

Colombia Caribbean & Desert (M-ID: 2381)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2381-colombia-caribbean-and-desert>



from €2,650.00

Dates and duration (days)

Motorcycling along dream beaches, through tropical jungle in the Sierra Nevada and through the desert to the northernmost point of South America - Punta Gallinas.

Colombia is still a relatively untouched paradise between the Caribbean and the Pacific and full of scenic beauty.

Starting point of our motorcycle tour is the small, Caribbean coastal town of Santa Marta with its colorful and lively old town. From here we ride through the tropical jungle of the Sierra Nevada, via the hidden, historic town of Mompox. Everywhere in the country we experience the impressive warmth and hospitality of the Colombian people. Furthermore, insights into the way of life of the Arahúaco and Wayúu Indians give us another lasting impression of the country's very own cultural roots. We ride through the desert and finally reach the northernmost point of South America - Punta Gallinas. On the ride along the coastline we are amazed by the quick change from the desert La Guajira to the tropical exuberant vegetation of the Sierra Nevada with its partly 5000m high peaks. Here we can enjoy the dream beaches of the Caribbean as well as explore the fascinating hinterland on winding paths.

Now is a good time to go on a discovery tour and be one of the first to experience the fascination of this country. The tour can be combined with an extension in Bogotá and the Tayrona National Park.

This trip from day to day:

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL - SANTA MARTA.

Arrival Santa Marta and transfer to the hotel in Santa Marta (about 30min drive). Santa Marta is located directly on the Caribbean Sea and is, along with Cartagena, one of the most important destinations for visitors to the Colombian Caribbean coast. There is a wide range of activities on offer here.

DAY 2 - SANTA MARTA - MINCA

After a relaxed start to the day with a typical country

breakfast, the motorcycles are handed over. We ride to Minca, a nearby small town famous for its organic coffee cultivation. Here we escape the heat of the city and take an off-road tour through the tropical forests. We visit a coffee finca with a brewery. Here we can see in authentic surroundings how the coffee bean is planted, harvested and processed or prepared for export. We stay in a hotel with a wonderful view, where dozens of hummingbirds flutter around.

DAY 3 - MINCA - FUNDACIÓN

We leave Minca and ride a short distance along the main road until we reach the off-road track that takes us high into the mountains to San Javier. This is a small, hidden town that lives solely from coffee farming. After lunch with the farmers, we head back down into the valley and arrive in Aracataca, the birthplace of the famous author Gabriel García Márquez, in the late afternoon. We spend the night in the nearby town of Fundación.

DAY 4 - FUNDACIÓN - MOMPOX

From Fundación we will initially ride on tarred roads and then on hot, sandy tracks to Mompox, a colonial jewel of Colombia, which is visited by comparatively few tourists due to its island location. It is more or less the little, nicer sister of the overcrowded Cartagena. We have to cross the Río Magdalena to reach our destination for the day. Small boats are waiting on the riverbank for the adventurous crossing.

DAY 5 - MOMPOX - REST DAY

The colonial town of Mompox is relatively hidden from the usual tourist trails and is too beautiful to continue straight away. It feels like stepping back in time as you stroll through the colonial center. This place looks like one of García Márquez's novels, some of which were actually

filmed here. During the day, you can visit silversmiths who make filigree jewellery, or pick up a few typical country bargains at the local market before we get to the pier in time in the evening to take a small boat into the sunset with an iced drink.

DAY 6 - MOMOX - PUEBLO BELLO

Today will be a hot day, a landscape like in an Italowestern flickers before our eyes. An exciting river crossing in the "Johnson", a kind of steel canoe, is at the beginning of the day. In places like Arjona we enjoy shade and cool fruit shakes after long gravel stretches. A large part of the day goes over a good tarred road. We end the day in Pueblo Bello, a tranquil "cowboy" village surrounded by Indian settlements. The proud Arahua Indians dominate the village and give us a foretaste of the day ahead. We spend the night in the only hotel in the middle of the village.

DAY 7 - PUEBLO BELLO - REST DAY

Over a long, steep and rocky road we go in a 4x4 Toyota on an exciting journey through time to Nabusimake. This village is the ceremonial center of the Arahua Indians and takes its visitors back to pre-Columbian times, and into a completely different world. We learn about the culture of the Indians, their worldview, their life in harmony with nature. Spectacular views are a guaranteed part of this day trip. Back in Pueblo Bello we stay another night and can enjoy the quiet village life.

DAY 8 - PUEBLO BELLO - RIOHACHA

We leave Pueblo Bello and arrive at the town of San Juan del Cesar via the town of Valledupar. We are now in the land of cattle herds and cowboys, as well as the origin of the "Vallenato", the accordion-dominated folk music of the Colombians that is omnipresent on the coast. From here on, we travel through the hinterland on off-road tracks, which also include a few exciting river crossings. Our destination is Riohacha, the gateway to the desert region "La Guajira". Here we can once again enjoy the luxury of running water, air conditioning and culinary diversity before we head into the desert the following day. On the streets we meet the Wayúu-Indian women, who offer their typical, in all colors shining bags and other handicrafts. .

DAY 9 -RIOHACHA - CABO DE LA VELA

Off into the desert! A tarred road leads us to Uribia, where we fill up the tank to the brim, then we ride on a dusty track to Cabo de la Vela. With a bit of luck we even see the kilometre-long train of the Cerrejón coal mine, because the railway tracks run right next to us for a while. Before we can get bored on the straight road, we turn off and get through cactus avenues, over salt lakes and sandy passages to our destination Cabo de la Vela. Here you can swim in the sea, kite surf or just relax in the hammock. The fish for the evening meal is freshly caught and prepared on the wood fire. The accommodation is simple but typical for the country and is located directly at the sea, where you can admire 1000 stars after sunset.

DAY 10 - CABO DE LA VELA - REST DAY

Today another highlight awaits us, as we ride through the desert and finally reach the northernmost point of South America - Punta Gallinas. There are both sandy and rough passages, most of it is easy to ride. The Wayúu Indians, who live in small huts and nowadays earn their bread, or rather their fresh water, with handicrafts, offer the colourful "Mochilas" at the roadside, here they are guaranteed handmade and cheap! The transition from desert to

Caribbean beach and deep blue water is unique and fascinating - a landscape of special attraction. After reaching the cape and having lunch there, we return to Cabo de la Vela to our accommodation.

DAY 11 - CABO DE LA VELA - PALOMINO

We head towards Manaure, where we marvel at the pink shimmering salt lakes and get a small insight into the hard work of salt extraction. A long dirt road leads us back to Riohacha. The nature reserve Los Flamencos is on our way. With small detours left and right of the route we finally reach Palomino. The best place to end the day in Palomino is the palm-fringed sandy beach. A real pampering after the barren desert.

DAY 12 - PALOMINO - SANTA MARTA

In the morning we can still enjoy the Caribbean beauty before we start towards Santa Marta. Along a beautiful coastal path we have the fantastic view over the lush green of the Sierra Nevada mountains on one side and beautiful bays of the Caribbean Sea on the other. At noon we reach Santa Marta, where we can buy some souvenirs on the turbulent market in the heart of the city.

DAY 13 - SANTA MARTA - DEPARTURE

You will be taken to the airport in Santa Marta and it will be difficult to say goodbye to the country and its people.

- Changes to the itinerary may be made to suit local conditions -

Countries	Colombia
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Combo On-/Offroad
Vehicle	motorcycle rent incl.
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
Ferry	no, not incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	yes
Level of difficulty	medium
Customer payment protection	yes
Special	Winter escape
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

Pricing

rider	€2,650.00
pillion passenger	€2,295.00
single room (surcharge)	€300.00
Extension (4 days before the start of the trip)	€250.00
Surcharge for single room (for extension)	€95.00

Included

Transfers Santa Marta Airport - Hotel and back

All hotel accommodations, 1x very easy

Rental motorcycle (During this trip we ride on typical AKT 200 cc motorcycles - made in Colombia).

Multilingual (German/English/Spanish) Tour guide on the motorcycle

Escort vehicle and luggage transport

Mechanic

Travel security note

Travel Guide

Not included

Visa: (up to 90 days visa free)

Gasoline

Entrance fees

Optional excursions

food and drink

Health and accident insurance abroad incl. return transport

Travel cancellation insurance

Pocket money - 300 Euro (This amount is an indication how much money you will need for this trip. It includes food, drinks, souvenirs, optional excursions and petrol).

International scheduled flight - Santa Marta and back

More details

Minimum number of participants: 6

Maximum number of participants: 8

Maximum number of passengers: 2

Motorcycles:

During this trip we ride on AKT 200 ccm motorcycles - made in Colombia.

Tour character :

During the journey through Colombia we do not reach considerable heights and do not pass through extremely deserted areas. The day trips are usually not long, so that there is enough time and possibility to stop on the way, take pictures or visit villages.

Offroad:

About half of the route we are on dirt roads. Due to the drought in this region, some passages may be a little sandy and dusty. Offroad experience with loose ground is therefore recommended. An off-road basic training is very useful as preparation. This is because you learn how to handle the bike best off-road. It will certainly increase your riding pleasure. The motorcycles are light and handy enduros, perfect for the unpaved roads.

Climate:

Parts of the Caribbean coast are very poor in rain due to the trade wind. While the Caribbean coast also has a tropical climate, the overall weather is much drier than in other parts of Colombia. Extreme dry seasons and high temperatures can be found especially on the Guajira peninsula. Due to the fact that it belongs to the tropical climate zone, precipitation can occur sporadically, but usually only for a very short time. The actual dry season is in the months of January, February and March, here it rains almost never. In recent years, however, due to the shift in the climate, there has also been virtually no precipitation in November and December. Temperatures are around 30° Celsius throughout the year, both in the dry season and the rainy season. This means there are also days with extreme heat up to 38° Celsius. This should definitely be considered when choosing clothing.

Clothing:

A helmet is mandatory, as is protective clothing with protectors, good gloves and boots or sturdy shoes. Because of the temperatures it is recommended to wear breathable protective clothing. A good variant is also a protector shirt or armour with an airy enduro shirt over it. Make sure that the jacket and trousers are adequately ventilated. Otherwise the heat can become a problem. We recommend an open enduro helmet with protective goggles that protect well against dust. It's too hot for a closed visor, and the Enduro helmet with its visor also provides the necessary shade for the eyes. Furthermore, a good pair of sunglasses is of course practical. Cold is not to be expected at all, and rain only in exceptional cases. Instead of rain protection, it is advisable to take a Camelbak or other drinking system with you. Enough liquid is immensely important, and especially in the desert region drinks cannot be bought on every street corner.

Travel documents:

For this trip you need a valid International Rider's License and a passport, which is generally valid for 6 months beyond the trip.

Visa:

German citizens do not need a visa for a purely tourist stay in Colombia.

Insurance:

The motorcycles are insured against liability. In the event of damage to the vehicle caused by own fault, the material costs must be borne by the party responsible.

Tour - Extension:

The tour can easily be combined with an extension in Bogotá and Santa Marta, with a visit to the Tayrona National Park.

Travel guide:

More details about the trip and information about what to take with you are given in a manual that you will receive about a month before departure.