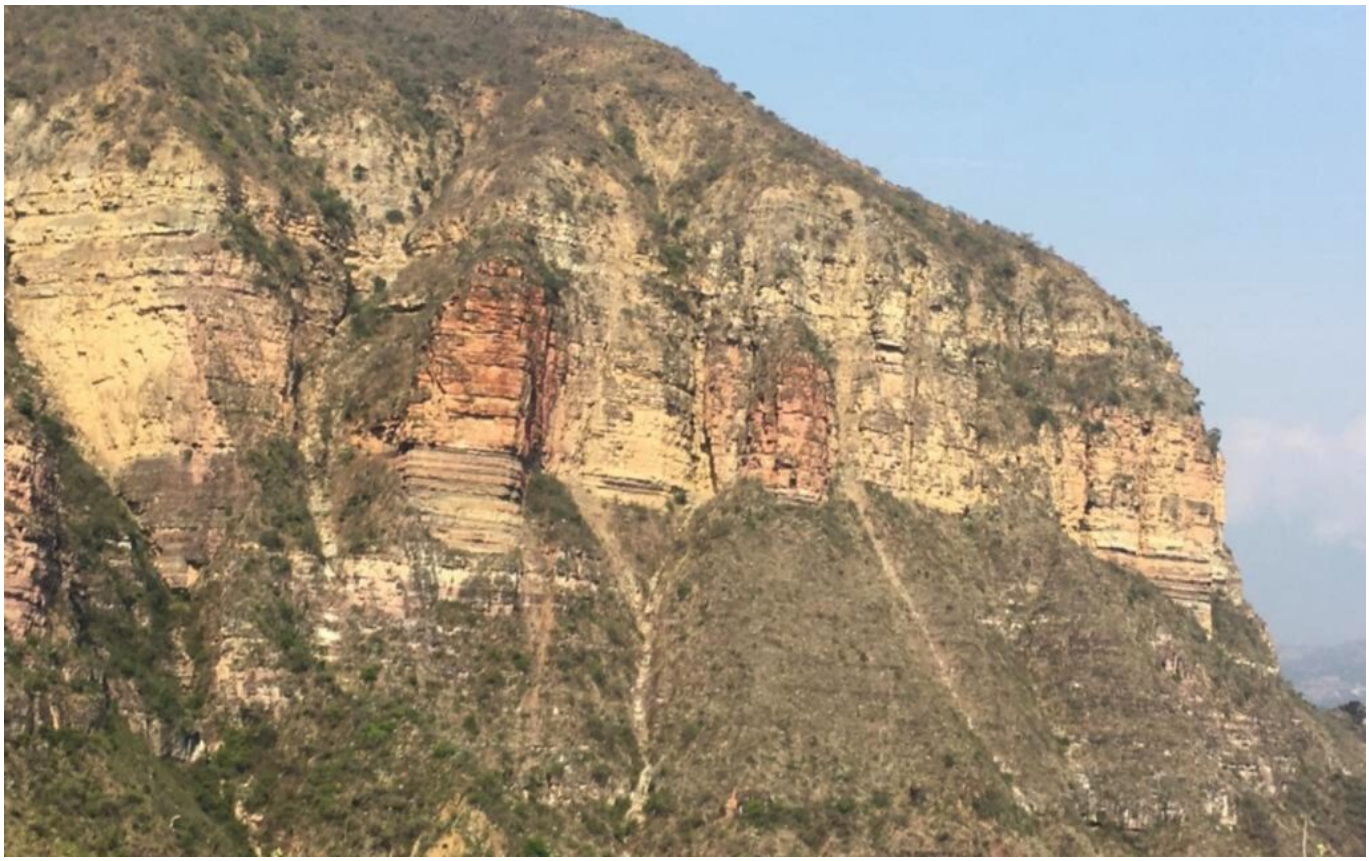
Expeditions to Tatacoa Desert and San Agustin



Overview

Highlights:

- We will explore one of the geological Colombian wonders; wonderful formations and “moonscapes” with amazing colors.
- Spectacular sights from the “Snake Canyon”, “Xilopal Valley” and “The Holes” with its “ghosts”, also the Martian “Cuzco” and the Natural Pool.
- The San Agustín Archaeological Park, declared by Unesco as a World Heritage Site.
- The Magdalena river strait, a landscape of great natural beauty.

Tour details:

- **Duration of the trip:** 9 days and 8 nights
- **Trekking time:** 4 to 7 hours daily
- **Distance:** 5 to 16 kms each day

- **Ecosystem:** Humid forest and very dry tropical forest
- **Climate:** Warm and dry
- **Elevation above sea level:** It ranges between 396 meters above sea level. up to 2,391 m.a.s.l

Doing tours between 4 and 7 hours approximately, we will go from the humid forest of the Serranía de los Yariguíes, to the dry forest of the Chicamocha Canyon.

We will know San Vicente de Chucurí, the cocoa capital of Colombia and we will be able to know the whole process in an autochthonous farm.

We will walk the streets of Zapatoca with its "Silk Climate" and its colonial streets.

We will visit Guane, a perfect colonial town! One of the hidden and best-kept treasures of the Santander department.

We will walk freely through Barichara declared a Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 1978. Its narrow streets, white walls and yellow soil have made it, for many, the most beautiful town in Colombia.

We will arrive after descending the wonderful Chicamocha Canyon to Shangrila, called the "Chiflón del Chicamocha", because it is near a place where the river narrows and there is a chiflon or rock tunnel that makes the waters quite agitated. We can enjoy a well-deserved rest in the hammocks and pool of the hotel.

Dates

- March 1 to 9, 2021
- August 7 to 15, 2021

Price

12 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

13 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

14 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

15 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

16 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

17 participants – $ per person in double / triple accommodation

* Supplement for individual accommodation $

* Minimum group 12 expeditionary

How to book

For bookings, please email us at **info@ecoglobalexpeditions.com**

What's included

- Private transportation from Bucaramanga airport to San Vicente de Chucurí.
- Transportation La Mesa de los Santos – Bucaramanga Airport.
- Hotels in double, triple, multiple accommodation according to the type and capacity of the hotel (8 nights).
- Breakfast on the 4 and 8 days.
- Lunch and dinner on the 7 day.
- Orientation, specialized guidance and accompaniment from Medellín.
- Local guides (EcoGlobal Expeditions supports the communities, initiatives and ecotourism projects of the regions we visit).
- Luggage transportation throughout the tour.
- Moto Taxi from Villanueva to Alto de Martha.
- Cocoa Tour with transportation included.
- Walk to the Pictograms day 9.
- Assistance card (travel insurance).

What's not included

- Tickets Medellín – Bucaramanga – Medellín.
- Guided tour of the Paper Workshop in Barichara
- Feeding.
- Hydration.
- Personal expenses.
- Souvenirs.
- Unspecified expenses

Itinerary

Nota:
*The following itinerary is informative and may vary without prior notice in accordance with weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

Day 1

- First flight from your hometown to Bucaramanga.
- Welcome at the Bucaramanga airport.
- Breakfast on behalf of each participant.
- Transfer to San Vicente de Chucurí, approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, they call it the cocoa capital of Colombia, it is known for being one of the agricultural pantries of Santander and for producing the best avocados in the region.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- Visit a cocoa farm, to learn about its history, that of cocoa and the whole process from planting to its transformation into chocolate and tasting.
- Dinner, on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple)

Day 2

- 5.00am A local vehicle will take us to the start of the royal road where we will start the walk.
- We will cross the Serranía de los Yariguíes to the Nogales estate.
- Breakfast and Lunch on behalf of each participant, we will take it on the way.
- In Los Nogales some vehicles pick us up and take us to Zapatoca.
- Zapatoca, where the remains of the German Geo Von Lenguerke lie, with its beautiful colonial streets and imposing landscapes offers us a very pleasant cold climate that also gives it the nickname of “Silk Climate”.
- Free afternoon to visit Zapatoca.
- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple)

Day 3

- Breakfast on behalf of each participant.
- Free morning you can visit the La Lajita Waterfall.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant

- We will make the walk to La Fuente. Vehicles take us to the beginning of the royal road and pick us up at the end of the road to approach the Source.
- La Fuente, picturesque town, whose fields crossed by crystalline ravines invite us to refresh ourselves in its limpid waters.
- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 4

- Breakfast (included)
- Very early in the morning the vehicles accompany us to the start of the royal road. We will make the walk to the Suárez river and then we will ascend to Guane.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- Guane, colonial town, perfect! One of the hidden and best-kept treasures of the Santander department.
- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 5

- Breakfast on behalf of each participant.
- We will walk along the route of the Guane – Barichara pictograms.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- Barichara, land of the yellow-patia, as those who come from Barichara are known, due to the dust left by their particular land. This is one of the few towns in Colombia that still preserve its colonial infrastructure, that is why it was declared a Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 1978. Its narrow streets, white walls and yellow soil have made it, for many, the most beautiful town in Colombia.
- Guided tour (Optional) paid by each participant in the “Paper Workshop”, a foundation where women head of the family work making artisan paper with natural fibers such as fique and pineapple, which is used for printing, photography, engraving, oil, watercolor among others and also with it many products are made there such as earrings, necklaces, rings, photo frames, fans, boxes, lamps, flowers, among others.
- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 6

- Breakfast on behalf of each participant.
- Walked up to Villanueva.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- Villanueva, a quiet town, demarcated by the beauty of the landscape.
- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 7

- 5.00 am We will leave by motorcycle taxi to Alto de Martha where we will find the beginning of the road that will take us to Shangrila crossing the Chicamocha Canyon (We are going to do the walk with what is necessary to spend the night, as the luggage arrives at the the Saints)
- Breakfast on behalf of each participant, we will take it on the way.
- Lunch included.
- Shangrila, they call it the “Chiflón del Chicamocha”, because it is near a place where the river narrows and there is a chiflón or rock tunnel that makes the waters quite agitated. We can enjoy a well-deserved rest in the hammocks and pool of the hotel.
- Dinner included.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 8

- Breakfast included.
- 5.00 am The vehicles will take us to the Jordan, known as the “Ghost Town”, hidden in the Santander mountains. This municipality has the particularity of being one of the most uninhabited in the country. The magic of this town rises amid the heat, the cacti and the reddish earth characteristic of the Chicamocha canyon.
- Arrival in Los Santos, a municipality with a warm, unmissable climate, where extreme sports are practiced such as paragliding and which is recognized for its variety of organic coffee.
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- We will take a transport from Los Santos to the Hotel Casaregua in La Mesa de los Santos.

- Dinner on behalf of each participant.
- Hotel accommodation (single, double, triple, multiple accommodation).

Day 9

- Breakfast, on behalf of each participant.
- Hike to the Pictograms, we will be able to enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of the Chicamocha canyon and we will know a lot about the historical part of the Indigenous people who inhabited these lands (2 hours approx.).
- Lunch on behalf of each participant.
- Transfer to Bucaramanga airport (2 hours approx.).
- Flight Bucaramanga – City of origin.

Travel tips

- As far as possible take the least amount of wrappers, cans or glasses and please, let's return home all the inorganic waste that we carry in our backpack «if you carry it in your backpack, you can return in your backpack»
- Please do not leave trash in the desert and I hope we don't leave trash in the cabin.
- Be previously vaccinated against yellow fever and tetanus.
- Don't bring items that are typically used by the military (i.e. camouflage clothing).
- Don't bring or take toxic, psychoactive or hallucinogenic and alcoholic substances.
- Don't bring jewelry or valuables – Rolex watches and Cartier earrings; please leave them at home!
- During the trek, don't separate from the group and don't remain alone at any time.
- Bear in mind that we will be staying in a very remote place and our hosts will do everything for us as best as they can, given the local conditions and culture.
- We want that during our visit to these remote, remote and often forgotten territories, all: guides, coordinators and tourists, we contribute to the economy of these regions and small towns, buying in the stores, stores, bakeries and restaurants, their products and merchandise (such as sweets, chocolates, soft

drinks, sweets, fruits, etc.) and acquiring local handicrafts. It is a small support through which we include these communities in the tourism value chain. If you like to consume very sophisticated foods or special diets (almonds, sugar-free chocolates, dried seeds or dehydrated fruits, for example), which you will not be able to get in the shops of the villages, we recommend you take them with you. Thank you for joining this initiative, this is called sustainable tourism!

Each participant should bring:

- Water Canteen, Thermos or Camelback, let's avoid plastic or PET bottles, with a minimum capacity of 2 liters. It's very hot!
- Mineral salts or electrolytes for water Help us not to dehydrate!
- Quick-drying clothes for walks and some change in cotton to be in town and sleep, for warm weather (Do not wear excessive clothing).
- Swimsuit.
- Quick drying towel.
- Plastic or waterproof poncho.
- Light jacket or windbreaker jacket.
- As for footwear, you should wear tennis shoes or trekking boots, which have thick soles and good grip.
- A pair of tennis shoes or additional sandals to wear in the towns and take a shower.
- Stockings or socks and underwear: we recommend 6 to 7 pairs as it increases comfort when walking and allows replacement every time a pair gets wet, this significantly reduces the possibility of blisters on the feet due to friction or moisture excessive.
- Walking sticks.
- Cap or hat.
- Small flashlight (better if it is front hands-free).
- Sunglasses.
- Small backpack to use on walks.
- A container to pack food (Breakfast or lunches that we will eat along the way)
- Sunscreen.
- Petroleum jelly, applied to the feet before putting on the stockings, helps to avoid blisters caused by friction and sweat.
- Personal hygiene items in small quantities.
- Insect repellent.

- Cash for hydration, food, tips, souvenirs and personal expenses.
- Personal documents (identification, EPS card).
- Toilet paper.
- Photographic camera.
- Battery charger for camera, cell phone and flashlight
- Although all our guides have first aid knowledge and carry an emergency kit, every good walker should bring their medicines and a small personal kit