



**PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN**

## **MAGDALENA RIVER CRUISE: COLOMBIA'S HIDDEN GEMS**

13 days from **£4,800pp**

**COLOMBIA / CARTAGENA / CARIBBEAN COAST AND ISLANDS**



# WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

## WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

## OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

### WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

### TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

### THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



## OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Enjoy a cruise along Colombia's mythical Magdalena River through historic colonial towns pulsating with Latin rhythms. Begin by exploring historic Cartagena before your enchanting eight-day river cruise, then discover the wildlife-rich jungle of Tayrona National Park and relax on Caribbean beaches.

Arrive in the colonial walled city of Cartagena and discover its fascinating history on a series of walking tours. Then embark on your river boat for an unforgettable eight-day cruise through northern Colombia's heartlands.

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Arrive in historic Cartagena</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>At leisure in Cartagena</b>
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>Cruise on the Magdalena River</b>
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>Historic towns of Palenque and Calamar</b>
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>Magangue birdwatching</b>
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>Mompox walking tour and Ciénaga Pijiño wildlife</b>
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>Cumbia music performance</b>
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>Santa Barbara de Pinto walking tour and live music</b>
<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Nueva Venecia and Barranquilla</b>
<b>DAY 10</b>	<b>Transfer to Tayrona National Park</b>
<b>DAYS 11-12</b>	<b>At leisure in Tayrona National Park</b>
<b>DAY 13</b>	<b>Transfer to Santa Marta airport for international flight home.</b>

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# ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

### Arrive in historic Cartagena

Arrive in Cartagena and take a private transfer to your hotel.

Caribbean's most exotic and romantic colonial city, Cartagena was founded in 1533, quickly blossoming to become the main Spanish port in the Caribbean, and a gateway to the north of the continent. Treasure plundered from native inhabitants was stored here until the galleons could ship it back to Spain, and it became a tempting target for pirates. To protect their booty, the Spanish constructed an elaborate system of ramparts, which still encircle the town.

Today, while Cartagena has expanded dramatically, the walled centre has changed very little, allowing a glimpse of 16th and 17th-century Spanish architecture. Enjoy the shade provided by the buildings in these labyrinthine, cobbled streets, and explore the monasteries, palaces, churches, plazas, and imposing mansions with flower-filled balconies.

Beyond this, the city opens up: an eclectic and seductive mix of Caribbean and African influences produces a vibrant street life, with fruit stalls lining the roads and pulsating rhythms emerging from cars and houses.

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## DAY 2

### At leisure in Cartagena

Enjoy another day in beautiful Cartagena. Explore the city independently at leisure or consider an optional guided tour of the historic walled city, the forts and battlements to help you soak up the atmosphere of this seductive city.

Alternatively, go further afield and take a speedboat to spend the day on the coral, palm-kissed beaches of the nearby Rosario Islands.

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### DAY 3

#### Cruise on the Magdalena River

Take your private transfer from the hotel to the pier to embark on your river cruise boat.

Then enjoy a walking tour through the Getsemani neighbourhood, taking in the vibrant colours of the homes and street art as well as sampling local delicacies.

Upon returning to your boat, enjoy a sundown cruise as your river adventure begins.

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### DAY 4

#### Historic towns of Palenque and Calamar

Step into the story of Palenque, the first "free town" in the Americas, where music, language, and traditions tell a tale of resilience and pride. Experience the rhythm of Afro-Colombian culture through vibrant performances and heartfelt encounters. Later, journey to Calamar to admire its historic charm, from graceful churches to colorful streets best explored by paola, a local bicycle taxi built for two.

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### DAY 5

#### Magangue birdwatching

Board a small boat and drift through the emerald wetlands of Boca de Tacaloo, where vibrant birdlife and untamed nature create a living sanctuary. As evening falls, arrive in Mompox and feel the streets come alive with an exclusive open-air jazz performance.

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### DAY 6

#### Mompox walking tour and Ciénaga Pijiño wildlife

Step into the timeless rhythm of Mompox, where riverside streets and artisan workshops seem untouched by time. Glide through quiet corners and watch delicate filigree craftsmanship come to life, feeling the enduring spirit and vibrant culture of this storied town.

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## DAY 7

### Cumbia music performance

Journey through the tranquil La Mojana Region, a landscape alive with the pulse of Colombian culture. Here, the story of cumbia unfolds – a dance that bridges continents and generations, carrying the spirit of joy and connection. End the day immersed in its rhythm during an exclusive performance by local musicians and dancers.

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## DAY 8

### Santa Barbara de Pinto walking tour and live music

Spend your morning in Santa Barbara de Pinto, located on the banks of the Mompox arm of the Magdalena River.

Enjoy a walking tour through this traditional town to see local landmarks such as the Santa Barbara Church, then browse intricate handmade crafts created in the town.

In the afternoon, arrive at the town of Mompox, where you will be welcomed with lively music during an exclusive jazz performance by local musicians.

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## DAY 9

### Nueva Venecia and Barranquilla

In the morning, visit the Floating Village of Nueva Venecia. A charming town filled with inviting locals, Nueva Venecia, or “New Venice,” can only be navigated by boat.

Tour the village to see its beautiful colonial houses, vivid architecture and local sanctuary protecting the native flora and fauna. Enjoy traditional crafts, learn about the techniques the fishermen of Nueva Venecia use, and taste the local delicacies.

Later in the day, continue to the Caribbean city of Barranquilla, a vibrant destination home to notable musicians, writers and artists. Visit famous landmarks such as Bocas de Cenizas, the point at which the magical Magdalena River meets the Caribbean Sea, and the Carnaval Museum, which showcases the unique history of this incredible festival. In the evening, enjoy an exclusive Carnival celebration.

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## DAY 10

### Transfer to Tayrona National Park

As your river cruise comes to an end in Barranquilla, take your private transfer to Tayrona National Park.

Enjoy this enchanting region of thick, humid jungle and unspoilt Caribbean beaches fringed by coconut palms, once home to the indigenous Tayrona people. Jungle paths follow tree-covered trails surrounded by tropical dry forest, with monkeys swinging in the trees.

You'll be staying in a comfortable cabaña with spectacular ocean views.

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## DAYS 11-12

### At leisure in Tayrona National Park

Take a variety of trails through the humid rainforest and tropical dry forests, stopping off at mysterious archaeological sites along the way.

One of the most popular treks is following an ancient stairway to the fascinating archaeological site of Pueblito, reminiscent of the better-known Ciudad Perdida.

Over 100 species of mammals inhabit the region, so keep an eye out for monkeys, sloths and iguanas, as well as a vast array of colourful birds.

You'll have a day at leisure to further explore and enjoy some downtime. Wander barefoot along white sand beaches, unwind in a hammock and sip cocktails as the sun sets over the Caribbean Sea.

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## DAY 13

Transfer to Santa Marta airport for international flight home.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office  
Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides  
All land and air transport within Latin America  
Accommodation as specified  
Meals as specified  
Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

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## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

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## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities  
Meals other than specified  
International flights to Latin America  
Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket  
Optional excursions

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## ESSENTIALS

### SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

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Available from September 2025.

13 days, 12 nights: Cartagena 2; Magdalena River Cruise 7; Tayrona National Park 3.

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### GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

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Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

#### GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

**0208 747 8315**

#### OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

#### SEND US AN EMAIL

[tours@journeylatinamerica.com](mailto:tours@journeylatinamerica.com)