



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

# *Magical Realism* OF CARTAGENA



Sustainer Travel Series: *Travel with a Purpose*

February 7 through 11, 2018

# Magical Realism OF CARTAGENA



The Association of Junior Leagues International presents the Magical Realism of Cartagena, a five-day tour of colonial Cartagena exclusively designed for members of the Next Chapter and all League Sustainers. In these five days, we explore the rich history of Cartagena and feel the rhythms of the colonial city. Take a step away from the real to embrace the magical as we walk through centuries of history, taste deliciously re-imagined Colombian cuisine, explore traditional Cumbia music, meander through lush mangroves, and much more. With a penchant for authenticity, our itinerary cultivates a more nuanced understanding of contemporary

Colombian life while supporting sustainable, community-driven tourism. Our base will be the Hotel Sofitel Legend Santa Clara, a luxuriously renovated convent that dates back to 1621 and is consistently listed among the most elite hotels in the world. We invite you to step back in time and enjoy one of the most magical cities in the world with fellow Junior League Sustainers.

## TOUR DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- \$2,595 per person, double occupancy
- \$395 single supplement

### CARTAGENA'S HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND SANTA CLARA



In Cartagena, Sofitel revived a convent whose story dates to 1621. Travel back in time in this imposing colonial building. Discover the secrets of a hotel where every detail has its own story to tell. This historic building is shrouded in mystery dating to when it was the Cloister of the Poor Clare Sisters. It still maintains different historical elements: crypts, wells, confessionals, paintings, doors, hidden windows and ceramic objects. The magnificent rooms pay tribute to the best of Colombian culture. This emblematic space at the hotel received the endorsement of Colombian artist Fernando Botero. His daughter, Lina Botero, was tasked with its interior design. With its transformation into an upscale hotel in 1995, Sofitel gave new life to the Convent of Saint Clare of Assisi, built in the 17th century. Its path toward excellence has seen it considered one of the most elite amongst the best hotels in the world.

## ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

### Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018

#### Arrive in Cartagena

Today, we arrive in Cartagena where guides await to take us to the lovely 5-star Hotel Sofitel Legend Santa Clara. Once at our hotel, we'll have the option of exploring the local neighborhood or taking time to relax and unwind poolside



with ocean views and gorgeous colonial architecture. Later, we'll enjoy a welcome cocktail reception followed by dinner at the Carmen Cartagena, a restaurant offering us a delicious five-course contemporary Colombian meal. At dinner, our guide will share background on the history of Cartagena to provide a foundation for the following day's exploration. (Reception, Dinner)



### Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018

#### The Colorful History of Colombia

This morning, we'll join our guide to embark on a historical tour of the city. We'll hear fascinating pirate stories and learn about Cartagena's struggle to independence as we explore important sites and uniquely beautiful plazas. From the Plaza of San Diego, located between the School of Fine Arts and the building that was once the famous Convent



of Santa Clara, we'll stroll through the park of Fernandez de Madrid - known as "the little park of the Evangelists" in masterful author, Gabriel García Márquez's, *Love in the Time of Cholera*. We'll visit the Plaza of Bolívar - with the peaceful murmur of its four fountains and the softly blown fronds of its towering palms. Here we can see traditional dances being performed by free-spirited young people in full regalia before continuing the walk and ending in the Plaza of the Church of Santo Domingo. Together, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we will have the option of free time or a trip to the Emerald Museum to explore Colombia's rich emerald industry. (B,L)

### Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 - La Boquilla Sustainable Colombia: Music & Mangroves

In the morning, we're bound for La Boquilla, an old fishing village twenty minutes north of Cartagena. As Colombia develops, La Boquilla's community leaders are pioneering sustainable tourism. All of our activities today not only help us better understand authentic Colombian culture but also directly help local community members preserve their way of life. We will visit a community music centre for children, learn about Colombia's folk music tradition and take part in



## TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE: MAGICAL REALISM OF CARTAGENA

a drumming and Cumbia dancing workshop. Get acquainted with Give to Columbia®'s **Learning for Life Program**, a high impact social project for young adults, where for a short time we will be a part of an instrumental group providing skills and capacities to obtain employment and lead participants to become a significant contributing force in the development of their very own communities.

Next we board a canoe for a tour of the mangroves supporting true La Boquilla ecotourism. Our guides are



comprised 100% of natives from the La Boquilla community, working for the benefit of the community and the mangrove ecosystem of the marsh known as Cienaga de Juan Polo. We will glide through dense ancient growth of mangroves that meander for a time before opening onto the placid expanses of lake populated by flocks of egrets and pelicans. We will have lunch right on the beach in La Boquilla, listening to the waves gently lap the shore, with some of the freshest fish and most refreshing drinks, followed by an obligatory siesta! As we return to the magical walled city of Cartagena, we will have the afternoon and evening free to relax and wander around the candle-lit streets. (B,L)



### Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018 Street Art & Spanish Fortresses

In the morning we will visit Cartagena's stylish neighbourhood of Getsemani, to witness the city's incredible street art. From there, we'll explore the San Felipe, arguably the greatest fortress built by the Spanish in any of their colonies. Lunch is on our own and, in the afternoon, we can either enjoy a free afternoon or opt to visit a chocolate museum to learn more about Colombia's rich cocoa industry and how chocolate is made into its many forms.

In the evening, we'll be whisked away by horse drawn carriage to our final reception and dinner together in what can only be described as a magical colonial home in the city's historic center.



### Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018 Return Home

Morning at leisure to meander through the cobblestone streets of the Old City and enjoy the balmy tropical breezes of this beautiful Caribbean treasure.

On our final day, we have the morning free as we arrange afternoon transfers to the airport for the return home. 



# ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

## GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

**TOUR COST:** \$2595.00 per person double occupancy. Supplement for single occupancy \$395.00.

**DEPOSIT:** \$500.00 per person deposit is required to confirm a reservation on a definite basis. Final payment is due November 07, 2017. Deposit and payments can be credit card or check.

**TRAVEL PROTECTION:** Connoisseurs Tours offers Cancellation/Delay/Medical Protection. The cost of travel protection is \$172.00 per person based on double occupancy. \$194.00 per person for single occupancy. Travel protection can be paid with your deposit or at the time of your final payment.

Connoisseurs Tours strongly recommends that you purchase Cancellation/Medical Protection. Traveling is a big investment. It pays to protect yourself against unforeseen circumstances that can result in trip cancellation and additional expenses such as costs related to medical emergencies.

This Travel Insured Protection Plan is specifically designed to provide you with peace of mind knowing you are protected against the financial impact of unexpected events while on your trip. Additional insurance is available to include the cost of your airfare. Please contact Connoisseurs Tours if you would like to insure the cost of your airline tickets after you have purchased your airline tickets.

**INCLUSIVE PRICES:** Tour Prices Tour prices are per person in U.S. dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, portage, and the services of the local guides, drivers and the Tour Escort/Guide are included, as per individual details of the itinerary. Transportation from arrival Airports to the beginning hotel is included in the cost of the tour on most journeys. Please review your specific itinerary for details.

Transportation from the last hotel to the departure airport listed in the brochure is also included when you check out of the hotel. Transportation to and from airports and train stations may be shared with other guests.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The tour price includes all hotel accommodations with private baths. Our standard is to provide the best available accommodations without sacrificing value. Although the quality of accommodations may differ slightly from one hotel to another, our commitment to your comfort is unwavering. Two-bedded rooms are reserved in most hotels. Triples are usually two bedded rooms plus a roll-away cot and are not recommended for comfort.

**MEALS:** Meals are included as specified in the itinerary.

**GRATUITIES:** All customary gratuities for hotel, restaurant staff, and local guides are included.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Air transportation to the tour departure point and from the tour ending point is not included.

### GRATUITIES TO YOUR GUIDE/ESCORT AND

**DRIVERS:** Gratuities are not included to your overall guide/escort and coach driver; a recommended gratuity amount will be provided to you in your final tour documents. Connoisseurs Tours wishes to stress that this gratuity is optional and on a voluntary basis.

**PERSONAL EXPENSES:** Personal expenses such as phone calls, use of fitness center, room service, alcoholic and bar beverages, mineral water, soft drinks, laundry, airline service fees, excess luggage fees, and other optional incidental extras are not included in the tour price.

**ITINERARY CHANGE AND FLEXIBILITY:** Connoisseurs Tours pledges to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right to alter or curtail any aspect of the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels/ and or conveyances as deemed necessary. Any additional expense for these substitutions will be covered by Connoisseurs Tours.

**HEALTH AND FITNESS:** Connoisseurs Tours are moderate exertion journeys. Travelers must certify that they are in good health and can walk one to two miles a day. These journeys are not recommended for those who have mobility limitations such as walkers, wheelchairs and scooters.

### CANCELLATION TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- \$300 per person from the time of booking to 120 days prior to departure is non-refundable.
- \$500 per person from 119 to 90 days prior to departure is non-refundable.
- 50% of the tour price from 89 to 60 days prior to departure is non-refundable.
- 100% of the full program cost from 59 to 0 days prior to departure and during the tour is non-refundable.
- *All cancellations must be in writing*

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Connoisseurs Tours acts only as an agent for the traveler with respect to transportation, accommodations and other services offered on the tour. Connoisseurs Tours and the agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error omission, or for any injury, loss,

## TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE: MAGICAL REALISM OF CARTAGENA

accident or delay or irregularity that may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier or through negligence or default of any subcontractor or other third party. The passage contract in use by the carriers when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the traveler. Connoisseurs Tours and/or their agents will not be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to person or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other causes in connection with the tour for anything beyond their reasonable control. Connoisseurs Tours is not responsible for transportation or other delays or changes the tour program beyond their control, nor any additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred by the traveler. It may be necessary or advisable for the wellbeing of all travelers to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the travelers, and such alterations will be made without penalty to Connoisseurs Tours.

Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right to decline or not to retain any person as a member of any tour or to change or withdraw a tour as circumstances demand. All rates quoted are based on tariffs in effect at the time the tour was planned and are subject to change in the event of adjustment therein. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk and baggage insurance is recommended. Connoisseurs Tours reserves the right substitute hotels of equal or superior quality. The proposals of this section are governed by Georgia law, and final payment by the traveler to Connoisseurs Tours shall be deemed to be consent to the above provisions.

**Any payment made towards a tour booking shall constitute a confirmation by the Guest on behalf of themselves and all other persons named on their booking that he or she has read, understood, accepted and agreed to the Terms & Conditions of this tour, the terms of which will apply to the Guest and all other persons named on their booking.**

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Call or email Connoisseurs Tours for more information:

**Connoisseurs Tours**

1-800-856-1045

Email: [Sustainers@ConnoisseursTours.com](mailto:Sustainers@ConnoisseursTours.com)

