

Travel with The Met

March 9—16, 2019

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 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 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 call at an artist studio or gallery. In Medellín, “the City of Eternal Spring,” visit the Botanical Garden for a delightful lunch surrounded by unique native flora, and view the powerful, controversial paintings of Colombian artist Débora Arango at the Museo de Arte Moderno, on a special tour led by the museum director and chief curator.

Last but not least, I am excited to introduce you to my native Bogotá. 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, and visit the studio of a prominent artist for afternoon tea. Meet the grandson of Fernando Botero for a specially arranged viewing of his works at the Museo Botero, and watch printmakers and artisans at work at a well-known graphic art workshop and the School of Arts and Crafts. Other highlights are in store, as I have contacted my friends and colleagues throughout Colombia to facilitate special arrangements for us.

I hope you will join me on this exceptional journey to the land of my birth. For those who would like to extend their stay, an optional postlude in Villa de Leyva, a National Monument and lovingly preserved 16th-century village near Bogotá, is also offered.

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

- Enjoy private tours led by museum directors and curators, and have afternoon tea with a prominent artist
- Explore the historic walled city of Cartagena with an architecture specialist
- Meet acclaimed Colombian artists during studio visits and demonstrations of their craft
- Discover the town of Santa Elena, where floral arrangements are created for Medellín’s annual Flower Festival
- Visit Fernando Botero’s hometown of Medellín, and view his works in the company of a member of his family in Bogotá
- Admire the treasures of Bogotá’s famed Gold Museum, which houses the world’s largest collection of pre-Hispanic gold work
- Take a walking tour of La Candelaria, Bogotá’s colonial neighborhood, and admire the colonial paintings in the Luis Angel Arango Library



Colombian coffee harvest



Photos clockwise from top right: Map of the region; *Alquimia XIII*, Olga de Amaral (Colombian, born 1932), 1984, Linen, rice paper, gesso, indigo red, and gold leaf, Textiles-Tapestries, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, gift of Olga and Jim de Amaral, 1987, (1987.387); A traditional *silleta*; Houses in Getsemani, Cartagena; Interior of the Santuario Nuestra Señora del Carmen, La Candelaria, Bogotá; *Dancing in Colombia* by Fernando Botero (Colombian, born 1932). 1980. Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Anonymous Gift, 1983 (1983.251). Front cover: Cartagena, photo © Charly Boillot. Back cover: Muisca Offering, 600 C.E. - 1600 C.E., Gold Museum, Bogotá, photo courtesy of the Gold Museum / photo © Juan Mayr (top) and Iglesia Santa Clara, La Candelaria, Bogotá (bottom).

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Departure / Cartagena, Colombia

Saturday, March 9

Arrive in seaside Cartagena in the mid-afternoon. Accommodations are at the Charleston Santa Teresa Hotel, located within the Old City, with its colorful architecture and cobblestone streets. A walking tour is followed by a festive welcome dinner with remarks by Emilia Cortes and a private dance performance. D

Cartagena

Sunday, March 10

Explore the historic walled city of Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with an architectural historian. Founded by the Spaniards, Cartagena's many fortresses were built to expel pirates. See San Pedro Claver Church, the Cathedral, the Inquisition Museum, and the Castillo San Felipe. Lunch is followed by a special visit to an artist studio or gallery. We will also see the up-and-coming neighborhood of Getsemani, with its imaginative street art and bright colors. Dinner this evening is at leisure. B, L



Pedro Claver Church, Cartagena

Cartagena / Medellín

Monday, March 11

After a morning lecture by Emilia Cortes, fly to Medellín, known as the "City of Eternal Spring." Drive to nearby Santa Elena, birthplace of the ornate floral arrangements called *silletas* that are the cornerstone of Medellín's annual Flower Festival. Enjoy lunch and a tour at a flower farm, then continue to our hotel for check-in. Dinner is at leisure. B, L



Botanical Garden, Medellín

Medellín

Tuesday, March 12

This morning visit the Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, whose collections include works by noted Colombian artist Débora Arango. The museum director and chief curator will lead the tour. Lunch is at the Botanical Garden, where we will view the country's unique vegetation, including many tropical and desert plants. Marvel at the wooden architectural structure called the Orquideorama that weaves its way through the garden. In the afternoon, admire the street art that has helped to revitalize the city's Comuna 13 area. Dinner is at a traditional *fonda* restaurant. B, L, D

Medellín / Bogotá

Wednesday, March 13

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 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 dinner. B, D

Bogotá

Thursday, March 14

Enjoy a lecture by Emilia Cortes before exploring Bogotá. On an architectural walking tour through La Candelaria, the city's oldest neighborhood, discover the Egipto Church, Teatro Colón, and Plaza de Bolívar. We will also see Casa de Nariño, the official home and office of the president, and meet artisans learning their trade at the School of Arts and Crafts. Following lunch at the Museo Nacional, join a curator for a museum tour. Continue for a studio visit and afternoon tea with a prominent local artist. The evening is free. B, L, T



Plaza de Bolívar, Bogotá

More Travels with The Met

Cuba by Sea Aboard *Variety Voyager* January 24—February 1, 2019

High Art in the Low Countries Aboard *Magnifique III* May 17—25, 2019

Japan: Castles, Armor & the Art of the Samurai May 30—June 9, 2019

Basque Legacies: Art, Gastronomy & Design From Bilbao to Biarritz June 26—July 5, 2019

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel



Museo Botero, Bogotá

Bogotá

Friday, March 15

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. We will then be treated to lunch with a tasting of award-winning coffee varieties. In the afternoon, discover the Colombian Colonial Art Collection at the Luis Angel Arango Library, then visit the Museo Botero with the artist’s grandson. Gather for our farewell dinner this evening. B, L, D

Bogotá / Return

Saturday, March 16

Depending on flight schedules, the morning is at leisure to visit a local market or the Museo de Arte Moderno (MAMBO). Transfer to the airport for flights home. B

An optional postlude is offered in Villa de Leyva from March 16-19, 2019

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.

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. A former cloister lovingly restored by expert craftsmen, the proud Colombian heritage is immediately evident from the stately splendor of the facade to the warm personal welcome of the staff. Amenities include three restaurants, a rooftop pool, and a spa.

Medellín Marriott Hotel

This modern hotel is situated in the heart of El Poblado, the city’s Financial and Fashion District. When hunger arises, satisfy your cravings with snacks at The Market or fresh sushi and artisan cocktails at Nau. Enjoy the 24-hour fitness room or relax at the luxury spa or outdoor pool boasting sprawling city views.

Sofitel Bogotá Victoria Regia

This five-star hotel is the ideal combination of the classic and contemporary. Renowned architect Miguel Soto has achieved a fine blend of elegant and modern French style, with characteristic local features, creating a welcoming and distinctive design. The hotel has 102 luxurious rooms, including five private suites, a restaurant/bar, a lobby lounge, and a fitness center.



Sofitel Bogotá Victoria Regia

Program Rate

From \$6,499 per person, double occupancy
From \$7,599 single occupancy

Rate Includes

- Seven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T=Tea, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at included dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; airport/hotel/airport transfers for individuals who are not on suggested flights; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; trip insurance; baggage in excess of one suitcase; optional postlude in Villa de Leyva; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

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

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Optional Postlude

I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Villa de Leyva

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *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 _____

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The Metropolitan
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New York, NY 10028

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