



RIDE WORLD WIDE COLOMBIA

RANCHO SAMAN - RISARALDA & QUINDIO 2026

RIDE INFORMATION

These rides have been developed by Marc Noonan who first visited Colombia in 2014 on an 11 month riding expedition through Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. Marc fell in love with the beauty of the country and the warmth, hospitality (and horses) of the Colombian people and made Colombia his home. Having spent some time guiding rides in the UK, his previous experience, enthusiasm and love of horses, as well as the care he takes of his guests, all combine to make each ride special. Routes explore the coffee plantations and dense jungle of Risaralda and Quindio provinces, following narrow tracks through forest with steep climbs to hidden waterfalls and long canters through banana plantations, and along high ridges. The area is rich in every form of life - birds, butterflies, fruits of every shape and colour, verdant forests and of course, friendly local people. This ride is all about local colour and culture; you may ride along cobbled streets for a drink or ice cream in the town square, watch farm workers harvesting coffee and bananas or join them to sample the rum in a local posada. The result is a wonderfully exciting Colombian adventure!



DATES

6 and 8 night itineraries are run from set dates, with shorter 2 night / 3 day rides also possible on request. Please see set dates below and contact us to discuss your plans and availability.

HORSES

The horses used are owned by Marc and are local Colombian cross breeds - Colombian criollo, Appaloosa and Appaloosa crosses, Paso Fino and Percheron crosses originally bred for farm work. He has about 12 riding horses, which are between about 14.2hh and 15.3hh, strong, calm, sure-footed and very well suited to the terrain. Marc is a gentle and experienced horseman and all the horses have been re-trained by him to respond to both English and Western aids, usually going best when ridden with a loose, relaxed contact with the mouth.

TACK

The saddles used are especially designed for trail-riding, similar to a western in style with high front and back but usually without a high pommel. They are handmade at a local tack shop and are comfortable, with some padding built in. Most of the horses are ridden in snaffle bits. Saddle-bags are provided to carry what you need during the day and a back-up vehicle transports main luggage and equipment between accommodation.



RIDING

Itineraries include riding on 5, 6 or 7 days, with riding days usually including between 3 and 6 hours in the saddle. Riding groups are small, usually limited to a maximum of 6 guests and rides are lead personally by Marc (who is bi-lingual in Spanish and English), sometimes (if there are 4 guests or more) accompanied by a second local guide or back-up rider. Most of the riding is on dirt tracks but there is also quite a lot of tarmac work through local villages. Horses are groomed, tacked up and prepared for you (you are always welcome to help!) and the back-up driver (also a horseman) is on hand to help with the horses when you reach your destination each evening. A medical kit for both horses and riders is carried by your guide, along with a mobile 'phone for emergencies.

WEIGHT LIMIT

90kg (14st 2lbs) - please check with us if you are close to this.



PACE

The riding pace varies from day to day according to the terrain, altitude and ability of the group, but you can expect a moderate, varied pace. There will be good chances for long canters on dirt tracks, but also some steep climbs, slow riding on narrow paths through thick forest and on cobbled or tarmac streets into and out of towns and villages. In some places you may need to get off to lead your horse over steep, rough or rocky ground, or downhill on slippery tracks.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

The rides are aimed at reasonably competent riders who are used to riding in open country and over varied terrain. As a minimum to participate, you must be comfortable, well balanced and secure in the saddle at a walk, trot and fast canter and able to control a well-schooled horse at all paces. You will be asked to sign a declaration when you arrive stating that you can i) safely mount and dismount unaided; ii) control a well-schooled horse that is alarmed or spooked; iii) walk, trot and canter; iv) walk unaided leading a horse across rocky, steep or slippery ground. Hours on some days are quite long and you are bound to enjoy your ride much more if you are reasonably riding fit. If you are not used to riding for several hours a day, we recommend concentrated practice before you go to get used to the hours in the saddle.

TERRAIN

Routes take you through the area's verdant coffee plantations, surrounding jungle and rainforest and to colourful villages perched on high ridges. As you ride on tracks along ridge-tops there are wonderful views of rolling mountains clad with rich vegetation - although don't expect big empty grasslands as the mountain vegetation is thick and tropical. Some routes take you along river banks, crossing small streams and rivers as you go.



SAFETY

Marc and his staff are first aid trained and a small medical kit for both horses and riders is taken with you when riding. Your guide also carries two mobile 'phones, one of which tracks the route by GPS to the support vehicle, just in case of an emergency.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation overall is quite simple, but it is varied in style and character with nights spent at a combination of comfortable guesthouses or small hotels, traditional coffee haciendas and farmhouses, simple lodge, jungle or riverside chalets, all carefully chosen by your guide according to the riding route. Rooms have their own bathroom (usually a shower rather than bath), although occasionally bathrooms may be shared. For 2026 horses are being relocated to a new 54 acre ranch base close to the picturesque town of Marsella and the first and last nights on all rides will be at a small hotel close the main square in Marsella or (from May / June 2026 on) at the ranch itself. Single rooms are usually possible on request (supplement charged)



MEALS

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included each day. There is an emphasis on regional cuisine with deviations now and then from the traditional to a more 'international' menu, often for a 'vegetable hit'! Breakfasts are usually a selection of fresh fruit, yoghurt and granola - with perhaps eggs ('huevos al gusto con arepas y queso' - eggs how you like them with maize tortillas and cheese) - and of course coffee! Lunches are either a picnic, usually sandwiches with fruit and snacks for pudding, carried in saddle bags, or you may stop for a traditional meal wrapped in a banana leaf. In the evening, dinners are a chance to taste typical Colombian dishes such as 'Bandeja Paisa' (rice, beans, pork and plantain served with arepas, fried egg and powdered beef), 'Sancocho' (chicken stew with yuca, plantain, sweetcorn, potato and avocado) and frijoles (beans) and local chorizo are often also on the menu. On less traditional evenings, a stir fry with plenty of vegetables, big salads or vegetable pasta may be served (traditional Colombian food does not include many green vegetables). Vegetarians can be well catered for with advance notice - please tell us in advance of any dietary restrictions. Bottled water and soft drinks are provided with lunch and dinner and wine and beer are included with dinner. Aguardiente, the local hooch, may be offered to the brave!



WEATHER & ALTITUDE

Colombia is a tropical country with temperatures that are reasonably constant year round, although they depend on the altitude. The rides take place in a mid-altitude area between about 1400m and 2000m and daytime temperatures are usually in the mid to high 20's C, dropping to around 10 C at night, sometimes less at higher altitudes. April and November are usually Colombia's wettest months but rain is possible at any time.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.



ITINERARIES

Itineraries The following are summaries of the ride itineraries with an example day-by-day itinerary for the Jewel of Risaralda Ride below. Please ask for example day-by-day itineraries for the other rides. Please also NOTE that itineraries are always flexible and riding route, overnight stops and daily arrangements depend on weather and other local conditions. Arrangements may be varied by your guide in his absolute discretion.

Jewel of Risaralda (9 days, 8 nights with riding on 7 days)

This 9 day adventure shows you the very best of the department of Risaralda in the heart of the coffee triangle of Colombia. Riding from Marsella, the 'green capital of Colombia', to the thermal springs of Santa Rosa, you traverse the Colombian Andes, an area rich in wildlife, passing coffee farms, enjoying spectacular views from ridge tops and soaking in the therapeutic waters of the thermal pools. Tracks along ridges provide plenty of chances to move on and the circular route covers around 100 miles in all with 3 to 6 hours riding each day.

Eje Cafetero Explorer Ride (9 days, 8 nights with riding on 6 days)

Traversing the “Eje Cafetero” - the Colombian coffee axis, also known as the Coffee triangle – this 9 day / 8 night trip follows a linear route, with varied landscapes, crossing the 3 famous coffee growing departments of Risaralda, Caldas and Quindio. Riding along ridgetops with 360 degree views and covering about 100 miles in all (3 to 6 hours riding each day), there are plenty of chance to canter through Andean cloud forest, you will visit a nature reserve that is home to howler monkeys, wild orchids and hummingbirds, cross rivers, have the chance to swim in a waterfall and of course, experience the warm welcome of Colombian hospitality.

Ridges and Ridgetops (7 days, 6 nights with riding on 5 days)

This route, which covers about 80 miles, begins in the area of Santa Rosa, Risaralda province, and from here you head straight into the hills and towards the department of Quindio, an area renowned for its wildlife and home to howler monkeys, wild orchids and hummingbirds. The route finishes in the picturesque town of Marsella.

Hummingbird Ride (3 days, 2 nights with riding on 3 days)

A shorter 3 day ride starting from Marsella, Colombia’s ‘green capital’, and covering about 50 miles. A chance to experience the mountain views and ride through vibrant towns where you receive the warmest of welcomes as you tie up your horse and enjoy a coffee in the town square. A great taste of Colombia for those who have limited time.



Example Itinerary - Jewel of Risaralda Ride

[Own arrangements to arrive Bogota. It is well worth including an extra night in this fascinating city to rest after long international flights and to acclimatize before your ride. Please contact us if you would like help with flights and / or hotel suggestions)].

Day 1 - Own arrangements for an internal flight from Bogota to Pereira the heart of Colombia’s coffee region [it is about an hour’s flight and there are usually about 10 flights a day; an early afternoon arrival in Pereira is ideal]. You will be met on arrival at Pereira airport and driven about 50 minutes to the picturesque town of Marsella, where the night will be spent in a small hotel close to the town square. Settle in, then driven a short way to the ranch base to enjoy the fresh mountain air, explore the grounds and meet the horses before a welcome dinner and briefing on the ride and terrain you will cover over the following days. Short drive back to the hotel for the night. (D)



ITINERARY cont.

Day 2 - Collected after breakfast and short drive to the ranch. The morning to get used to the tack and horses and perhaps an early lunch at the ranch. Then once horses are saddled, mount up and head off riding through open pasture to Marsella where there is time to stop for coffee in the square with your horse by your side. Ride on again to the night's accommodation, a private hacienda with lovely mountain views (about 3 hours riding). Dinner tonight is in Marsella and you will head into town on the back of a traditional "Willys" jeep - the vehicle famous in the region for transporting coffee. Night private hacienda. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Breakfast and horses will be tacked up - feel free to help if you wish - then set off on a full day's ride, heading along old mule trails, spectacular, hidden grassy trails with 360 degree views, that take you to the northern most tip of Risaralda province, with views over ridges and forest as you climb through the Andes. The day ends at the night's accommodation, a traditional coffee farm with over 200 years of production history. Dinner and night at the farm (B,L,D)



Day 4 - Breakfast and a day riding through the Central Andes, the highest of the three branches of the Colombian Andes, passing coffee, plantain and cattle farms. Stop for a picnic lunch, carried in saddle bags and in the afternoon ride on to your comfortable accommodation, a coffee farm high up in the mountains with endless views of the jungle-covered slopes from the infinity pool. Dinner and night (B,L,D)

Day 5 - After breakfast mount up and a long morning ride takes you to a small resort a short distance from the natural hot springs of Santa Rosa. After lunch the afternoon is free to soak in the therapeutic waters (perhaps under a 'hot' waterfall!) and in the evening, drinks around the camp-fire under a spectacular Andean star studded sky. Dinner and night (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Another lovely half day ride with spectacular views, passing waterfalls and crossing rivers as you head to the next nights stop, Casa Bourbon. Soak in the hot tub before dinner at a nearby restaurant and the night (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Breakfast and set off riding to complete the circuit. The route takes you through an area steeped in history, once home to the Quimbaya people where petroglyphs date back thousands of years. This area is also home to numerous species of bird, giant butterflies, capybaras and more. The night is at the private coffee farm you visited earlier in the week and you should arrive in good time for a tour and demo on how to make the perfect cup of coffee! Dinner and night (B,L,D)





Day 8 - Breakfast before a short ride back to the ranch on the outskirts of Marsella, stopping off for one last coffee in town with your horse. A relaxing afternoon with chance to visit local artisan stalls, a cultural house - or just relax in the town square. A farewell dinner at the ranch and final night Marsella. (B,L,D)



Day 9 - After breakfast you will be transferred to Pereira airport for onward travel.



DATES & RATES 2026

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Please note that ride rates are quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Jewel of Risaralda (8 nights)

7th to 15th March	22nd to 30th August
20th to 28th June	12th to 20th September
4th to 12th July	7th to 15th November

USD 3320 per person (single supplement USD 240)

Eje Cafetero Ride (8 nights)

3rd to 11th January	16th to 24th May	3rd to 11th October
7th to 15th February	6th to 14th June	

USD 3420 per person (single supplement USD 240)

Ridges and Ridgetops (6 nights)

24th to 30th May	25th to 31st July
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USD 3050 per person (single supplement USD 180)

Rates INCLUDE accommodation (twin / double share or single if paying supplement), riding with English speaking guide, back up and riding equipment, meals (dinner day 1 to breakfast last day), mineral water and soft drinks with meals and wine or beer with dinner, collection and return to Pereira with the group on the first and last day and all group transfers within the itinerary.

Rate EXCLUDES International flights / travel to Bogota / Pereira and taxes, any visa fees, extra drinks / bar bills, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have with cover to ride), any gratuities you wish to leave and personal extras at hotels and lodges (such as laundry, telephone calls etc).

Single supplements Please also note that if you book alone, you will need to pay the supplement for a single room. However if you are prepared to share a twin room with another rider (of the same sex) please let us know and we will do our best to find a sharer. We cannot guarantee finding a sharer but if we do, the supplement will not be payable.



FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The meeting point is Pereira airport on Day 1. There are direct overnight flights from London to Bogota with Avianca, Colombian Airlines, departing London Heathrow around 22.00 and arriving Bogota early the following morning.

These can connect with an onward flight to Pereira - although we recommend a night (or two) in Bogota before the ride to rest, sightsee and acclimatize (and you may also want an extra night after).

Domestic flights from Bogota to Pereira are also with Aviana - there are several flights each day BUT **please liaise with us BEFORE booking** your flight to check timings and so you arrive / depart Pereira at roughly the same time as others in the group. Note that internal flights are normally cheaper if booked in conjunction with an International flight.

On the return, Avianca have several flights each day from Pereira to Bogota (and to Cartagena if you'd like to add some beach time). A direct overnight flight, leaves Bogota at about 23.00 and arrives Heathrow around 14.00 the next day.

You can also fly to Bogota from London via Madrid with Iberia, via Mexico City with Aero Mexico, or via Paris with Air France.

Airfares vary with the season and airline but expect to pay from around £750-£950 per person for an economy return. **Please contact us if you would like further information on flights, for a quote or to book (our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213).**

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent if you make a confirmed booking and you should always consult a health professional for more detailed and personalised advice).

Visas If you hold a full British or European Passport and are visiting Colombia for a holiday only and staying less than 90 days you do not need to arrange a visa in advance.

Health No jabs are required as a condition of entry to Colombia from the UK and Europe but the TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are vaccinated against **Hepatitis A, Tetanus and Typhoid**. For some higher risk travellers, vaccination against Rabies, TB, Dengue or Yellow Fever may also be recommended with a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate required if travelling from an area of Yellow Fever transmission. There is a low risk of Malaria in rural areas of Colombia below 1600 meters and a very low risk above 1600 metres. Malaria tablets are generally not required. **You should always consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice.**

(DRAFT 21/11/25)

