



# RHYTHMS & WATERWAYS OF **COLOMBIA**



**SMALL GROUP  
AMAWATERWAYS CRUISES | AMAMELODIA  
JANUARY 17 – 29, 2027 | 13 DAYS | 30 MEALS  
JOURNEY LEADER: KAREN CULLEN**

*AmaMelodia shares her elegant design and amenities with sister ship AmaMagdalena (pictured). Credit AmaWaterways*

Embark on a soul-stirring expedition through the heart of Colombia, where vibrant culture meets untouched natural beauty. This curated journey begins in Medellin, the "City of Eternal Spring," where we marvel at the giant Peñol Boulder and the whimsical sculptures of Fernando Botero.

The adventure continues as we board the elegant AmaMelodia for a seven-night cruise along the storied Magdalena River. From the rhythmic beats of a private Barranquilla Carnival to the "frozen-in-time" colonial charm of Mompox, every port reveals a new layer of heritage. We witness the intricate art of filigree jewellery, explore the first "free town" of the Americas in Palenque, and wander the sun-drenched, walled streets of Cartagena. Our voyage concludes in the high-altitude capital of Bogota, featuring the subterranean wonder of the Salt Cathedral. Join us for an unforgettable immersion into the music, colour, and spirit of Colombia.



### SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIMITED TO 25 TRAVELLERS

#### Inclusive Features

- 7-night cruise on the AmaMelodia
- 2 nights first-class hotel accommodation in Medellin and Bogota as indicated or similar
- 30 meals included as shown in the itinerary (B - 11 breakfasts, L - 8 lunches, D - 11 dinners)
- Full day excursion to Peñol de Guatapé
- Services of your journey leader and/or cruise director
- Guided shore excursions as indicated
- All gratuities and taxes for included services
- Domestic flights in Colombia

#### Air-Inclusive rates also include:

- Return economy airfare from Canada
- Transfers between airports, hotel and the ship
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value

#### Journey Leader

Meet **Karen Cullen**, a retired travel professional with 45 years of experience and a passion for discovery. She's explored six continents and has led seven tours for Craig Travel, bringing her expertise and warmth to every journey.

What excites Karen most is seeing each destination exceed expectations, and she can't wait to share her love of travel, cultural experiences, and meaningful connections with fellow travellers. Join her and experience a trip filled with inspiration, insight, and unforgettable moments.



#### Our Cruise Ship • AmaMelodia

Cruise in luxury along Colombia's magnificent Magdalena River on board the stunning AmaMelodia, an intimate ship newly designed to maximize views along this special waterway. With just 32 staterooms (237 to 306 sq. ft.) for a maximum of 64 guests, the AmaMelodia offers an exceptionally high staff-to-guest ratio and an atmosphere of quiet exclusivity. Every stateroom features floor-to-ceiling windows and either a French or outside balcony, ensuring you never miss a moment of the jungle's emerald canopy or the colourful colonial architecture of the riverbanks.

The AmaMelodia features public spaces that foster both relaxation and connection. In the Main Lounge, enjoy nightly live music, cultural performances, and the signature AmaWaterways cocktail hour. On the Sun Deck, bask in the sun or take a refreshing dip in the heated pool as you watch the exotic wildlife pass by. Maintain your routine in the state-of-the-art fitness room, or pamper yourself with a treatment in the massage room or the onboard hair and nail salon.

Dining on the AmaMelodia is a celebration of flavour. The Main Restaurant serves locally inspired Latin American cuisine alongside Western favourites, all prepared with fresh, regional ingredients.



**JAN 17, Sunday** **DEPART CANADA**

Travellers gather in Toronto for our flights to the "City of Eternal Spring," Medellin, travelling via Bogota.

**JAN 18, Monday** **ARRIVE BOGOTA / MEDELLIN**

Upon arrival in Bogota, we board our connecting flight to Medellin. This afternoon, we delve into the region's artistic heritage with a guided visit to the Museum of Antioquia. Here, we admire an incredible collection by Colombia's most renowned artist, Fernando Botero, known worldwide for his signature volumetric style. This evening, we gather for a welcome dinner. **Hotel Park 10** (2 nights) D

**JAN 19, Tuesday** **PENOL DE GUATAPE / MEDELLIN**

Today, we venture into the lush countryside, enjoying scenery of rolling green hills and blue lakes on our way to the massive Peñol Boulder. For the adventurous, an opportunity awaits to conquer over 700 steps leading to its summit for panoramic views. After, we sail the calm waters of the Guatape Reservoir, a relaxing excursion with great photo opportunities. Our drive continues to the charming Guatape village, famous for its iconic white and red church and the vibrant zocalos adorning its colourful homes. BLD

**JAN 20, Wednesday** **BARRANQUILLA / EMBARK**

Our floating home awaits as we gather for a short flight to Barranquilla. Upon arrival, we transfer to our ship and settle into our staterooms. As evening falls, an exclusive Carnival celebration bursts into colour, music, and dance, filling the air with joy and rhythm. This UNESCO-recognized tradition immerses you in the lively spirit of Colombia, setting the perfect tone for our journey. **AmaMelodia** (7 nights) BD

**JAN 21, Thursday** **SITIO NUEVO**

Discover the gentle rhythms of life along the Magdalena River in Sitio Nuevo. We explore the village and learn about its residents during a guided tour, enjoying traditional art and tasting local delicacies. The warm hospitality and traditions found here offer an intimate glimpse into the heart of Colombia's river culture. BLD

**JAN 22, Friday** **MAGANGUE**

We navigate the waters of Boca de Tacalao (mouth of Tacalao) by excursion boat, immersing ourselves in the wild beauty of the Magangué region. Surrounded by landscapes rich in folklore, this journey offers a rare chance to encounter bird species unique to this habitat. Back on board, we enjoy a scenic sail to the island town of Mompox. Upon arrival, we are welcomed with open arms and lively music as local artists treat us to an exclusive jazz performance. BLD

**JAN 23, Saturday** **MOMPOX**

A town frozen in time, Mompox preserves the appearance of the colonial era. Founded around 1540, this remote village became a vital Spanish trading post and a haven for gold and treasure, safe from the pirates pillaging coastal cities like Cartagena. With this wealth came skilled artisans who crafted the intricate filigree jewellery for which the town is now world-renowned. While visiting the largest river island in Latin America, we journey through beautiful wetlands and explore the massive lake, home to diverse flora and fauna. We discover this storied town on a guided tour, beginning with a tuk-tuk ride from the Plaza de San Francisco. Later, we visit a filigree workshop to witness the intricate artistry that defines Mompox's renowned craftsmanship. With stunning colonial churches, breathtaking surroundings, and delicious local delights, Mompox is sure to be a highlight of this journey. BLD



*The colourful village of Guatape and the surrounding reservoir*



*Happy Palenquera selling fruit in Cartagena*



*The vibrant Church of Our Lady of Carmen in the colourful lakeside town of Guatape*



*Aerial view of historic church and park in Mompox*

**JAN 24, Sunday SANTA BARBARA DE PINTO**

We embark on one of our private excursion boats to visit Santa Barbara de Pinto, a traditional Magdalena riverside village. Here, we enjoy an immersive tour that includes learning the craft of fishing net weaving and watching skilled artisans hand-roll tobacco. We also visit a historic church and browse intricate handmade wares while admiring the pastel-toned Spanish architecture. For those preferring a more active adventure, a guided hike explores the lush landscapes surrounding the town. Later, we invite 20 local families from El Banco on board. As keepers of La Cumbia—the soul of Colombian music—they share this cultural treasure with us through authentic music, stories, and celebration. BLD

**JAN 25, Monday CALAMAR / PALENQUE**

This morning, we board a paola (a bicycle taxi for two) for a historic tour of Calamar, starting with a scenic ride along the Malecon to the House of Culture. Later, we depart Calamar and cruise to Mahates, our gateway to the town of Palenque, the first “free town” in the Americas. Founded by escaped slaves and officially freed by the Spanish Crown in 1713, Palenque has remarkably preserved its distinct colonial spirit and appearance. We immerse ourselves in the town’s deeply rooted culture and traditions, from symbolic hairstyles to ancestral medicine, which are so distinct that UNESCO declared Palenque to be a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. We also visit a local home during this excursion. An important piece of Palenque’s heritage is the music and rhythmic style developed here, which we enjoy during a special performance that brings the town’s spirit to life. BLD

**JAN 26, Tuesday CARTAGENA**

We take the day to delight in the beautiful coastal city of Cartagena. We start our day with a city tour, witnessing iconic landmarks such as the Catedral de Cartagena and the stone walls that protect the city. In the afternoon, we explore the incredible UNESCO-designated San Felipe Castle, the fortress that defended Cartagena from French and British invasions. Our journey continues with a tour through the Getsemani neighbourhood. With its vibrant homes, street art, and local delicacies, this historic district delights all the senses. BLD

**JAN 27, Wednesday CARTAGENA / BOGOTA**

Following breakfast, we disembark and fly to the capital city of Bogota. This afternoon, we explore La Candelaria, the city’s historic heart. We wander its cobbled streets to the Plaza de Bolivar, the grand main square surrounded by colonial buildings. Should time allow, we visit the Botero Museum to view its impressive artistic collection. **Hotel B.O.G (2 nights)** BD

**JAN 28, Thursday BOGOTA**

On the outskirts of Bogota, we descend nearly 180 metres underground to the Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral. Built as a mine by pre-Columbian peoples, this architectural wonder stunningly combines engineering with sacred art. We tour its halls adorned with salt and marble sculptures before visiting the on-site museums to deepen our cultural understanding. Later we gather for our farewell dinner. BLD

**JAN 29, Friday BOGOTA / CANADA**

Early this morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight, filled with memories of our time in Colombia. B

**CT Rating 2.5/5 - Slightly Challenging:** This journey involves a moderate amount of walking, often over varied terrain such as cobblestone streets. The climate is warm and humid, with high altitude experienced in Bogota. Please note that there is no elevator onboard. Both during shore excursions and onboard, you may need to navigate stairs and occasional steep steps. To fully enjoy all that this tour has to offer, participants should be in good physical condition and comfortable walking for up to a few kilometres, sometimes on uneven surfaces.

**Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Cruise/Tour Only..	\$9,735
Toronto .....	\$11,095
Ottawa / Montreal .....	\$11,285
Halifax / St. John’s / Fredericton .....	\$11,385
Winnipeg / Thunder Bay.....	\$11,385
Saskatoon / Regina .....	\$11,485
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver .....	\$11,385
Victoria.....	\$11,485

Rates are per person based on sharing a Category C Outside Twin (Salsa Deck). The cruise-only price includes domestic flights in destination but excludes international airfare. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

**Supplement to Upgrade to Higher Category**

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
<b>B Outside (Salsa Deck)</b> .....	\$995
<b>A Outside (Cumbia Deck)</b> .....	\$1,325

Stateroom categories are subject to availability at the time of booking. Please refer to our website for single room pricing. Single rooms are extremely limited and on request. Prices are based on taxes, surcharges, airfares and exchange rates effective January 2026 and are subject to change. Cruise price is based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom with private bathroom. Cruise will be escorted with a minimum of 20 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual’s age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

**First deposit is \$2,000 per person at time of booking**  
**Second deposit is \$3,000pp on July 7, 2026**  
**Final payment is due September 15, 2026**

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

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