
Travel with The Met

March 1–9, 2018

Colombia: Land of El Dorado
with Emilia Cortes



THE
MET

Colombia: Land of El Dorado

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Colombia is a country blessed by a diverse geography. Her majestic mountains, exotic flora and fauna, and abundance of gems and precious metals (which gave rise to the legend of El Dorado) offer the allure of an entire continent—all in a single country. Add fascinating ancient civilizations, exquisite colonial architecture, and a dynamic contemporary arts scene, and you have a destination that is irresistible.

Please join me next March to discover the diverse art and architecture of Colombia. We will begin in Cartagena, a colonial gem on the Caribbean. Stroll the cobblestone streets, sample local cuisine, and admire a private art collection. In vibrant Medellín, known as “the City of Eternal Spring,” visit the Botanical Garden with its many tropical and desert plants, and view the extensive collection of works by Fernando Botero at the Museo de Antioquia. On a full-day excursion to Santa Elena, explore the birthplace of the ornate flower arrangements called *silletas* that are the cornerstone of the annual Flower Festival.

Last but not least, I am excited to introduce you to my native Bogotá. We will explore the origins of the El Dorado myth on a curatorial tour of the Gold Museum, housing the world's largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold pieces. A walking tour of the colonial neighborhood of La Candelaria includes Museo Botero, the Luis Angel Arango Library, housing a collection of colonial paintings that takes us on a journey through Colombia; and the Colón Theater with its late-nineteenth-century neoclassical architecture. Among the other jewels are Lake Guatavita (which the Spanish once drained in search of El Dorado) and an underground Salt Cathedral in Zipaquirá. We will also delve into Colombia's contemporary culture during a meeting with a fiber artist (time permitting) and at a well-known local graphic workshop and gallery.

I hope you will join me on this privileged journey.

Sincerely,
Emilia Cortes
*Conservator, Department of Textile Conservation
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



Traveling with you

Emilia Cortes

Emilia Cortes came to The Metropolitan Museum of Art as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in 1991-93, joining the staff in 1993. Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, she graduated with degrees in graphic design in Bogotá and textile design in Como and Florence, Italy. She has been a Professional Associate at the American Institute for Conservation since 1999. Currently she is completing her MA in Museum Anthropology at Columbia University in New York. Ms. Cortes has published on Pre-Columbian Colombian textiles and Dynastic Egyptian textiles. She has traveled extensively in Latin America and accompanied a Travel with The Met group to Cuba.

Trip Highlights

- Explore the historic walled city of Cartagena and view a private art collection
- Admire Medellín's lush Botanical Garden, known for its splendid orchids, and dine in the gardens
- Visit the Museo de Arte Moderno, with pieces by Colombian artist Débora Arango, and Museo de Antioquia, home to an impressive collection of works by native son Fernando Botero
- Discover the town of Santa Elena, where floral arrangements are created for Medellín's annual Flower Festival
- Fly to Bogotá for a curatorial tour of the extraordinary Gold Museum, with the world's biggest collection of pre-Hispanic gold work
- Travel beyond the capital to see Lake Guatavita, the Salt Cathedral, and Sutatausa Church
- Enjoy special events including afternoon tea with a prominent artist in Bogotá



Crown of the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception. Popayán, ca. 1660 (diadem) and ca. 1770 (arches). Gold, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase, Lila Acheson Wallace Gift, Acquisitions Fund and Mary Trumbull Adams Fund, 2015 (2015.437).



Photos clockwise from top right: regional map; Cartagena, Old City, photo by enfi; Salt Cathedral, Zipaquirá; Teatro Colón, Bogotá, photo by Enrique Colombo; San Pedro Claver Church, Cartagena, photo by Alexander Schimmeck; Orquideorama at the Botanical Garden, Medellín, photo by Priscilla Burhcer. Front cover: Tairona *Figure Pendant*, 10th–16th century. Gold. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of H. L. Bache Foundation, 1969 [69.7.10]. Back cover: *silletas*, Medellín, photo by Julian Castro (top); *Dancing in Colombia*, 1980. Fernando Botero (Colombian, born 1932). Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Anonymous Gift, 1983 [1983.251] (bottom).

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Cartagena

U.S. Departure / Cartagena, Colombia

Thursday, March 1

Depart the U.S. and arrive in the seaside city of Cartagena in the mid-afternoon. Accommodations are at the Charleston Santa Teresa Hotel, located within the Old City, with its colorful colonial architecture and cobblestone streets. After check-in, enjoy refreshments at the Hotel Caribe, a national monument in the Boca Grande neighborhood, followed by a festive welcome dinner at a local restaurant. D

Cartagena

Friday, March 2

Explore the historic walled city of Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with an architectural historian. Founded by the Spaniards, its many fortresses were built to expel the pirates. Of particular interest are San Pedro Claver Church, the Cathedral, the Inquisition Museum, and the Castillo San Felipe. Lunch is followed by a special viewing of a private art collection. In the late afternoon, a leisurely walking tour through the colonial heart of the city evokes scenes from the novels of Gabriel García Márquez. B, L

Cartagena / Medellín

Saturday, March 3

After a morning lecture, fly to Medellín, known as “the City of Eternal Spring.” Arrive at the hotel for lunch and check-in. Visit the Botanical Garden to view the country’s unique vegetation, including many tropical and desert plants, and to marvel at the wooden architectural structure called the Orquideorama that weaves its way through the garden. Linger in the garden for dinner. B, L, D

Medellín

Sunday, March 4

In the morning, visit the Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, whose collections include works by noted Colombian artist Débora Arango. Travel to the nearby town of Santa Elena, birthplace of the ornate flower arrangements called *silletas* that are the cornerstone of Medellín’s annual Flower Festival, *Feria de Las Flores*. After lunch, ride a cable car to the España Library. Admire the panoramic views and learn about the city’s transformation as a result of its transportation, education, and art initiatives. Attend a concert of traditional Colombian music (schedule permitting), followed by dinner at leisure. B, L

Medellín / Bogotá

Monday, March 5

Begin the day at the Museo de Antioquia, housing an extensive collection by Medellín native Fernando Botero. Following a short flight to Bogotá, Colombia’s Andean capital, check in at our hotel. This afternoon, we are invited for a visit to the graphic art workshop of Taller Arte Dos Gráfico and Galería Sextante. Meet local artists and see a demonstration of printmaking, serigraphy, and lithography before a special reception and dinner. B, R, D

Bogotá

Tuesday, March 6

Attend a morning lecture before we depart to explore Bogotá. Begin with a visit to Casa de Nariño, the official home and office of the president. On an architectural walking tour through La Candelaria, Bogotá’s oldest neighborhood, see highlights of this historic part of the city including Egipto Church, Teatro Colón, and Plaza de Bolívar. Enjoy lunch at Museo Nacional, then join a curator for a museum tour. Continue for a studio visit and afternoon tea with a prominent local artist. B, L

Bogotá

Wednesday, March 7

Travel through the Sabana de Bogotá and visit Lake Guatavita, where the pre-Hispanic ceremony of El Dorado took place. In the nearby municipality of Sopo, see the *Archangels of Sopo*, a famous collection of oil paintings from the colonial period housed in the Church of the Divine Savior. After lunch, visit Zipaquirá’s extraordinary Salt Cathedral, an underground Roman Catholic church that is carved out of an abandoned salt mine, and view the frescos at Sutatausa Church. In the late afternoon attend a lecture at the hotel. B, L



Lake Guatavita

More Travels with The Met

Japan: Ancient Traditions, Modern Art & Architecture October 13–24, 2017

Cuba by Sea: Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Variety Voyager* January 25–February 2, 2018

The Enchanting Douro River Round-Trip Porto Aboard M.S. *AmaVida* April 16–24, 2018

For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Bogotá

Thursday, March 8

Today explore the land of “El Dorado” on a curatorial tour of the Gold Museum. With over 34,000 pre-Hispanic gold pieces, the museum houses the largest collection in the world.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, discover the Colombian Colonial Art Collection of Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango and the Museo Botero. Schedule permitting, we will also visit a well-known local fiber artist. Gather for our farewell dinner at the hotel. B, L, D

Bogotá / U.S. Return

Friday, March 9

Time permitting, the morning is at leisure to visit a local market or the Museo de Arte Moderno (MAMBO). Transfer to the airport for your flight home. B

This program involves some extensive walking over uneven terrain and, at times, in high altitudes to which most travelers will be unaccustomed. All participants must be in good health. Any condition that may require special assistance or medical attention must be communicated at the time of your reservation. This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Gold Museum, Bogotá, photo by Richard Emblin

Accommodations

Charleston Santa Teresa, Cartagena

Nestled in the heart of Cartagena’s Old City, this luxurious boutique hotel has two wings, one of which dates back to the 17th century. Amenities include three restaurants, a rooftop pool, and a spa.

Hotel Movich InterContinental, Medellín

This sophisticated property was redecorated by noted interior designer Nini Andrade Silva in 2015. Surrounded by lush mountains, the hotel offers guests a large swimming pool, tennis courts, green areas, a spa, and forest trails.

JW Marriott Hotel, Bogotá

Located in the heart of Bogotá’s entertainment and financial districts, the JW Marriott has a choice of restaurants, a spa, an exercise center, and an indoor lap pool.



Charleston Santa Teresa



Hotel Movich InterContinental, Medellín

Program Rate

\$7,799 per person double occupancy

\$1,199 single supplement

Rate Includes

- Two nights hotel accommodations in Cartagena, two nights in Medellín, and four nights in Bogotá
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); wine and beer with included lunches and dinners; coffee/tea with all meals
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Internal economy-class flights: Cartagena/Medellín/Bogotá
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate

International airfare; airport/hotel transfers for those not on suggested flights; meals not specified; wine and beer except at included lunches and dinners; personal items and expenses; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$1,199)

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



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