



Andes Private Scientific Research Experience ~ Mesenia - Colombia-



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Jardin - Northern Andes - Colombia

10 Days / 9 Nights

June 23, 2020 - July 2, 2020

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Introduction

Enjoy a true Colombian Cloud Forest experience with some of the best and brightest US and Colombian scientists. Andes Private Scientific Research Experience.

Mesenia -Jardin- Colombia 11 days, 10 nights June 23-July 2, 2020

Flora and Fauna Inventory of La Mesenia-Paramillo Reserve

Project overview:

In terms of the number of plant species, Colombia is a megadiverse country second only to Brazil. More than 60 years of violent conflict has prevented botanists from conducting floristic inventories in the country. However, recent peace initiatives have resulted in greater security in many areas around the country, and as a result, there is a growing effort to renew fieldwork to discover Colombia's amazing plant diversity. Many areas in Colombia have scarcely been explored.

One such area in the Western Cordillera of the Andes Mountains is the 3000 hectare La Mesenia Paramillo Nature Reserve. A comprehensive floristic inventory in La Mesenia will greatly advance the knowledge of Colombia's plant diversity and will highlight conservation priorities which will serve to focus future research needs on both the flora and the fauna that depend on intact tropical forest ecosystems.

The 2020 field season is to begin the inventory of La Mesenia, with a focus on the diversity of aroids and palms.

To sign up, please complete and submit the trip application form in "DOCUMENTS". You can pay by credit card (plus a 3% convenience fee) or by check. Please make your check out to TREE Institute and mail to 1075 Duval Street, Suite C-11, Key West, Florida 33040.

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Duration
Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique	Jardin	Jun 23	Jun 24		1 Night
Reserva Natural Mesenia	Northern Andes	Jun 24	Jul 1		7 Nights
Movich Hotel Las Lomas	Colombia	Jul 1	Jul 2		1 Night

Price

- \$2999.99 per person/double occupancy*
- \$3399.00 per person single occupancy*

*Pricing based on published jet blue prices good through Jan 31.

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Included

- Includes International flight from FLL to Medellin Colombia,
- All meals except for two lunches and two dinners,
- Van service,
- Hotels &
- Mesenia research station stay

Excluded

- Two lunches
- Two dinners
- Gratuities for the research station staff
- Extras, not indicated on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages

Terms and Conditions

Itinerary Terms and Conditions

- *Pricing based on published jet blue prices good through Jan 31.
- Deposit 500.00 non- refundable.
- Balance due by March 15, 2020. Non-refundable as of March 15, 2020.
- Final payment and registration will be emailed by March 1, 2020
- Credit cards accepted for a 3% non-cash courtesy fee.
- Call 866-355-8733 to charge card.

Research Personnel:

- **Luis Mazariegos , PhD**
- PhD Virology, 1989
- MS Microbiology, 1986
- BS Molecular Genetics, 1984

Executive Director of The Hummingbird Conservancy. For over 30 years, he has traveled throughout tropical America photographing over 200 species of hummingbirds, and has published books to contribute to the conservation of endangered species in Colombia. Having firsthand knowledge of the problematic of Andean ecosystems and their importance for the survival of many endangered species, he created in 2005 The Hummingbird Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) the organization, to support investigation and conservation initiatives of endangered species in Colombia. In 2008 he established the Mesenia-Paramillo nature reserve in the northwest Andes region of Colombia.

- **Gregory A. Wahlert, PhD.**

Research Botanist and Herbarium Curator, University

of California, Santa Barbara. Wahlert has described over 20 new species from

Madagascar and continues to study the genetics of various tropical plant groups. He will be leading the effort to conduct a long-term floristic study of the plants of La Mesenia Reserve, seeking funding from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic, and other sources.

- **Saul Hoyos-Gomez, MS.** PhD candidate at the Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia.

Hoyos-Gomez is pursuing his doctorate, focusing his research on the diversity of tree violets in Colombia. He has collected widely in many areas of Colombia and is familiar with many of the native plants. His specialties are plants in the violet and palm families, as well as ethnobotany.

- **Thomas B. Croat, PhD.** Curator of Botany, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri.

Professor Croat is an accomplished botanist, and over the course of his career, is one of only a handful of botanists to have collected over 100,000 specimens. He has spent his career collecting across Latin America and has described hundreds of new species of plants in the aroid family (philodendrons, monstera, dieffenbachias, etc.). His collection of living aroids at the Missouri Botanical Garden is the largest of its kind in the world.

- **Rodrigo Bernal González, PhD.**

Professor Bernal is a Colombian botanist who specializes in the palm family. Bernal was a faculty member at the Institute of Natural Sciences, National University of Colombia until 2007. In 2010, Bernal and his late wife co-authored the authoritative text on the palms of Colombia, a monumental work. Over his career, he has described over 45 new species of palm trees.

- **Marc Claude Minno PhD.**

Marc C. Minno has studied the ecology, systematics, and biogeography of butterflies and moths for much of his life. He received a B.S. degree in entomology from Purdue University, a M.S. degree in entomology from the University of California at Davis, and a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Florida. He currently works as an ecologist for Eco-Cognizant, Inc., a consulting firm. Recently, he has been monitoring imperiled butterflies in the Florida Keys and southern areas of the state. Marc frequently gives presentations and workshops on butterflies to local chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society, North American Butterfly Association, Audubon Society, and other conservation groups. He is a past president of the Southern Lepidopterists' Society and in 1999 received the John Abbott Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in expanding knowledge of Lepidoptera. Marc has over 21 years of experience as an interdisciplinary scientist doing field research in the Americas, Caribbean, Europe, and India including research in Cuba for TREE on imperiled species. He is a research associate with the McGuire Center at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, which contains the largest butterfly and moth research facility in the world.

Day 1: Tue, June 23 Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique, Jardin

Jardin

Tucked amidst the Andes Mountains in northwest Colombia, the quaint Andean town of Jardin rests in a verdant valley. Considered the most beautiful town in the province of Antioquia, Jardin is best known for its colonial charm and its picturesque streets lined with colourful heritage houses decorated with flower boxes, carved balconies and multi-coloured shutters. Visitors can view local antiques and art at the Clara Rojas Pelaez House Museum, spot over 200 species of bird in the countryside, visit a local sugar cane mill to sample panela - delicious traditional brown sugar cakes, and discover the cobblestoned main square of El Libertador Park fringed by the neo-Gothic Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and edged by inviting cafes. Don't miss the opportunity to venture into the surrounds which feature cascading waterfalls, hidden caves, and a variety of small coffee farms edging up the Andean slopes.

Day Itinerary

- Day one June 23: Fly from FLL to Medellin at 7:15 AM and arrive at 9:43 am.
- Clear customs.
- Van will be waiting to take the group to Jardin, about a 3.5- 4-hour drive with a stop for lunch.
- Arrive in Jardin and check into the hotel.
- Visit the hidden forest and see the rare Cock of the Rock bird along with other birds and butterflies.
- Overnight in the colorful, artsy town of Jardin.

Overnight: Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique

Inspired by the beautiful tropical flower “Passiflora Jardinensis”, Casa Passiflora Hotel combines the traditional colonial architecture and decoration with modern amenities and excellent services. All rooms are equipped with Wifi, Air Conditioner, Smart TV HD 55” with DirectTV and Netflix access, Digital Safe (fits one laptop), Minibar and snacks, beds with beautiful linens and pillows selection, Mini-Refrigerator and luxury amenities.



Day 2: Wed, June 24 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Northern Andes

The longest mountain range in the world, the Andes stretches along the western coastline of South America from Venezuela to Argentina. The Northern Andes, however, encompasses only Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. The area boasts some of the richest tropical montane forests on earth and is home to a myriad of species including most of the world's spectacled bears. Seven different eco-regions can be found along the way, as well as numerous charming colonial towns, Inca ruins and of course, Bogota – Colombia's capital city and the third highest city in South America, sitting at 2,640 metres (8,660 ft) above sea level.

Day Itinerary

Day 2- June 24

After a big breakfast, jeeps will take the group up the mountain to the Mesenia Private Research station. The drive is approx. two hours. The station is not open to the public, but a fabulous place to see flora and fauna known only to this unique mountain area. Meet your hosts.

Overnight: Reserva Natural Mesenia

Located in the municipality of Jardín in Antioquia, Reserva Natural Mesenia is a conservation reserve dedicated to the conservation, investigation and observation of the native birds of southwestern Antioquia. It is an optimal place to rest and enter in harmony with nature and guests can enjoy activities such as hiking, bird watching., and a camping area that visitors can explore.



Day 3: Thu, June 25 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day Itinerary

Mesenia Lodge is located about two thirds up the top of the Andes mountain chain. This idyllic setting allows scientists to easily access the rarest of flora and fauna in this rich new region of discovery.

While the hummingbirds and some plants have been documented, No butterfly research has been done here yet. It is a treasure trove of discovery while being a place to just enjoy the beauty and solace that only Mother Nature could provide in a cloud forest.

The lodge is comfortable and clean. It has plenty of workspaces and there are cameras set up in the jungle so visitors can watch the nightlife from the lodge.

The food is prepared by a fabulous team of Colombians who will also take care of you like family. While the surrounding mountain top offers the most unique flora and fauna to discover, just hanging around the lodge has a plethora of visitors to study!

Day 4: Fri, June 26 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day Itinerary

Day 5: Sat, June 27 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day 6: Sun, June 28 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day 7: Mon, June 29 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day 8: Tue, June 30 Reserva Natural Mesenia , Northern Andes

Day 9: Wed, July 1 Movich Hotel Las Lomas, Colombia

Day 9- July 1

Day Itinerary -

- After a hearty breakfast, head down the mountain by jeep.
- Stop in Jardin to get great local Colombian Coffee and take a break. Then the van will transport you to the Rio Negro Hotel near the airport where you will have dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Movich Hotel Las Lomas

Set amidst temples of plants, flowers and trees lies Movich Hotel Las Lomas, a hotel ideal for both business and leisure travellers with surroundings including Jose Maria Cordova Airport and the El Carmen de Viobral, an area famously known for its delicious food.

The hotel boasts an array of well-appointed guest rooms, each featuring modern interiors and amenities such as air-conditioning, a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom. Guests can indulge in delicious meals at the hotel's restaurant, relax during a massage at the spa or lounge around the swimming pool during their stay.



Further Information: <https://www.movichotels.com/esp/medellin/las-lomas/Pages/index.aspx>

Day 10: Thu, July 2

Day Itinerary

- After breakfast, take hotel shuttle to Medellin airport.
- Flight back to FLL leaves at 10:50 AM and arrives 3:22 PM

End of Itinerary

Transport

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
23 Jun	Scheduled		Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport [FLL]		José María Córdova International Airport [MDE]			
2 Jul	Scheduled		José María Córdova International Airport [MDE]		Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport [FLL]			

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
23 Jun		José María Córdova International Airport [MDE]	Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique		Transfer
24 Jun		Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique	Reserva Natural Mesenia		Transfer
1 Jul		Reserva Natural Mesenia	Movich Hotel Las Lomas		Transfer
2 Jul		Movich Hotel Las Lomas	José María Córdova International Airport [MDE]		Transfer

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Tree Institute International	866-355-8733	treeinstitutetravel@gmail.com	TREE Team

Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Casa Passiflora Hotel Boutique			Carrera 5 # 11 – 48 Jardín Antioquia.
Movich Hotel Las Lomas		+57 1 5215050	
Reserva Natural Mesenia		+57 350 7013047	Western Cordillera 0045 Garden

Travel Information



A land of diverse landscapes, cultures and attractions, the South American nation of Colombia is every bit a tourist's dream. The only country in the region with two ocean coasts, Colombia offers visitors the opportunity to explore Caribbean beaches, tropical jungles and snow-capped mountain peaks. In addition to its impressive terrains, the country is also home to age-old archaeological sites, historic towns, and vibrant cities where a diverse mix of Spanish, African, European and Middle-Eastern influences are reflected the food, architecture and fascinating ethnic traditions.

Entry Requirements

A valid passport, good for 6 months past your travel dates, is required for U.S. citizens to enter Colombia. Leisure and business travelers are allowed to stay a maximum of 90 days in Colombia without a visa.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Colombian Peso (COP; symbol Col\$) = 100 centavos. Notes are in denominations of Col\$50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 2,000 and 1,000. Coins are in denominations of Col\$500, 200, 100, 50 and 20. US Dollars are sometimes accepted, but be aware that you may be viewed as a rich tourist if you try to pay with dollars and you might find that the prices go up. Also be aware that there are a large amount of counterfeit US dollars in Colombia, so if you need change, get it in Colombian Pesos.

The import and export of local and foreign currencies is unlimited, but amounts exceeding the equivalent of US\$10,000 must be declared.

Currency should be exchanged at hotels, banks and bureaux de change only, though most places charge commission. Travellers are advised against changing money on the street. The US Dollar is the easiest currency to exchange. When crossing borders, in particular in Ipiales, be very careful with the money changers, and make sure you do the calculations on your own.

Banking

Banking hours are from Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. On the last business day of every month, banks close at 1200.

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are widely accepted, American Express and Diners Club less so. There are ATMs throughout the main cities; some will allow cash withdrawals using Visa, MasterCard or Cirrus. Ensure you know the number to call to cancel your card quickly if it is stolen, and inform your bank beforehand that you will be travelling to Colombia in case your accounts are frozen upon use.

There are ATMs throughout the main cities; some will allow cash withdrawals using Visa, MasterCard or Cirrus. While the prevalence of ATMs is increasing throughout the country, in smaller, rural towns and villages you should ensure you have enough cash to last until you get back to a bigger city. ATMs can be temperamental, run out of money and not work for you when they worked perfectly well the day before. Try to use ATMs in the daytime rather than after dark, and within banks with security guards, if possible.

The most commonly accepted traveller's cheques are those issued by American Express and Citicorp. Traveller's cheques can be exchanged at banks, hotels or bureaux de change. They are generally not accepted as a form of payment, other than at major hotels. While safe, generally traveller's cheques should be avoided in case you can find yourself somewhere where they are not accepted; ATMs are a much more efficient way of handling your money. If you do choose to bring traveller's cheques, make sure you take them in US Dollars.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

There is an excellent internal air network connecting major cities, including those in the Caribbean coastal area. There are also local helicopter flights. Flights between the mainland and the islands of San Andrés and Providencia operate from most major Colombian cities. The main domestic carriers are Avianca (AV) (www.avianca.com), Lan Colombia (4C) (www.lan.com), Copa Airlines (CM) (www.copaair.com) and Satena (9R) (www.satena.com).

Some areas have no road access, such as the Amazon River border town of Leticia, which must be accessed by air. Other areas have road routes but a flight will be far more expedient and not too expensive; for example, Bogotá to Cartagena is a flight of 1 hour 25 minutes, but the bus journey takes 20 hours. Flights are cheaper when bought well in advance, but are still reasonably priced at short notice.

When booking domestic flights, it is often easiest to go into a travel company office – some domestic airlines don't accept international credit cards online.

Departure tax for internal flights varies depending on your airline. Some include it in the ticket, others charge separately up to about US\$10, but be aware that this situation is ever-changing.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated outside major cities. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should be boiled or otherwise sterilised. Bottled water is widely available throughout the country however, including in rural towns, so you can always make sure you have some. Milk may be unpasteurised in places and should be boiled.

Only eat well cooked meat and fish. When buying food from stalls or markets, try to ensure that the food has not been sitting there for a while, and is kept hot enough to kill germs. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit should be peeled. There is an abundance of fruit available throughout Colombia, which includes pre-cut fruit put into bags and sold on beaches or from stalls in tourist areas. Buying whole fruit from the markets is both cheaper and more hygienic, and will help avoid contamination.

Climate and Weather

The climate is very warm and tropical on the coast and in the north, with a rainy season from May to November. Though the temperature varies little throughout the year due to Colombia's proximity to the equator, it does vary according to altitude. It is cooler in the upland areas and cold in the mountains, and in the cooler times of the year, the nights can be freezing. Bogotá is always spring-like, with cool days and crisp nights, though when the sun is shining the days can get

quite hot. The Amazon region generally stays warm and wet year-round. The best time of year to visit is at either of the drier times: December to March or July and August.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Generally, Colombia requires light clothing suitable for warm to hot weather. However, Bogotá and other places of high altitude get cold at night and even in the shade during the day, particularly in the cooler times of year. You'll definitely need, at least, a warm sweater and trousers for this, preferably a jacket.

If you are hiking, you'll need good boots in the colder mountainous regions and good walking sandals for the Zona Cafetera to let your feet air, but still give support. Very light clothing for the Amazon Basin is required, but having long sleeves and trousers for the evenings to prevent mosquito bites is a good idea. For the rainy season, have something waterproof, such as a light jacket to fend off the downpours.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Colombia are very similar to the electrical outlets found in the United States and Canada, and if your appliance has a North American plug, it's possible that you won't need any adapter at all in order to plug in there. However, there are two potentially very important physical differences that may need to be addressed with an adapter: grounding and/or polarization. If your plug has one or both, and the socket doesn't, then the plug may not physically be able to fit into the socket without an adapter.

In the case of a North American appliance plug, grounding is accomplished by the third, round pin beneath and below the two vertical blades on the plug. Polarization is accomplished by the left vertical blade being taller than the right, so that the plug can't be inserted upside down. U.S. and Canadian sockets are required to be both grounded and polarized. But in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Japan and other areas which use U.S. style sockets, grounding and polarization often are not required, and in fact, the majority of sockets in many of these areas do not accept the taller blade and/or the third grounding pin. This will prevent a North American appliance plug from being able to plug into these sockets, if the plug is either grounded or polarized.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Colombia usually supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts AC. If you're plugging in a U.S. or Canadian 120 volt appliance, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 110-120 volts the socket is supplying. If your appliance is from another part of the world, and it is built only for 220-240 volt electricity, or a Japanese appliance built for 100 volts, then a travel plug adapter by itself won't be sufficient. The voltage will have to be changed from 110-120 volts at the socket, to whatever voltage your appliance requires. This is accomplished with a voltage transformer.
