

Caño Cristales the river of the 5 colors

An Adventure in a unique place in the world





Introduction:

Caño Cristales is one of those destinations that you don't want to miss; It's an incredible wonder of nature. It is located within the 673,000 hectares of the National Natural Park located in La Macarena, a small town in the department of Meta located about 270kms east of Bogotá, the capital of the country, in the direction of Los Llanos.

Caño Cristales is a small river that runs down the Sierra de La Macarena, which is part of a very unique region. Its Quartzite rock is part of the Guyanés Shield, one of the oldest geological formations in the world and more than 1,200 million years





old; this small and isolated mountain range emerges next to the Andes and in the Colombian Llanos right on the border of the Amazon rainforest; demarcating its importance between three different ecosystems.

It is famous for the Macarena Clavigera, a unique aquatic plant that lives in this river that stretches for 100kms, and changes its color to red only once a year between July and November, and then turns green again, as if it is starting to hibernate until the following year.

To visit Caño Cristales you may want to travel between June 1st and December 1st, when the entire river seems to turn into a rainbow. Outside of this season the place is closed to visitors.

There's no better time during that season to see the river and its colors, because maybe in late October and November it will start to change colors again. Colors may vary and water level, weather, and sunlight. The place has a maximum capacity of 300 visitors per day. Keep in mind when planning your trip that weekends and holidays are the days with visitors.

Keep in mind that it is ideal to make your minimum reservation one month in advance.

Arriving by plane is the best option; it is not by car an option to arrive.

We will accompany you to:

- Travel to the Macarena to see the incredible colors of one of the most famous rivers on earth: Caño Cristales. Here you can see how its aquatic plants, *Macarenia Clavigera*, change color and create a visual spectacle.
- Walk the jungle trails to reach the rivers.
- Learn from local farmers guides about the conservation and sustainability of this delicate ecosystem, unique in the world, given that these aquatic plants are endemic, and only change color between May and October.
- Bathe and enjoy the clean waters of some small streams in the jungle.
- Learn about the jungle, its fauna and flora, until you spot pink dolphins

Tour Time: 4 days

<u>Travel Season</u>: June to November (only view of Caño Cristales)

Accommodation: Village hotels of basic category but clean and comfortable. Upgrades can be made at an extra cost.





Trip Type: Active

Difficulty level: 4

Itinerary:

Day 1: Visit to Cristalitos.

This day we will depart from the Macarena to visit Caño Cristalitos, one of the important streams in the area that houses in its waters the Macarenia Clavigera, the plant that changes color to pink. This is a trip that takes a little over half a day. We take a boat down the Guayabero River and then arriving at the point we take a short walk until we reach the river and back, like a circuit. During this day we can get into the water and enjoy a swim in the river

Duration: 4 to 5 hours approx.

Distance: 4kms in length (flat walk between trees and rocks).

Day 2: Visit to Caño Cristales.

This day we will depart from the Macarena **to visit Caño Cristales**, one of the most famous places to visit in Colombia, this small river full of rock formations where the famous plants live. It is a trip that we do by boat and a subsequent hike. It takes more than half a day as well.

Lunch is included and you will have time to get into the river if you wish.

Duration: 5 to 6 hours approx.

Distance: 3.8kms in length (flat walk between trees and rocks).

Day 3: Stone City

On this day we hike **in Ciudad de Piedra**, it is a place located 1 hour by boat on the Guayabero River, and then we do a hike, to these places in the savannah where the rock formations create shapes as if they were rock labyrinths, resembling an abandoned city.

In the afternoon we will return to the hotel in the Macarena.

Duration: All-day activity (only the hike takes between 5 to 6 hours).

Distance: 12kms in length (flat walk between trees and rocks).





(12kms round trip, very little incline going up at the beginning, then flat hike between rock formations, grasslands and jungle, this is a circuit hike).

Day 4: Llanero Sunrise and Return to Bogota

On this day before returning to Bogota, we leave early in the morning hoping to enjoy the beautiful sunrise in the savannah. Arrival in Bogotá.

Recommendations:

- The Macarena hotel package only includes rooms with a fan; if you want **air conditioning**, this one cost COP 250,000 per night per extra person.
- Visiting the Caño Cristales River is only allowed between June and November, the rest of the year you can do the "Jungle trip to the Macarena, a River Safari, ask us!
- All additional activities can be changed at no extra charge, except for activity No 3 Caño Canoas.
- During the Caño Cristales season between June and November this package is sold to be done in regular groups, if you want a private tour ask for the price separately.
- To spend the night in the communities there is an extra cost per person per night. Children under 12 years old receive a 25% discount on all packages.
- Minimum age allowed: 5 years old
- Bring enough clothing to protect yourself from the sun in this hot and humid tropical climate and also to stay cool.
- Long sleeves, hat, sunglasses, closed-toe shoes, or trekking boots. It is forbidden to enter Caño Cristales with sandals or flip-flops.
- He also wears water shoes.
- Bring a bottle with you to refill with water, because we are trying to avoid single-use plastics in the Macarena
- Remember to drink fluids all the time to hydrate in the Macarena.
- An extra night in Bogota on arrival or departure would cost 500,000 COP with private transfer included (double or twin room).
- Hotel Upgrade Available for La Fuente in La Macarena or La Manigua Ecolodge.
- The flights from Bogota would be on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays with Satena. Villavicencio every day of the week.

Before you travel to:

The Macarena

To travel to Caño Cristales and the rest of this area you should:





- You should book your trip in advance to ensure the availability of admission to the park, as the park has a limited capacity and is very booked during the visiting season.
- You must carry your passport and any Assist card or similar insurance with you.
- International vaccination against yellow fever. (Minimum 10 days in advance).
- Bring your camera
- Bag to carry rubbish outside the park
- Sunscreen. Keep in mind that this cannot be used within the Caño Cristales and Cristalitos trail

During your stay in:

The Macarena

- Remember to follow the protocols that have been implemented by the environmental authorities, as well as the national army and local authorities
- Follow all the recommendations given by the guides and local experts
- Please remember that there is a schedule to visit the different tourist sites, which are established by local authorities only.

When exiting:

The Macarena

- Make sure to take all your belongings with you.
- Return the inorganic solid waste generated during your stay to your city of origin

Included:

- All 3 meals (from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day) at the local restaurants of La Macarena (breakfasts and dinners). Lunches are developed in the form of a cold meat (a type of lunch wrapped in banana leaf)
- Accommodation in a single/double room (according to preference) in Las Macarenias Hotel. If you want A/C we must increase COP 250,000 per night per room.
- All land or water transport
- Local guide during all routes in Spanish. (upgrade price in English).
- Logistics to enter the NNP
- Park fee and local taxes if you are not Colombian and are visiting the country
- Insurance





Not included:

- Flights to get to La Macarena from Bogotá.
- English tour guide.
- Park Entrance Fees and Taxes. (only if you are not Colombia and are visiting the country yes, its included).
- Upgrade to Hotel la Fuente or La Manigua.
- Expenses not specified in the plan.
- Extra activities described as optional.

Price:

Price per person in COP. Tour in Spanish.

Tour in English: Extra per person per day. 400.000COP

Trip	Duration	Hotel Las Macarenias	Hotel la Fuente	Hotel La Manigua	Child under 12 and over 5
Caño Cristales Clásico					
Nacional	4 days	\$1,880,000	\$ 2,050,000	\$ 2,560,000	\$1,530,000
Caño Cristales Clásico					
Nacional	3 days	\$1,375,000	\$ 1,510,000	\$ 1,880,000	\$ 1,132,500
Caño Cristales Extranjero					
Classic	4 days	\$ 2,236,000	\$ 2,416,000	\$ 2,526,000	\$ 1,840,800
Caño Cristales Extranjero					
Classic	3 days	\$1,780,000	\$ 1,926,000	\$ 2,196,000	\$ 1,538,500

Cost of taxes per person:

Taxes	Natio	nal	Fore	igner	
Child from 5 to 12	\$	115.000	\$	160.000	Resident
from 12 to 24					
years old	\$	140.000	\$	240.000	Non-residents
from 25 to 64	\$	160.000			
over 65	\$	50.000			
Airport tax per					
person	\$ 15,	000			

If you prefer us to buy from you, sell the package including the arrival ticket to La Macarena, please ask us.





OUR COMPANY:

GO EXPLORE COLOMBIA is a company that belongs to the Colombian Association of Responsible and Sustainable Tourism ACOTUR, we base our operation and existence in every way on the pillars of SUSTAINABILITY. We work for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage of our country and apply the principles of FAIR TRADE in all monetary transactions we carry out.

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Director

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Medellin

