Bogotá celebrated 200 years of Colombian independence in style. The Armed Forces Parade, the National Concert and the closing event in Plaza de Bolívar were the three major items on the Schedule, taking patriotism, history, art and joy to every corner of the land

The Colombia.travel team went to these events and shares these experiences of history and culture with the world.

Armed Forces Parade: the heroes march past

For the first great event, thousands of spectators watched the men and women of the Army, Navy and Air Force pay tribute to our history, wearing uniforms and carrying equipment from different periods of Colombia`s existence. This included everything from the peasant soldiers of the early days to the highly-specialized and well-trained cadres of today.

The marching troops and policemen were joined by a fleet of vehicles and a flypast of helicopters and fighters, whose speed easily outstripped that of the photographers!

On the route Avenida 68, The loudest cheers, shouts of “Thanks” and “Heroes” came to Libertad I, the helicopter used in the Plan Jaque, the operation that rescued distinguished hostages from the guerrillas; the parade of soldiers wounded in combat, the “Men of Steel” from the Army and the show of antique police cars.

Grand National Concert: voices united for Colombia

Photo of coverage of the Bicentenary of Independence. Photos: Ronald Dueñas .

Gran Concierto Nacional: voces unidas por Colombia

The Simón Bolívar Park in Bogotá was full of an audience that had come to hear its stars join together in singing a commemoration of the Bicentenary. Bogota was only one of the 1,102 municipalities that sang top celebrate this anniversary. The event began with San Andrés Celi’s Sisters, choir who sang the Colombian anthem in English and Spanish.

These talented women were followed by Jorge Celedón, one of our great singers of vallenato the typical music of Valledupar, who received a plaque from President Alvaro Uribe and Paula Moreno in honor of his music; as did the group Cumbión de Cereté, who perform music typical of the Caribbean coast...

The Bogota Symphony Orchestra and the famous salsa group Niche also played and sang. The National Concert was also played in Bucaramanga, Medellin, and Quibdó (where Juanes performed), Cali and Barranquilla, amongst others.

Desfile Militar visto por Carlos Forero Oviedo

Photo of coverage of the Bicentenary of Independence. Photos: Carlos Forero Oviedo .

Bicentenary celebration of independence: the art and technology show

El cierre del Bicentenario fue en la Plaza de Bolívar, miles de personas se reunieron para ver un show teatral de primera talla. Las actuaciones y voces de Victoria Sur, el Cholo Valderrama y María Mulata hicieron un recorrido de la historia patria con estilo contemporáneo.

El momento más esperado y aplaudido de la noche fue cuando la fachada del Palacio Liévano, sede de la Alcaldía Mayor, se convirtió en el telón de un espectáculo de proyección de video (mapping) en el que se veían escenas de naturaleza, historia, cultura y paisajes de las diferentes regiones del país. Este show tecnológico nunca se había visto en Colombia.

Para terminar con las celebraciones, un gran despliegue de juegos pirotécnicos bañó de luz el centro de la ciudad. Este fue el final de la celebración del cumpleaños número 200 de Colombia, una celebración que llenó de alegría y orgullo a los bogotanos.

Bicentenary seen Natalia Gómez C.

Photo of coverage of the Bicentenary of Independence. Photos: Nataliagoca .