

1. BOGOTÁ



Bogotá - the country's beating heart, vibrant, diverse and Colombia's capital. Today home to an impressive array of museums, churches, colonial mansions and stately buildings. Meet both of the dilapidated colonial grandeur, and the bustling vitality of a modern metropolis. A green city with more than 5,200 parks and more kilometres of bike lanes than found anywhere else in Latin-America. Proclaimed by UNESCO as the city of books and music, Bogotá is, with its diverse nightlife and varied cuisine, all you can expect from a cosmopolitan city.

Bogotá - Excursions

City Tour Colonial (approx. 4 h)

Start with a short walk through "La Candelaria", a historical neighbourhood in downtown Bogotá. A pleasant quarter of cobble stoned streets, architecture of old houses, churches and buildings with Spanish Colonial and Baroque styles. It houses several universities, libraries and museums. Walk across the main square 'Plaza Bolívar' and along various government buildings. Pass by the Fernando Botero Museum, the well-known Colombian painter and sculptor. Top off the morning with a visit to the popular Gold Museum. It contains nearly 34,000 gold pieces plus a further 20,000 bone, stone, ceramic, and textile articles belonging to 13 Pre-Hispanic societies.

Remark: Gold Museum is closed on Mondays; Botero Museum is closed on Tuesdays.

City Tour Colonial & Grafitti (approx. 5 h)

Visit La Candelaria first, a historic neighbourhood in downtown Bogotá. A pleasant quarter of cobble stoned streets, architecture of old houses, churches and buildings with Spanish Colonial and Baroque styles. It houses several universities, libraries and museums. Walk across the main Bolívar's square and along various government buildings. A visit to the Gold Museum is also a popular outing. It contains nearly 34,000 gold pieces plus a further 20,000 bone, stone, ceramic, and textile articles belonging to 13 Pre-Hispanic societies. Visit the Fernando Botero Museum, the well-known Colombian painter and sculptor. After New York, Bogotá is the second city with the most interesting Graffiti in the world. Start from the main square Plaza de Bolívar and be impressed by the history of graffiti in Bogotá. A colourful, original culture sustained by passion and creativity. Some of the city's best street art.

Remark: Gold Museum is closed on Mondays; Botero Museum is closed on Tuesdays.

City Tour Colonial & Monserrate (approx. 5 h)

Visit La Candelaria first, a historic neighbourhood in downtown Bogotá. A pleasant quarter of cobble stoned streets, architecture of old houses, churches and buildings with Spanish Colonial and Baroque styles. It houses several universities, libraries and museums. Walk across the main Bolívar's square and along various government buildings. A visit to the Gold Museum is also a popular outing. It contains nearly 34,000 gold pieces plus a further 20,000 bone, stone, ceramic, and textile articles belonging to 13 Pre-Hispanic societies. Visit also the Fernando Botero Museum, the well-known Colombian painter and sculptor. Take a short drive to Monserrate, at 3.048 m (10.000 ft), look down on smoggy, traffic-clogged Bogotá. Accessed by funicular or cable car, it is a separate world. The air is clean and the expansive view over Bogotá is wonderful. The chapel houses a famous and very moving 17th century Fallen Christ. Beyond the chapel and the Stations

of the Cross are the decidedly secular local food stands offering everything from chocolate and tamales to soups, sausages and handicrafts.

Remark: Gold Museum is closed on Mondays; Botero Museum is closed on Tuesdays.

Gold Museum (approx. 4 h)

Inside the Bank de la Republica you find the Gold Museum. The world's largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold is dazzling. Fertility figures, anthropomorphic containers, earrings, masks, helmets and medallions can be found. Interspersed are masterpieces hewn from clay, stone, shell and textiles. The most famous treasure is a miniature golden raft with intricate figures that depict the inauguration of an ancient indigenous ruler; he is attended by a coterie of shamans and priests. The ruler throws priceless golden objects into the lagoon on which he floats, as an offering to the sun god, and his constituents honor him by tossing their own possessions into the water. One of the highlights of the museum is the dark room. Inside, there is an illuminated hole in the floor with hundreds of glittering items. On the walls, in dim light, are countless golden objects. A shaman chants and you realize that you are looking into a lagoon filled with gold pieces, experiencing the ceremonial life of the ancient people and their rulers.

Remark: Gold Museum is closed on Mondays.

Panoramic City Tour (approx. 4 h)

Drive through the highlights of the modern side of Bogotá, along the "El Dorado" avenue and learn about the importance of the huge colourfully painted graffiti art in the city. Afterwards, stop by the Simón Bolívar Metropolitan Park and visit one of the public libraries in town with its surprising architecture. The tour will pass by the soccer stadium of the city and Bogotá's "Zona Rosa" until you reach the view point of la Paloma, a beautiful view point where you can take a picture of the skyline of the city.

Paloquemao Market (approx. 3 h)

Get to know Bogotá's most famous food market, Paloquemao, located in the heart of the city. Enter the market place, smell, and be surprised by the different kind of fruits, vegetables, herbs, fish, seafood, and meat. Take a break at one of the simple but delicious food stands to take the opportunity to try one of the typical meals of this region. Early in the morning you will find a beautiful flower market in front.

Biking in downtown (approx. 3 h)

Bike to various attractions of Bogotá, visiting the historic center - traditional markets, places the customer cannot visit by themselves. You will learn about the social reality of Bogotá, enjoy the food, typical colombian fruits and learn about Colombian coffee. Bogotá from the local perspective.

Central Cemetery (approx. 3 h)

The Central Cemetery of Bogotá was established in the year 1836. Because of its history and its architectural and cultural value, it was declared as a National Monument in 1984. The cemetery is divided into three sectors. The first part is the oldest, the bronze sculpture La Piedad and several mausoleums can be found in this area, as well as a chapel and a memorial in honor of the founder of Bogotá. In the second part, old tombs are found and the third part consists of usual tombs.

Underground Salt Cathedral Zipaquirá (approx. 4 h)

Drive from Bogotá via the fertile plateau to Zipaquirá. You visit the famous underground salt cathedral, 120 m (394 ft) long and a total of more than 8.500 square meters. First there was the light of day, then darkness. Little by little, a multicolored phosphorescent light appeared and illuminated the walls of the Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral, a monumental architectural masterpiece built by the miners' own hands which became a beautiful temple. Inside, you find monumental crosses, angels and the Madonna statue. In addition to the main cathedral, there are small chapels and Stations of the Cross; its 14 stations are interconnected through labyrinthine tunnels. Drive back to Bogotá.

Shopping Tour (approx. 4 h)

Visit one of the biggest shopping centers of Bogotá where all famous designers are represented. Afterwards stop at a typical handcraft shop for souvenirs.

All About Coffee (approx. 3 h)

Learn all about one of the most important productions of Colombia: coffee. Visit a unique little factory where you can admire and participate in the selection and the roasting of the bean while being explained about the process by a specialist. And of course, learn how to taste a good Colombian coffee.

Night Tour (approx. 6 h)

Transfer and visit to the famous Barbecue Restaurant "Andres Carne de Res". Here you can enjoy a delicious meal and at the same time get a first impression of the musical night life with locals as well as foreigners in Colombia. Transfer back to your hotel.

Best of Bogotá including lunch (approx. 8 h)

Get to know Bogotá's most famous food market located in the heart of the city. Enter the market place, smell, and be surprised by the different kind of fruits, vegetables, herbs, fish, seafood, and meat. Take a break at one of the simple but delicious food stands to take the opportunity to try one of the typical meals of this region. Early in the morning you will find a beautiful flower market in front.

After the market, visit the colonial part of the city, La Candelaria. Walk across the main Simón Bolívar square, along the governments buildings. After lunch in one of the most typical restaurants you will reach the famous Gold Museum which houses the world's largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold art. After the gold museum, take the opportunity to learn all about one of the most important productions of Colombia: coffee. Visit a unique little factory where you can admire and participate in the selection and the roasting of the bean while being explained about the process by a specialist. And of course, learn how to taste a good Colombian coffee.

Best of Bogotá Colonial including lunch (approx. 8 h)

Visit first La Candelaria, a historic neighborhood in downtown Bogotá. The architecture of the old houses, churches and buildings have Spanish Colonial and Baroque styles. It houses several universities, libraries and museums. Walk across the main square Simón Bolívar and along the governments buildings. Reach the famous Gold Museum which houses the world's largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold art. Also visit the Fernando Botero Museum, the well-known Colombian painter and sculptor. Get lunch in one of the most typical restaurants. Transfer to the entrance of Monserrate Mountain. Monserrate, at 3.048 m (10.000 ft), looks down on smoggy, traffic-clogged Bogotá. Accessed by funicular or cable car, it is a separate world. The air is clean; the expansive view over Bogotá is wonderful. The chapel houses a famous and very moving 17th century Fallen Christ. Beyond the chapel and the Stations of the Cross are the decidedly secular local stands offering everything from chocolate, tamales to soups, sausages and handicrafts.

City Tour Colonial & Underground Salt Cathedral including lunch (approx. 8 h)

Visit first La Candelaria, a historic neighborhood in downtown Bogotá. It is the equivalent to the Old City in other cities. The architecture of the old houses, churches and buildings has Spanish Colonial and Baroque styles. It houses several universities, libraries and museums. Walk across the main square Simón Bolívar, along the governments buildings. Reach the famous Gold Museum which houses the world's largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold art. Visit also the Fernando Botero Museum, the well-known Colombian painter and sculptor. After lunch in one of the most typical restaurants, drive via the fertile plateau to Zipaquirá. You visit the famous underground salt cathedral, 120 m (394 ft) long and a total of more than 8.500 square meters. Inside this cave a church is carved from salt crystal: monumental crosses, angels and the Madonna statue. In addition to the main cathedral, there are small chapels and Stations of the Cross; its 14 stations are interconnected through labyrinthine tunnels. Drive back to Bogotá.

Lagoon of Guatavita including lunch with a farmer family (approx. 8 h)

You leave Bogotá, along the small villages of Tocancipa and Gachancipa. Drive up to over 3.000 m (9.840 ft) to the entrance of the legendary lagoon of Guatavita. From here, make a half an hour walk to the lagoon. According to the legend, every young ruler of the Muisca (a Chibcha tribe) brought a sacrifice to the sun god of the lagoon. The naked body of the prince was coated with a paste made of gold dust. The prince went on a raft in the middle of the lake and jumped in the water where the gold dust dropped into the lake together with emeralds and gold which were given by the priest. As evidence applies the miniature of the gold craft is located today in the Gold Museum. After the hike, we drive up the mountains, and on an unpaved road you will reach the house of local farmers where you have lunch and a chat with the family. Walk around and get an impression of how farmer's life looks like. In the afternoon, take the road back to Bogotá and stop on the way to taste area typical "arepas" (corn bread).

Chingaza Natural National Park (approx. 10 h)

The Chingaza National Park, is located in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes and has about 40 natural glacial lakes. The largest lake is Lake Chingaza, at an altitude of 3,250 meters. It is estimated that the total flora of the park exceeds 2,000 species. Drive with your english speaking guide to the entrance of the Chingaza National Park. Here you will meet your park guide who is specialized in this particular park and can answer all your questions. Drive slowly through the park and make your stops, walk around with your guide who will show you all the interesting aspects of the "paramo". Enjoy a fantastic day with breathtaking views and an unforgettable landscape.

Opening Times for Attractions in Bogotá				
Site	Weekdays		Weekends	
Gold Museum	Mon - Fri	09.00h - 18.00h	Sat Sun	10.00h - 18.00h 10.00h - 16.00h
Botero Museum	Mon - Fri	09.00h - 19.00h	Sat - Sun	09.00h - 19.00h
Mount Monserrate	Tue - Fri	06.30h - 00.00h 12.00h - 00.00h	Sat Sun	12.00h - 00.00h 10.00h - 16.30h
Underground Salt Cathedrale	Mon - Fri	09.00h - 17.00h	Sat - Sun	09.00h - 17.00h
Guatavita Lagoon (El Dorado)	Tue - Fri	08.30h - 18.00h	Sat - Sun	08.30h - 16.00h