



A Colombian Journey:
Coffee, Culture & Community
Frequently Asked Questions
June 22 - July 1, 2025

- 1. What are the goals of the trip?** This immersive, transformational, and restorative journey offers Participants a chance to reconnect with nature, encounter new perspectives, and gain an awareness of the social, environmental, and cultural responsibilities of the Coffee Country of Colombia. The trip will focus on various topics such as coffee farms, education, indigenous peoples and traditions, environment, global issues, and more. Participants will have various opportunities to interact 1-1 and in small groups with Colombians such as students, educators, farmers, and families.
- 2. Who can join this program?** There are 16 places available for our Summer 2025 Colombia Program. Spanish language educators, including current K-12 and college/university professors, retired, pre-service educators, and those between jobs are eligible. We also welcome any educators and school administrators who want to practice their Spanish language skills. Participants may invite an adult family member or friend who expresses interest in this kind of program. Completed applications with deposits will be processed on a first-come, first-ranked basis for program acceptance. We will maintain a waitlist in case a space becomes available. Contact info@viveexperience.com for information if you want to lead a trip for adults, or a trip with non-Spanish speaking teachers.
- 3. What will it cost?** The program costs \$2980 USD, and includes all meals, tours, entrance fees, and in-country transportation. This quote does NOT include airfare to/from Colombia, any recommended vaccinations or personal health care costs, any extra activities such as spa treatments, souvenirs, required trip insurance, snacks, alcohol, and optional tips.
- 4. How do I secure my spot?** First, submit a non-refundable deposit of \$100 and your application at <https://www.viveexperience.com/colombia>. Then, complete your monthly payments through April 30, 2025. Vive will send you an invoice for your payments online. Contact Vive if you wish to pay by check or purchase order through your educational institution prior to payment deadlines.
- 5. Where does the trip begin and end?** The trip begins upon your arrival at the Jose Maria Cordova International Airport in Medellín where a private taxi will pick you up and bring you to our hotel. On our last day, our trip ends after breakfast. We will provide transportation to the Matecaña International Airport in Pereira where you can fly home or travel to another destination of your choice.
- 6. How much time will I spend outside?** A lot! We will be outside everyday visiting the sights, exploring local markets, going on hikes, visiting local coffee fincas, and walking around cities and towns. We will spend time in our private bus/van. You may have the option to do a bike ride and/or horse ride during the tour. There will be opportunities to swim or spend time in thermal baths. Sunscreen, hats, and insect repellent will be essential.
- 7. What sort of documents do I need to enter Colombia?** See this link from the [US State Department](#) for passport, entry requirements, and safety information. Participants should have passports valid for travel to/from the USA for 6 months beyond travel dates with at least two blank pages. Non-USA nationals must verify their paperwork needs independently. A Yellow Fever Certificate is not needed to enter Colombia from the USA. Currently, US and Canadian citizens do not need special tourist visas to enter the country. Any person born in Colombia or of Colombian parentage may be considered a Colombian



citizen, even if never documented as such and may need to meet additional requirements. Applicants from other countries should check to verify what documentation is required. Travelers must complete the free Migración Colombia's [Online Check-Mig Form](#) within 72 hours of boarding an inbound or outbound flight from Colombia.

8. **What safety measures will be taken during the trip?** Vive has 24/7 Trip Leaders and/or local guide(s) equipped with phones. U.S. citizens should register at the US Embassy in Bogota via [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) for alerts and updates. All participants will have a Security Briefing upon arrival in country, and will be given additional local information and emergency information. Vive rents vehicles with professional drivers exclusively for our group, avoiding travel at night. When on foot, we will typically be in pairs or a group, aware of our surroundings. According to the US State Department, as of May 1, 2023 the [current advisory level is 3](#). We will avoid high-risk activities and locations. Our local contacts will continuously monitor the safety situation.
9. **What health concerns should I be aware of?** According to the [CDC-Colombia site](#), the current advisory alert level is 1 (practice normal precautions). Every participant should have Covid and standard vaccinations up-to-date as recommended by a doctor. Check with your healthcare insurance regarding coverage and fees to budget for non-covered immunizations. Any known anaphylactic issues or other serious health issues should be discussed with one's doctor. Food allergies, sensitivities, or preferences may be difficult to accommodate, but we will do our best. Insect repellent and long-sleeves are recommended to avoid mosquito and fruit fly bites.
10. **Can I drink alcohol during the trip? Are drugs legal?** Participants are encouraged to drink responsibly if they choose to purchase a drink at a meal. Participants should not bring any marijuana products with them on the trip, and its use is prohibited during the trip. Other prescription drugs are permitted in original packaging.
11. **What sort of insurance do I need?** Every participant must purchase their own travel insurance for the dates of our trip and provide a copy of the policy. Pricing may vary depending on age, state of residence, and dates/location of trip. Insurance should cover trip cancellation of the program cost, trip interruption, emergency medical, emergency transportation, baggage loss/damage, baggage delay, and travel delay.
12. **What about wifi and charging electronics?** Wifi access in our lodgings may be unreliable. Check with your phone plan regarding coverage and pricing for Colombia. Vive recommends bringing a notebook, phone/small camera. Standard voltage is 110 V; electrical outlets are like those in the USA.
13. **What can I wear/pack?** Every participant may bring one small to medium suitcase and one smaller backpack, and avoid valuables such as jewelry. With temperatures in the 70s-90s in summer, pack lightweight, breathable clothes such as long cotton or linen pants, long skirts/dresses, t-shirts, polo shirts, blouses. Because the temperatures drop in the evenings, bring one lightweight sweater, a light jacket, and a raincoat. To visit the coffee fields, we recommend hiking shoes or good tennis shoes, a long sleeve shirt, and long pants/jeans and anything you need for sun and bug protection.
14. **What about money?** We recommend bringing an ATM or debit card to withdraw around \$200 USD in Colombian pesos at the airport upon arrival. The recommended amount of money varies depending on what souvenirs you may purchase or optional tips. Infrequently, credit cards could be used for purchases in a store, but typically cash is required. If you bring USD, small bills may be better.

Last updated on November 19, 2024

