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Natural Tourism in the Coffee Triangle, also at ITB 2011

Bogotá, Feb. 16th (Pxp) – Majestic trails, devoted workers and an infinite green horizon are the benefits of the Coffee Triangle, which evokes the magic of nature, blending it with the hospitality of its people. The complete offer in the region will be exhibited at the International Tourism Fair, ITB in Berlin, Germany.

It is there where the best coffee in the world is grown, and its inhabitants have created a culture that teaches it all about the coffee bean and a variety of touristic activities that bear the coffee seal and the locals from the region.

The Coffee Triangle routes offer several alternatives to roam around, whether it be starting in the capital cities, or from the nearby towns. Pleasant trails submerge travelers in the countryside of coffee haciendas and mountains clad with glaucous, fresh vegetation which, given its forms and colors, seems as though it were permanently cared for by skilled gardeners.

Visiting the Coffee Triangle is an entirely new experience that involves, additionally, colorful natural reserves, adventure sports, exquisite gastronomy, theme parks, kind, entrepreneurial people and the possibility to taste the best coffee in the world.

The Coffee Triangle Route

The starting point to begin this route, full of magic and nature, could be the town of Calarca in the province of Quindio. With its busy trade activity, colorful and well taken care of Willys Jeeps - the emblematic vehicles in the region - and the attractive Botanical and Butterfly Garden of Quindio, the trails will lead you to see the regional flora and the tens of butterfly species fluttering around every day.

The next step is Armenia, the miracle and capital city of Quindio. Pleasant walks around Bolivar square, Carrera 14, Parque de la Vida (Life Park) and a visit to the ancient train station and Museo Quimbaya.

From Armenia we move on to Salento, a multicolored town in Quindio with a cheerful architecture style. This town can lead you to Los Nevados Natural National Park through the Valle del Cocora, where wax-palm forests (the National Tree and the only one of its species to grow in cold climates) can be enjoyed.

From Salento to Filandia, passing through a curvy yet well paved road, visitors can see the forest reservations of Bremen and Barbas. Filandia has many historic houses to see, and an

imposing viewing point made out of mangrove offers you the possibility to get a broad scope of the nearby towns, among which are Pereira, our next destination.

The capital city of the provincial department of Risaralda, Pereira emerges after crossing an emblematic toll booth made of guadua wood on the Autopista del Café (the Coffee Highway); a city of significant growth during the last few years, with a modern public transportation system and very interesting places like Bolívar's Square, highlighting the nude body of the Liberator, and the Cathedral of Nuestra Señora de la Pobreza (Our Lady of Poverty).

The province of Risaralda also has destinations that harmonize ecological wealth with the work and creativity of its people, Santuario de la Fauna y Flora Otun Quimbaya; access to the Otun lagoon; Parque de los Nevados; Santa Rosa de Cabal, a destination bathed by healthy thermal waters; Marsella, a town known for its main square, the yipao (Jeep Wyllis) parade and coffee sacks; the Casa de la Cultura (House of Culture) and the Botanical Garden.

Pereira holds the Matecaña Zoo, the Universidad Tecnológica Botanical Garden, the Cesar Gaviria Trujillo viaduct, important shopping malls and the Ciudad Victoria civic square. Pleasant landscapes surround the outskirts of Pereira with coffee farms, the road to Marsella, the hacienda on the road towards Cerritos and the passing of the Cauca River in the town of La Virginia.

Manizales, the capital city of the province of Caldas, is the next stop in this random route around the Coffee Triangle. It is a city known for its steep streets, one of the most famous city fairs in America, and the playful theatrical scenes. One cannot miss its imposing Bolívar Square Cathedral, the Cable station and Los Yarumos eco-park.

Moving towards the north in the Caldas region and to end the route, you can arrive in Neira and Salamina. The former, a town of nostalgic architecture clad with guadua wood, and the latter, a surprise atop the hill with a rich smell of coffee and landscapes ideal for paragliding.

The Coffee Triangle is a splendid fusion of three Colombian provinces where nature itself took it upon itself to provide abundant commonalities: Rivers, snow peaks, lagoons and scenic routes where coffee grows all year round.

Visit the Official Guide of the Coffee Triangle

- www.triangulodelcafe.travel