COLOMBIA



BIODIVERSITY AND LIVING CULTURES

BOGOTÁ · THE LLANOS · THE COFFEE REGION

HIGHLIGHT · STAY

Savanna Orinoquía

Lodge bungalows on the Cravo Sur River

WHEN

10 Days

March 8 to 17, 2027

HIGHLIGHT · TASTE

Hacienda Venecia

Coffee from seed to roast

SACRED ADVENTURES



WELCOME

A NOTE FROM YOUR TRIP DESIGNER

Dear Traveler,

Biodiversity and Living Cultures is the result of a fresh formula for trip design. Think of it like a brand collaboration on a new sneaker, where two companies work together to make something one of a kind. I co-developed the itinerary with WhereNext DMC, the Colombia-based creative company and operator, and our guide is Diego Calderón-Franco, one of Colombia's best-known naturalists and birding guides.

The route climbs from Bogotá's high plateau east to the Llanos, then west to the Coffee Region and the páramo of Los Nevados. The longest drives fall on the quietest days. The route and the people along it begin on page 5.

Have a read through your personal trip guide.
I hope it makes you **#FeelSomething**.

DAN

DAN MOORE · COO, THE ADVENTURE HUB · YOUR TRIP DESIGNER

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Flights, transfers, the kit, and what we need from you

10 DAYS · MAR 8 TO MAR 17

9 NIGHTS

4 STAYS

3 REGIONS



HIGHLIGHTS

CHAPTER 01

RIDERS DRIVE HORSES THROUGH FLOODED SAVANNA · THE LLANOS, DAYS 3 TO 5

SEVEN THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL SOMETHING

DAY 01	**Learn Diego’s story over the welcome dinner**	MAR 08
DAY 02	**Climb Monserrate above Bogotá**	MAR 09
DAY 03	**Hear the music of the plains by a campfire**	MAR 10
DAY 04	**Search the Llanos by 4x4 and by bongo**	MAR 11
DAY 05	**Spend a morning with the llaneros**	MAR 12
DAY 07	**Follow coffee from seed to roast**	MAR 14
DAY 09	**Walk the páramo among the frailejones**	MAR 16



“BIRDS ARE THE ENTRY POINT. DIEGO READS THE WHOLE LANDSCAPE.

GREGG BLEAKNEY
WHERENEXT FOUNDER & THE BIRDERS DIRECTOR

CHAPTER 02

THE JOURNEY

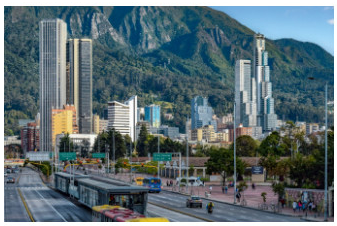
Biodiversity and Living Cultures is a journey through one of the most biodiverse countries on Earth, much of it still little explored by international travelers, with Diego Calderón-Franco, one of Latin America's most sought-after naturalists and birding guides.

The route starts in Bogotá, a high-altitude megacity of eight million people wedged into the Eastern Andes. We look for urban wildlife in the city's green corridors, then climb Monserrate, where a church sits more than 3,100 meters (10,170 feet) above sea level and the view opens across a vast spread of skyscrapers and urban sprawl. From up here, Colombia's extreme geography starts to make sense. Bogotá occupies a high Andean plateau within the Eastern Cordillera, with the mountains eventually dropping toward the Magdalena River valley to the west and the immense lowlands of the Llanos and Orinoco basin to the east. Over the days ahead, we will travel into both of those worlds, first east into the Llanos, then west across the Magdalena River valley toward the volcanic mountains beyond.

From Bogotá, the journey drops into the Llanos, Colombia's vast eastern plains, where working cattle ranches, wetlands, gallery forests, broad rivers, capybaras, caimans, giant anteaters, and huge skies define the landscape. From there, it climbs into Colombia's historic coffee country and keeps rising through cloud forest and páramo to Los Nevados National Natural Park, a volcanic highland of condors, hummingbirds, thermal waters, and extreme changes in elevation.

There will be rough roads, early mornings, mud, dramatic altitude changes, binoculars, excellent coffee, thermal pools, and endemic birds and other species found nowhere else on Earth. Diego brings more than two decades of field experience, an extraordinary ear for birds, and the ability to explain why a landscape works the way it does. His reputation has also made him a guide for high-profile visitors to Colombia, including Anderson Cooper, whom Diego guided in western Colombia for a 60 Minutes story on birding and biodiversity broadcast in 2026.

This is a rare chance to cross several of Colombia's major ecosystems with someone who has spent much of his life studying them. With this route, this guide, and this group, it is the kind of trip that may never happen in exactly the same way again.



MAR 8

BOGOTÁ

Hotel B3 Virrey

2 nights · Mar 8 and 9



MAR 10

THE LLANOS

Savanna Orinoquía Lodge

3 nights · Mar 10 to 12



MAR 13

THE COFFEE REGION

Hacienda Venecia

2 nights · Mar 13 and 14



MAR 15

LOS NEVADOS

Hotel Termales del Ruiz

2 nights · Mar 15 and 16

CHAPTER 03

MAPPED OUT

We planned the journey together. The story of these four places is yours to live.



WHERE YOU TRAVEL · FLIGHT · ROAD · RIVERS

MAP DATA: NATURAL EARTH · LOCATIONS APPROXIMATE · FLIGHT LINES ARE SCHEMATIC

THE COFFEE REGION, UP CLOSE



1 BOGOTÁ 2,600 M · 8,530 FT
Colombia's high-altitude capital, on the Andean plateau.

2 THE LLANOS
Savanna Orinoquía Lodge, on the Cravo Sur River near Orocué, reached by 4x4 from Yopal airport.

3 HACIENDA VENECIA
A working coffee and cacao farm near Manizales, an hour from Pereira airport.

4 TERMALES DEL RUIZ 3,500 M · 11,480 FT
Thermal pools in the buffer zone of Los Nevados National Natural Park.

▲ NEVADO DEL RUIZ 5,321 M · 17,457 FT
An active volcano, 10 km (6 mi) from the hotel.

✈ PEREIRA AIRPORT
The gateway to the Coffee Region.



BOGOTÁ

Colombia's high-altitude, creative, and complicated capital.

Home to 8 million people at an average elevation of 2,600 meters (8,530 feet), Bogotá is rough around the edges, energetic, creative, and crowded. La Candelaria and the Gold Museum reveal layers of history, while the city's galleries and independent fashion shops reflect a capital with its own cultural cool.

Traffic in Bogotá is a challenge. We plan carefully around peak hours, sequencing activities to reduce unnecessary time in the car. Beneath the congestion is one of Latin America's most interesting working capitals: ambitious, complicated, visibly divided by class, and central to Colombia's economic life.

Your two nights are at Hotel B3 Virrey, just off Parque El Virrey in Chicó. The one full day takes you from the park's green corridor to Fragmentos and up Monserrate.

2,600 M
8,530 feet above sea level

12-20°C
53–68°F, year-round

8 MILLION
people in the city

2
nights at Hotel B3 Virrey

GOOD TO KNOW

Bogotá feels like fall year-round, with temperatures around 12°C to 20°C (53°F to 68°F). Bring layers and rain protection. At 2,600 meters (8,530 feet), the altitude can take some adjustment, so drink plenty of water, rest, and go easy on alcohol on your first day.



YOUR STAY

HOTEL B3 VIRREY

An efficient, well-located stay just off Parque El Virrey, with one of Bogotá's best green corridors outside the door.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

Hotel B3 Virrey works well for travelers who want a practical, comfortable base in one of Bogotá's most walkable neighborhoods. It sits just off Parque El Virrey, a green corridor that brings a surprising amount of nature into the city and links the neighborhood to Bogotá's eastern hills. The hotel itself is straightforward and efficient, with an easy location for walking to Zona T, a pedestrian district of restaurants, bars, shops, and cafés. Its living green facade is also home to a resident population of hummingbirds.

WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want a practical base in a walkable neighborhood, with green space outside the door and a first day to settle in.

WHAT TO KNOW

The group stays two nights, March 8 and 9. Check-in opens at 3:00 p.m., and Diego joins you at 4:30 p.m. on the first afternoon. Breakfast is included.

ROOM	Junior Suite, double or twin
NIGHTS	2 · March 8 and 9
CHECK-IN	15:00 · check-out 12:00
MEALS	Breakfast
LOCATION	Just off Parque El Virrey in Chicó, a walk of 10 minutes or less from Zona T
FACILITIES	Restaurant, room service, gym, snack bar, laundry service, Wi-Fi

WELCOME TO COLOMBIA

Restaurant seats are requests until the venue confirms.

01 ARRIVE, MEET DIEGO, AND A WELCOME DINNER

MON MAR 8 · BOGOTÁ

ON FOOT **Hotel B3 Virrey → welcome dinner** 6:00 P.M.

Monday, March 8. You arrive in Bogotá on your own flight. The airport transfer is not part of the trip, and we arrange it on request. Check-in at Hotel B3 Virrey opens at 3:00 p.m. The hotel sits just off Parque El Virrey in Chicó, a walk of 10 minutes or less from the restaurants, bars, and shops of Zona T. Bogotá lies at 2,600 meters (8,530 feet), so an easy afternoon and plenty of water help everyone adjust.

At 4:30 p.m., you meet Diego Calderón-Franco, a Colombian biologist and naturalist and one of the country's best-known birding guides. Evening: at 6:00 p.m. you walk to a neighborhood restaurant near the hotel for the welcome dinner, with a shared appetizer, a main course and dessert each, and one local beer and one non-alcoholic drink each. Over dinner, Diego sets the stage for the days ahead: Colombia, its biodiversity, and the landscapes you will cover together. Seats at restaurants are requests until the venue confirms.



DIEGO CALDERÓN-FRANCO, YOUR GUIDE, WHOM YOU MEET ON DAY 1



DIEGO, LEFT, ON A BIRDING OUTING

THE CITY, FROM ABOVE

02

TUE MAR 9 · BOGOTÁ

BIRDS, MEMORY, AND ALTITUDE

DRIVE **Parque El Virrey → Fragmentos → Monserrate** 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

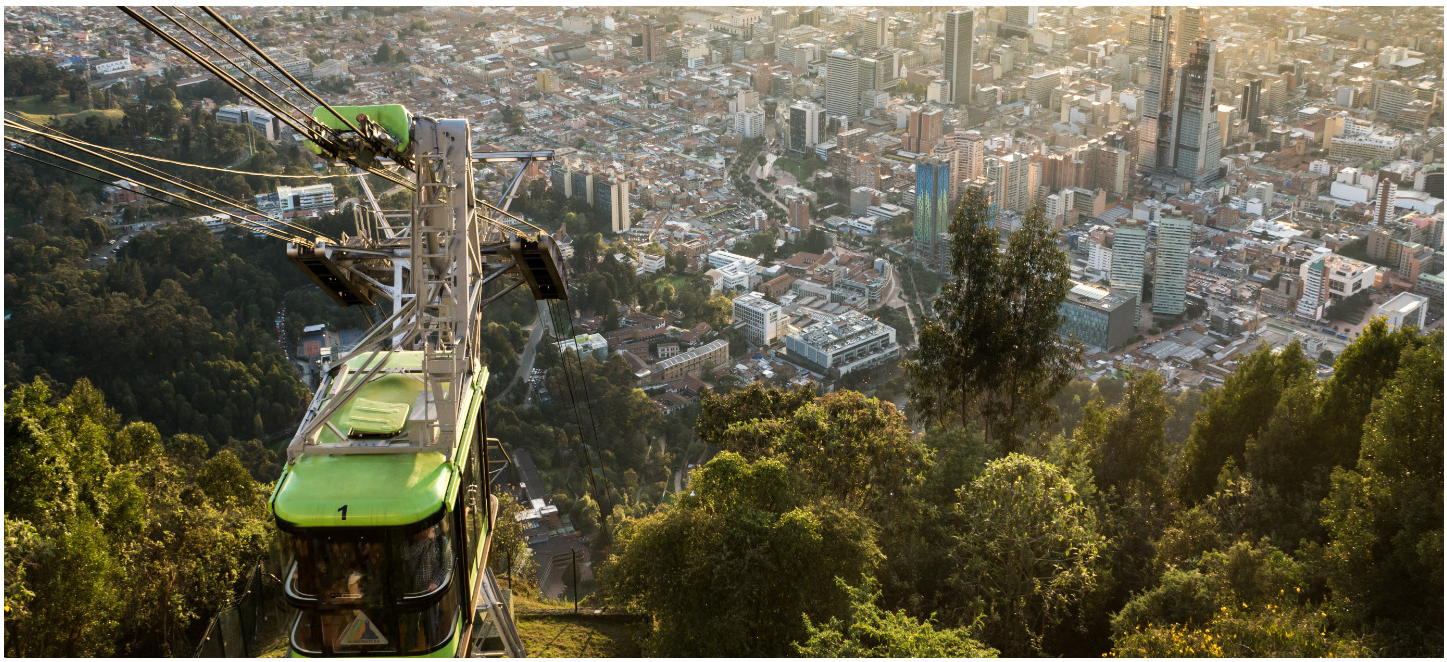
Tuesday, March 9. A full day with an English-speaking guide, private transportation, entrance fees, and lunch, across three very different parts of Bogotá.

Morning: Parque El Virrey and the Sendero Gran Chicó, a green corridor where urban wildlife is surprisingly close at hand. With a local expert, you look for native birds and plant life. Midday: Fragmentos, a counter-monument by the Colombian artist Doris Salcedo. Metal from weapons surrendered by the FARC-EP, the former guerrilla group, was made into the floor of a space for reflection on conflict, memory, and peace. Afternoon: Monserrate, more than 3,100 meters (10,170 feet) above sea level. From here, Bogotá's place high in the Eastern Andes is easy to understand, and the city's scale, its topography, and the mountain ecosystems around it come into focus.

Evening: dinner is open. You may eat at any restaurant you like, and we are glad to suggest a few tables on request.



GUESTS AT THE MONSERRATE VIEWPOINT, DAY 2



A CABLE CAR ABOVE BOGOTÁ, DAY 2



THE LLANOS

Colombia's wild eastern savannas, where cattle country, big rivers, and serious wildlife meet.

The Llanos stretch east from the Andes across the Orinoco basin and into Venezuela, a landscape of open grassland, gallery forest, wetlands, and rivers that can feel closer to Brazil's Pantanal than to the Colombia most visitors know. We've seen capybaras, caimans, giant anteaters, anacondas, hundreds of bird species, and jaguars sharing the plains with working cattle ranches. Llanero culture is just as distinct: horses, joropo, harp music, grilled meat, and stories of the Bola de Fuego, a fiery apparition said to cross the plains after dark.

This is also a landscape under pressure. Native savannas are being transformed by industrial agriculture, oil palm, rice, and hydrocarbon development, while conservation projects work with ranchers to keep jaguars and other wildlife on the land.

3
nights at Savanna Orinoquía Lodge

4 HRS
half-day wildlife safari by 4x4

2 HRS
on the river by bongo

2
trails: a stream and a river

GOOD TO KNOW

The Llanos are hot and logistically demanding. Most trips begin with a flight to Yopal, followed by a long 4x4 transfer. Wet and dry seasons change everything. Pack sun protection, insect repellent, lightweight clothing, and footwear for mud, water, and dust.



YOUR STAY

SAVANNA ORINOQUÍA LODGE

One of Casanare's most comfortable upscale lodges, with direct access to the wildlife of the Llanos.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

Savanna Orinoquia Lodge stands out among the few lodges in Casanare for offering a more upscale base for exploring the Llanos. Set beside the Cravo Sur River, its individual bungalows give guests privacy while keeping the savanna, wetlands, and wildlife close at hand. Days are built around time outside, from wildlife viewing to exploring the river and surrounding plains, then returning to the lodge between excursions.

WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want to be close to the wildlife of the plains and still sleep in comfort, with privacy in their own bungalow.

WHAT TO KNOW

The group stays three nights, March 10 to 12. Each bungalow has about 200 square meters (2,150 square feet) of space and a king-size bed. The lodge is reached by 4x4 from Yopal airport. Breakfast is included.

ROOM	Bungalows with a king-size bed, and standard rooms
NIGHTS	3 · March 10, 11 and 12
CHECK-IN	15:00 · check-out 12:00
MEALS	Breakfast
LOCATION	On the Cravo Sur River near Orocué, surrounded by the savanna and wetlands of Casanare
FACILITIES	Individual bungalows by the river and a restaurant serving Llanera cooking

ACROSS TO THE PLAINS

03

WED MAR 10 · BOGOTÁ TO THE LLANOS

FLY EAST, THEN A CAMPFIRE ON THE PLAINS

DRIVE	**Hotel B3 Virrey → El Dorado airport**	9:30 A.M.
FLIGHT	**Bogotá → Yopal**	11:50 A.M.
DRIVE	**Yopal airport → Savanna Orinoquía Lodge (4x4)**	AFTERNOON

Wednesday, March 10. Morning: after breakfast, a private driver takes you to El Dorado airport for the 11:50 a.m. flight to Yopal, which lands at 12:55 p.m. Clic Air allows one carry-on bag of 5 kilograms (11 pounds) and one checked bag of 15 kilograms (33 pounds), so pack your Llanos clothes in a soft bag.

Afternoon: a private 4x4 takes you from Yopal to Savanna Orinoquía Lodge, beside the Cravo Sur River near Orocué, in Casanare. Check-in opens at 3:00 p.m. The lodge is the base for the next three nights.

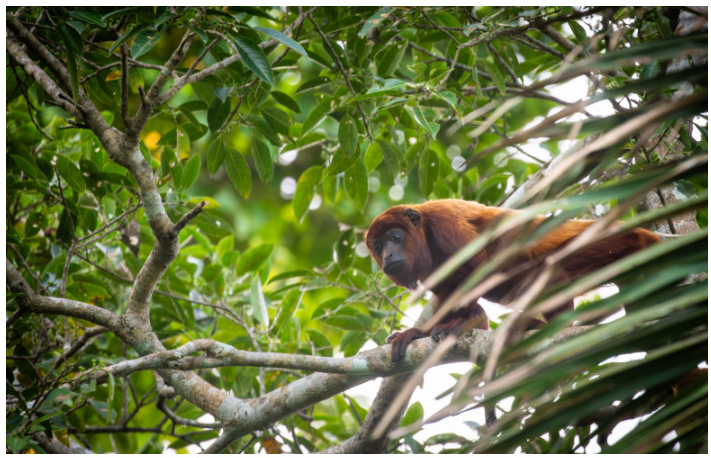
Evening: the Campfire Llanera, a parranda that lasts about two hours. A small ensemble introduces the music of Colombia's eastern plains with bandola, cuatro, maracas, and voice, and a local couple dances joropo, the dance most closely tied to llanero culture, alongside songs and verses from the region's oral tradition. Depending on the evening, it takes place on the main terrace, beside a bungalow, or on a river beach along the Cravo Sur.



THE PARRANDA AT SAVANNA ORINOQUÍA LODGE, DAY 3 EVENING



BURROWING OWLS, RESIDENTS OF THE PLAINS YOU REACH ON DAY 3



A RED HOWLER MONKEY, AMONG THE WILDLIFE OF THE LLANOS, DAY 3

WILDLIFE BY LAND AND RIVER

04

THU MAR 11 · THE LLANOS

A 4X4 SAFARI, THEN A RIVER BY BONGO

DRIVE	**Safari by 4x4 from the lodge**	7:00 A.M.
BOAT	**River trip by bongo**	3:00 P.M.

Thursday, March 11. Morning: from 7:00 a.m., a half-day wildlife safari by private 4x4 with a local naturalist, across open savanna, wetlands, and gallery forest, the narrow bands of trees that follow the rivers. The route shifts between grassland, forest edges, lagoons, and seasonally flooded ground, and wildlife often appears close to working cattle ranches. The safari stops for capybaras, caimans, howler monkeys, giant anteaters, and a wide range of birds. Sightings vary with the season and the conditions, which is part of the appeal.

Afternoon: at 3:00 p.m., a two-hour trip by bongo, a traditional wooden boat, with the naturalist. In the dry months it runs along the broader Cravo Sur River, where open views favor wading birds and raptors. During the rains it shifts into Caño Canacavare, a narrower waterway enclosed by gallery forest. At water level, you can watch the landscape change, with the chance of monkeys, iguanas, and birds along the banks.



A WILDLIFE SAFARI BY 4X4, DAY 4 MORNING



CAPYBARAS, AMONG THE ANIMALS YOU MAY MEET ON DAY 4



A RIVER CHANNEL AND A SMALL BOAT FROM ABOVE, DAY 4 AFTERNOON

A MORNING ON THE RANCH

05

FRI MAR 12 · THE LLANOS

MEET THE LLANEROS

ON FOOT **Ranch, then two trails with a naturalist** 6:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Friday, March 12. Morning: you start at 6:30 a.m. with local ranchers during their morning routine, learning how cattle, horses, and daily work continue to organize life on the plains. You can take part in the milking and hear directly from the people who work this landscape year-round.

Midday: on foot with a bilingual naturalist, along two contrasting trails. One follows Caño Canacavare through dense gallery forest, where monkeys and forest birds move through the canopy. The other traces the Cravo Sur River and opens onto wetlands and riverbanks used by wading birds, raptors, and migratory species. The lodge provides binoculars, and the slower pace leaves time to listen and watch. The day ends at about 3:00 p.m.



A RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR, AMONG THE BIRDS OF THE LLANOS



RIDERS CROSS THE FLOODED PLAINS, DAY 5



COFFEE REGION

Colombia's historic coffee heartland, where steep terrain drives biodiversity.

Coffee is grown across 23 Colombian departments, so the Coffee Region is less about where coffee exists than where its history, architecture, and rural culture are most visible. UNESCO protects a landscape built by generations of small farms, steep slopes, bahareque houses, clay roofs, and towns built around the coffee economy.

What makes this part of Colombia more interesting than its coffee reputation suggests is the biodiversity created by extreme changes in elevation. The landscape rises from valleys as low as 170 meters (558 feet) to Nevado del Ruiz, an active volcano at 5,321 meters (17,457 feet), passing through tropical forest, coffee country, cloud forest, páramo, and glacial terrain.

170 M
558 feet, the lowest valleys

5,321 M
17,457 feet, at Nevado del Ruiz

250+
bird species recorded at Hacienda Venecia

4
nights across two stays

GOOD TO KNOW

Elevation changes quickly here, and so does the weather. A single day can move from warm valleys to cold, wet highlands. Pack layers, a light rain shell, sunscreen, and comfortable walking shoes. Mountain roads are winding, so driving times are often longer than the map suggests.



YOUR STAY

HACIENDA VENECIA

A fourth-generation working coffee and cacao farm with a historic main house, excellent birding, and more than a century of family history.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

We have spent many nights at Hacienda Venecia and return because it still feels like a working farm, not a hotel dressed up to look like one. The property has been in the same coffee-growing family for four generations and is now owned by Juan Pablo Echeverri Londoño, who is often on the farm. Coffee remains central to the operation, alongside cacao and other agricultural projects. We usually favor the Main House, where the architecture, gardens, coffee fields, and surrounding forest give guests a direct sense of Colombia's Coffee Region. The farm is also an excellent base for birding, with more than 250 species recorded on the property.

WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want a working farm over a hotel, with coffee and birds on the doorstep.

WHAT TO KNOW

The group stays two nights, March 13 and 14. You arrive in the afternoon of March 13, and dinner that evening is at the Main House. Breakfast is included.

ROOM	Superior Room at the Main House and Standard Room at the Coffee Lodge
NIGHTS	2 · March 13 and 14
CHECK-IN	15:00 · check-out 12:00
MEALS	Breakfast
LOCATION	Near Manizales in southern Caldas, surrounded by coffee fields and forest
FACILITIES	Wi-Fi, massages, 24-hour reception, honesty bar, restaurant, swimming pool

UP TO THE COFFEE MOUNTAINS

06

SAT MAR 13 · THE LLANOS TO THE COFFEE REGION

LEAVE THE PLAINS FOR THE COFFEE MOUNTAINS

DRIVE	**Savanna Orinoquía Lodge → Yopal airport**	5:00 A.M.
FLIGHT	**Yopal → Bogotá**	9:50 A.M.
DRIVE	**Between airport terminals, Bogotá**	11:00 A.M.
FLIGHT	**Bogotá → Pereira**	2:20 P.M.
DRIVE	**Pereira airport → Hacienda Venecia**	3:20 P.M.



HACIENDA VENECIA, WHERE YOU SLEEP TONIGHT

Saturday, March 13. Early morning: after an early breakfast, a private 4x4 leaves the lodge at about 5:00 a.m. and reaches Yopal airport by about 8:00 a.m. Morning: Clic Air flight VE9015 leaves Yopal at 9:50 a.m. and lands in Bogotá at 11:00 a.m. A private van takes you between airport terminals, and you have a few hours before your Avianca flight.

Afternoon: Avianca flight AV9813 leaves Bogotá at 2:20 p.m. and lands in Pereira at 3:20 p.m. Avianca allows one carry-on bag of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) and one checked bag of 23 kilograms (51 pounds). A private van then drives about an hour to Hacienda Venecia, a fourth-generation working coffee and cacao farm near Manizales.

Evening: at 6:00 p.m., dinner at the Main House, the historic house of the hacienda.



A WINDING MOUNTAIN ROAD THROUGH CLOUD FOREST, DAY 6

07

SUN MAR 14 · THE COFFEE REGION

COFFEE FROM SEED TO ROAST, THEN ORCHIDS

DRIVE **Hacienda Venecia → Finca La Romelia** 1:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 14. Morning: Coffee from Seed to Roast at Hacienda Venecia, a two-hour visit with a bilingual guide that begins at 9:45 a.m. It opens with a tasting and an introduction to how coffee moves from plant to cup, including the history of the crop and what distinguishes higher-quality beans. You then walk through the plantation, see how coffee is grown and harvested, and follow the process through sorting, drying, roasting, and sale. The last part is about the cup itself: you compare roast levels, learn how defects affect flavor, and see how roasting changes aroma, acidity, body, and sweetness. Lunch follows at the Main House.

Afternoon: at 1:00 p.m., the Orchid Tour at Finca La Romelia, one hour by road each way from the hacienda, with an English-speaking guide and snacks. You walk through the gardens and natural trails before entering the nurseries that hold the farm's large orchid collection. A specialist guide explains how orchids grow, reproduce, and adapt, and how the finca works to preserve species while operating as a farm. The visit also includes the bonsai garden and time at the traditional main house. Evening: dinner is open, at any place you choose, and we can suggest options on request.



RIPE COFFEE CHERRIES HELD IN CUPPED HANDS, DAY 7



ORCHIDS AT FINCA LA ROMELIA

GOOD TO KNOW

Dinner is open tonight. You may eat at any place you choose, and we can suggest options on request.



YOUR STAY

HOTEL TERMALES DEL RUIZ

High-altitude thermal pools, hummingbird gardens, and a strategic base for exploring Los Nevados National Park.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

Hotel Termales del Ruiz combines naturally heated thermal pools with one of the most unusual high-altitude settings in Colombia. At roughly 3,500 meters (11,480 feet), the hotel sits in the buffer zone of Los Nevados National Natural Park, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the active Nevado del Ruiz volcano, surrounded by cold mountain air, mist, elfin forest, and hummingbirds moving through the gardens. The thermal pools are the highlight, especially after a day outside, and the location can significantly reduce transfer time when exploring the park and surrounding highlands. The altitude is part of the experience. Nights are cold, so bring warm layers, drink plenty of water, and take the first hours slowly while your body adjusts.

WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want to end the trip in the mountains, close to the páramo and the volcano, with thermal pools after the day outside.

WHAT TO KNOW

The group stays two nights, March 15 and 16. Check-in opens at 2:00 p.m., and check-out is at 10:00 a.m. on March 17. Breakfast is included.

ROOM	Junior Suite and Standard Room
NIGHTS	2 · March 15 and 16
CHECK-IN	14:00 · check-out 10:00
MEALS	Breakfast
LOCATION	In the high Andes of Caldas, near Los Nevados National Natural Park and the active Nevado del Ruiz volcano
FACILITIES	Natural thermal pools

UP TO THE THERMAL POOLS

08

MON MAR 15 · THE COFFEE REGION

HIGH-ANDEAN BIRDS, THEN THERMAL POOLS

DRIVE	**Hacienda Venecia → Hacienda El Bosque**	7:30 A.M.
DRIVE	**Hacienda El Bosque → Hotel Termales del Ruiz**	MIDDAY

Monday, March 15. Morning: you leave Hacienda Venecia at about 7:30 a.m. for Hacienda El Bosque, about one hour into the mountains above Manizales. Cloud forest and high-Andean habitat support a large number of birds here. The morning centers on the property's feeders and surrounding habitat, with close attention to hummingbirds, mountain toucans, and other species adapted to this elevation. Breakfast is included. The Birders Show, the program Diego co-hosts, has featured the hacienda.

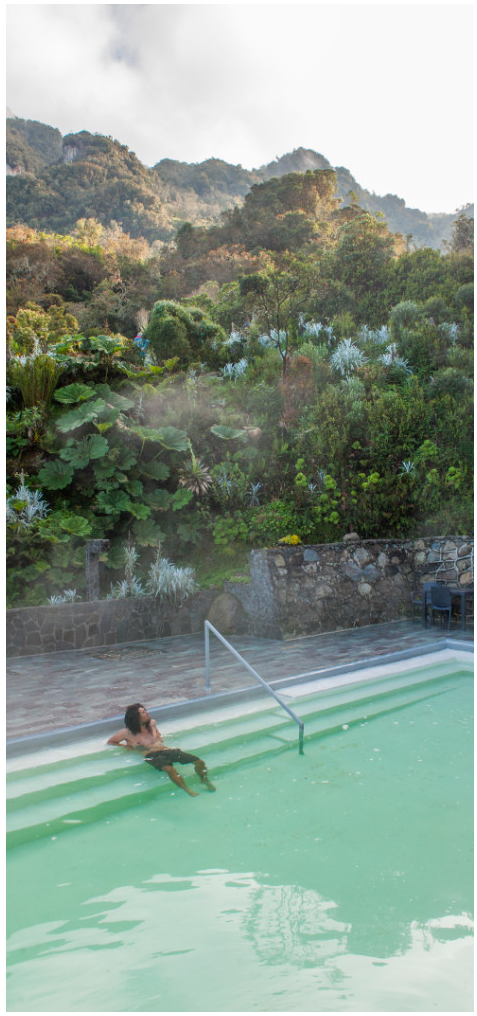
Midday: you continue to Hotel Termales del Ruiz for lunch and a free afternoon. Check-in opens at 2:00 p.m. The hotel stands at roughly 3,500 meters (11,480 feet), so take the first hours slowly, drink plenty of water, and keep warm layers close. Explore the trails and feeders nearby at your own pace, then soak in the natural thermal pools, with cold mountain air, hummingbirds, and the volcanic landscape of Los Nevados around you. Evening: dinner is open. You may eat at the hotel or anywhere you choose, and we are happy to help with suggestions.



A SHINING SUNBEAM HUMMINGBIRD, AMONG THE BIRDS OF DAY 8



A BICOLORED ANTPITTA ON A WET BRANCH, DAY 8



THE THERMAL POOLS AT HOTEL TERMALES DEL RUIZ

THE PÁRAMO, THEN HOME

09

TUE MAR 16 · LOS NEVADOS

CONDORS, THE PÁRAMO, AND A FAREWELL DINNER

DRIVE **Hotel Termales del Ruiz → Los Nevados National Natural Park** 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, March 16. Morning: from 9:00 a.m., half a day in the páramo and volcanic landscapes of Los Nevados National Natural Park with an expert guide. The páramo is the high-altitude grassland and wetland that Colombia's mountains hold above the tree line. The focus is the biodiversity of an ecosystem defined by altitude, cold, wind, and volcanic geology, including the plants and animals adapted to these extreme conditions. Keep watch for Andean condors and other high-elevation species. Nevado del Ruiz, the active volcano nearby, reaches 5,321 meters (17,457 feet).

Evening: Diego joins the group to share his view of Colombia's biodiversity and of why these mountain ecosystems matter so much. The day ends with the farewell dinner.



THE ROAD INTO LOS NEVADOS NATIONAL NATURAL PARK



FRAILEJONES IN THE MIST OF THE PÁRAMO, DAY 9

10

WED MAR 17 · TO PEREIRA

A LAST MORNING, THEN THE AIRPORT

DRIVE **Hotel Termales del Ruiz → Pereira airport** MORNING

Wednesday, March 17. Breakfast at the hotel, and check-out at 10:00 a.m. A private van takes the group to Pereira airport, and we confirm the departure time to suit your flights home. Guests who are adding an extension travel on from the hotel; the optional extensions are described at the end of this guide.



YOUR STAY

EL NIDO DEL CÓNDOR

A sustainable ecolodge in glamping tents near a condor nest, above the canyons of Caldas.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

El Nido del Cóndor is a sustainable getaway created by a family of four with architectural expertise, dedicated to preserving biodiversity and celebrating the region's geography and culture. Since 2017, the hotel has combined eco-conscious design with a commitment to environmental education. It sits near a condor nest, which gives guests the chance to watch these birds soaring above the canyons in their natural habitat.

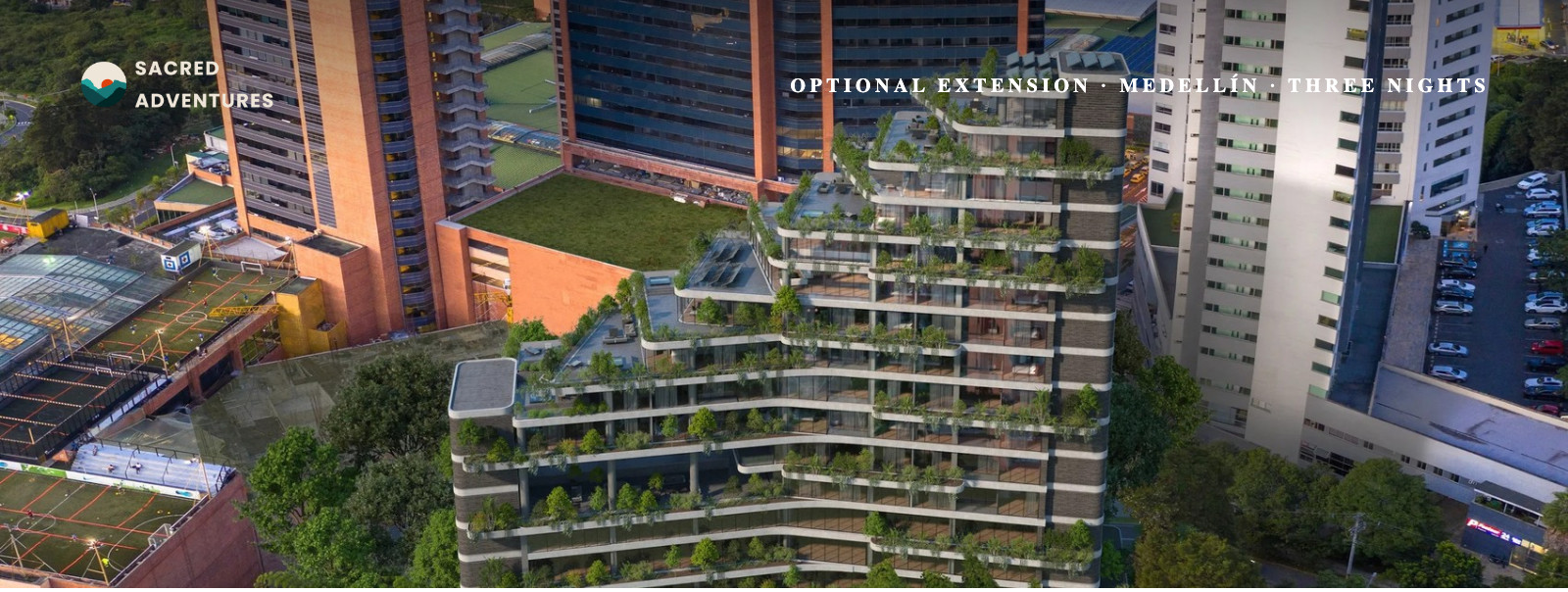
WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want two more nights in the mountains after the trip, in a glamping tent, with time for trails, birds, and the spa.

WHAT TO KNOW

March 17: a private transfer leaves Hotel Termales del Ruiz at 11:00 a.m., about two hours. March 18 is a free day: trails, birdwatching, rivers and waterfalls, horseback riding, the spa, or a visit to a local campesino family. March 19: a private transfer to Pereira airport at 12:00 p.m. Meals are included.

ROOM	Glamping tent, double
NIGHTS	2 · March 17 and 18
CHECK-IN	15:00 · check-out 12:00
MEALS	Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
LOCATION	Kilometer 17, Vereda Papayal, on the road from Villamaría to the Nevado, Santa Isabel, Caldas
FACILITIES	Private glamping tents, hiking trails, wellness spa



YOUR STAY

WAKE BIOHOTEL

A wellness retreat in Medellín, with hot and cold pools above the city.

WHY WE CHOSE IT

Wake BioHotel is for guests who want wellness to be a meaningful part of their stay in Medellín. The standout is its spa and wellness area, where hot and cold pools overlook the city, and an in-house wellness doctor can work directly with guests. It is an especially strong choice at the end of a longer Colombia itinerary, when some time focused on recovery can change the energy of the trip. Pergamino coffee shop is integrated into the property, and the hotel also offers a well-regarded in-house restaurant.

WHO IT SUITS

Travelers who want to end the trip with rest and wellness, and two days out in Medellín and Guatapé.

WHAT TO KNOW

March 17: a private transfer to the hotel, with an English-speaking guide for four hours. March 18: City, Art & Urban Constellations in the Manrique district, where the Constelaciones macro-mural covers the facades of more than 500 homes. March 19: a full day at Guatapé, with the 740 steps of the Piedra del Peñol, a monolith about 200 meters (656 feet) tall, lunch by the water, and a boat ride. March 20: transfer to the airport at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast is included.

ROOM	Junior Suite, king bed
NIGHTS	3 · March 17, 18, and 19
CHECK-IN	15:00 · check-out 12:00
MEALS	Breakfast
LOCATION	Calle 2 Sur, Medellín
FACILITIES	Spa and wellness area with hot and cold pools, in-house wellness doctor, Pergamino coffee shop, restaurant

CHAPTER 04

MEET THE AUTHORS OF YOUR TRIP GUIDE



TRIP DESIGNER

DAN MOORE

COO, THE ADVENTURE HUB

Dan Moore is COO of The Adventure Hub, the company behind Sacred Adventures, which began with bike journeys and now also offers hiking and nature trips like this one. He is the Trip Designer of this journey and travels with the group.



ITINERARY AND OPERATIONS

LEIDY LOZANO

SENIOR SALES MANAGER, WHERENEXT DMC COLOMBIA

Leidy Lozano grew up in Cali and moved to Bogotá to study Tourism Business Administration at Externado University, then specialized in Social Responsibility and Development. She has lived in Chile and the United States, and has spent seven years in Colombia's inbound tourism industry with a focus on sustainable, community-minded travel. She has explored 25 of Colombia's 32 departments, and she is not done yet. She also dances salsa.



GUIDE

DIEGO CALDERÓN-FRANCO

GUIDE AND NATURALIST

Diego Calderón-Franco is a Colombian biologist and naturalist, and one of the country's best-known birding guides. He co-hosts The Birders Show and leads this journey from Bogotá to Los Nevados.

CHAPTER 05

YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

HOW TO READ DAYS AND NIGHTS

Day 1 is the day you arrive.
Night 3 is the night after Day 3.
FLIGHT marks a flight.

DAY	DATE	THE DAY	GETTING THERE	NIGHT AT
BOGOTÁ				Mar 8–10 · 2 nights
01	MON MAR 8	**Arrive, meet Diego, a welcome dinner**	ON FOOT	**Hotel B3 Virrey**
02	TUE MAR 9	**Parque El Virrey, Fragmentos, Monserrate**	PRIVATE TRANSPORT	**Hotel B3 Virrey**
THE LLANOS				Mar 10–13 · 3 nights
03	WED MAR 10	**Fly to Yopal, a campfire on the plains**	FLIGHT · BOG → YOP	**Savanna Orinoquía Lodge**
04	THU MAR 11	**A 4x4 safari, a river by bongo**	BY 4X4 AND BOAT	**Savanna Orinoquía Lodge**
05	FRI MAR 12	**Meet the llaneros, two trails**	ON FOOT	**Savanna Orinoquía Lodge**
THE COFFEE REGION				Mar 13–17 · 4 nights across two stays
06	SAT MAR 13	**Two flights to Pereira, dinner at the hacienda**	FLIGHTS · YOP → BOG → PEI	**Hacienda Venecia**
07	SUN MAR 14	**Coffee from seed to roast, orchids**	ABOUT 1 HOUR EACH WAY	**Hacienda Venecia**
08	MON MAR 15	**High-Andean birds, thermal pools**	ABOUT 1 HOUR UP THE MOUNTAIN	**Hotel Termales del Ruiz**
09	TUE MAR 16	**Los Nevados, a talk with Diego, a farewell dinner**	PRIVATE TRANSPORT	**Hotel Termales del Ruiz**
10	WED MAR 17	**A last morning, then the airport**	PRIVATE VAN	

CHAPTER 06 · ESSENTIALS

YOUR FLIGHTS

Your own flights to Bogotá and home, and four short hops inside Colombia.

GETTING THERE · MONDAY, MARCH 8

MON MAR 8

TBC → BOG

Your own flight to Bogotá — TO CONFIRM

WHERE YOU FLY FROM IS TO CONFIRM

LAND BY EARLY AFTERNOON to reach the 4:30 p.m. meeting

The airport transfer is not part of the trip. We arrange it on request.

INSIDE COLOMBIA

WED MAR 10

BOG → YOP

Clic Air VE9016 — TO CONFIRM

BOGOTÁ TO YOPAL

11:50 → 12:55 local time

One carry-on bag of 5 kg (11 lb) and one checked bag of 15 kg (33 lb).

SAT MAR 13

YOP → BOG

Clic Air VE9015 — TO CONFIRM

YOPAL TO BOGOTÁ

09:50 → 11:00 local time

One carry-on bag of 5 kg (11 lb) and one checked bag of 15 kg (33 lb).

SAT MAR 13

BOG → PEI

Avianca AV9813 — TO CONFIRM

BOGOTÁ TO PEREIRA

14:20 → 15:20 local time

One carry-on bag of 10 kg (22 lb) and one checked bag of 23 kg (51 lb).

GOING HOME · WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

WED MAR 17

PEI → TBC

Your own flight home — TO CONFIRM

FROM PEREIRA, OR AS YOUR ROUTE REQUIRES

TIME TO CONFIRM after check-out at 10:00

A private van takes the group to Pereira airport.

We confirm every flight and time once the tickets are issued and you send us your flight details.

CHAPTER 06 · ESSENTIALS

ON THE ROAD

Every transfer is private, and the longest drives fall on the quietest days.

DATE	FROM	TO	HOW
MON MAR 8	**El Dorado airport**	→ **Hotel B3 Virrey** Not part of the trip; we arrange it on request	PRIVATE TRANSFER
WED MAR 10	**Hotel B3 Virrey**	→ **El Dorado airport** About 30 minutes, leaving at about 9:30 for the 11:50 flight	PRIVATE DRIVER
WED MAR 10	**Yopal airport**	→ **Savanna Orinoquía Lodge** On rough Llanos roads, after the 12:55 landing	PRIVATE 4X4
SAT MAR 13	**Savanna Orinoquía Lodge**	→ **Yopal airport** Leaving at about 5:00 a.m. after breakfast, reaching the airport by about 8:00	PRIVATE 4X4
SAT MAR 13	**Bogotá airport terminals**	→ **Between terminals** About an hour, with a few hours before the 14:20 flight	PRIVATE VAN
SAT MAR 13	**Pereira airport**	→ **Hacienda Venecia** About 1 hour, after the 15:20 landing	PRIVATE VAN
SUN MAR 14	**Hacienda Venecia**	→ **Finca La Romelia** About 1 hour each way	PRIVATE VAN
MON MAR 15	**Hacienda Venecia**	→ **Hacienda El Bosque** About 1 hour into the mountains above Manizales	PRIVATE VAN
WED MAR 17	**Hotel Termales del Ruiz**	→ **Pereira airport** In the morning, timed to your flight	PRIVATE VAN

Good to know. March 13 is the longest day of the trip: two flights and two drives. We plan it so you reach Hacienda Venecia in time for dinner at 6:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 06 · ESSENTIALS

PACK LIGHT. GO FAR.

The trip moves from the hot plains of the Llanos to the cold of Los Nevados, at roughly 3,500 meters (11,480 feet), so clothing that layers suits it.

WEAR

PLAINS HEAT TO MOUNTAIN COLD

Lightweight long sleeves and trousers
Sun, brush, and insects on ranch walks and boat trips

Warm mid-layer
Cool mornings in Bogotá and the Coffee Region

Warm outer jacket
Cold nights at Termales del Ruiz, near 3,500 m (11,480 ft)

Packable rain jacket
Showers in Bogotá and the mountains

Warm hat and gloves
Mountain wind at Los Nevados

OUTSIDE

DUST, MUD, WATER, AND THERMAL POOLS

Comfortable walking shoes
Plantation paths at Hacienda Venecia and city walks

Outdoor trail footwear
Dust, mud, and uneven ground on nature walks

Swimwear
The thermal pools at Termales del Ruiz

Sun protection
A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen

Insect repellent
Casanare outings and river trips

CARRY

FOR THE DAYS OUT

Personal binoculars
Wildlife in the Llanos and condors over Los Nevados

Daypack
Layers, rain protection, water, and camera gear

Reusable water bottle
Full days on the plains and at altitude

Waterproof dry pouch
Splashes on the river canoe tour

Portable power bank
Long days away from outlets

CHAPTER 06 · ESSENTIALS

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

01 Which flight are you taking to Bogotá on March 8, and when does it land?

02 Would you like us to arrange your airport transfer in Bogotá?

03 Do any of you have allergies or dietary needs?

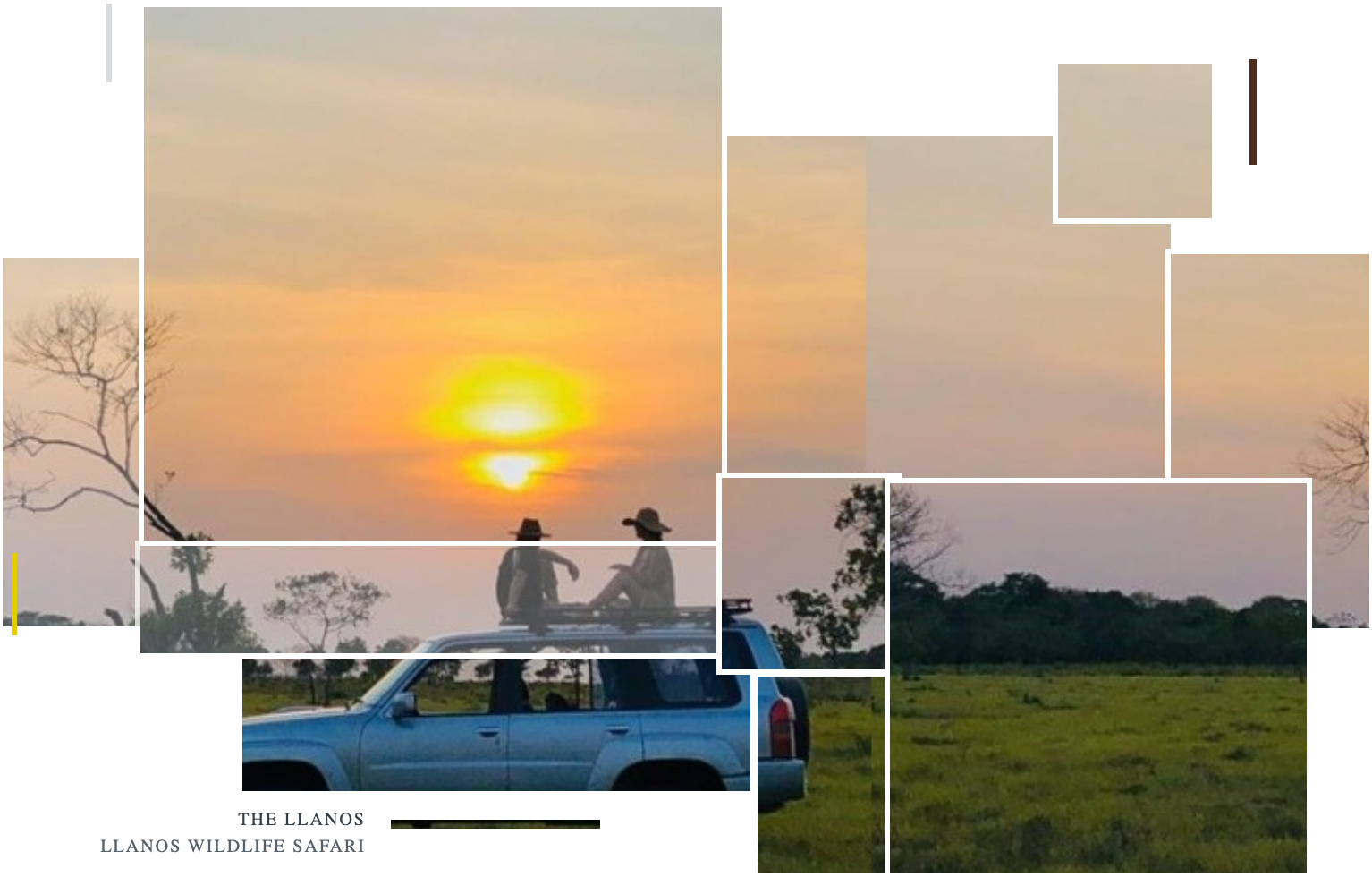
04 Who will share a room, and who would like a room of their own?

05 Will you add the Nido del Cóndor or Medellín extension at the end of the trip?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

We confirm the flights and times once the tickets are issued, and the welcome dinner once the group is set. Restaurant seats are requests until the venues confirm. We confirm the departure time for the van to Pereira airport on March 17 to match your flights.

SACRED
ADVENTURES



THE LLANOS
LLANOS WILDLIFE SAFARI

THE JOURNEY ENDS

WE HOPE IT MADE YOU FEEL SOMETHING.

BIODIVERSITY AND LIVING CULTURES