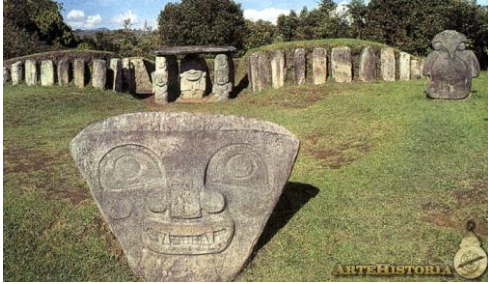


Ecuador & Colombia Highlights

Andes to the Caribbean



San Agustín



Cotopaxi



Cartagena

Guayaquil–Cartagena 33 Days

33 Days Departs Guayaquil: 3 June 2026
from **NZ\$10500**

- **Optional pre tour Galapagos Islands**
- **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**
- **Villa de Leyva & Chichamocha Canyon**
- **Discover South America's best kept secret "Colombia"**
- **Santa Marta & Cartagena on the Caribbean coast**

Latin Link Adventure

The South American Specialists

1 Highfield Ridge Wanaka 9305 Tel: 03 4435036 Toll free:0800 528465

Email: info@latinlink.co.nz www.latinlink.co.nz

Bonded Member of Travel Agents Association of New Zealand

Information Sheet – Ecuador & Colombia Highlights

Fully Guided

– 33 Days Guayaquil to Cartagena

Ecuador & Colombia 33 Days NZ\$10500, single room supplement \$2500

2026 prices subject to change, based on a minimum of 6 participants

Pre tour Galapagos Options available

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 journey in the Andes, travel along Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes, ride the Devils Nose Railway, explore around Banos and Mt Cotopaxi. Then to its capital Quito. We then travel through the land of the Otavaleños. 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 world's leading cycling cities. Through the breathtaking Boyaca & Santander regions with lovely colonial towns, big canyons (Chichamocha 2nd largest in world) and great hiking trails. Then down to the Caribbean Coast and visit the old trading ports of Santa Marta and 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 "Ecuador & Colombia Highlights"

Cost Includes:

ALL transport (boats, buses, taxis, trains etc)	ALL accommodation 3 -4star hotels/lodges (twin/double share)
ALL entrance fees as per itinerary	
ALL national park entrance fees	
ALL sightseeing as per itinerary	ALL transfers as per itinerary
Services of experienced local guides	Breakfasts daily
Services of experienced Tour Leader	

Does not include:

Tips (allow US\$250), Insurance, Laundry, Personal Spending, Medical Expenses, Meals not specified above*, optional excursions

Optional Meals are very good value for money through Ecuador-Colombia and as a guide US\$20-30 per day would be sufficient to cover 1 lunch & 1 dinner each day

NOTE ON FLIGHTS

****International flights on LATAM Airlines Auckland – Guayaquil & Cartagena – Auckland are in addition to costs stated above. As there can be seasonal specials on airfares these can vary between NZ\$2900 and \$3500 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 LATAM economy class.

(I) VISAS are not required for NZ passport holders

HOW TO BOOK:

Send us your Reservation form with your deposit of \$750 to confirm your place

Latin Link Adventure – The South America Specialists

1 Highfield Ridge Wanaka 9343 Tel: 03 4435036 Email: info@latinlink.co.nz

Day	Date	Program	Overnight
1	June Wed 3	<p><u>Guayaquil</u> On arrival you will be transferred to hotel . Accommodation: Grand Hotel www.grandhotelguayaquil.com <i>Guayaquil is Ecuador's major commercial city, quite tropical , situated on the coast</i></p>	Guayaquil
2	Thurs 4	<p><u>Guayaquil</u> Depart late morning for a visit to Parque Historico, then a walk along the Malecon Waterfront to the Iguana Park</p>	Guayaquil (B)
3	Fri 5	<p><u>Guayaquil- Cuenca</u> Depart the city and travel from the tropical lowlands through banana plantations and into the Andes. A stop will be made at Las Cajas National Park climbing to 2500m to the lovely colonial city of Cuenca Accommodation: Hotel Victoria http://hotelvictoriaecuador.com/en/</p>	Cuenca(B)
4	Sat 6	<p><u>Cuenca</u> Cuenca is Ecuador's third largest city; yet it still retains its pleasant provincial air. Its red tiled roofs, cobblestone streets, flowery plazas and museums make it very special. This comprehensive visit includes the Plaza of San Sebastian, a colorful artisans market, where handicrafts are sold. Then, visit the Museum of Modern Art, featuring an excellent collection of contemporary fine art. Next is a visit to the flower market at the small plaza in front of the carved stone entrance to the church of El Carmen de la Asunción. From here, a stroll to the main square, surrounded by the imposing blue-domed Cathedral, the Court of Justice, the Municipal Palace, the Governor's Palace and the Church of El Sagrario. Free time this afternoon to explore the city a little more or visit one of the local museums.</p>	Cuenca(B)
5	Sun 7	<p><u>Cuenca-Alausi</u> <i>A 4 day immersion in the Andean World, from Cuenca, along the Avenue of the Volcanoes, to Quito, through the spectacular scenery of the Andes, with visits to centenary Haciendas, fertile fields of vegetables and roses, in close contact with the local culture. This is a journey along the history, the spirituality, the flavours, the customs, traditions and legends of the Andean Region.</i> After an early breakfast depart by road, continue on to the small town of Alausí, Join the Devils Nose Railway Great effort has been made to restore the 100-year old train to its old glory and romance The highlight is the thrilling 800m descent on the zigzag cuttings on the rock of the Devil's Nose. At the bottom one finds the newly renovated Station of Sibambe Here there is time to visit the local museum "Condor Puñuna" built and run by the Nizag community. Return to Alausi station. Accommodation: Hotel Noris</p>	Riobamba (B)

6	Mon 8	<p><u>Alausi - Patate</u> Continue skirting the flanks of the Andes, an astonishing ride, twisting and turning, along bridging ravines and river gorges. Ride through Indian villages and cultivated fields; here is where most of the cereals in Ecuador are grown, among them, the quinoa, considered the perfect grain for its nutritional value.</p> <p>Continue our journey with a visit to the Chimborazo Fauntistic Reserve. At 6310m Chimborazo is the highest mountain of Ecuador. On the hillsides, where the land is worked by plow, observe the primitive farming methods that have been used for centuries. . Great photo opportunities on this route.</p> <p>For a spectacular view of the Ecuadorian Andes, you can hike up to the Hermanos Carrel Refuge at 4,800 meters or even to the Edward Whymper Refuge at 5,000 meters. Take your time, and remember to breathe and drink water due to the altitude!</p> <p>After ths visit, your trip continues to Baños.</p> <p>Accommodation: Floresta Hotel https://laflorestahotel.com/</p>	Patate (B)
7	Tues 9	<p><u>Patate-Banos -Cotopaxi</u></p> <p>Baños –a town with an international pulse, full of people from all over the world as well as many locals who pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Holy Water. Drive along the Route of the Cascades to El Pailón del Diablo (the Devil’s Cauldron) –the most adventurous will descend (medium difficulty) to observe the impressive cascade up close, surrounded by subtropical vegetation and orchids. The force and sound of the waters can also be appreciated from a lookout point without descending.</p> <p>From here on we continue our travel along valleys and mountains to the magnificent Cotopaxi Volcano, for an up-close view of the Andean paramo habitat and its unique flora and fauna; a number of high-altitude birds can be observed around Limpiopungo Lagoon, and occasionally, wild horses. On clear days, the perfect snow-capped cone of the Cotopaxi Volcano is quite a sight!</p> <p>Accommodation: Hacienda La Cienega www.haciendalacienega.com</p>	Cotopaxi (B)
8	Wed 10	<p><u>Cotopaxi - Quito</u></p> <p>Visit the Cotopaxi National Park, an ecological sanctuary of 88,920 acres, around the magnificent Cotopaxi Volcano, which rises 5897 meters (19,347 feet) above sea level. The evergreen landscape of the Ecuadorian highlands is one of the main attractions, along valleys and mountains covered by multi coloured fields. We undertake a walk in the Andean paramos of this region, around Lake Limpiopungo enjoying great views of the volcano.</p> <p>We then continue along the Pan American Highway to Quito arriving late afternoon</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Las Plazas https://lasplazashotel.com</p>	Quito (B)

9	Thurs 11	<p><u>Quito</u> Morning tour of Quito including the old city including a hike 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. It's 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</p>	Quito (B)
10	Fri 12	<p><u>Quito – Cuicocha –Cotacachi -Otavalo</u> This morning we head to Calderon, a little village north of the capital, well known for its salt paste figurines. Then to the Cotacachi-Cayapas Nature Reserve, a perfect place to enjoy the landscape and the invigorating mountain air. Travel through the Andean communities of this region ending up on the Equator line in Cayambe. Visit to Quitsato museum. Continue to Cotacachi a village famous for its leather work then to the market town of Otavalo Accommodation: Hotel Dona Esther www.otavalohotel.com</p>	Otavalo (B)
11	Sat 13	<p><u>Otavalo - Salinas</u> An early start today to visit the weekly livestock market before breakfast, a colourful sight. Later this morning time to explore the Otavalo handicrafts market. This afternoon drive to through Ibarra to Salinas de Ibarra through bright green fields of sugarcane which is farmed abundantly in this area Accommodation: Hosteria Pantavi www.hosteriapantavi.com <i>a superb country hotel with spa and wonderful art collection.</i></p>	Salinas (B,D)
12	Sun 14	<p><u>El Angel Ecological Reserve & Chota Valley -Tulcan-Pasto</u> Today we can explore on foot the strange and mystical polylepis and frailejon forests of the Angel Ecological Reserve Then through the Chota valley, the only part of the Ecuadorian highlands with a very significant Black population descendant from slaves brought to work in the plantations during old colonial times. A warmer and drier region of Ecuador known for its Afro-Ecuadorian people and culture.</p>	Pasto (B)

		<p>Continue north to the border town of Tulcan and a visit to its amazing cemetery with huge garden sculptures. Cross the border into Colombia and Continue to Pasto Accommodation: Hotel Santa Isabel</p>	
13	Mon 15	<p><u>Ipiiales - Popayan</u> Visit to the Las Lajas Sanctuary, an incredible engineering feat built over a river gorge .A spectacular days drive north through canyons, steep valleys to the beautiful city of Popayan arriving late afternoon Accommodation:Hotel La Plazuela http://hotellaplazuela.com.co/en</p>	Popayan (B)
14	Tues 16	<p><u>Popayan</u> 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.Morning tour of the city Visit the market of Silvia, where Guambianos (a local indigenous community) come from the surrounding villages to sell their wares.</p>	Popayan (B)
15	Wed 17	<p><u>Popayan- San Agustin</u> Enjoy the journey surrounded by the Andean scenery of mountains and high altitude plains. Arrive in San Agustin late afternoon Accommodation:Masaya San Agustin</p>	San Agustin (B)
16	Thurs 18	<p><u>San Agustin</u> Near San Agustin one finds one of South America's greatest, and most mysterious, archaeological sites, declared a world heritage by UNESCO. Tour to the "Valley of the Statues" which has numerous huge stone carved statues that date back as far as 3000 B.C. The pre-Incan civilization that lived here is shrouded in mystery, even their actual name is still unknown. Archaeologists have uncovered a mere 10 percent of the statues and ruins, and it is theorised that huge mayan-like pyramids and other structures remain buried throughout the area</p>	San Agustin (B)

17	Fri 19	<p><u>San Agustin-Tatacoa -Neiva</u></p> <p>Drive north to Villavieja. Today is your chance to get to know the Tatacoa desert. Visit the red and grey rock formations that make up this one-of-a-kind natural wonder. Continue on to Neiva for overnight Accommodation: Hotel GHL Neiva www.ghlhotelneiva.com</p>	Neiva (B)
18	Sat 20	<p><u>Neiva- Salento</u></p> <p>We travel into the heart of the countrys coffee production through the beautiful Colombian Coffee Cultural Landscape, declared a World Heritage by UNESCO. You will travel 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. Drive through stunning country lanes to Salento. It's known for its coffee estates and verdant scenery. East is Cocora Valley where lofty wax palm trees, a national symbol, are home to rare parrots. The town is a gateway to the snow-capped peaks of Los Nevados National Natural Park, to the northeast. Accommodation: Hotel Salento Real https://en.hotelsalentoreal.com</p>	Salento (B)
19	Sun 21	<p><u>Salento</u></p> <p>Today visit a local coffee farm and learn about the production. Then enjoy a hike into the Cocora Valley. Between the slanted green hills of Cocora Valley, the world's tallest palm trees comically protrude out from the Earth. In Salento, Calle Real has colourful buildings and craft shops so time to explore this afternoon</p>	Salento (B)
20	Mon22	<p><u>Salento -Medellin</u></p> <p>Continue through spectacular scenery to the city of eternal spring -Medellin Accommodation: Hotel La Campana https://lacampanahotelboutique.com</p> <p><i>The city of Medellin sits in a narrow valley originally inhabited by the Aburra 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</i> Sample Medellin's famous nightlife in the Zona Rosa</p>	Medellin (B)

21	Tues 23	<p><u>Medellin</u> Medellín is Colombia's industrial leader and also home to some of the friendliest people in the country. It has spring-like weather, plenty of shopping malls, both modern and colonial architecture, and it's surrounded by raw natural beauty</p> <p>Morning tour of the city Among this tour's highlights are the Metro Cable (K Line), Plaza Botero, the Pueblito Paisa, Parque de los Deseos (Wishes Park), Parque de los Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Park), the botanical garden, and the Metropolitan Cathedral</p> <p>Afternoon free for shopping or an optional tour to learn about Medellin's infamous Pablo Escobar. Learn about the life and death of Pablo Escobar. This 2-hour historical tour takes you back in time and inside the life of Pablo Escobar, a man both loved and feared by millions of people. Learn about his extensive cocaine operation and visit three historical sites: the Monaco Building, the house where Escobar was killed and his final resting place.</p>	Medellin(B)
22	Wed 24	<p><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 B3 Virrey www.hotelesb3.com</p> <p><i>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</i></p>	Bogota (B)
23	Thurs 25	<p><u>Bogota</u> <i>Walking tour of Bogota</i> Brisk walk along Avenida Jiménez to the foot of Cerro Monserrate. We ascend Monserrate by cable car. to enjoy the spectacular views across the city .After Monserrate, we return to the colonial centre of La Candelaria and walk between the historic residences dating from the time of Spanish rule. We pass by La Plaza de Chorro de Quevedo the former lookout post of the Zipa Cacique and the site of the foundation of Bogotá in 1538.</p> <p>We continue our walk towards the two blocks of the Banco de la Republic complex where we find The Botero Collection, arguably the most important art collection in South America. Not only does it house the works of one of Colombia's most famous sons, Fernando Botero, but also his own collection of famous masterpieces including works by Dali, Renoir, Chagall, Max Ernst and Picasso. Continue the tour onwards to Plaza Bolívar, the seat of Colombian power where we find El Capitol, the home of Colombian congress, The Palace of Justice, Edificio Liévano, the home of Bogotá's alcaldía and Catedral la Primaria, Bogotá's cathedral. Situated behind El Capitol is Casa Nariño to which we pay a brief visit before ending the tour in La Avenida Séptima with an option to visit The Gold Museum.</p>	Bogota (B)

24	Fri 26	<p><u>Bogota -Villa de Leyva</u> Head north to the town of Zipaquirá. Once here, venture into a salt mine located more than 656 feet (200 meters) below the surface and admire this impressive piece of Colombian architecture. Visit two underground cathedrals carved out of salt.</p> <p>Continue on 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 it's entirely with cobblestone roads, tiled roofs and whitewashed buildings.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Campanario www.hotelcampanariodelavilla.com</p>	Villa de Leyva (B)
25	Sat 27	<p><u>Villa de Leyva</u></p> <p>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. 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 – all adorned with fossils from the area. We return to Villa the Leyva to relax in its time suspended streets and coffee shops.</p>	Villa de Leyva (B)
26	Sun 28	<p><u>Villa de Leyva - Barichara</u></p> <p>Travel by van towards San Gil enjoying the beautiful landscapes along the Suarez River Canyon</p> <p>Continue our drive along a scenic mountain road to 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.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Alto del Viento www.hoteldelviento.com</p>	Barichara(B)

27	Mon 29	<p><u>Barichara</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.Return to Barichara.</p>	Barichara (B)
28	Tues 30	<p><u>Barichara -Chicamocha Gorge - Bucarmaranga</u> Travel through to 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. Then into the Chicamocha National Park to ride its cable car that passes through its 6.3 km wide Canyon We continue our journey to the city of Bucarmaranga Accommodation: Hotel Sonesta www.sonestabucaramanga.com</p>	Bucamaranga (B)
29	July Wed 1	<p><u>Bucamaranga-Santa Marta</u> Our journey by bus takes through the Chichamocha Gorge following the Magdalena River descending down to the Caribbean Coast to Santa Marta Santa Marta was founded by the Spaniards in 1525 and is the oldest city in South America and is full of magic hard to describe, with its unique architectural heritage, beautiful scenery and a rich cultural heritage. Stay in the nearby beach town of Rodadero . Accommodation: Be La Sierra Hotel www.hotelbelasierra.com</p>	Santa Marta (B)
30	Thurs 2	<p><u>Santa Marta</u> Day at leisure to relax on Rodadero Beach or a day tour into Tayrona National Park ,framed by lush and unspoiled nature, recognized among the finest in the world.</p>	Santa Marta (B)

31	Fri 3	<p><u>Santa Marta - Cartagena</u> Tour of Santa Marta, first to San Pedro Alejandrino, the 17th-century hacienda, famous as the site where Simón Bolívar died in 1830. Learn how the military and political revolutionary led Colombia and neighboring Latin American countries to independence from Spanish rule. Continue to Taganga, a small fishing village . Then on through Baranquilla to Cartagena .</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel La Mantilla www.farandahotels.com/hotel/hotel-casa-la-mantilla-cartagena-by-faranda-boutique</p> <p><i>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</i> <i>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.</i></p>	Cartagena (B)
32	Sat 4	<p><u>Cartagena</u> 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.</p>	Cartagena (B)
33	Sun 5	<p><u>Depart Cartagena</u> You will be transferred to the airport</p>	(B)

Pre Departure Information

After registering for the tour, we send you comprehensive pre departure information to assist you in preparing for the trip

Feedback from our 2018 Tour

"Exceeded my expectations, great local guides , good value "- Norman E

"Both driver/guides were excellent, careful drivers and very knowledgeable who added in lots of extras along the way, enjoyed the Haciendas!" - David & Dianne L