



GUARDIAN

Cultural Expeditions & Wilderness Medicine

14-Day Backpacking Expedition in

COLOMBIA

Create a New Form of EcoTourism

Backpacking Skill Development in Jungle Environments

Cultural Immersion in Indigenous Communities

Service Projects - Jungle Reforestation & Composting Toilet

Spanish Language Immersion

Human History of the Caribbean

Solitude Experience in the Jungle

Emergency First Aid Skills

JULY 10TH. 2021 - JULY 23RD. 2021

Our mission is to create guardians of mother nature with a global consciousness that aims to help each other in emergency situations while appreciating the natural world and the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples.

The Mission

Our Cultural Expedition in Depth

Our mission of creating guardians of mother nature is accomplished by bringing together lessons from past, practices of the present and planned implementations for the future of humanity while on a multi-day cultural expedition in South America. Our flagship cultural expedition is along the northern coast of Colombia where we journey to “the heart of the world”, immersing ourselves in indigenous cultures throughout the jungle of La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Our aim is to usher in a new era of international tourism that directly benefits the sustainability of rural communities in Colombia. Throughout our interactions and stays with the indigenous, it is our hope to give our students an unforgettable cultural experience while also harmoniously working and giving back to the local communities.

Our vision for the expedition is develop participants into guardians of the natural world, or in other words, global citizens that actively work to sustain the continuance of indigenous traditions. We give people hands-on skills to create change while they learn about the ethnobotany of Colombia, backpacking in a jungle environment, emergency first-aid skills, sustainable design of human communities, Spanish language lessons, human history of the Caribbean, reforestation of degraded lands and sanitary composting systems. The capstone of our expedition is an extended solitude experience where participants spend time alone in nature to reflect on their life.



Course Overview

This backpacking expedition will include days of hiking with all the necessary equipment to live in the jungle, spending days with the Kogi of Colombia, and immersing ourselves in the beauty of the La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. We begin our cultural expedition with a short multi-day backpacking experience to explore the valley of Paso del Mango and learn about the ethnobotany of the Northern Coast. After acquainting ourselves with the jungle, we head deeper into the mountain range to learn from the “Guardians” of mother nature, the Kogi, who are descendents of one of the oldest cultures in South America. All sections of our expedition include an aspect of service, backcountry camping, emergency first aid skills, and Spanish language classes.



BACKPACKING SKILL DEVELOPMENT

A major focus of this expedition is to have participants become familiar and competent in the necessary skills to backpack in the wild and around the world. By the end of the trip, participants should know how to plan a trip to another country or in the wilderness and how to travel to that place with only the necessary equipment.

This is not an expedition for individuals that cannot hike for 3+ miles in a day. On certain days, especially while traveling in the jungle, we may walk for 3+ miles to reach a destination. However, keep in mind that not every day is as intensive as this and there will be plenty of opportunities to rest and relax. Having a mile time to run can give you a more concrete idea of how hard it is to walk with a pack - we use a 11:30 mile (no walking allowed) to gauge if participants have the necessary aerobic fitness for our expeditions.



SERVICE PROJECTS

A large component of our expedition is to promote a sustainable way of travel and tourism that uses our tuition money, group energy, and sustainable technology of the “developed” world to leave lasting impacts on the regions we visit. We believe tourism and experiences in nature that shape our life depend on the longevity of wild areas and indigenous cultures. Increasing tourism is inevitable in this area of Colombia, Guardian serves an avenue to actively install systems that improve sustainable and regenerative tourism. Without the ever abundant biodiversity nature provides, the resources we depend on like water and food would cease to exist. Instead of depending on another NGO or Non-profit organization to help in a positive way, we will take it upon ourselves to help make the change towards a more sustainable way of travel.

For example, during our Quebrada del Sol section we aim to plant over +100 native and fruit trees on degraded coca and marijuana farmlands that were active in the 70’s and 80’s. Fueled by the demand for illegal drugs in the US and Europe, these lands are now barren and provide very little to the community that lives near them. We will work with the community of Quebrada del Sol, and the neighboring indigenous communities to conduct a massive replanting project. A significant portion of participant tuition goes to acquiring the trees and tools needed to do a project like this.

In the same region, we also aim to install two composting toilet systems, one in Quebrada del Sol and the other in the Kogi village to serve as a method to dispose of human waste without causing further harm to the natural environment we visit. These toilets actively decompose human waste creating a rich fertilizer for the Kogi to use in their Cacao forest.

View the plan for our composting toilet system here: https://www.omick.net/composting_toilets/barrel_toilet.htm

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL IMMERSION

During the trip, we will have a unique opportunity to spend days with the various indigenous tribes of La Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. These people will give us insight into their creation stories, traditions, current beliefs and how current society has affected them. We believe in the transformative abilities a person undergoes when they spend time interacting and living with other cultures. The indigenous of the northern coast of Colombia are friendly, hardworking and kind people that seek to educate people of the world to learn how to protect the Earth. The Kogi will help us to create “Global Citizens” in a world with powerful forces of “Westernized Globalization” and the genocide of ethnic/biological diversity.

Every day, someone is speaking the last words of an ancient culture. When we ask “What does it mean to be human and alive?” there are responses from more than 3,000 different cultures around the world. ***A major outcome of this expedition is to expand our perspective on this question.***



We recognize the many layers of racial, colonial and economic privilege that make these expeditions possible. We are committed to dismantling systemic injustice and supporting indigenous peoples in the preservation of their land and culture

Student Takeaway

While our goal is to make "guardians" of mother nature, we aim to produce global citizens that have a wider perspective on what it means to be human and alive. We do not try to make these students into an image that we desire but on the contrary, give them the experiences and skills to shine brightly within.

This course is an expedition but also a class. We strive to redefine ecotourism and truly promote sustainable tourism in the modern era. Students will have opportunities to help progress this mission while on our 2-week course.

What are our main learning outcomes for students?

- Development of a higher sense of self
- Positive contribution to a community
- Appreciation and caretaking of the natural world
- Risk Management and Outdoor Skills
- Foreign Language development

Itinerary Breakdown



Day 1 - 3 : Santa Marta

Day 1 - Arrival Day

We begin in the bustling port of Santa Marta which is the first colonial trading post of the Spanish in 1526. The conquest of South America by the Spanish started in Santa Marta on the shores of the Caribbean. While staying in the city, we prep for the next few weeks going over how to pack backpacks and making sure everyone has adequate gear for the expedition. Participants arrive at Simon Bolivar International airport in Santa Marta, Colombia and are transported to the historical center of the city, Centro Historico. We will be staying at a luxury rental unit to create a cohesive group community. A majority of this day is devoted to ensuring everyone arrives easily and safely to our intended start point of Santa Marta.

Daily Activities:

Community Bonding Activities
Course Overview
Welcome Dinner @ The Welcome Restaurant
Rest From Travel
Health Checks/Medical Review
Optional Movie from Ethnobotanist, Wade Davis

Accommodation:

Luxury Rental

Day 2 - City Discovery

This is a day to explore the vibrant Caribbean coastal town of Santa Marta. We will begin with breakfast at our luxury rental unit and continue into a lengthy city tour led by one of our local partners to discover more about the city of Santa Marta and the culture that exists there today.

Daily Activities:

Community Bonding Activities
City Tour
Spanish Lesson
First Aid Lesson
Catering Event from Local Chef at our Luxury Rental
Museo Del Oro
Gear Checks

Accommodation:

Luxury Rental

Day 3 - Preparation for The Jungle

In order to embark on our expeditionary section we need to make sure every participant has the adequate camping gear and backpacking gear. We solidify the day with a sharing of our hopes and desires during the experience before we depart into the jungle together.

Daily Activities:

Community Bonding Activities
Expedition Equipment Overview
ABC's of Backpacking
Pack Fitting
Personal Gear Check/Finalization
Group Food Introduction
Spanish Lesson
First Aid Lesson

Accommodation:

Luxury Rental



Day 4 - 7 : Expedition Section

How to Maintain Traditions of Our Ancestors, Flora and Fauna of the UNESCO Biological Reserve - The Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta.

Day 4 - Understanding a New Way of Ecotourism

Camp Location: Bonda

After a small breakfast we depart Santa Marta in the morning and head to the Northwest into the rural valley of Bonda. Finally, we arrive at our first camp location within the mountain range where we stay at La Vida Memoria, an educational center deeply-connected to the nature of The Sierra Nevada mountain range. This will be our first night sleeping in the jungle under the stars and sounds of this unique biome.

Daily Activities:

- Community Bonding Activities
- Hike to La Vida Memoria with Backpacks (2.5 Miles, 1,119ft gain)
- Cacao Farm Tour
- Permaculture Farm Tour
- Mission of La Vida Memoria Farm
- Effects of Tourism in Colombia
- How to Cook in the Outdoors
- Leave No Trace Lesson
- Spanish Lesson
- First Aid Lesson

Accomodation:

Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 5: A Glance at the Traditions of North + South American Indigenous Groups

Camp Location: Paso del Mango

For the next two days we will use La Vida Memoria, as our basecamp to learn more about the plants and animals that live within The Sierra Nevada mountain range. We will be hiking but not moving campsites, allowing us to leave our large backpacks in a secure location at La Vida Memoria.

Daily Activities:

- Community Bonding Activities
- The History of Coca
- Traditional Uses of Plants in the Jungle
- Understanding The Human Role on Earth
- Jungle Exploration
- Spanish Class
- First Aid Lesson
- 8 Forms of Capital Activity

Accomodation:

Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 6: Reconnecting Ourselves to The Heart of the World

Camp Location: Paso del Mango

The indigenous of this mountain range call their home “The Heart of the World” for various reasons. As for- eigners to Colombia, we will spend a majority of the day experiencing the disappearing customs of the North and South American tribes. For example, as an optional experience there will be a Temescal ceremony; an earthen sauna that purifies toxins, stress, and emotional traumas from our lives.

Daily Activities:

- Community Bonding Activities
- Temescal Ceremony - (Indigenous North-American Hot Sauna Experience)
- Jungle Exploration
- Spanish Class
- First Aid Lesson

Accomodation:

Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 7: Rest Day at a Secluded Caribbean Beach

Camp Location: Playa Los Angeles

After our initial nights in the Jungle we head to the secluded Caribbean cove of Playa Los Angeles (The Angel’s Beach). Here we will rest, relax and debrief our previous experience in the Jungle. We will also repack and pre- pare for our next expeditionary section.

Daily Activities:

- Debrief of Experience in the Jungle
- Rest/Individual time
- Evening Meeting
- Seafood of the Coast
- Expedition Preparation
- Food Repack
- Laundry
- Tone Set for Living with The Kogi
- Spanish Class
- First Aid Lesson

Accomodation:

Luxury Caribbean Resort



Day 8 - 13 : Expedition Section

Living with the Indigenous, Reforestation/Composting Toilet Projects, Solo Experience

Day 8: Immersion in the Kogi Culture/Service Project

Camp Location: Chibilongui

We depart in the morning from Playa Los Angeles to Quebrada del Sol via 4x4 vehicles. It takes about 2 hours to transport the group to the community of Quebrada Del Sol, a thriving “campesino community” on the edge of the jungle and the Kogi community of Chibilongui.

Daily Activities:

- Community Greeting from President of Quebrada Del Sol
- Hike with Backpacks (4 Miles, 1,300ft gain, 850ft loss)
- Introduction to Service Project (Composting Bathroom)
- Tree Planting
- Rivers of La Sierra Nevada
- Cultural Integration with The Kogi

Accomodation:

Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 9 - 11: Immersion in the Kogi Culture/Service Project

Camp Location: Chibilongui

Our days with the Kogi will be fluid and focus on limiting our impact while we exchange aspects of our culture. While the community will share traditions and beliefs with us, they operate in a different world without set deadlines or objectives. We cannot 100% plan for what will occur, please be willing and open to experience life in a different way.

Daily Activities:

- First Aid Lessons
- Spanish Lessons
- History of Civil Unrest, Paramilitary, the FARC, and the Interactions between The Indigenous
- Leadership Roles Activity
- Composting Toilet
- Conscious Impact Living Activity
- Breath Work Activity
- Active Listening Activity

Accomodation:

Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 12: Backpack to the Remote Banks of the Buritaca River

Camp Location: Buritaca River

In the morning we will leave the indigenous community and depart for Quebrada Del Sol before being shuttled via vehicle to our Solitude Experience location.

- Daily Activities:**
- Self-Awareness Activity
 - Spanish Lessons
 - First Aid Lessons
 - Means of Attraction Exercise
 - 8 Forms of Capital Reflection

Accomodation:
Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Day 13: A Final Solo Experience on The River Banks of the Buritaca

Camp Location: Buritaca River

On our final full-field day, participants will conduct a 12-hour monitored solitude experience where they can reflect alone about their life and their experience on the expedition.

- Daily Activities:**
- Hike with Backpacks (4 Miles, 900ft gain, 1300ft loss)
 - Purpose of Solo
 - Rules/Protocols of Solo
 - Means of Attraction Exercise
 - Emergency Situations on Solo

Accomodation:
Camping with Bug-Proof Tents in the Jungle



Course Debrief & End

Day 14: Santa Marta/Course End

We start the morning with breakfast and a short walk out of the river corridor of Buritaca River. We provide transport back to Santa Marta to arrive at our luxurious housing after many days in the jungle. During this day, we will also arrange any optional COVID-19 testing that is required for returning to the U.S. and most other countries.

Daily Activities:

- Solo Debrief
- Hike with Backpacks (.8 Miles, 1,400ft gain)
- Live Band for Celebration
- Catered Event
- COVID-19 Testing
- Organize Additional Housing for Participants before they receive Negative COVID-19 Results

Accomodation:

Luxury Rental

DAY 15: Help with Transport to Airport or Next Destination

Officially the course ends on Day 14, however we will accommodate participants with reliable transportation to Santa Marta/Barranquilla Bus and Airport terminals.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NEED A NEGATIVE COVID TEST PRIOR TO EXITING BACK TO MOST OF YOUR HOME COUNTRIES. YOU NEED A TEST TAKEN NO MORE THAN 3 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE AND NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS.

Accomodation:

Not Provided by Expeditionary Costs, however we will help with tests/finding accomodation



Your Guides



Ian Zatarain

Founder, Trip Leader, WFA & WFR Instructor

Wilderness First Responder
Outdoor Educator
6-12th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Leave No Trace Trainer
Professional Facilitator of Group Experiences
Executive Director of The Mojave Center
B.S. Tourism and Outdoor Leadership
A.A. Cultural Anthropology/Archaeology

Ian discovered a love for travel and cultural anthropology while studying at Foothill College. At the age of 18, he participated in an archaeology field study in Belize where students were immersed in the local culture and buried ruins of the ancient Maya civilization. After the trip, Ian had further interests to pursue a life of authentic experience and adventure, which led him to Oregon State University in Bend, Oregon.

Currently, Ian works as an Outdoor Educator in California and Korea for the Athenian School, Chadwick International and the Crossroads School of Arts and Science. Within these programs, students have the opportunity to learn how to rock climb and backpack for up to 26 days while living in nature. As well, Ian teaches wilderness medicine on the western coast of the U.S. to help students gain valuable emergency first-aid skills. After working professionally for eight years, he found himself exploring So. America and Southeast Asia by living with indigenous communities, and contributing to sustainable agricultural projects. He has worked extensively with eco-friendly climbing resorts and seed-saving centers in Thailand and Colombia to spread sustainable agriculture and ecotourism.

In 2019, Guardian - Cultural Expeditions and Wilderness Medicine launched after seven years of research and planning. Ian strives to offer transformative travel experiences to the general public while imparting hands-on first aid knowledge.





Nicolette Wagner

Marketing + Trip Leader

B.A Drafting + Design

The Mojave Center - Co Director

The .raw Collection - owner

Nicolette is a creative designer at heart. She is a documentary photographer, workshop facilitator, and architectural designer. Her list of skills is vast and revolve around gathering people together to hold a sacred space to experience what life has to offer.

While traveling abroad she discovered her purpose and desire to experience cultures, story-tell through her photographs, and document life-changing moments. While traveling she also discovered how much she enjoys learning from various cultures and sharing the knowledge she gains from these groups to the world.

Nicolette was asked to join the Guardian team originally to help document and create marketing materials for their expeditions. She quickly realized how much she resonated with the project and how impactful this type of work truly could be. It has always been a dream of hers to make an impact on a larger scale bigger than herself. Soon after the first adventure with Guardian, she was offered to step into a leadership role as one of their guides to help deepen the participant experience.

Nicolette is also the Creative & Administrative Director of The Mojave Center, an environmentally-focused educational non-profit. In this role, she is able to use her creative abilities to design sustainable human settlements, instruct natural building workshops, and facilitate groups in a desert environment.

Through her life-experiences, Nicolette knows first-hand how important it is to sustain the unique diversity of cultural heritage around the world. As well, she understands the longevity of the human species is dependant on the design of sustainable human communities. She is passionate about providing experiences that connect us to the natural world while providing meaningful knowledge and tools for all the people she works with.





Michael Echeverry

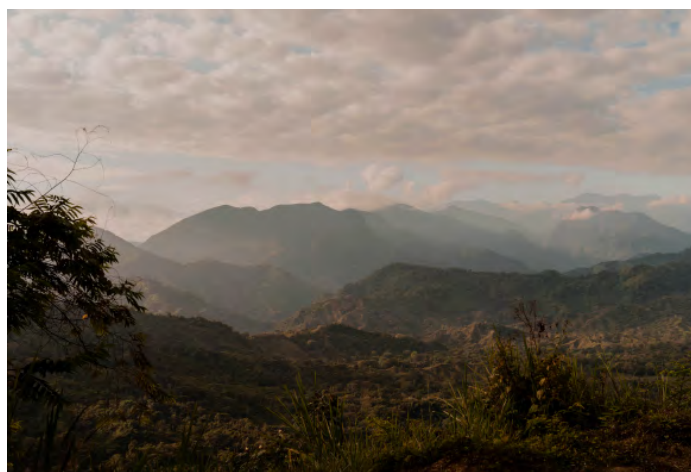
Translator

Colombian/American

Although born and raised in California, Michael cherishes his Colombian roots. His parents were both born in Colombia and he grew up surrounded by relatives who taught him to speak Spanish as his first language.

He is an essential part of the Guardian team as he continues to bridge the communication gap between English language speakers and the Spanish speaking locals Guardian interacts with. He feels there is a lot to be gained from connecting with indigenous cultures who have continued to live off the land for so many generations and continue to share sustainable practices that may help them prosper independently from a system that can abuse their cultural freedom.

When he isn't digging for records, Michael enjoys hiking, speaking Spanish, natural building, and skateboarding.



Course Details

EXPEDITION DATES & COST

July 10th, 2021 - July 23rd, 2021

\$1,999

*The cost does not include airfare

*Scholarships are available upon request and need

*Travel Insurance is REQUIRED

*Ages 18+, must have a passport

Includes:

- Backpacking skill development
- Indigenous culture exchange with Kogi and Arhuaco Indians
- Service projects in La Sierra Nevada
 - Reforestation of La Sierra Nevada
- Composting Toilet Project in the Kogi village
 - Lodging Accomodations
 - Meals
- Spanish Language immersion
- Cultural/Human History of our course area
- Jungle Exploration + Knowledge

Accommodation

Depending on where we are, we will use the most appropriate and comfortable housing option available. Expedition accommodation will range from tents, hammocks, entire home rentals, hostel dormitories, and hotel rooms. Due to the remote nature of some sections of travel, we will also be camping in 2 - 4 person tents. We use either MSR, Big Agnes, Mountain Hardware or Black Diamond tents designed to be lightweight and for all seasons. We will provide tents while traveling in remote areas, however participants are responsible for acquiring sleeping sheets, bags and pads.

Food

We acknowledge that dietary restrictions vary depending on the participant's medical history or personal preference. Some of these restrictions can cause serious allergic reactions that require crucial medications for intervention. Currently, Colombia has begun to understand the importance behind vegetarian meals and will usually have a few options at every restaurant we visit. However, the variety of vegetarian and vegan meals is limited and will be supplemented by this expedition. We will offer different grains commonly found in the U.S., various local vegetables, exotic fruits, and trail bars/snacks from U.S. brands for participants to fit every dietary need possible. Our initial email communications focus on medical and dietary restrictions, we will work with every participant to ensure they are heard and their needs are met.



EXPEDITION COST - \$1,999
DEPOSIT - \$500
Paypal - guardianmedicines@gmail.com
Venmo - @guardianmedicines

Deposit Policy

A \$500 deposit is required to hold your place on the program and is due no longer than two weeks after an acceptance decision is communicated.

Tuition Refund Policy

In light of the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, GUARDIAN is offering a modified refund policy for 2021 international program participants:

After the respective refund deadlines, should GUARDIAN choose to cancel any program due to changing circumstances participants will have three available options:

1. Transfer to a future GUARDIAN expedition or wilderness medicine course offered in 2021 or 2022 (space permitting).
2. Receive a full refund minus any unrecoverable flight fees

Should a participant choose to cancel for any reason after the refundable deadlines listed above, 20% of the program fees will be refundable up until 1 week before the scheduled departure date. However, if a participant initiates a cancellation after the refund deadline and GUARDIAN later needs to cancel the program, the participant would receive a full refund minus unrecoverable flight costs (the same as a GUARDIAN initiated cancellation).

*The Updated Refund Policy is only for international programs. For US domestic semesters, our standard Refund Policy stated above applies.

Because Guardian makes overseas commitments and other financial decisions on behalf of participants in advance of the program based upon enrollment, there are financial penalties which are applied in cases of participant cancellation. The following policies apply in all cases, regardless of the reason the participant chooses to cancel his/her participation in the program.

All notification of participation cancellation must be received via email.

If notice of participation cancellation is received within less than 7 days of scheduled program start, the participant will forfeit 50% of the tuition.

From the program start through the conclusion of the program, tuition is non-refundable for any reason, including but not limited to, physical or mental illness or injury, voluntary departure, personal emergencies, and participant dismissal.

Tuition Payment

The full balance of program tuition is due 14 days prior to departure.

Participants accepted within 30 days of departure must submit payment within 2 weeks of acceptance. Participants who are accepted within 14 days of departure must submit deposit immediately upon acceptance and full tuition before 7 days of departure. Please see below for full terms and conditions related to tuition payment.

COVID 19 - Mitigation

Due to an unprecedented pandemic, **GUARDIAN - Cultural Expeditions & Wilderness Medicine** will adapt to a new set of challenges while conducting an international expedition.

PLEASE VISIT WORLD NOMADS PAGE FOR LATEST TRAVEL ALERTS AND WARNINGS HERE

Procedures to mitigate the spread and infection of COVID-19:

As of 4/8/2021

Total Cases - start of Pandemic: 2,500,000 Current active Cases: 59,000 Total Deaths: 64,000

Santa Marta Cases: 33,000

[Review Current Case Count Here](#)

FILL OUT AN IMMIGRATION FORM ONLINE BETWEEN 24 HOURS AND UP TO 1 HOUR BEFORE THE FLIGHT

- OUR AIM - To travel as a “small pod” that is COVID - Free. While we may interact with other people, it is important for us to be conscious of our potential impact on others. We will not be utilizing masks or limiting distance to each other on the trip. PLEASE keep this in mind if you are uncomfortable with the pandemic.
- MASKS - We need everyone to bring a Buff and N95 mask for our travel on public transport
- HANDWASHING - Please bring personal hand sanitizer and soap. We will have enough to provide 1 bottle of hand sanitizer and soap to each person.
- TESTING - Prior to arrival at your IN-COUNTRY airport -- Please acquire a PCR Test and a submission of results 2-3 days before departing for your flight to your GUARDIAN Expedition or Wilderness Medicine course.

IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED YOU STILL NEED TO HAVE A TEST AND SEND US YOUR RESULTS.

Please schedule a COVID-19 test within 96 hours of your departing flight. This will give enough time for results before you depart. If possible get a test and its results as close to your departure date as possible.

Do not get a rapid test, please get a PCR test to ensure accuracy, don't wait until the last minute to get a test!

****Please quarantine for at least 14 days prior to the start of the expedition (July 10th)****



IN ADDITION TO TESTING. DURING THE 2 WEEKS PRIOR. WE HIGHLY SUGGEST YOU STRICTLY ADHERE TO THESE PRACTICES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID 19:

- Wear a mask when in any public place.
- Maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet whenever possible.
- Practice impeccable hygiene, including frequent hand washing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- From November 4th, travelers no longer require a test to enter Colombia, however we will still take one to help mitigate the risk of spreading Coronavirus to each other.
- Normal visa requirements apply. If you are a citizen of a country where a visa is required, you must obtain a visa before your trip. If you are flying from the US, no visa is required.
- Travelers have an obligation to report follow-up health checks via the mobile app 'CoronApp'. This is only if you end up having symptoms.
- We will take another COVID-19 test on arrival in Colombia, however testing can be complicated and difficult.
- In the case of a participant contracting the disease COVID-19 we will ALL quarantine as a group until we can receive testing and clear ourselves of infecting others.
- In the event of an all group quarantine we will arrange all accommodation so we can easily quarantine together.
- You will not be able to travel on an airplane if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- We encourage social distancing of 6ft from each other and the international community. However, due to the nature of our program we must accept that it may be difficult to maintain distancing.
- By signing the ASSUMPTION OF RISK & RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT you agree to any unforeseen risks we may encounter while on an international expedition including the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19.



Safety & Risk Management

Guardian Trip Leaders facilitate and work directly with local Colombian guides who have been certified and trained to handle any emergency situation that may arise. Our Trip Leaders have a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician (WEMT) certification that goes above and beyond any other tour/guide company in South America. We are trained medical care providers and have worked with individuals in remote areas of the world. Guardian is Licensed and Insured by Zurich American Insurance Company c/o Donald C. Pachner, Pachner & Associates, LLC, POB 140, Keene, NY 12942. We also require additional travel insurance offered by World Nomads. <https://www.worldnomads.com/usa/> for all participants before arrival.

In the event of a medical incident, we will assess onsite to determine if the incident is:
Class A). Requires immediate evacuation
Class B). In-field treatment can be managed and further evaluation by local doctors is needed.

For a Class A emergency, we will utilize all our resources to activate an immediate evacuation from the field to the local hospital. Travel insurance will be utilized for that participant in order for the patient to quickly return home for further medical treatment, if needed. In the event of a Class A or Class B incident, Guardian staff will serve as emergency First Responders to conduct any life-saving treatment, assist in evacuation and coordinate with designated “out-of-country” contact for that specific participant.

We utilize a network of local hospitals in our operating area to coordinate evacuations and use the best resources available in careful consideration of the injury/illness.

The best hospitals we chose to work with are the following:

Santa Marta Hospital - Cra. 19a #23-3, Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia, +57 5 4206465
Centro de Salud Guachaca - +57 318 2543506
Hospital Nuestra Señora de los Remedios - Cl. 9a #15139, Riohacha, La Guajira, Colombia +57 5 7270053
Hospital Our Lady of Perpetual Help a 6-59,, Tv. 8 #625, Uribia, La Guajira,
Colombia General Hospital of Barranquilla, Cl. 33 #33-09, Barranquilla, Atlántico, Colombia, +5753797582



Program Itinerary

Our intention is to create a program that addresses the goals and program elements as listed in each program description. All participants and families are advised to note that program itineraries will change. When changes are made to incorporate participant goals and interests, adjust to the health of the group, or made necessary because of foul weather, problems with transportation, political unrest or any other unforeseen problem, we will work to structure the program so that it stays true to its original intent.

Program Tuition Includes:

- All accommodation
- All meals
- All ground transportation
- Museum, park, and other entrance fees
- Donations to charitable causes in the host country
- Materials for service projects for areas we operate in
- Instructor, faculty, and extra guide fees
- On-site equipment rental (e.g. bike rental, snorkel rental, etc.)

Not included in tuition are personal expenses such as the cost of obtaining passports, visa fees, laundry, medical fees, cost of evacuation, airport taxes, email, health and travel insurance, extra baggage fees, phone calls, lodging before and after trip dates, academic supplies, etc. The cost of international airfare is not included in the tuition price.

Air Travel

Participants will purchase their own airline tickets. Participants will receive specific information on how to arrive and depart dates/times to ensure we are all together at the start of the trip. Late arrivals or early departures are not ideal. We suggest purchasing Flight Insurance with your ticket and arriving in Colombia during the morning or midday. Please feel free to arrive early and enjoy the country before our expedition.

Flights should be booked to either Simon Bolivar International Airport (Santa Marta, Colombia) or Ernesto Cortisoz International Airport (Barranquilla, Colombia). The airport in Barranquilla is a 2 hour bus ride from Santa Marta and tends to have more frequent flights. However, unless you do not have adequate Spanish language skills, we do not suggest you fly to Barranquilla.

For flights to Simon Bolivar International Airport (Santa Marta, Colombia) - A Guardian staff member will meet every participant at the Santa Marta airport to assist with transportation to our designated meeting spot. For flights to Ernesto Cortisoz International Airport (Barranquilla, Colombia) - Upon arrival to Barranquilla, you will need to take a Taxi to Terminal Metropolitana de Transportes de Barranquilla S.A, which is about a 8.5 km ride (22 minutes). From there you will need to take a bus headed for Santa Marta. There are various companies including Berlinas, Brasilia and Copetran. We suggest taking Berlinas or Brasilia if possible, due to the less frequent stops these bus companies make. We can arrange pick up from Santa Marta Bus Terminal.



Program Cancellation and Rerouting

Guardian reserves the right to cancel any program if there is insufficient enrollment or as a result of health, safety, or security concerns in the host country beyond our control. A full refund will be granted for canceled programs that arise out of insufficient enrollment, though Guardian is not responsible for other costs incurred by clients preparing for the program. For programs that we cancel due to any other event that is beyond our control, Guardian will refund all tuition less costs already incurred (Deposit/Tuition).

Guardian may choose to cancel or re-route a program that is in-progress if circumstances arise that, in Guardian judgement, make the continuation of a program no longer tenable. Circumstances that could result in a cancellation or re-route may include natural disaster, health epidemic, political turmoil, government recommendation, etc. In such situations, Guardian will explore reasonable alternative arrangements to re-route the program to another Guardian selected location or will cancel the program. Guardian will take reasonable steps to notify the participant of his/her options and otherwise limit the costs associated with the occurrence, to the extent possible. However, the participant agrees to be financially responsible for all costs expended on his/her behalf such as alternative international flight, travel, academic, and accommodation costs and to otherwise reimburse Guardian for any financial obligation incurred in this regard. Should a program be cancelled or a participant choose to not continue on a program that is re-routed, Guardian will determine what, if any, portion of unspent program fees may be refunded to the participant.

Special Trip Insurance

Guardian is not responsible for costs associated with cancelled enrollment (such as cancellation due to a personal emergency), programs that cancel for reasons beyond our control or due to low enrollment, evacuations, and/or separations from programs. Examples of these costs are: tuition, non-refundable flights, and international flight costs incurred by program re-routing due to health, safety, or security concerns. We recommend that you talk with your insurance agent about special trip insurance that may cover these kinds of costs. As well, consult World Nomads at www.worldnomads.com for comprehensive Travel/Trip insurance at an affordable cost.



Medical and Evacuation Expenses

It is the responsibility of the participant and his/her family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment of emergency services when required. Consult World Nomads at www.worldnomads.com for comprehensive Travel/Trip insurance that covers Medical and Evacuation Expenses.

Guardian Rules and Regulations

If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host country, other participants on the program, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the program or in violation of our policies, Guardian reserves the right to send the participant home without refund. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are a cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who voluntarily choose to return early for any reason, including but not limited to sickness, personal emergencies, or injury, will be responsible for all associated costs, such as medical costs, and related travel and logistical costs associated with an early departure.

Visa and Travel Documents

Applicants must be in possession of a valid passport for international travel, complete with usable visa pages. The date of expiry must be beyond 6 months from the date of course departure. Upon admission to the program, detailed instructions for acquiring appropriate visas will be sent to the applicant, however, participants are responsible for obtaining a visa specific to their nationality’s requirements and restrictions.

For countries that require travel visas, Guardian can advise participants on the visa process and connect you with visa agents with whom we work, but we cannot guarantee that participants will be granted visas or directly provide services to obtain visas. Please research the visa process specific to your nationality and check in with the Guardian Admissions team as needed before finalizing travel plans for your program.

Health Requirements and Safety Considerations

All Guardian programs are rugged, and all require good physical conditioning. If you have any questions regarding the physical demands of a program, please call or email our office. All participants will be responsible for submitting to us a completed health form that is signed by a physician, and that completely and accurately represents the current mental and physical well-being of the participant. Guardian staff have the right to disqualify any member from the group if considered medically necessary, and will do so if a participant or family member falsely represents the participant in interviews, the application, the participant’s health form, or any other required paperwork. In the event of a medical emergency, Guardian will attempt to procure medical treatment; however, we assume no liability regarding provision of medical care. Participants are urged to check their insurance coverage for its adequacy when outside of their own country, or to purchase travel health insurance.

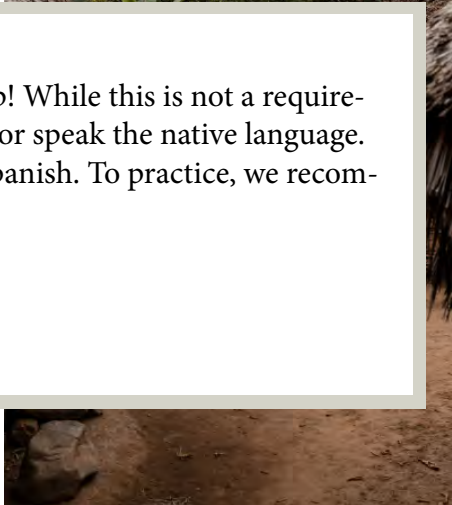
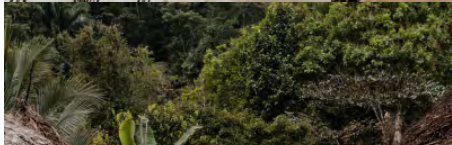
Limitations of Liability

Participants and their parents will be required to read and sign an “Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and Release and Indemnity Agreement” prior to participating in our program.

Language Preparation

We strongly urge participants to practice spanish before embarking on the trip! While this is not a requirement, certain cultural elements are missed when a person cannot understand or speak the native language. We will facilitate our best with professional translators and guides that speak spanish. To practice, we recommend these two programs.

ROSETTA STONE
DUOLINGO



THANK YOU!

We encourage you to participate in an expedition of a lifetime. Your participation is pivotal in creating a world where tourism positively affects the places we love to visit. Help us to develop a new era of international travel that is built upon the values of cultural recognition, sustainability of beautiful places, and the appreciation of wild spaces.



SEE YOU IN THE JUNGLE

“The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you; they are unique manifestations of the human spirit.” ~ Wade Davis

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