

# COLOMBIA 2009

## *Spring Break in Breathtaking Colombia*

March 13, 2009-March 22, 2009

Join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit exotic Argentina! Our 10 day excursion includes two days in Bogota, two in Medellin and five days in the Cartagena--Santa Marta corridor. Price includes all air travel, three star (or better) hotels, all tours, tips and taxes. Continental breakfast and lunch daily included.

### **The Mountains**

**Bogota and environs:** With over 8 million residents, Bogota is the cultural, political and economic capital of Colombia. Nestled 8500 feet up in the Andes mountains, Bogota has a very pleasant climate. Our first day in Bogota includes a city tour that with a visit to the Gold Museum of the Bank of Colombia, one of the most important collections of pre-Colombian metals in the world.

The next day we head into the mountains surrounding the city. Our bus will take us up into some of the most spectacular scenery in all of South America. Highlights of this tour include a visit to Guatavita Lake. Guatavita Lake is a natural lake formed in the crater of an ancient meteor impact. The lake is a focus of the "El Dorado" legend, where lore holds that huge quantities of gold were dropped into the deep waters by indigenous kings.

In our final day in Bogota, we will visit The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá. This is an actual catholic church located 600 feet inside a pre-Colombian salt mine. Curving and twisting tunnels lead

to the church, passing 14 small chapels representing the stations of the cross.

**Medellin:** Medellin has a very bad rap as the "drug capital" of Latin America. Fortunately, the days of drug cartels are now past. Medellin today is a picturesque city a short morning flight from Bogota. Located in the Colombian state of Antioquia, Medellin is filled with friendly people and surrounded by coffee plantations. During our first day, we will take a city tour that includes a visit to the Art Museum of Antioquia. This museum has a very important collection of paintings by Fernando Botero. Our city tour includes stops at the famous Penol rock and the world's only cable car public transport system. Our second day in takes us to the beautiful colonial town of Santa Fe, the original capital of Colombia.

### **The Coast**

An early morning flight takes us to the coast of Colombia where we will enjoy the beaches and sun of Spring in Colombia.

**Cartagena:** Named by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, Cartagena is probably the best preserved colonial city in the world. Our city tour includes the forts, the walled city, the Inquisition Plaza museum, St Peter Claver plaza and much more.

**Santa Marta:** Our last stop is Santa Marta. Here we will visit the home of Simon Bolivar, the George Washington of much of Latin America. We will also go to Rodadero beach, where we will see spectacular Colombian folkloric dancing. We will also visit Pueblito,

also known as Cahirama. It is one of the 200 pre-Columbian cities discovered near Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Depending on scheduling, we will visit either the Tayrona National

wildlife preserve or the Quebrada Valencia waterfall.

**Colombia's time is one hour ahead of Houston in the spring.**



**Friday, March 13, 2008**—Depart Houston Intercontinental, arrive El Dorado International Airport, Bogota

**Saturday, March 14**— City tour of Bogota. Visit to the Gold Museum of the Bank of Colombia.

**Sunday, March 15**—Visit to Guatavita Lake. Free afternoon of shopping in Bogota.

**Monday, March 16**—Visit to the town of Zipaquirá and the Salt Cathedral. Evening flight into Medellín.

**Tuesday, March 17**—City tour with stops the Rock of Penol and the Antioquia Museum of Art and to the village of Paisa

**Wednesday, March 18**—Today's tour includes a trip to one of the area's many coffee plantations, and perhaps a meeting with Juan Valdez. We will also visit the first capital of Colombia Sanfa Fe, a well preserved colonial town.

**Thursday, March 19**—An early morning flight to Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today we visit the historic walled city, many of the colonial forts, the museum of the Inquisition among others. This evening we get to sample some of Colombia's night life with a visit to a club featuring live meringue and salsa music and dancing.

**Friday, March 20**—Today we head east to Santa Marta. We will enjoy a city tour including a visit to the home of South American hero, Simon Bolivar. Lunch and folkloric dances are next at world famous Rodadero beach and then an afternoon of beach and sun.

**Saturday, March 21**—Today we are off to Pueblito, one of the many archeological sites located near Santa Marta.

**Sunday, March 22**— On our last day in Colombia is a visit to Quebrada Valencia, a waterfall in the middle of a national park known for abundant wildlife..

## REGISTRATION FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name(s) as on passport, passport #** (Attach a copy of the picture page of your passport)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone: (most accessible)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Alternative phone**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail**

**Sharing Room With:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In case of emergency, please notify**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Program Cost:**

Airfare, hotels, tours, transportation, two meals daily: \$2995/per person double occupancy; \$350 addition single supplement.

Space is limited to 8 participants.

\$1500 deposit per person required for reservation.

**Payment Schedule:** \$1000 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Remainder due by February 5

Full refund available until January 15. After January 15, full refund minus deposit. **No Refunds After February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Depending upon local celebrations and developments, the above schedule may be modified.

### **Make Checks Payable to:**

**Andean Endeavors**

Mail to: Don Neumann

8618 Bronson St

Houston, TX 77034

Address inquiries to:

kennieser@yahoo.com

Dneumann@mail.mdanderson.org



A view of the Salt Cathedral at Zipaquirá.



A view of the Cartagena skyline and coast.



Downtown Bogotá and the surrounding Andes Mountains.



A spectacular view of the Quebrada Valencia park waterfalls..