

MALPELO EXPEDITIONS

Add-on journeys in Colombia

Before & after Malpelo

Every Malpelo expedition starts and ends in Buenaventura, a short drive from Cali. Add a few days on land, or another dive week, and see Colombia from the Pacific cloud forest to the Amazon and the Caribbean.

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Sample itineraries · every journey is private and tailor-made

PURA COLOMBIA
MINDFUL TRAVEL



REGION 01 · SOUTHWEST & PACIFIC

Cali & the Pacific

Cali is the gateway to Buenaventura and the Malpelo fleet, and the world capital of salsa, wedged between the cloud forests of the Farallones and the Cauca Valley. These day tours fit easily into the days before boarding or after returning to port.

FITS WITH MALPELO Stay in Cali one or two nights before or after the expedition; San Cipriano lies right on the road to the port.



HALF DAY · CITY

Panoramic city tour & Cristo Rey

A guided loop through Cali's landmarks: Hernando Tejada's El Gato del Río, the colonial La Merced complex, the Mudéjar tower of San Francisco, Plaza de Caycedo and the river boulevard. The tour ends at the Cristo Rey monument and the Sebastián de Belalcázar viewpoint, high above the city.



FULL DAY · BIRDWATCHING

Bosque del Colibrí: birds & coffee

A private nature reserve in the Farallones de Cali, where conservation comes first. Walk cloud-forest trails watching hummingbirds and mountain birds, cool off in a mountain river and finish with a coffee experience and tasting, all less than an hour from the city.



FULL DAY · ON THE WAY TO PORT

San Cipriano Nature Reserve

Just 20 km before Buenaventura, the famous *brujitas* (motorbike-powered rail carts) carry you 20 minutes into the rainforest. Deep crystal-clear pools, waterfalls, rich wildlife and Pacific home cooking in an Afro-Colombian community. A perfect stop on transfer day, to or from the boat.



REGION 02 · QUINDÍO

The Coffee Region

Green hills of coffee and bamboo, colourful mountain villages and the wax palms of Cocora. The Coffee Cultural Landscape is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, under four hours by road from Cali.

FITS WITH MALPELO

Starts and ends in Cali, so it slots straight in before or after the boat.





Highlights of Quindío

3 days · Cali – Cali

DAY 1

Cali – Botanical Garden – Salento

Private drive north through the Cauca Valley. Stop at the Quindío Botanical Garden, with its tropical forest and bird and butterfly houses, then continue to Salento (2,000 m) to wander the lively square and colourful streets.

DAY 2

Cocora Valley

A Willys jeep ride into the Wax Palm Forest Reserve and a guided walk to two viewpoints among the tallest palms on earth, Colombia's national tree. Country-style lunch, then back to Salento for a viewpoint and time to browse its craft shops.

DAY 3

Salento – Cali

A morning at leisure, or an optional visit to a family coffee farm to follow the bean from plant to cup. Afternoon drive back to Cali, ready for the transfer to Buenaventura.

Make it longer: add the full cloud-forest circuit in Cocora, a night in the village of Filandia, or a hacienda stay among the coffee plantations.



REGION 03 · ANTIOQUIA & THE ANDES

Medellín to Cali, overland

Fly into Medellín, the City of Eternal Spring, and travel south through the coffee mountains of Antioquia and Quindío to Cali.

FITS WITH MALPELO

Ends in Cali, ready for the boat. Ideal before Malpelo or Gorgona, or run it in reverse afterwards.





Secrets of the Andes

10 days · Medellín – Cali

DAY 1	**Arrival in Medellín.** Welcome at the airport and transfer to your hotel.
DAY 2	**Medellín city tour.** Street art in Comuna 13, cable-car views over the valley and Botero's sculptures downtown.
DAY 3	**Santa Elena.** Meet the flower growers behind Medellín's famous silletas.
DAY 4	**Santa Fe de Antioquia – Jericó.** A stop in the colonial former capital, then up into the coffee mountains.
DAY 5	**Jericó.** Morning on a traditional coffee farm, afternoon walk through this heritage village.
DAY 6	**Jericó – Salento.** A scenic drive south with a soak in the hot springs of Santa Rosa.
DAY 7	**Cocora Valley.** Hike among the wax palms, the tallest palms on earth.
DAY 8	**Filandia.** A forest walk in search of howler monkeys and a visit to the village.
DAY 9	**Salento – Cali.** Via the Quindío Botanical Garden and its butterfly house.
DAY 10	**Cali – Buenaventura.** Transfer to the port and on board for Malpelo.



REGION 04 · EASTERN ANDES

Bogotá & the colonial Andes

Most long-haul flights land in Bogotá, 2,600 m up in the Andes. From the capital, mountain roads lead to Villa de Leyva and Barichara, two of Colombia's most beautiful colonial towns.

FITS WITH MALPELO

A gentle start to the trip after the long flight. Short domestic flight on to Cali for the expedition.



Colonial jewels

7 days · Bogotá – Bucaramanga

DAY 1 **Arrival in Bogotá.** Private transfer from El Dorado airport to your hotel.

DAY 2 **Bogotá city tour.** Cable car up Monserrate, the tropical fruits and flowers of Paloquemao market, the colonial lanes of La Candelaria and the Gold Museum's 35,000 pre-Columbian pieces.

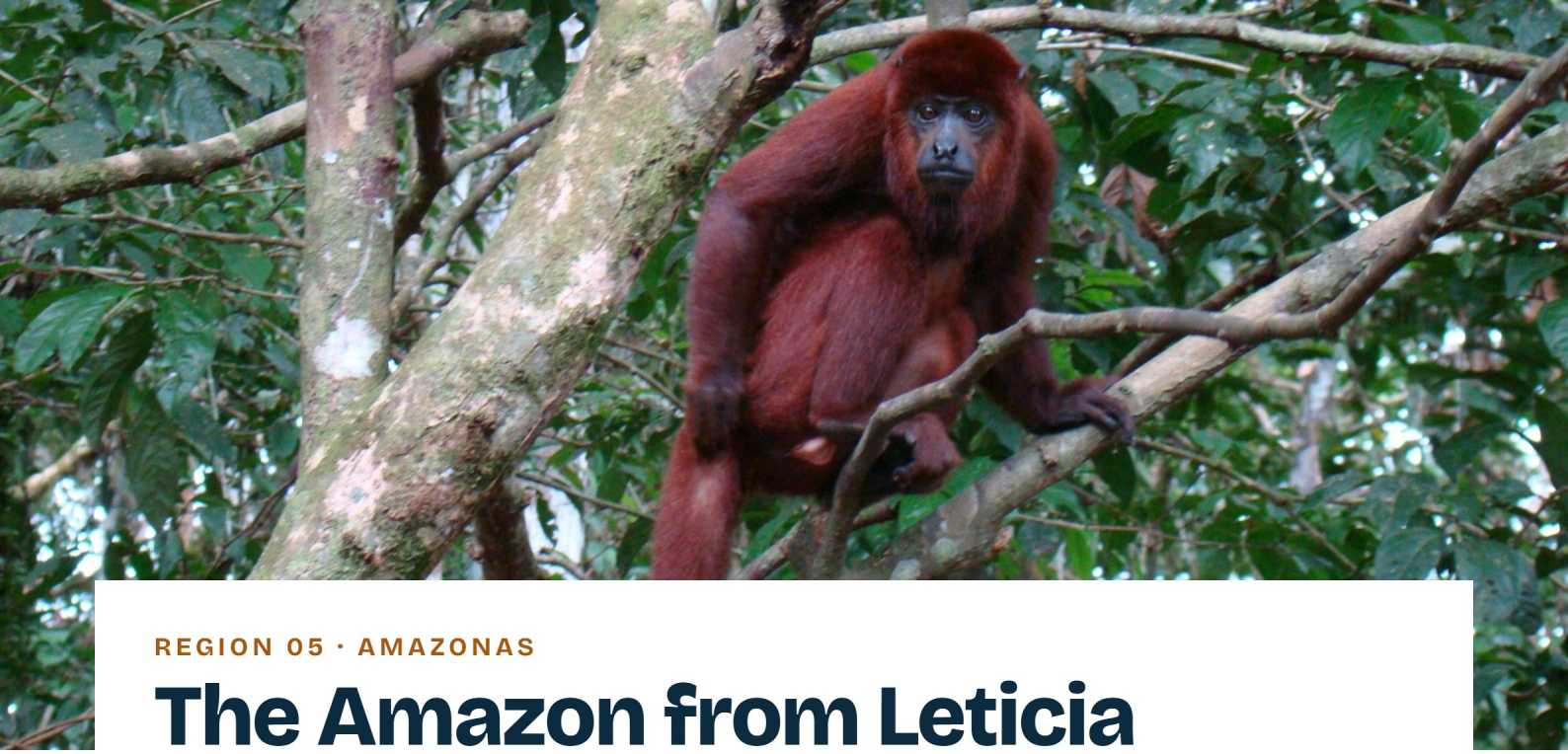
DAY 3 **Nemocón – Villa de Leyva.** A guided walk through the underground salt mine of Nemocón, then on to Villa de Leyva and its vast cobbled Plaza Mayor.

DAY 4 **Around Villa de Leyva.** The Kronosaurus fossil, the 17th-century Ecce Homo monastery and a potter's workshop in Ráquira.

DAY 5 **Villa de Leyva – Barichara.** Drive to the town often called the most beautiful in Colombia, with its cathedral and local crafts.

DAY 6 **Camino Real to Guane.** Hike the old stone trading path down to the tiny village of Guane.

DAY 7 **Barichara – Bucaramanga.** Transfer to the airport and fly on to Cali for Malpelo.



REGION 05 · AMAZONAS

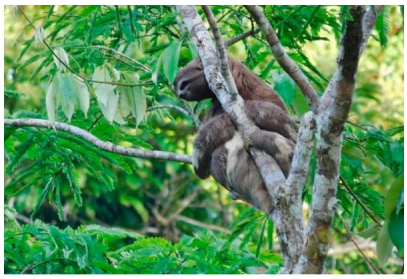
The Amazon from Leticia

Where Colombia, Peru and Brazil meet on the Amazon River. Leticia is a two-hour flight from Bogotá and the starting point for river journeys among pink dolphins, monkeys and Ticuna communities.

FITS WITH MALPELO

From open ocean to rainforest: fly Cali – Bogotá – Leticia after the expedition.





Three-border river journey

5 days · from Bogotá

DAY 1 **Leticia – Marasha Reserve.** Welcome lunch of Amazonian dishes, then 90 minutes by boat down the Amazon to the Marasha nature reserve in Peru. Jungle walk or canoe trip, and a night paddle to spot caimans.

DAY 2 **Puerto Nariño & Tarapoto lakes.** Primate watching at Vista Alegre, then the Tarapoto lakes, a Ramsar wetland where pink and grey river dolphins feed.

DAY 3 **Mocagua & Maikuchiga.** Hike to the Maikuchiga Foundation to meet its woolly monkeys, share lunch with a Ticuna family and go out on a night walk for nocturnal primates.

DAY 4 **Valencia community.** Watch and photograph primates with a local guide, then visit the indigenous community of Valencia.

DAY 5 **Back to Leticia.** Boat up the river to Leticia and fly to Bogotá for your connection.



REGION 06 · ORINOQUÍA, CASANARE

Llanos wildlife safari

Colombia's Serengeti: the endless Orinoco plains, where working cattle ranches double as nature reserves. Capybaras, caimans, giant anteaters, anacondas and hundreds of bird species live in the open, and with luck, the jaguar.

FITS WITH MALPELO

Big wildlife on land to match the big animals underwater. Reached by a short flight from Bogotá.





Safari at Hato La Aurora

5 days · from Bogotá

DAY 1 **Bogotá – Yopal – Juan Solito Ecolodge.** Early flight to Yopal and a four-hour jeep ride across the savanna to the lodge in the Hato La Aurora reserve. Sunset boat trip on the Ariporo River among caimans, capybaras and howler monkeys.

DAY 2 **Full-day safari.** By jeep through palm savanna, rivers and lagoons: deer, anteaters, macaws, jabirus and Orinoco geese. Meet the llanero cowboys at work and lunch at the ranch house.

DAY 3 **On foot and on horseback.** A morning walk across the savanna tracking the giant anteater; in the afternoon, a ride in search of the anaconda.

DAY 4 **Sunrise safari.** Out at 5 am with coffee as the plains wake up, back for breakfast, and another jeep safari in the afternoon light.

DAY 5 **Return.** Jeep back to Yopal and fly to Bogotá or onward to Cali or Pereira.

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REGION 07 · CARIBBEAN COAST

Lost City, Tayrona & Cartagena

From the jungle-clad Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest coastal mountain range on earth, to palm-fringed bays and the walled city of Cartagena. Two ways to explore the coast, easily combined.



Trek to the Lost City

4 days · Santa Marta

DAY 1	**Into the Sierra.** Drive from Santa Marta to the trailhead and hike through hills and river crossings to the first camp.
DAY 2	**Along the Buritaca.** Rainforest trails past villages of the Kogui and Wiwa peoples to the camp below the city.
DAY 3	**Teyuna, the Lost City.** Climb some 1,200 stone steps to the terraces of the ancient Tayrona city, then begin the descent.
DAY 4	**Back to the coast.** Hike out to the trailhead and drive back to Santa Marta.



Tayrona to Cartagena

7 days

DAY 1	**Santa Marta.** Arrival and transfer to a hotel near Tayrona.
DAY 2	**Tayrona.** Jungle hike to a bay of your choice and a beach day.
DAY 3	**Coastal drive.** Past the Ciénaga Grande lagoon to Cartagena.
DAY 4	**Cartagena.** San Felipe fortress and the walled old town.
DAY 5	**Rosario Islands.** Speedboat to a coral island for a beach day.
DAY 6–7	**Cartagena at leisure,** then departure.



REGION 08 · CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Keep diving: Providencia

A small, quiet island in the western Caribbean, ringed by one of the largest barrier reefs in the world: the Sea of Seven Colours. Reef sharks, and at times hammerheads, walls and coral gardens, with a relaxed English-Creole island culture ashore.

FITS WITH MALPELO

For divers who want a second ocean: Pacific big animals at Malpelo, then the best of Colombia's Caribbean reefs.

Providencia dive week

6 days · via San Andrés

DAY 1	**Fly to the island.** From Bogotá or Medellín to San Andrés, then the short hop to Providencia. Evening meeting at the dive centre to fit your gear.
DAY 2–4	**Two boat dives every morning.** Reef walls, coral gardens and sharks with a small, personal dive centre. Afternoons are free to explore the island by scooter.
DAY 5	**A day above water.** A boat trip around the island and its cays, or a hike up The Peak, Providencia's highest point. Night dives on request.
DAY 6	**Island farewell.** Fly back via San Andrés to Bogotá, Medellín or Cartagena.







PLANNING AROUND THE EXPEDITION

Build the trip around the boat

A day or two in Cali

City tour or birdwatching before boarding, San Cipriano on the road to Buenaventura.

Into the Andes by road

The Coffee Region from Cali, or the whole route from Medellín, arriving in Cali for the boat.

Wildlife extensions

Amazon or Llanos, each a short flight via Bogotá. Allow a day after diving before flying.

A second ocean

Lost City, Tayrona and Cartagena, or another dive week in Providencia.

All journeys shown are samples. Each is private, guided and adjusted to your expedition dates, interests and pace.

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Your ground partner in Colombia

Pura Colombia Mindful Travel is a Colombian tour operator designing private, tailor-made journeys with local guides who speak English, German, French and Spanish.

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