



LADATCO TOURS

South & Central America, Falkland Islands & Antarctica



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Armenia, Colombia

SALENTO & COCORA VALLEY:

Visit the charming colonial town of Salento, known for its guadua crafts, and bamboo furniture, its art galleries and the "bohemian" center for regional artists...a sleepy town that fringes on some of the country's most spectacular scenery...which only gets better driving into the Cocora Valley, home to the national tree of Colombia "Palma de Cera" (wax palm) which grows over 60 meters in height. The valley is in the central Andean mountains and is considered a wildlife sanctuary as well. Lunch included en route.

COFFEE PARK & QUIMBAYA MUSEUM:

The coffee region is a profusion of colorful, flower-bedecked homes and farms on rich agricultural and cattle ranches. The Coffee Park holds numerous attractions, you will visit the most interesting parts which include the museum where you will see not only the history of the coffee but of the social life of the "cafeteros" as well where exhibits tell of stories, legends through artifacts and mementos. On the Garden Walk is an impressive collection of nearly the entire country's plant life (including orchids, fruit trees, fern, palms, bromeliads). There is even a Coffee Varieties Garden, with selections from around the world. There is also Quimbayan Indian Cemetery and a Willy Jeep Display – these vintage WWII vehicles are still used today to carry down bundles of picked coffee beans from remote, hard to reach mountainous locations.

Visit the capital city of Quindio, Armenia. It can be said that Quindio was sort of "carved" out of the department of Antioquia, therefore, much of the traditions, culture and architecture still reflects the department of Antioquia. Devastated by the 1999 earthquake, it is still "Cuidad Milagro" (Miracle City), enjoying fast urban growth and development, basically still agricultural (coffee, bananas, plantains), with an infusion of agro-tourism.

Visit to the Quimbaya Museum with its pre-Hispanic collection of artifacts from primarily the Quimbaya culture, but also of the Embera and other Amerindian civilizations. There are some 390 gold pieces, 104 pottery pieces, 22 stone sculptures along with carved woods and textiles.

RECUCA & BOTANICAL GARDEN:

Today you will visit the Recuca Coffee Plantation for an up close look at the planting, harvesting, processing of this "black gold" - coffee!. And you will even get an opportunity to participate by playing a role in the charming "reproduction" play of the processes involved. A visit to the Botanical Garden of Quindio with its butterfly shaped butterfly garden; there is a hanging bridge into the forest, an ecological path, a maze and a museum. Lunch included en route.