Bike Ecuador &Colombia

Andes to the Caribbean





Guayaquil – Bogota or Cartagena
or Colombia from Bogota

14 Days Colombia only Departs 2 June from NZ$4150
26 Days Departs:21 May 2019 from NZ$8250
Optional Extension to Cartagena 3 days NZ$495

- **Cuenca - stunning colonial vistas**
- **Ecuador's dramatic Avenue of the Volcanoes**
- **Devils Nose Railway**
- **Mt Cotopaxi & Banos**
- **Quito & Indian Markets -Otavalo**
- **Stunning country haciendas**
- **Medellin -city of eternal spring**
- **Colombia's Coffee Country**
- **Bogota -city of contrasts ,vibrant**
- **Ride the Chichamocha Canyon**
- **Discover South America's best kept secret "Colombia"**
- **Cartagena on the Caribbean coast**

Latin Link Adventure
The South American Specialists
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Bonded Member of Travel Agents Association of New Zealand

Information Sheet –

Bike Colombia section only 14 Days (2-15 June 2019)

Days 13-26 from Bogota back to Bogota **NZ$4150** , single supplementNZ$595

Bike Ecuador & Colombia

Departure: 21 May 2019

Fully Guided – 26 days from Guayaquil to Bogota or 29 days to Cartagena

Bike Ecuador& Colombia *NZ$8250 single room supplement NZ$1095

Cartagena Extension NZ$495 single room supplement NZ$270

The largest mega-diversity on the planet makes it home in Ecuador, the center of the world. With a privileged climate and the most breathtaking landscapes, the essence of Latin America merge to create a unique and unforgettable destination. The Andes in Ecuador has an area of approximately 600 km in length; it has elevations ranging from the 1500m in the subtropical valleys to elevations that exceed the 5000m at the summits of the highest volcano

From Guayaquil on the coast to Cuenca in the highlands Cuenca fuses culture, nature and tradition.

For an unforgettable active holiday in the Andes, bike along Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes, ride the Devils Nose Railway , bike around Banos and Mt Cotopaxi . Then to its capital Quito. We bike through the land of the Otavalenos . The indigenous Otavaleños are famous for weaving textiles, usually made of wool which are sold at the famous Saturday market. Stay in beautiful country haciendas

The colourful diversity of Ecuador is simply "stunning"

Colombia -"South America's best kept secret", has undergone many changes in the last 10 years and is now the continent's 3rd biggest economy . A tropical country of incredible diversity and charm. Its ever-changing geography, a history loaded with mystery and adventure, its people and cultures, have fascinated the world for centuries.Friendly people , diverse landscapes , great music make this an ideal place to travel through.

Our journey takes us through the colonial white city of Popayan , the coffee region of Armenia to fashionable Medellin. Then to its capital Bogota , one of the worlds leading cycling cities . Through the breathtaking Boyaca & Santander regions with lovely colonial towns, big canyons(Chichamocha 2nd largest in world) and great biking trails . Option to end the tour in lovely Cartagena de Indias , rated one of the top cities in the world to visit.

So no unpleasant surprises once you are in South America - you know before you leave exactly what this trip will cost and it is a bonus not having to dip into your money belt all the time to pay for 'EXTRAS'. We pride ourselves on being totally up front before you leave. Compare our inclusions for yourself, detailed on our Trip Dossier.

We want your adventure to be as hassle-free as possible, so you can expect the following whilst planning to explore the "Bike Ecuador & Colombia "

Cost Includes:

ALL transport (boats, buses, taxis, trains etc)	ALL accommodation 3 star hotels/lodges (twin/double share)
ALL entrance fees as per itinerary	ALL support vehicles
ALL national park entrance fees	
ALL sightseeing as per itinerary	ALL transfers as per itinerary
Services of experienced local guides	Breakfasts daily, 21 lunches
Services of experienced Tour Leader	Airfares Medellin-Bogota & Bucarmaranga-Bogota

Does not include:

Bike hire (allow NZ$600 for complete tour or $200 for Colombia section only)It is possible to take your own Tips (allow US$200), Insurance, Laundry, Personal Spending, Medical Expenses

NB These costs based on you flying internationally to/from South America with LATAM Airlines. Should you travel on another airline a surcharge may apply

With LATAM allowing 2 pieces of baggage up to 23kg each it is feasible to take your own bike in a bike bag which LATAM would charge US$100 each way

NOTE ON FLIGHTS

****International flights on LATAM Airlines Auckland – Guayaquil & Bogota or Cartagena – Auckland are in addition to costs stated above. As there can be seasonal specials on airfares these can vary between NZ$1500 and $2500 depending on when they are purchased. We will quote you the best airfares at the time of booking and keep you informed on any seasonal specials between time of booking and departure**

All flights are with scheduled airlines, Lan Chile, Lan Ecuador , LAN Colombia economy class.

All flights are booked by Latin Link Adventure and all LATAM flights are eligible for Qantas Frequent Flyer Points.

NOTES:

(I) IT IS NECESSARY - to have Hepatitis A Inoculation for this trip

(II) VISAS are not required for NZ passport holders

HOW TO BOOK:

Send us your Reservation form with your deposit of $500 to confirm your place

Latin Link Adventure – The South America Specialists

Day	Date	Program	Overnight
1	**Tues**	**Guayaquil** For those travelling from NZ you can travel on LAN Airlines direct to Santiago with a connection to Guayaquil , arriving there late evening . On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel . Accommodation: Grand Hotel *www.**grandhotelguayaquil**.com* *Guayaquil is Ecuador's major commercial city, quite tropical , situated on the coast*	Guayaquil
2	**Wed**	**Guayaquil- Cuenca** Later this morning transfer to the bus station and travel by bus from the tropical lowlands through banana plantations and into the Andes climbing to 2500m to the lovely colonial city of Cuenca Accommodation: Hotel Casa del Aguila www.hotelcasadelaguila.com	Cuenca (B)
3	**Thurs**	**Cuenca** Cuenca ï Macas ï first you have an hour and a half drive out of Cuenca through Gualeceo to the Virgin ï start again at 4000m ï it is a really interesting ride ï mainly downhill (with some up and downs) from paramo to rainforest ï so spectacular scenery changes. From the Virgin through Paute to Macas. Road is mostly paved and has much less traffic. *(5km uphill, then 30km descent ,1-2km up)*	Cuenca(B,L)
4	**Fri**	**Cuenca-Riobamba** *Cuenca through to Quito is known as the Avenue of the Volcanoes - spectacular scenery* Travel from Cuenca to Alausi ï bike in the morning from Alausi towards Huigra ï you drive about 15 minutes up out of Alausi ï mountain bike along a paved road ï little traffic ï very scenic (farmland) ï first 4km uphill then downhill ï around 2 hours. Then we ride the Devils Nose Railway ï a series of spectacular switchbacks on and travel onto Riobamba for the night. Accommodation: Hacienda Abraspungo *www.**haciendaabraspungo**.com* *4km uphill, then 30km descent ,1-2km up)*	Riobamba (B,L)
5	**Sat**	**Riobamba- Patate** Drive up towards the Chimborazo Volcano (4600m)and mountain bike down to 2500m - again it is a paved road but there is little traffic ï paramo, farmland and volcano scenery - then you ride along a river canyon before arriving in the town of Ambato . Continue to our hacienda near Patate Accommodation: Hacienda Manteles www.haciendamanteles.com *46km mainly downhill*	Banos (B,L)

6	**Sun**	**<u>Patate -Banos -Cotopaxi</u>** This morning you mountain bike from Manteles region into Banos ï around 2 hours ï paved road with little traffic. Great views including Tungurahua Volcano. In the afternoon visit the waterfalls by bike .. A fun time is certain to be had with this tour of the incredible Route of the Waterfalls! It begins with a 20 minute bike ride to the first waterfall, Agoyan, where we will stop to rest and take photos. The next stop is the spectacular Manto de la Novia. The cable car ride we will take over the booming Pastaza river will give us an up-close view of the crashing falls. The Ecuadorian landscapes will amaze you as we wind our way 18 km through the small village of Rio Verde and stop to stand in awe of the massive Pailon del Diablo waterfall. Afterward, we will ride to Machay falls, hike to its base and cool off in its powerful and refreshing waters. Travel onto Cotopaxi in the afternoon. Accommodation: Hacienda La Cienega www.haciendalacienega.com *45km mainly downhill*	Cotopaxi (B,L)
7	**Mon**	**<u>Cotopaxi - Quito</u>** This morning we do the typical Cotopaxi mountain biking route ï really great ride in the national park ï around 3 hours . Start with a 4kmof uphill (smooth gradient), then flat and downhill with some single track. In the afternoon continue on to Quito. Accommodation: Hostal La Rabiba *www.**hostalrabida**.com* *4km uphill, 40km mainly flat and downhill*	Quito (B,L)
8	**Tues**	**<u>Quito</u>** Morning tour of Quito including the old city .Optional hike Tour to Teleferico & Guagua Pichincha You will be taken to the Teleférico, a gondola lift, running from the edge of the city up the east side of Pichincha Volcano. Itôs one of the highest aerial lifts in the world, and the ascent takes about ten minutes. Hike from the summit of Cruz Loma toward Volcán Guagua Pichincha, a steady uphill trail which takes a couple of hours allowing for pauses to take in the extraordinary views of Quito and the surrounding volcanos	Quito (B)

9	**Wed**	**Quito – Tumbaco –Otavalo** This morning we head to Tumbaco where we take a bike trail which follows the old railroad track through beautiful green countryside and down into the Chiche canyon rising up again through some original and interesting train tunnels.. We continue on to the pre-Incan ruins at Quito Loma and can get back on our bikes once again from here for a downhill, through the Andean communities of this region ending up on the Equator line in Cayambe. Visit to Quitsato museum. In the afternoon ride along the old railway track from el Cajas. Continue by bus through to the market town of Otavalo Accommodation: Posada Quinde http://posadaquinde.com *9km uphill, 46km downhill*	Otavalo (B,L)
10	**Thurs**	**Otavalo- Salinas** Today we begin in Zuleta, a beautiful zone in the Northern Andes where the local villages are dedicated to producing colourful and intricate embroideries. From here we cycle through Andean farmlands, along the flanks of the Imbabura Volcano, with great views of the San Pablo Lake. Continue through Peguche and onto the indigenous handicraft market at Otavalo. Time to explore the markets and then head north through Ibarra into the drier Chota region Accommodation: Hosteria Pantavi www.hosteriapantavi.com *a superb country hotel with spa and wonderful art collection*	Salinas (B,L)
11	**Fri**	**El Angel Ecological Reserve** Today we can explore on foot the strange and mystical polylepis and frailejon forests of the Angel Ecological Reserve. Then start a downhill ride towards San Isidro and on to the old train station -Estacion Carchi. Riding through Highland Haciendas with their agricultural lands , then down into the dry Chota canyon which offers spectacular views.Tthe Chota Valley, a warmer and drier region of Ecuador known for its Afro-Ecuadorian people and culture. Return to Hacienda Pantavi. *50km mainly downhill*	Salinas (B,L)
12	**Sat**	**Salinas - Tulcan-Ipiales** Starting at Cuicocha Lake, we take a partly paved, partly gravel road, with a downhill tendency, some uphills at the start, travelling from 3400m down to 1700m approximately. A 40km ride from paramo down into the cloud forest. We then head north to the border town of Tulcan and cross the border into Colombia , continuing a short distance to Ipiales Accommodation: Hotel Santa Isabel *40km with aprox 10km uphill*	Otavalo (B,L)

	Sun	**Bogota -Popayan** *For those joining for the Colombia section , we have included a flight from Bogota to Popayan where you would be met and transferred to the hotel to join the rest of the group*	Popayan
13	**Sun**	**<u>Ipiales- Popayan</u>** Visit the Las Lajas Sanctuary, an incredible engineering feat built over a river gorge and then a spectacular days drive north through canyons, steep valleys to the beautiful city of Popayan late afternoon Accommodation:Hotel La Plazuela http://hotellaplazuela.com.co/en *This small colonial city is famous for its chalk-white facades (its nickname is La Ciudad Blanca, or 'the White City'), and is second only to Cartagena as Colombia's most impressive colonial settlement. It sits beneath towering mountains in the Valle de Pubenza, and for hundreds of years was the capital of southern Colombia, before Cali overtook it.* *The town was founded in 1537 by Sebastián de Belalcázar, and Popayán became an important stopping point on the road between Cartagena and Quito.*	Popayan (B,L)
14	**Mon**	**<u>Popayan</u>** This morning drive to the indigenous mountain village of Cocouco (2,650m) where you can bathe in the hot thermal springs. After a time in the springs, jump on the bikes and start the 30km leisurely ride back to Popayan. The route is mainly downhill on a paved road with very little traffic. Later this afternoon a walking tour around Popayan and a salsa class to feel the rhythm of the wonderful Colombian music *30km mainly downhill*	Popayan(B,L)
15	**Tues**	**<u>Popayan- Salento</u>** We travel by van into the heart of the countrys coffee production to Armenia , situated in the mountains with steep slopes all round. Continue through the peaceful surroundings of the lush green countryside to arrive at a converted finca(coffee farm).Learn about the coffee production and then commence a ride through to Salento Accommodation: Hotel Finca El Rancho de Salento http://elranchosalento.com *30km with some uphill*	Armenia (B,L)
16	**Wed**	**<u>Salento</u>** Our bike tour goes through the beautiful Colombian Coffee Cultural Landscape, declared a World Heritage by UNESCO. You will be riding through Coffee and Plantain plantations, bamboo forests, exotic fruits among other native species. You will also be able to watch the beauty and diverse Colombian wildlife: birds, butterflies, etc. Ride through stunning country lanes to the charming traditional coffee town of Salento. Then a truly epic ride up through the Cocora Valley , see the 60m tall palm trees! Accommodation: Hotel Finca El Rancho de Salento http://elranchosalento.com *52 Km with some uphill*	Salento (B,L)

17	**Thurs**	**<u>Salento -Medellin</u>** Travel this morning by bus through to the city of eternal spring -Medellin Accommodation: Hotel Acqua www.hotelacqua.com.es *The city of Medellin sits in a narrow valley originally inhabited by the Aburras Indians. It is the second largest city in Colombia and is said to be, "One of the most beautiful cities in South America." by experienced travelers who have discovered the magic of Colombia. Medellin's pleasant spring-like climate year round makes it known as 'La Ciudad de la Eterna Primavera' or "City of the Eternal Spring". Medellin is a safe, modern city filled with sophistication and charm from its Spanish heritage.It is known by its cultural encounters, the warmth of its people and the amazing views that are accompanied by clear blue skies and beautiful sunsets* Best way to see Medellin is by bike . The route will orient you to the rest of the city and our guide's local knowledge and insight are invaluable**.** The trip is about 20 km and takes about 3-4 hours. Although most of the tour is flat, there are two challenging climbs that are rewarded with fantastic views. Also, you may be required to lift your bike to occasionally climb stairs so we can use walking bridges to avoid dangerous highway crossings. *Distance 20km: elevation500mt* Sample Medellin's famous nightlife in the Zona Rosa	Medellin (B,L)
18	**Fri**	**<u>Medellin</u>** Travel to the Santa Fe region . From the highlands, through cloud forests, we descend for more than 1700 vertical meters down into the Cauca River Gorge, over 35km in length, along exuberant landscapes and far reaching, breathtaking views to the valleys below. Passing through various ecosystems, colourful towns and farmlands, this full day of adventure offers varied riding terrain with many ñsingle trackòtrail options that can be taken for those who want to raise their pulse a little. The single track options snake through the main trail so the group is constantly meeting up throughout the tour. The tour ends just outside of Santa Fe, a very historically significant and patrimonial city of Colombia, and if opted, the day will finish off in the center of town, where you can walk around and experience the quaint and colourful town. Return to Medellin *Distance 40km with some elevation*	(B,L)
19	**Sat**	**<u>Medellin-Bogota</u>** Today will be a full days drive through to the capital Bogota. A stop is made at El Jardin Encantado with its beautiful gardens and impressive range of hummingbirds Accommodation: Hotel Casa Deco www.hotelcasadeco.com *Bogota set at an altitude of 2600m with the high ranges of the Cordillera Mountains lying to its east . It is sometimes referred to as the "Athens of the Americas"due to the Bogotanos' reputation for politeness and civility*	(B,L)

20	**Sun**	**<u>Bogota</u>** Ride in the world-famous Ciclovía ï when major avenues are closed to cars and fill with cyclists, skaters, joggers and walkers! We head to the colourful streets of La Candeleria, something not to be missed are the ñchocolaterias ñwhere you can sample the famous Bogotano hot chocolate . This afternoon you might like to head out of town and take the cable car up Mount Monserrate for magnificent views of the city or visit the splendid Gold Museum (optional) 20km	Bogota (B)
21	**Mon**	**<u>Bogota -Villa de Leyva</u>** We depart Bogota travelling to the town of Cucunuba and commence a bike towards Raquira . Then to Villa de Leyva which is one of the most beautiful colonial villages in Colombia. Declared National Monument in 1945, the village has been preserved in its entirely with cobblestone roads, tiled roofs and whitewashed buildings. Accommodation: Hotel La Roca *www.**villadeleyva**.net/**hotel**es/hospederia-**la-roca*** 50-60 km with some elevation	Villa de Leyva (B,L)
22	**Tues**	**<u>Villa de Leyva</u>** We explore Villa de Leyva and surroundings. We will discover one of the most important paleontology regions in South America. This valley is an ancient ocean floor, home to many dinosaur fossils, as well as thousands of ammonites from the Cretaceous period. Evidence is found everywhere including decorations in floors and buildings. Then visit El Infiernito, a dry area with waterholes, and the Paleontological Museum which displays the most important assortment of fossils in South America. Here we find the most complete Kronosaurus fossil known to date. Our ride continues all the way to El Monasterio, a magnificent structure originally built in 1620 that was visited by Simon Bolivar himself. It has a great collection of religious and colonial art, as well as Muisca Indian displays ï all adorned with fossils from the area. We return to Villa the Leyva to relax in its time suspended streets and coffee shops. 30 Km with some elevation	Villa de Leyva (B,L)
23	**Wed**	**<u>Villa de Leyva - Barichara</u>** Travel by van towards San Gil enjoying the beautiful landscapes along the Suarez River Canyon. At San Gil we will set up the bikes and ride to Barichara (35km approx). We will start climbing from San Gil for approximately 13km to the local airport and then ups and downs until we reach the beautiful town of Barichara, Barichara, a perfectly preserved Spanish town declared National Monument in 1978. Barichara is a charming colonial town with a magical ambience. Its cobblestone streets, red tiled roofs, squares, and laid back lifestyle give us the feeling of being transported to another era. Accommodation: Hotel Mision de Santa Barbara www.hostalmisionsantabarbara.com 35 Km with some elevation	(B,L)

24	**Thurs**	**<u>Barichara</u>** We start the day at 2000m above the town . Descend 25km down by bike to the base of the majestic Suarez Canyon passing through scenic agricultural landscapes. Then explore Barichara by bike and you will see why Barichara is deemed "the most beautiful pueblo in Colombia". After lunch some more rolling cross country biking descending another 25km . Return by bus to our hotel 50 Km	Barichara (B,L)
25	**Fri**	**<u>Barichara -Chicamocha Gorge - Bucarmaranga</u>** Begin the day with a hike on a historical trail that was originally built by the Guane Indians. During the colonial era, this trail was rebuilt in stone by the Spanish to gain access to the Atlantic . Along the way we get great views to the gorge below and excellent birding, as a high concentration of species feed and inhabit this area . At the end of this 7km hike we reach Guane, another colonial town that seems lost in time. It has a dreamlike feel and great Spanish architecture. We visit the local anthropological museum to learn about the extinct Guane culture. In the afternoon, we bike into the Chicamocha River Gorge , also known as the Grand Canyon of Colombia.The ride starts at the edge of the canyon along a dirt road that zigzags down into the bottom of the gorge, descending 1400m The environment here is a unique dry forest filled with acacia, agave and cacti. Here we can also find remnants of a tropical forest where howler monkeys still survive. Other species found in this area are: iguanas, falcons and eagles. At the end of this 16 Km ride we will reach the town of Jordan at 430m. Located along the Royal Road from the Andes to the Caribbean, El Jordan used to be a prosperous merchant trade center. Today it has an eerie feeling, as it seems to be abandoned. We continue our journey to the city of Bucarmaranga . Accommodation: Hotel Ciudad Bonita *www.hotelcuidadbonita.com.co* 40 Km	Bucamaranga (B,L)

26	**Sat**	**Bucamaranga-Bogota** Transfer to Bucamaranga airport for your LATAM flight to Bogota and connect with your LATAM international flight **OPTION CARTAGENA** For those taking the Cartagena option, take a direct flight to Cartagena . Transfer to hotel Accommodation: Hotel Don Pedro Heredia www.hoteldonpedroheredia.com *Cartagena de Indias , a lovely walled city which has preserved its colonial heritage and UNESCO World Heritage site . Cartagena was the major trading port from South America to Spain and saw numerous battles for control as its key position as a trading port . Its captivating streets move to a laid back Caribbean rhythm* *From Milke Newell's interpretation of the Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel, Love in the Time of Cholera to Robert de Niro's The Mission, Cartagena has been the backdrop to some cinema classics.*	(B) Cartagena (B)
27	**Sun**	**Cartagena** Walking tour of the old city Gold-crafting Indigenous tribes, Spanish colonialism, pirates and corsairs, African slaves, fortifications, Catholicism and The Inquisition, immigrants, Independence, cholera, drugs, crime, beauty pageants, books, art and movies: Cartagena has led a very interesting life! With such a fascinating and turbulent history, you can bet your arepa e huevo that there are plenty of must-see sites and sights for visitors. This tour has a historical focus and we cover the key sites within Centro Histórico and San Diego. We also cover topics such as the architecture, the art, music, food and culture.	Cartagena (B)
28	**Mon**	**Cartagena** Day free to explore Cartagena or we would suggest a trip to the beautiful Rosario Islands	Cartagena (B)
29	**Tues**	**Depart Cartagena** Transfer to the airport for your flight departure	(B)

Pre Departure Information
After registering for the tour , we send you comprehensive pre departure information to assist you in preparing for the trip and also a technical questionnaire form to ensure we have you fitted out with the right size bikes.