

YService International: Bogotá, Colombia

Draft itinerary. Wednesday, March 14 – Tuesday, March 20

Pre-trip briefing: 8:30–9:30am, February 28

March 14

We will travel as a group from MSP to BOG. Upon arrival YMCA of Bogota staff will greet us and bring us to our hotel.

- Lodging: Hotel Ibis in the Candelaria, Bogotá's historic downtown.

March 15

On our first morning we will have of a number of conversations with area experts introducing us to Colombia's social, cultural, and political story. We will also speak with YMCA staff who will share their strategies for addressing the country's current social issues.

In the afternoon we'll visit Hogar Encuentro, a YMCA site in southeast Bogotá focused on meeting challenges rooted in the country's history of political violence.

In the evening we will relax, joining our hosts for a performance of the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra.

- Breakfast: Hotel Ibis
- Lunch: YMCA Central Branch
- Dinner: TBD downtown Bogotá
- Lodging: Hotel Ibis

March 16

On our second morning we will visit YMCA Youth Mission, immersing ourselves in the YMCA's youth development work in northern Bogotá.

In the late afternoon and evening we'll visit the cavernous Salt Cathedral and enjoy an incredible and unique dining experience at Andres Carne de Res.

- Breakfast: Hotel Ibis
- Lunch: Hacienda la Margerita, in the countryside north of Bogotá
- Dinner: Andres Carne de Res, north of Bogotá
- Lodging: Hotel Ibis

March 17

A day of emotional rest in the middle of our trip, on Sunday we will enjoy Colombia's natural beauty by visiting Chicaque Nature Reserve and, if we have the energy, the Orchids of Tequendama. We'll spend our evening at YMCA Camp Bochica.

- Breakfast: Hotel Ibis
- Lunch: Chicaque Natural Reserve Lodge
- Dinner: YMCA Camp Bochica
- Lodging: YMCA Camp Bochica

March 18

Departing Camp Bochica we will return to Bogotá, touring one of the YMCA's most impressive youth service programs, Bosa Jovenes, on the way. In the afternoon we'll visit a number of cultural landmarks including the Palace of Justice, the Gold Museum and the Botero Museum.

- Breakfast: YMCA Camp Bochica
- Lunch: La Macarena, downtown Bogotá
- Dinner: TBD downtown Bogotá
- Lodging: Hotel Ibis

March 19

Our final day will include our most impactful visit, to Hogar Amanecer. There the YMCA serves women and children who live and work in the Tolerance Zone, an area of Bogotá where prostitution is legal.

In the afternoon we will visit the National Center for Memory, a hugely moving facility for historic reflection on Colombia's history of conflict, then reflect on our visit from Bogotá's Monteserrate overlook. Our final dinner will be one to remember, a Cena Colombiana hosted by the staff and board of the Bogotá YMCA.

- Breakfast: Hotel Ibis
- Lunch: International Center, downtown Bogotá
- Dinner: Colombian Banquet at the YMCA Central Branch
- Lodging: Hotel Ibis

March 20

We'll rise early and head to the airport.

- Breakfast: Hotel Ibis

Post-trip debrief, date TBD