{rokbox title=|Colombian coffee.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo4.jpg{/rokbox}

Colombian coffee

Coffee Region is another name for the Coffee Axis region embedded right at the center of Colombian geography. A forceful culture that teaches about the wonderful coffee bean, as well as a great deal of tourist activities revolving around ever-present coffee traditions and their characters, is permanently developing.

Three departments, *Caldas, Quindío*, and *Risaralda* make up the coffee region. They are connected by a good road network and are only a short distance apart - a fact that may lead to confusion on the part of travelers: towns that are similar in their architecture, color, and the kindness of their people seem to blend, aided by the delicious, characteristic aroma of Colombian coffee
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The three departments that make up the Coffee Region are *Caldas, Quindío*, and *Risaralda*.

The routes of the Café Triangle offer various alternatives for touring the region, beginning either in capital cities or small towns. The stretches of the journeys are short and seem shorter due to the pleasure of immersing in coffee *hacienda* scenery and mountains covered by dense, light green vegetation whose shapes and colors seem to be tended by able gardeners.

Naturally, it is one thing to make a simple tour of the region. Another is to stop at each site to experience the Coffee Axis, with its gorgeous natural reserves, adventure sports, exquisite gastronomy, theme parks, the kindness of cordial, enterprising people and, of course, the tasting of the best coffee .

{rokbox title=|Coffee hacienda.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo

5.jpg{/rokbox}

Coffee *hacienda*

A Route Marked by Coffee Bushes

One way of guiding a first-time or returning visitor is to ask to visualize and draw a triangle on the map and play around with the name of the Coffee Region to identify destinations and establish the courses of journeys.

Calarcá

For example, one point of departure could be the municipality of *Calarcá*, in *Quindío*, with its lively trade, colorful and well-cared-for
Willys jeeps
- the region's emblematic vehicle – and the attractive botanical and butterfly gardens of
Quindío
, with paths that acquaint visitors with the regional flora and dozens of butterfly species..

Armenia

From there, the next stop is *Armenia*, the miracle, capital city of *Quindío*. Strolls around *Bolívar* Plaza and along Carrera 14, and visits to the
Parque de la Vida
(Park of Life), the old railway station, and the
Quimbaya
Museums are especially pleasant, including, of course, stops for a cup of coffee, either a
tinto
(black) or a
pintadito
(with a dash of milk). Several places exhibit old, modern, and even exotic machines for brewing coffee.

{rokbox title=|Colombian coffee in considered as the mildest variety in the world.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo6.jpg{/rokbox}

Colombian coffee in considered the mildest in the world

Salento

From *Armenia*, the journey could continue to *Salento*, with its multi-colored, lively architecture – a heritage from the times of the Antioquenian colonization. This municipality is also the point of access to Los Nevados National Natural Park through the Valley of *Cocora*, where wax palms may be admired. The wax palm is the national tree, a unique palm that grows in cool climates.

Filandia

From *Salento* to *Filandia*, a curved road in good condition winds through the *Bremen* and *Barbas* forests. Several historical houses should be visited in *Filandia*, as well as the imposing lookout made from mangle wood, which provides a wide panoramic view of nearby municipalities, among them, *Pereira*, the next destination.

Pereira and Its Surroundings

The capital of the department of *Risaralda* appears immediately after crossing the emblematic toll booth made from *guadua* bamboo, on the *Autopista del Café*, or Coffee Highway. The city has evidenced important growth in recent years, with a modern transportation system, and interesting sites such as the *Plaza de Bolívar*, whose highlight is the statue of *Simón Bolívar* Naked, and the *Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Pobreza*.

{rokbox title=|Coffee hacienda in the Coffee Region.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo9.jpg{/rokbox}

Coffee *hacienda*

The department of *Risaralda* also has destinations that bring into harmony ecological wealth and the work and creativity of its people. Among them:

- the *Otún Quimbaya* Fauna and Flora Sanctuary.
- the access to *Otún* Lake.
- *Los Nevados* Park .
- *Santa Rosa de Cabal*, a destination bathed by healthful hot springs.
- *Marsella*, a town that stands out for its main park, the jeep and coffee sacks parade, the *Casa de la Cultura* (house of culture), and the Botanical Garden.

Pereira also offers the *Matecaña* Zoo, the botanical garden of the *Universidad Tecnológica*, the *César Gaviria Trujillo* overpass, important shopping centers, and the city square that bears the name of *Ciudad Victoria*. The surroundings provide placid coffee landscapes on the way to the municipality of *Marsella*, haciendas along the road to *Cerritos*, and the crossing of the *Cauca* River at the town of *La Virginia*.

The Trip from *Risaralda* to *Caldas*

After *Marsella*, the next stop is *Chinchiná*, in the department of *Caldas*, the most important coffee production site, as well as the location of *Cenicafé*, Colombia´s coffee research center. Next is *Villamaría*, a town on the road that goes to the *Ruiz* Snow Peak, the most important one in *Los Nevados* Park.

{rokbox title=|Los Nevados National Natural Park.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo7.jpg{/rokbox}

Los Nevados National Natural Park

Manizales

Manizales, the capital of the department of *Caldas*, is the next stop on this random route across the Coffee Triangle. The city is characterized by steep streets, one of the most famous fairs on the continent, and an interesting theater festival. It is inevitable to visit the *Bolívar Plaza* and its imposing cathedral, the aerial tramway station, and *Los Yarumos* Eco-park.

Continuing towards the north of the Caldas region, visitors arrive at *Neira* and *Salamina*. The former is a town with a nostalgic guadua bamboo architecture; the latter, a surprise upon a mountain, with the rich aroma of coffee and landscapes suited for paragliding.

The Roads for Returning

{rokbox title=|Coffee fields.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Adondeir/Destinosfindesemana/triangulo/triangulo8.jpg{/rokbox}

Coffee fields

To get back to *Quindío*, thus closing the circle, there are several alternatives for discovering other marvelous spots. It is also possible to return to the destinations visited, bearing in mind that there is a road from *Pereira* to *Quindío* and its theme parks. The *Panaca* Park, in the municipality of *Quimbaya*, and the National Coffee Park, in *Montenegro*, are fantastic sites that bring together nature and the activities and games that represent this

pretty, green, fertile region.

Upon taking off on a tour of the area, the traveler will find many activities and attractions: rivers for various types of rafting; forests for canopying and high-rope games, and ecological trails for walking or biking.

The Coffee Region is a splendid fusion of three Colombian departments, where Mother Nature herself made sure to give them many things in common: rivers, snow peaks, lakes, *guadua* bamboo forests, and scenic routes lined by coffee fields.

Would you like to know more about the lovely Colombian Coffee Region?

- The region with the world's best coffee
- Colombian coffee
- *Los Nevados* : photos of tourists like you
- Mystery and splendor at *Los Nevados* National Natural Park
- Video of the Coffee Region
- National Coffee Park, in *Montenegro* , Coffee Region - panoramic 360˚ photo
- Photo gallery of the Coffee Region
- Coffee Park: photos of tourists like you