Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

+44 (0) 1905 388977 info@equus-journeys.com

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Barichara and the Chicamocha Canyon

COLOMBIA

Embark on an unforgettable **horseback journey** through the exotic and beautiful Santander department in northeastern Colombia, where rich history and vibrant culture meet stunning natural landscapes. On this exciting and adventurous trail you'll get to taste **Colombian coffee**, eat home-cooked local cuisine and ride to the magnificent **Chicamocha Canyon**, which cuts through the Eastern Range of the Andes Mountains. You'll discover verdant vegetation, breathtaking waterfalls and pristine towns, rarely visited by tourists, with charming colonial architecture. Your journey culminates in the **enchanting town of Barichara**, celebrated as one of Colombia's most treasured heritage destinations.

Trail Riding	**10 days, 5 riding**	**From £2,558**	


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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Enjoy a variety of incredible natural landscapes, from woodlands, mountains, tropical forest and waterfalls
- Discover the awe-inspiring Chicamocha Canyon – nominated as one of the top seven modern natural wonders of the world
- Ride through pineapple, tobacco, citrus and coffee plantations (with the chance to sample and buy some Colombian coffee)
- Visit Puente de Boyacá, the historic site of Colombia's final battle for independence
- Learn about the history of Colombia while exploring colonial towns and their landmarks
- Explore the quaint and beautiful Barichara, one of Colombia's most treasured heritage towns with stunning colonial architecture

Day 1 — 1: ARRIVAL IN BOGOTÁ - No riding

International flight to Bogota. Flights are not included (but can be booked upon request). You will be met at the airport by a member of the local team and transferred to your hotel (you can arrive at any time). Dinner is to your own account this evening.

Overnight at the hotel in Bogota.

Day 2 — 2: BOGOTÁ – OIBA - No riding

Get ready for a long but impressive journey today! After breakfast, you'll be transferred to Oiba, the starting point of the ride (approximately a 9-hour drive). You'll take a scenic route through the picturesque landscapes of the Cundinamarca, Boyacá and Santander departments, stopping at Puente de Boyacá, the historic site of Colombia's final battle for independence. You'll stop for lunch at a local restaurant and then continue your journey before finally arriving at your hotel in the early evening, around 6 or 7pm.

Overnight at the hotel in Oiba.

Day 3 — 3: OIBA – CHARALÁ - 7-9 hours riding

Today is your first day of riding! After breakfast, you'll meet the horses and ride from Oiba to Charalá through captivating woodlands and mountains, enjoying pleasant, mild temperatures. You'll enjoy lunch at a small coffee farm where you can see how the coffee is made and packaged. Then you'll explore Charalá, a town which played a key and early role in the independence movement against the Spanish. You'll visit important landmarks including the Cathedral and the ancient Arabian Saman tree, see the artisanal cotton workshop and take a walk through Charalá's charming cobblestone streets.

Overnight at a quaint hotel in Charalá.

Day 4 — 4: CHARALÁ – PARAMO - 6-8 hours riding

You'll ride along the majestic Fonce River Valley today, an area known for its rolling green hills and clean rivers and pools. You'll stop at the beautiful Juan Curi falls for a refreshing break and a swim, followed by a traditional lunch. Afterwards, you'll continue your journey to the quiet country town of Páramo, where you can admire one of the region's most beautiful stone and wood churches. You'll arrive at a farm hotel in the late afternoon. Here you can buy local coffee and enjoy the swimming pool.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Paramo.

Day 5 — 5: PARAMO – EL PALMAR - 7-9 hours riding

You'll travel on horseback to the historic town of El Socorro today (another important town in the battle for independence), passing coffee plantations and breathtaking mountains along the way. You'll cross the Suarez River and descend to the town of El Palmar, a trail which offers incredible views of the stunning landscape shaped by the Suarez River basin. You'll finally arrive in El Palmar and spend the night at a charming hacienda.

Dinner and overnight at the hacienda in El Palmar.

Day 6 — 6: EL PALMAR – BARICHARA - 5-7 hours riding

You'll cross the Suárez River once more today and head to Cabrera, a village renowned for its well-preserved colonial architecture. You'll then follow the old Camino Real ("royal road", an old colonial roadway built during Spanish rule to connect towns across the Andes) to the Barichara plateau, entering the town via the historic stone bridge or Puente Real (royal bridge). There'll be plenty of time to explore Barichara's cobblestone streets, parks and churches before heading to a country house where you'll stay the night.

Overnight at the country house.

Day 7 — 7: CHICAMOCHA CANYON - 7-9 hours riding

Today you'll enjoy a wonderful three-hour ride through pineapple, tobacco, and citrus plantations to the Chicamocha Canyon, a stunning natural wonder nominated as one of the top seven modern natural wonders of the world. For lunch, you'll be treated to a delicious specialty meal, before finally returning to Barichara on horseback for dinner and an evening of relaxation.

Overnight at a hotel in Barichara.

Day 8 — 8: BARICHARA - No riding

You'll have a full day to discover the fantastic town of Barichara with an English-speaking guide and to see its wonderful architecture, from the Templo de la Inmaculada Concepción y San Lorenzo (the main church in the central square), to the Capilla Santa Bárbara (small colonial chapel). You'll also have the chance to visit to the paper workshop, a wonderful community project. You'll end the trip with a special lunch and then enjoy a free afternoon. You can continue to explore the town, shop, go hiking, relax by the pool or you can choose to go rafting in the Fonce River (for an additional fee).

Overnight at the hotel in Barichara.

Day 9 — 9: BARICHARA – BOGOTÁ

You'll say goodbye to the local team and head back to the capital city today. The transfer is approximately 10 hours and you'll stop for lunch on the way. You will arrive back in Bogota at around 6pm. Dinner is to your own account this evening.

Overnight at the hotel in Bogota.

Day 10 — 10: DEPARTURE - No riding

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home (approx. 1 hour drive). You are welcome to book your flight for any time, but please note that check out of the hotel is at 12pm.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
06/11/2026	15/11/2026	£2,558	Guaranteed departure
13/12/2026	22/12/2026	£2,558	Guaranteed departure
15/01/2027	24/01/2027	£3,023	Guaranteed departure
05/02/2027	14/02/2027	£3,023	Open
12/03/2027	21/03/2027	£3,023	Open
14/05/2027	23/05/2027	£3,023	Open
11/06/2027	20/06/2027	£3,023	Open
16/07/2027	25/07/2027	£3,023	Open
20/08/2027	29/08/2027	£3,023	Open
24/09/2027	03/10/2027	£3,023	Open
22/10/2027	31/10/2027	£3,023	Open
14/12/2027	23/12/2027	£3,023	Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included but can be booked on request.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 4 riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guides.
The ride will also confirm for 2-3 riders on payment of a small group supplement of $600 / £450 / €515 in 2026, and $800 / £595 / €695 in 2027.

- Airport transfers are included, you can arrive and depart at any time.

- To guarantee a single room, there is a single room supplement of $540 / £400 / €465 per person in 2026, and $630 / £400 / €465 per person in 2027. Please note that single rooms are subject to availability. If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Accompanied young riders are welcome from 12 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

- Activities such as rafting at the Fonce river are not included and are payable locally in cash (approx. $100 / £80 / €90 including transport).
Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

2 English/Spanish-speaking horse guides

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers

ACCOMMODATION

2 nights at a hotel in Bogota and 7 nights in simple hotels, haciendas or farmhouses along the trail.

MEALS

Full board during the ride, excluding meals in Bogota (all meals on Day 1 and dinner on Day 9)

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras
All meals in Bogota on Day 1 and dinner in Bogota on Day 9

TRANSPORT

International flights, taxes and passenger fees

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation
Visa

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The stable has 35 horses, 20 of which are used for trail rides. They include Anglo-Arab horses, and Anglo-Arabs crossed with Colombian Criollos. They are energetic and hardy, and range in size from 14 -16hh, with some suitable for less confident riders.

Guide & local team

Two equestrian guides will accompany you during the ride. They speak Spanish and English. Your main guide will be Julio, a former polo player and endurance rider with many years of experience guiding trail rides.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be an experienced rider, competent in all paces and used to riding outdoors for several hours over varying terrain. Previous experience of a multi-day trail ride is highly recommended.

Please also note that for this ride, there is a strict rider weight limit of 80 kg / 176 lbs / 12 st 8 lbs, including riding gear.

PACE

Much of the ride will be at a walk, but there will be plenty of opportunities to trot and canter throughout the week. Some days are slower than others due to the terrain. On average, guests may spend around 50% of the time walking, 30% trotting and 20% cantering.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Your horse will be tacked up for you by the guides, but you are welcome to assist.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should be physically fit and prepared for long days in the saddle (sometimes 7-9 hours), riding over varied terrain and in a tropical climate. You may need to dismount and walk your horse over some steep or rocky sections.

Previous experience of trail riding is highly recommended. You should also be prepared for an adventurous trip, with simple accommodation. Please check with us before booking if you have any medical conditions.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

The saddles are English or McLellan.
Saddlebags are provided and a sheepskin seat saver may be available on request.
Helmets are mandatory. Equus Journeys highly recommends that riders bring their own hats to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You'll spend 2 nights at a hotel in the capital Bogota, and 7 nights in simple hotels, haciendas or farmhouses along the trail. Rooms are normally shared between two riders and have a bathroom. Exceptionally there may be some rooms shared between 3 riders or with a shared bathroom.
Accommodation is simple as the route passes through areas with few tourists – please note there is no air conditioning, and hot water may be limited. But fans are available and there is normally wifi in the evenings.
Sleeping bags are not required.

MEALS

Breakfast is served at hotels or eaten with locals. Lunch is either a picnic carried in saddlebags or a home-cooked meal with locals. Dinner is enjoyed at a restaurant or with locals, depending on the day's accommodation. Alcoholic beverages are not included.

Breakfasts include eggs, bread, arepas, coffee, tea, chocolate, milk and fruit or juices of tropical fruits (Colombia has a wide variety and availability throughout the year, including pineapple, papaya, melon, mango, grapefruit, passion fruit, etc).

For lunch you can expect sandwiches, accompanied by crisps/snacks, and brownies or cookies for dessert. When possible, you'll stop at local houses to enjoy home-cooked food, based on beef, pork or chicken accompanied by plantains and salad. Dinners typically include beef or chicken with potatoes, plantains, casava, salad and fruit.

Vegetarian and gluten-free diets can be catered for, but please let us know in advance. Unfortunately, vegan options can't be accommodated on this trip. If you have allergies or other restrictions, please check with your advisor before booking.

WATER
Do not drink from unknown sources. You will be supplied with fresh water to drink.

CLIMATE

Colombia is a tropical country, and weather often depends on the altitude and whether you're visiting during the dry or rainy season.

Generally speaking, the higher the altitude the cooler the temperature. Bogotá is at 2,600m above sea level and so is rather cold all year round. Cartagena is at sea level and is warm all year round. On this trail, you will be riding in the Santander department which is between 1000 and 1,800m, with an average temperature of 20-30 °C.

In the Santander department, rain is becoming harder to predict, despite the dry and rainy seasons. Rides are planned all year round with rain not normally presenting an issue – but raincoats are a must throughout the season.

TIPS

Tips are welcomed. We recommend around US$50 - $100 per rider, to be shared between local guides and drivers.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. Your luggage will be carried by a support vehicle during the ride. Please use a soft sided bag which can easily be transported. There is a weight limit of 23kgs for yor main bag. You can also bring a small backpack.

Head
- It is mandatory that you wear a riding helmet and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Waterproof jacket

Legs
- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms

Hands and Feet
- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged.
- Waterproof shoes/boots can be useful if it’s muddy but are optional
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for moving around in the evenings
- Socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the elements whilst riding.

Nightwear
- Pyjamas

Other useful items
- Swimsuit
- Cosmetics
- Towel - camping ones will both dry and pack more easily
- Small backpack for accessing items required during the day (carried by support crew)
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch
- Water bottle
- Small plastic bags for rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)
- Power bank

Medical kit
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Any medication you regularly take
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Other recommendations:

- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes / any essentials and valuables in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- Please print copies of your passport and insurance documents and take them with you.
- Backpacks should not be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- Please take your rubbish home with you and try to leave excess packaging material at home before travelling.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .