly coloured hummingbirds.

After lunch, it's off to the traditional village of Salento where you can admire the pretty balconies lining the Plaza de Bolivar, peruse handicraft shops and checkout the Cocora viewpoint. You'll end the day at the quaint pueblo of Filandia, where you'll enjoy a tour before having some free time to sample the local coffee shops.

Day 4 is yours to enjoy as you wish. Your accommodation has lots of optional activities such as a farm experience, exploring the botanic gardens and butterfly farm, taking a cacao workshop or coffee tasting, or, for something more active, you could go zip-lining or float down the river on a bamboo raft. Alternatively simply spend your day rotating between the hammock and swimming pool!

### **Day 5-7 | Resort: Cartagena | Type: City**

On day 5, it's time to head to the city. You'll fly to the colourful port city of Cartagena, where a driver-guide will take you to the Quadrifolio Boutique Hotel. Here you can make yourself at home in your luxurious room and check out the refreshing swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

Day 6 is all about pirate adventures! You'll have a fun introduction to the history and culture of Cartagena's pretty Old Town – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – equipped with a treasure map as you follow clues in search of the infamous treasure of the pirate "Barbacoco". There'll be plenty of pirate fun and games along the way as you collect items of fancy dress and hunt down that treasure – a trunk of precious stones and faux pearls made from coconut, pineapple and papaya sweets, supplemented with locally made chocolate coins. Yum!

Once the fun and games are complete, you can sit back and enjoy a local picnic of fresh fruits, juices, mini arepas and other local snacks while learning how they're made.

The rest of day 6 and day 7 are yours to explore. Spend longer wandering the vibrant facades and charming squares of the city, head to Colombia's National Aviary to get close to some of its exotic and endangered birds, or spend a day at the charming fishing village of La Boquilla, enjoying the long sandy beaches and beachside shacks serving fresh fish.

## **Day 8-12 | Resort: Tayrona | Type: Beach**

The final leg of your Colombian adventure takes you to a tropical paradise. The Tayrona National Park stretches along the Caribbean coast, its golden sandy beaches fringed with gently swaying coconut palms and thick rainforest, and lapped by glittering azure waters. After a four-hour transfer you'll arrive at your accommodation, Ecohabs, eco-friendly cabins overlooking the wild Caribbean beach.

We haven't designed any particular excursions for this part of your trip, leaving you free to decide how to spend your days. Enjoy lazy beach days – some of the beaches have dangerous rip currents so swimming isn't allowed, but you can slip into the silky smooth waters at La Piscina and El Cabo to swim and snorkel among the vivid coral reef. Alternatively, there are a number of hiking paths through the rainforest and into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria, the world's highest coastal mountain range, where you can explore waterfalls, ancient paths and archaeological sites.

On day 11, you'll need to drag the kids away from paradise and head back to the airport for your flight to Bogota and international flight home. You'll arrive home the following day, filled with fun memories to wow your family and friends. You may already be planning your return trip to this enigmatic country.