



Christmas Lights & Cultural Medellín Tour

Includes an incredible foodie tour, salsa dancing and lessons, a private estate visit, private garden tour, private wine tasting and surprises. Only with TREE!!!

December 7-13, 2020 7 days, 6 nights

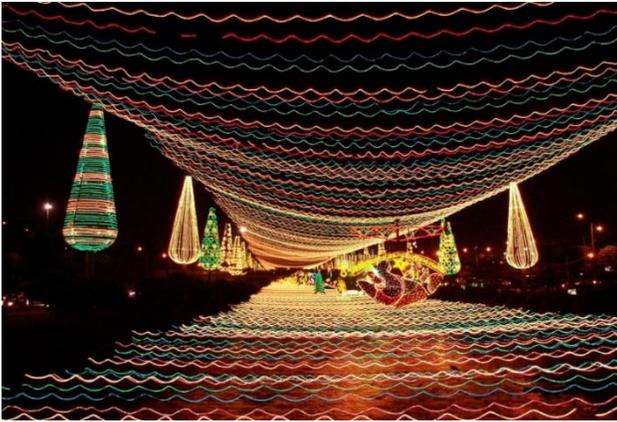
Come with TREE in December as there are few things more exciting than watching the Medellín city streets become illuminated with colorful light displays. And while the decorations in Europe and North America consist mostly of Santa, gifts, and Christmas trees, in Medellín the lights include fish, boats, flowers, castles, rainbows, and more. No matter how old you are, the holidays in the City of Eternal Spring are guaranteed to have you buzzing with Christmas joy. So, whether you are looking to feel festive, or simply need a travel boost, join us for this incredible adventure.

History of the lights

Medellín's Christmas lights are known as 'Alumbrados Navideños' or 'El Alumbrado' in Spanish. The first public Christmas lights in the city took place in Plaza Mayor in 1851, however, it wasn't until 1955 when the annual display began happening. 1955 was the year that EPM (the utility company in Medellín) was consolidated, and in collaboration with the government and press, started putting up Christmas lights in Medellín. This year will be the 53rd year of the light show. Each light display features millions of lights formed in various structures and patterns. The highest number of lights adorned in the Alumbrados was in 2017 when 37 million lights were hung!



Watch this YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfwEjjDkOvI>



Pricing: \$1999.00 per person double occupancy (add 300.00 for single supplemental)

Includes: 6 nights at BH El Pablado Hotel, transfers, baggage handling, transportation, breakfast and lunch daily, tours as per itinerary, plus surprises.

Not Included: International air, tips, alcoholic beverages, hotel incidentals

How to Book: If you are reading the PDF brochure, visit <https://treeinstitute.org/travelexperiences/>.

Under each trip there is a sign up button. Simply click on and fill out the form. If you are reading this via our electronic trip, [click here](#). If you have any questions, CALL 866-355- 8733 or email treeinstitutetravel@gmail.com

Deposit: \$700.00 per person deposit required to hold a space.

Credit Cards: Credit Cards are accepted for a 3% non-cash courtesy fee which will be charged at time of final balance.

Term & Conditions: [COVID 19 SPECIAL Advisory, Payment and Refund policy](#)

TREE is monitoring all of its destinations and consulting with its medical and scientific experts. There will most likely be new protocols put in place for travel. TREE will advise all travelers of any new requirements and any additional COVID costs prior to final payment. Travelers can elect to cancel after reviewing the protocols and any additional costs or move forward and pay final balance which becomes non-refundable. Substitutions will be permitted for \$200.00 administration fee, plus any airlines change fees.

TREE will only operate trips within its partner's requirements for safe travel. TREE will confirm status of the trip no later than 60 days prior to its departure. Travelers signing up understand that should TREE reschedule the trip. Travelers can elect to stay on the trip or request a refund.

Health Insurance/Inoculations: You are responsible for your own health insurance. Many countries are beginning to require proof of health insurance before entering their country. Please be prepared to have this just in case. Some Inoculations are recommended vs. required. Check www.nc.cdc.gov to view details. Also, check with your doctor as to your personal health situation requirements, as well. Some folks have allergies pertaining to vaccines. Optional Trip Health/interruption/Cancellation Insurance is available. Call us!

Other Helpful Information: TREE will email a helpful information sheet 2 weeks prior to the trip. Also, about 2 weeks prior to the trip, TREE will hold a toll-free conference call to go over questions and provide information of where to meet and any "last minute" details

Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrive in Medellin and settle into hotel. Dinner on your own. Start the night off with a surprise. Then get ready for a spectacular show on a guided evening tour. Pass through the city's major landmarks, including La Playa, Medellín river, Parque de las Luces and the stadium. Make stops along the way. Visit the neighboring towns of Envigado and Itagui and stroll through main squares awash in holiday lighting.

Day 2 - Half-day guided tour of city, including visit to Centro Artesanal Mi Viejo Pueblo arts and crafts market, then lunch (ITACA), then Parque Arvi using the fantastic new cable system. Some free time before dinner with renowned restaurant owner, Carmen. and some serious salsa. **(B, L)**



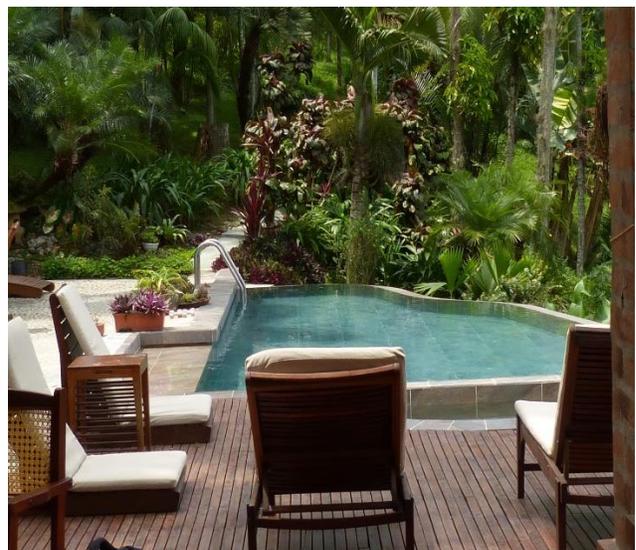
Day 3 - After breakfast, a private guided tour of the Orquedario and Medellín garden. Lunch at garden. Then, visit Cerro Nutibara and stop at Peublito Paisa where the views of the city are breathtaking. Some free time to relax before dinner and visit to Alumbrados.–Sabaneta, the smallest municipality in Colombia located south of Medellín and is having its largest Christmas lights display this year with over five million lights. **(B, L)**



Day 4 - After breakfast, escape busy Medellín for the countryside for a full day trip to explore the flower village of Santa Elena and the massive Peñol Boulder in Guatapé. Ascend high into the mountains of Antioquia to explore the town of Santa Elena, where you'll visit a flower farm that specializes in the creation of intricate flower arrangements prepared for Medellín's annual Flower Festival. Then, head to Guatapé, where you'll climb the 650-foot (200-meter) tall Peñol Boulder via its more than 700 steps. (B, L)



Day 5 - After a late breakfast, visit the private estate home and garden of Carmen's dad, Diego who is building his own botanical garden





Then, head to a Colombian winery called Vina Sicilia .and enjoy a lunch and wine tasting while savoring the views. Find typical Southern Italian grapes planted here, including Nebbiolo, Nero D'Avola, and Zibibbo, along with rows of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Syrah, and other more familiar varieties. The vines are planted on a steep hillside with large boulders sprinkled throughout the rows. Viña Sicilia's award-winning wines include a white wine blend that has earned numerous ribbons from North and South American wine competitions.



Taste five different wines during our visit and chose a bottle to accompany lunch on the terrace overlooking the Cauca River and the pristine mountains rising up from the banks.

Some free time at hotel to rest or shop before heading out for another great evening light tour inside Parque Norte Park. **(B, L)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aWxSoci8nM>

Day 6- After breakfast, have a tour and cooking class! Then work off your gourmet lunch with salsa lessons



Via Cocina combines social transformation and healthy eating with delicious cooking classes, and many say the project's inspiring story is worth the trip alone. The proceeds directly support Via Cocina activities, subsidizing cooking classes and training for low income community members who cannot afford to pay market value. See what past support helped accomplish, and how your participation and contribution will have impact on the project's future development. But above all, it's a very relaxed, fun opportunity to change the way they cook for the rest of their lives! Take a walk exploring Medellin's social transformation, from the tram and metro cable, to community sports centers, to stories behind colorful murals that share the neighborhood's history and culture. At the Vía Cocina training center, tour the project spaces and green rooftop where you pick organic herbs and vegetables for the class. Learn more about Medellin's transformation, pointing out projects visible from the rooftop situated in breathtaking mountains. In the kitchen put on aprons, learn cutting and prep techniques that make cooking easier and fun. Prepare traditional Colombian dishes and popular recipes from our community project, transforming local produce into healthy flavors from around the world. After cooking, enjoy the meal in our unique colonial style patio, with century-old doors and windows. Then, head to Salsalandia for dance lessons. Dinner on your own (B, L)

Day 7- After breakfast, free time to explore the neighborhood before heading to the airport for your return flight (B)

