



Colombia & Panama

Rails, Rum & Coffee

From Colombia's Coffee Country to the Panama Canal

2027 DEPARTURES

10-30 January · 18 July-7 August
21 Days

A JOURNEY OF FLAVORS, CULTURE & DISCOVERY

Colombia and Panama reveal themselves through three distinctive themes: coffee, rum and the Panama Canal.

In Colombia, we travel from the Andes through coffee country to the Caribbean coast, meeting producers, exploring historic cities and discovering the traditions behind two of the region's most celebrated products.

Along the way, a handful of rustic and unconventional train journeys add another layer of character—less about luxury rail travel and more about local history, scenery and the pleasure of travelling differently.

In Panama, the journey reaches its grand finale at the Panama Canal, experienced both from land and from the water.

Comfortable, carefully organized and deliberately varied, this is a journey for travelers who want to experience Colombia and Panama well beyond the usual highlights.

WHAT TO EXPECT ALONG THE WAY

COFFEE & RUM CULTURE

Meet local producers and discover the traditions behind two of the region's most distinctive products. Explore how Colombian coffee travels from hillside to cup, and learn about the Caribbean heritage and craftsmanship behind rum.

UNCONVENTIONAL JOURNEYS

Travel by a mix of local and historic trains, private vehicles and boats. These journeys are chosen for their character, scenery and authenticity, offering a more varied and personal way to experience the landscapes and communities along the route.

THE PANAMA CANAL

Experience one of the world's great engineering achievements from both land and water. Explore the canal's history, observe its locks and waterways up close, and gain a deeper understanding of the role it has played in global trade and Panama's development.



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Eight remarkable experiences across Colombia and Panama — by rail, road and water.



Scenic drive to El Peñol and Guatapé, surrounded by one of the most striking landscapes of the journey.

01

MEDELLÍN RENEWED

Experience Medellín's remarkable transformation—ride the city's cable cars, explore Comuna 13 and discover the region's rich arts, architecture and cuisine.

02

COFFEE TRADITIONS OF ANTIOQUIA

Visit coffee farms near Medellín and learn how Colombia's most famous crop is cultivated, harvested and prepared, from field to cup.

03

GUATAPÉ & EL PEÑOL

Discover the colorful town of Guatapé and its spectacular landscapes, with the great monolith rising above the lake and green hills.

04

MAGDALENA VALLEY BY RAIL

Travel by local rail from Puerto Berrío to Barrancabermeja through Colombia's Magdalena River Valley, experiencing a rarely visited side of the country.

05

RAIL HERITAGE & SALT CATHEDRAL

Travel aboard the Tren de la Sabana from Bogotá to Zipaquirá and visit the extraordinary underground Salt Cathedral.

06

CARTAGENA'S CARIBBEAN SOUL

Explore the UNESCO-listed walled city, its architecture, regional flavors and rhythmic Caribbean atmosphere, with the option to enjoy a guided rum tasting.

07

THE WORLD OF RUM

Discover rum in Colombia and Panama, with tastings in Cartagena and Boquete revealing the traditions, craftsmanship and distinctive flavors of this celebrated spirit.

08

PANAMA CANAL & EMBERÁ CULTURE

Experience the Panama Canal from land and water, then continue into the rainforest for a canoe journey to an Emberá community on the Chagres River.

Your Journey at a Glance

A 21-day journey through Colombia and Panama — from Andean highlands and Caribbean shores to tropical lowlands. Each day balances cultural depth with unhurried travel.



COLOMBIA • DAYS 1–13

- Day 1** — Arrival in Medellín
- Day 2** — Medellín & Comuna 13
- Day 3** — Guatapé & El Peñol
- Day 4** — Colombian Coffee Experience
- Day 5** — Hydrangeas of Antioquia
- Day 6** — Medellín → Barrancabermeja
- Day 7** — Barrancabermeja → Bogotá
- Day 8** — Tren de la Sabana & Zipaquirá
- Day 9** — Bogotá: La Candelaria & Monserrate
- Day 10** — Bogotá → Cartagena
- Day 11** — Cartagena: Old City & Getsemaní
- Day 12** — Rum Tasting & Sunset Cruise
- Day 13** — Cartagena → Panama City

PANAMA • DAYS 13–21

- Day 13** — Panama City → Gamboa
- Day 14** — Canal Railway & Caribbean Coast
- Day 15** — Partial Panama Canal Transit
- Day 16** — Panama City → Boquete
- Day 17** — Hanging Bridges & Rum Distillery
- Day 18** — Boquete Coffee & Return to Panama City
- Day 19** — Emberá & the Chagres River
- Day 20** — Panama City & Panamanian Night
- Day 21** — Farewell Panama



Medellín spreads along the Aburrá Valley, surrounded by the green mountains of the Colombian Andes.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 • SUNDAY

WELCOME TO MEDELLÍN

Welcome to Colombia and the beginning of our journey through two of Latin America's most fascinating countries.

On arrival in Medellín, you will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Set in the green Aburrá Valley and surrounded by the Andes, Medellín provides a striking introduction to Colombia.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to settle in and relax after your travels.

Overnight: Medellín

Meals: None

DAY 2 • MONDAY

MEDELLÍN & COMUNA 13

Our first full day introduces us to Medellín and the remarkable transformation that has reshaped the city.

We ride the city's aerial cable cars for sweeping views across the valley before continuing to Comuna 13, where colorful street art and community initiatives tell a compelling story of regeneration and renewal.

At midday, we gather for a special welcome lunch, a relaxed opportunity to get to know our fellow travelers.

Overnight: Medellín

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 • TUESDAY

GUATAPÉ & EL PEÑOL

Today we leave Medellín for the green mountains and waterways of the Antioquian countryside. At El Peñol, those who wish may climb the famous rock for sweeping views across the surrounding reservoir and islands. We then continue to colorful Guatapé, whose traditional houses are decorated with distinctive zócalos. After lunch, we enjoy a boat journey across the reservoir, surrounded by wooded hills, islands and quiet inlets.

The afternoon concludes in Guatapé, where we stay overnight.

Overnight: Guatapé

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Coffee has shaped the landscapes and traditions of Colombia's Andean highlands for generations.

DAY 4 • WEDNESDAY

THE WORLD OF COLOMBIAN COFFEE

Today we venture into the green hills surrounding Medellín to discover one of Colombia's most celebrated traditions: coffee.

At a working coffee farm, we follow the journey from the coffee plant and hand-picked cherry to the roasted bean and final cup. Along the way, we learn how altitude, climate and careful cultivation have helped give Colombian coffee its worldwide reputation.

After enjoying lunch in the countryside, we return to our hotel in the afternoon.

Overnight: Guatapé

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 • THURSDAY

HYDRANGEAS OF ANTIOQUIA

The fertile mountains of Antioquia are renowned not only for coffee, but also for flowers. Today we visit a specialist hydrangea grower and step behind the scenes of Colombia's remarkable floriculture industry.

Surrounded by fields of color, we learn how hydrangeas are cultivated, carefully selected and prepared for markets around the world. It is a very different perspective on rural Colombia and on an industry for which the country has become internationally renowned.

Lunch is included before returning to Medellín.

Overnight: Medellín

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 • FRIDAY

FROM MEDELLÍN TO THE MAGDALENA VALLEY

Today we leave Medellín and descend from the cool Andean highlands toward the tropical Magdalena Valley, following a route through the changing landscapes of Colombia's interior.

After lunch, the railway becomes part of our journey. A specially arranged charter train takes us along a historic rail corridor toward Barrancabermeja, offering an unusual perspective on a region rarely experienced by international travelers.

By early evening, we arrive in Barrancabermeja, an important river and railway city on the banks of the Magdalena.

Overnight: Barrancabermeja

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch





The Tren de la Sabana carries us across Bogotá's high Andean plateau on one of Colombia's best-known heritage railway journeys.



DAY 7 • SATURDAY

FROM THE MAGDALENA VALLEY TO BOGOTÁ

After our railway journey into Barrancabermeja, we enjoy a relaxed morning in the tropical Magdalena Valley.

Later in the day, we transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Bogotá. The change in landscape is dramatic as we leave the lowlands behind and arrive on the high Andean plateau, more than 2,600 meters above sea level.

After arrival, we transfer to our hotel and settle in for the next chapter of our Colombian journey.

Overnight: Bogotá

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 • SUNDAY

TREN DE LA SABANA & ZIPAQUIRÁ

Today we return to the rails aboard the Tren de la Sabana, traveling from Bogotá across the broad Andean plateau toward Zipaquirá.

Our destination is the remarkable Salt Cathedral, created deep within the tunnels of a former salt mine. Monumental chambers, illuminated crosses and sculptures carved from the surrounding rock create one of Colombia's most unusual architectural experiences.

After lunch, we return to Bogotá following a memorable day combining railway heritage, Andean scenery and Colombian history.

Overnight: Bogotá

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9 • MONDAY

BOGOTÁ & MONSERRATE

Today we explore Colombia's capital, beginning in La Candelaria, Bogotá's historic heart. Colonial façades, churches, plazas and colorful streets reveal layers of history stretching back centuries.

We continue to Monserrate, rising high above the city at more than 3,100 meters. From the summit, sweeping views extend across Bogotá and the vast Andean plateau beyond.

Along the way, we enjoy lunch while discovering more of the history, culture and character of Colombia's fascinating capital.

Overnight: Bogotá

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



In the streets of Getsemaní, colonial architecture, contemporary street art and everyday Caribbean life come together.

DAY 10 • TUESDAY

FROM THE ANDES TO THE CARIBBEAN

Today we leave Bogotá's high Andean plateau and fly north to Cartagena de Indias, where the atmosphere changes completely.

Warm Caribbean air, palm trees and centuries-old fortifications welcome us to one of South America's most captivating cities. After arrival, we transfer to our hotel and have time to settle in and enjoy our first impressions of Cartagena at a relaxed pace.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 • WEDNESDAY

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS

Today we discover the history and character of this remarkable Caribbean port. Cartagena's strategic position brought immense wealth during the Spanish colonial era—and made the city a target for pirates and foreign powers.

Our exploration introduces us to its great fortifications and historic landmarks. Later, we continue on foot through the UNESCO-listed Old City, where flower-filled balconies overlook narrow streets, shaded plazas and beautifully preserved colonial façades.

We continue into Getsemaní, a colorful neighborhood of street art, small plazas and vibrant everyday life, offering a fascinating contrast to the grandeur of the walled city.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 • THURSDAY

RUM & CARTAGENA BAY

Our final full day in Colombia has a distinctly Caribbean flavor.

We begin with a guided Colombian rum tasting at Lunático, discovering the aromas, traditions and craftsmanship behind one of the region's classic spirits.

As evening approaches, we take to the water for a sunset cruise across Cartagena Bay. With the fortified Old City and modern skyline illuminated by the fading Caribbean light, it is a memorable way to conclude our time in Colombia.

Dinner completes our final evening before the journey continues to Panama.

Overnight: Cartagena

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



The Panama Canal Railway crosses the isthmus along one of the Americas' most historic rail corridors, with rainforest and canal waters unfolding beside the tracks.



DAY 13 • FRIDAY

COLOMBIA TO PANAMA

Today we bid farewell to Colombia and fly from Cartagena to Panama City, beginning the second chapter of our journey.

On arrival, we travel to Gamboa, where the urban landscape quickly gives way to tropical forest on the banks of the Panama Canal. After checking into our riverside hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the lush surroundings and the sounds of the rainforest.

Overnight: Gamboa

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 • SATURDAY

RAILWAY TO THE CARIBBEAN

One of the great railway days of our journey begins aboard the Panama Canal Railway, following the historic trans-isthmian route from Panama City toward Colón through tropical rainforest and alongside the canal.

At Agua Clara, we watch enormous vessels negotiate the expanded locks before continuing to Fort San Lorenzo, a UNESCO-listed Spanish fortress overlooking the Caribbean.

Later, an aerial tram carries us through the rainforest canopy, with panoramic views across the jungle and Panama Canal.

Overnight: Gamboa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 15 • SUNDAY

NAVIGATING THE PANAMA CANAL

Today we experience one of the world's great engineering achievements from the water.

Our partial transit takes us through the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks, across Miraflores Lake and into the legendary Culebra Cut, where ships navigate a passage carved through the Continental Divide.

Sharing the waterway with ocean-going vessels offers an extraordinary sense of the canal's scale. Lunch is served aboard before we continue to Panama City for our overnight stay.

Overnight: Panama City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 16 • MONDAY

INTO THE HIGHLANDS OF BOQUETE

This morning we transfer to Panama City's domestic airport for our short flight west to David. From here, we continue into the mountains of Chiriquí and the cooler highlands of Boquete.

Set at around 1,200 meters and surrounded by forested mountains, coffee farms and rushing streams, Boquete reveals a very different side of Panama. After arrival, we take a leisurely walk through the town and have time to settle into our new surroundings.

Overnight: Boquete

Meals: Breakfast



Travel by traditional dugout canoe along the Chagres River into the rainforest to visit an Emberá community.



DAY 17 • TUESDAY

ABOVE THE CLOUD FOREST

This morning we venture into the forests surrounding Boquete for a walk along a spectacular network of hanging bridges suspended high above the forest floor.

The trail leads through lush highland vegetation, with views across waterfalls, forested valleys and the mountains surrounding Volcán Barú. It is an opportunity to experience Panama's cloud forest from an entirely different perspective.

Later, we visit La Solera, where a guided tasting introduces us to the craft, character and traditions of Panamanian rum.

Overnight: Boquete

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 18 • WEDNESDAY

COFFEE IN THE HIGHLANDS

Boquete is home to some of the world's most highly regarded coffees. This morning we visit a traditional coffee finca to discover how the region's altitude, volcanic soils and cool mountain climate contribute to its distinctive character.

We follow the process from coffee cherry to roasted bean and, naturally, conclude with a tasting.

Later, we travel back to David for our return flight to Panama City, leaving the highlands behind for the final chapter of our journey.

Overnight: Panama City

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 19 • THURSDAY

INTO EMBERÁ COUNTRY

Today we journey from the capital toward Lake Alajuela, where we board traditional dugout canoes for a journey along the Chagres River and into the rainforest.

Our destination is an Emberá community, where we are welcomed and introduced to traditions that remain an important part of Panama's cultural heritage. We spend time learning about local crafts, music and dance before sharing a traditional lunch of fresh fish and plantains.

In the afternoon, we return by canoe and continue to Panama City.

Overnight: Panama City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Panama City in contrast — a traditional working waterfront set against one of Latin America's most dynamic skylines.

20 — 21 | PANAMA CITY & FAREWELL

DAY 20 • FRIDAY

PANAMA CITY & PANAMANIAN NIGHT

Our final full day brings us back to the history, flavors and contrasts of Panama City.

We begin at Panamá Viejo, the remains of the original Spanish settlement founded on the Pacific coast in 1519, before continuing to Casco Viejo. Here, restored colonial façades, churches and shaded plazas stand in striking contrast to the modern skyline across the bay.

Along the way, we enjoy a tasting of Panamanian rum and continue to the Amador Causeway, with sweeping views across the entrance to the Panama Canal and the city beyond.

As evening falls, our journey concludes with a distinctively Panamanian Night. We begin with ceviche at the city's celebrated fish market, followed by dinner at a carefully selected restaurant. A final cocktail from a rooftop overlooking the illuminated skyline provides a fitting farewell to our journey through Colombia and Panama.

Overnight: Panama City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 21 • SATURDAY

FAREWELL PANAMA

After breakfast, our journey through Colombia and Panama comes to an end.

At the appropriate time, a private transfer takes us to Tocumen International Airport for our onward flights.

We leave with memories of Andean cities and coffee country, historic railways and Caribbean streets, tropical rainforest and the Panama Canal—and of two countries discovered slowly, one remarkable journey at a time.

Meals: Breakfast

YOUR HOTELS

Carefully Chosen Stays Along the Journey

Where we stay is an important part of the experience. Throughout Colombia and Panama, we have selected hotels for their combination of location, comfort, character and suitability for our journey.



Hotel de la Ópera · Bogotá



Hotel Santa Catalina · Cartagena



Gamboa Rainforest Reserve · Gamboa



Boquete Garden Inn · Boquete

MEDELLÍN

Hotel San Fernando Plaza

Elegant accommodation in El Poblado, offering a comfortable base for exploring the city.

GUATAPÉ

Hotel Los Recuerdos

A scenic lakeside hotel with views across the reservoir toward Piedra del Peñol.

BARRANCABERMEJA

GHL Style Barrancabermeja

A contemporary city hotel, conveniently located for our overnight stay by the Magdalena River.

BOGOTÁ

Hotel de la Ópera

A historic hotel in La Candelaria, close to Plaza de Bolívar and the old quarter.

CARTAGENA

Hotel Santa Catalina

A stylish hotel within the walled city, combining historic atmosphere with contemporary comfort.

GAMBOA

Gamboa Rainforest Reserve

A rainforest resort near the Chagres River and Panama Canal, surrounded by tropical nature.

PANAMA CITY

Bristol Panama

A sophisticated city hotel offering understated elegance in a central location.

BOQUETE

Boquete Garden Inn

An intimate garden hotel in the cool highlands, offering a peaceful and atmospheric stay.

Hotels shown are those currently planned for this journey. Rail South America reserves the right to substitute hotels where operational circumstances or availability require it. Any replacement will, wherever possible, be of a comparable standard and character.

DATES & PRICING

Two Departures in 2027



Choose the departure that best suits your travel plans. Both journeys follow the same carefully designed Colombia & Panama itinerary and include the services and experiences described throughout this brochure.

10 – 30 JANUARY 2027

21 Days · Colombia & Panama

18 JULY – 7 AUGUST 2027

21 Days · Colombia & Panama

TOUR PRICE

USD 11,988

per person sharing a double room

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

USD 780

TOTAL FOR A SINGLE TRAVELER

USD 12,768

RESERVING YOUR PLACE

Deposit: USD 1,000 per person

A place on the journey is secured once we have received your completed Booking Form and deposit. Final payment is due 60 days before departure.

Group size is deliberately limited to preserve the personal character of the journey and allow us to travel comfortably throughout Colombia and Panama.

Prices are quoted in US dollars per person. The double-room price is based on two guests sharing one room. The single-room supplement applies to travelers occupying a room on their own.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Everything Arranged for a Seamless Journey



From the moment the journey begins, the principal arrangements throughout Colombia and Panama are taken care of. Accommodation, transportation, guided visits and the special experiences described in the itinerary are organized in advance, allowing you to concentrate on the journey itself.

INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY

- 20 nights' accommodation in the hotels described in the itinerary, or comparable alternatives
- Daily breakfast and all other meals specifically indicated in the itinerary
- Flights included within the published itinerary, including the applicable checked baggage allowance
- Rail journeys and special train experiences described in the program
- Private transportation and transfers throughout the tour as specified
- Airport transfers associated with the published itinerary
- Panama Canal experience and excursions described in the program
- Coffee, rum and cultural experiences included in the detailed itinerary
- Sightseeing excursions and entrance fees for the included visits
- Professional local guides in the destinations visited
- Rail South America Tour Leader accompanying the group throughout the journey
- All local taxes and service charges relating to the included arrangements

NOT INCLUDED

International flights to Colombia and from Panama; travel and medical insurance; passport or visa expenses where applicable; meals and beverages not specifically mentioned in the itinerary; gratuities; optional excursions or activities; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and minibar purchases; and any services not specifically described as included.

The detailed day-by-day itinerary identifies the meals, excursions and services included on each day. Program arrangements may occasionally be adjusted where operational circumstances require.

YOUR JOURNEY AWAITS

Colombia & Panama: Rails, Rum & Coffee



This journey has been designed for travellers who want to experience Colombia and Panama beyond the obvious — connecting historic railways, remarkable landscapes, coffee and rum traditions, colonial cities and the Panama Canal in one carefully planned small-group journey.

With a limited group size and carefully coordinated arrangements, the emphasis is on travelling comfortably and experiencing each destination at a thoughtful pace.

READY TO RESERVE?

2027 DEPARTURES

10 – 30 January 2027

18 July – 7 August 2027

Deposit: USD 1,000 per person

Complete the Booking Form to request your place on the journey.



Scan to open the Booking Form

Rail South America

www.railsouthamerica.com

peter@railsouthamerica.com

Rail South America

Small-Group Rail Journeys Through Latin America