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Libertad y Orden

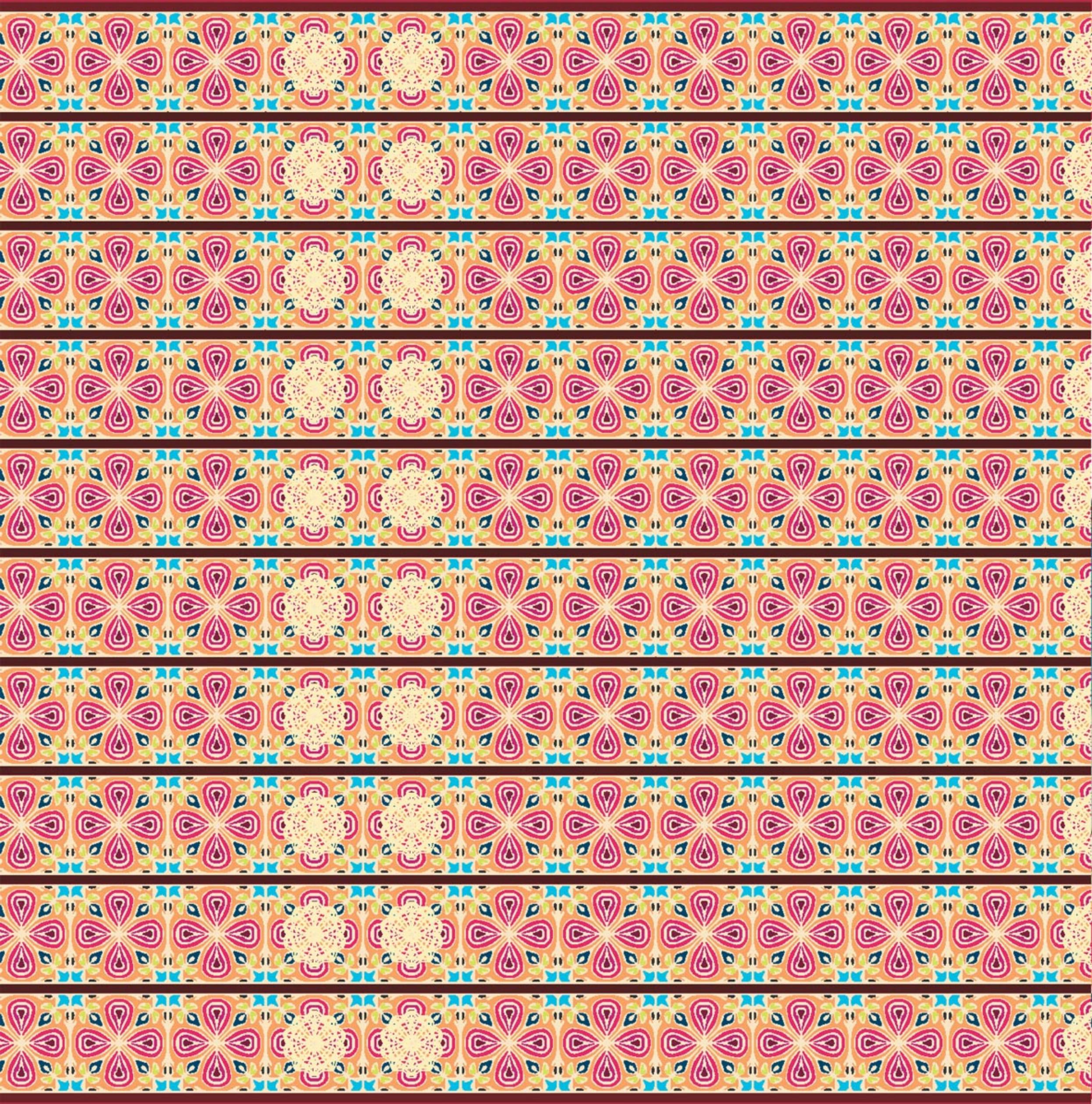
**Ministerio de Comercio,  
Industria y Turismo  
Colombia**

The Passion of Colombians  
makes that the only risk a visitor  
faces when coming to Colombia  
for the first time, will be  
wanting to stay



**Colombia**  
*is passion!*

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Colombia 90% Nature

Where green  
becomes life.

1



Parque Amacuyacu, Amazonas.

# Useful info

## VISAS

Foreigners from countries that have no restrictions for entering Colombia may stay for 90 days if they come as tourists.

### COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A TOURIST VISA FOR ENTERING COLOMBIA

Andorra  
Antigua & Barbuda  
Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belgium  
Belice  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Brunei Darusallam  
Butan  
Canada  
Chile  
Costa Rica  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Denmark  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Estonia  
Fiji  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Granada  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Guayana  
Holy See  
Honduras

Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Indonesia  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Korea  
Liechtentestein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malaysia  
Monaco  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Saint Kitts & Nevis  
Samoa  
San Marino  
Santa Lucia  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Sweden  
Switzerland

The Czech Republic  
The Netherlands  
The Philippines  
Trinidad & Tobago  
Turkey  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom of The Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland  
United States  
Uruguay  
Venezuela



Cultural life in the cities

No matter where you are,  
you will vibrate with energy.

2



Plaza de Bolívar, Bogotá.

The people.

The most festive people  
in the world, the Colombians.

# 12



Fairs, feasts, and festivals  
to enjoy forever.

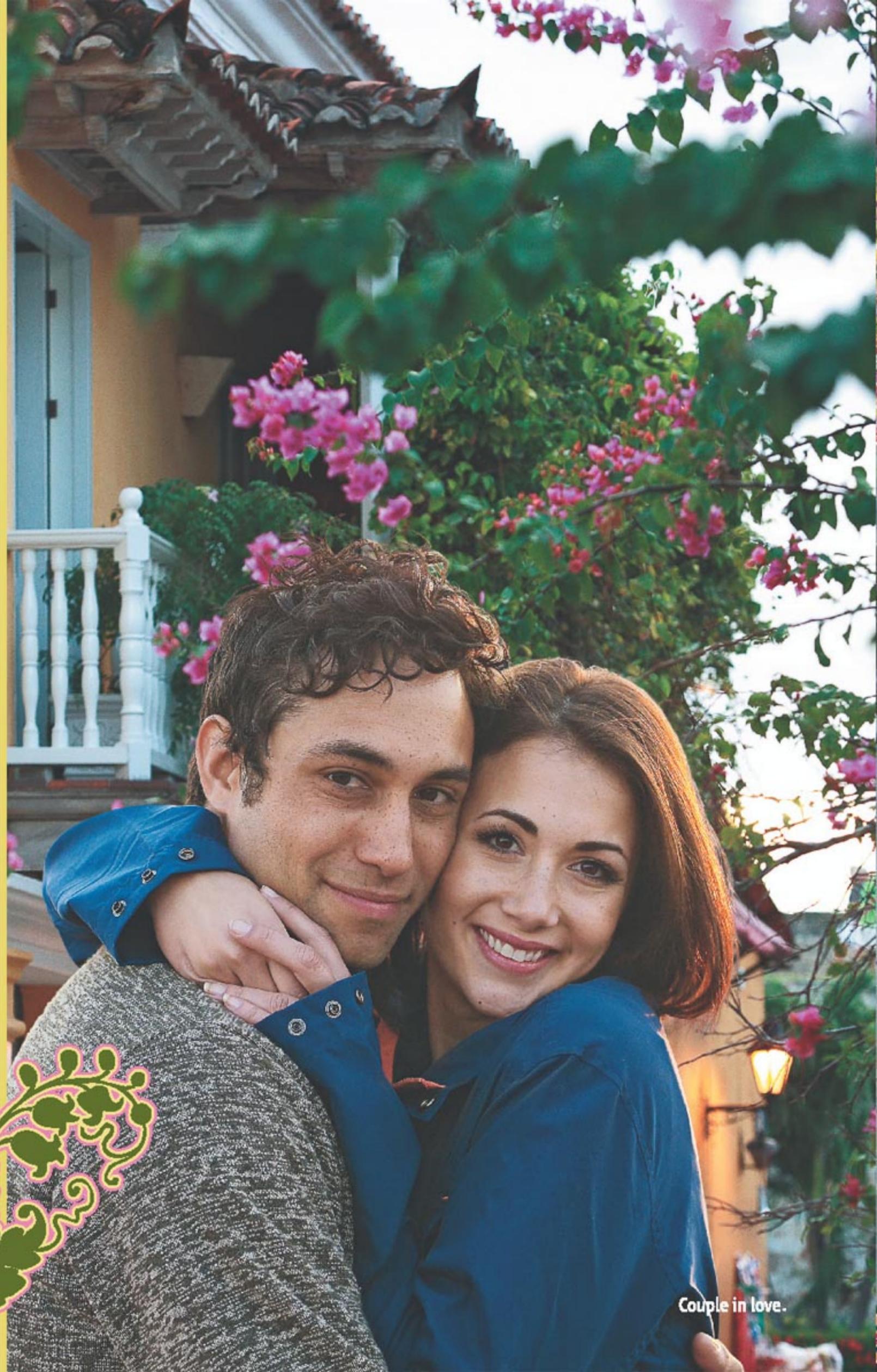
3



Carnaval de Barranquilla.

Colombia, a country to fall in love with,  
a country to fall in love in  
The country where people  
discover that their heart  
belongs to someone else.

11

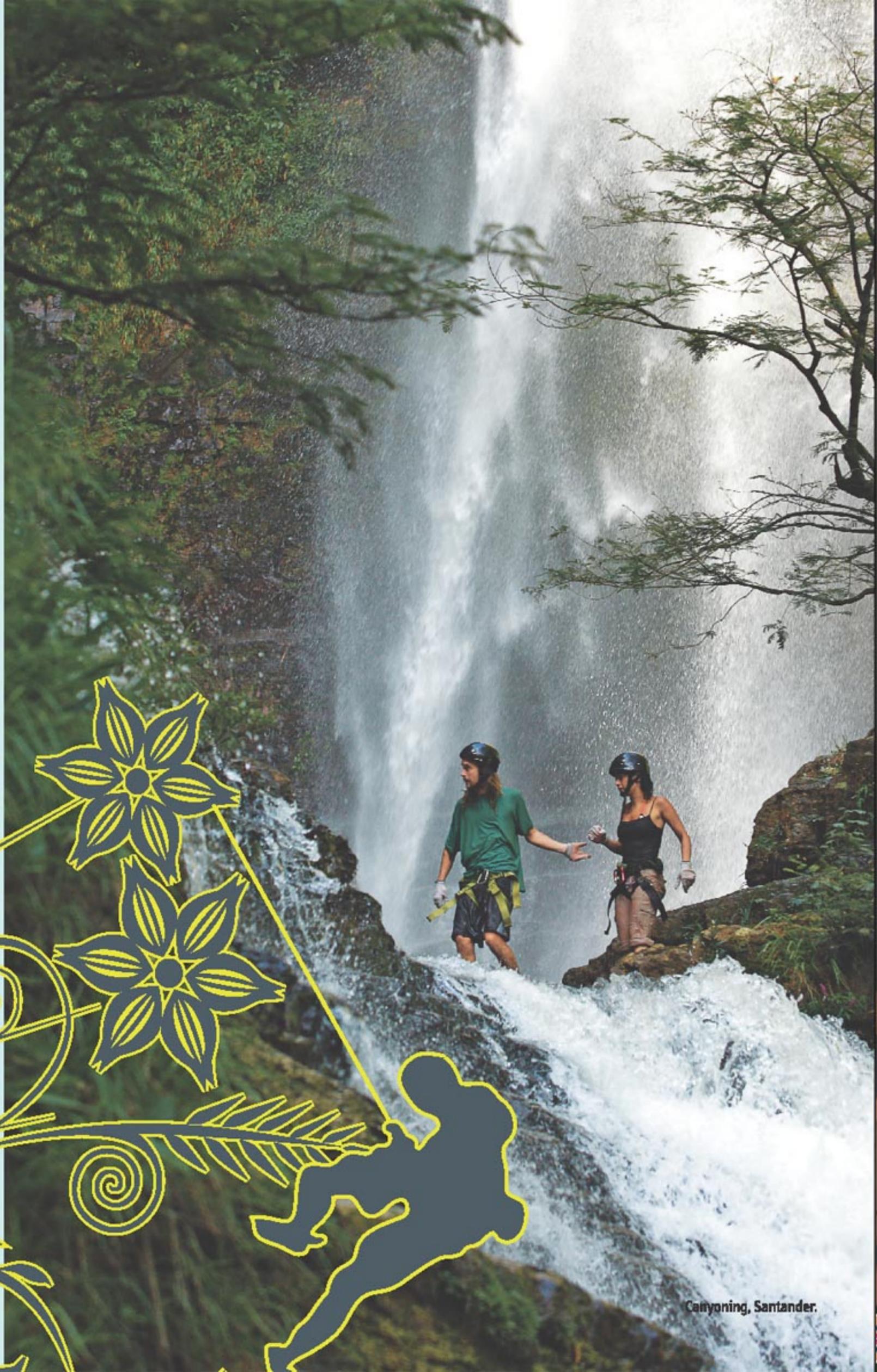


Couple in love.

Land of adventure

Let your heart  
learn to beat.

4



Rumba

Let your feet  
dance without stopping.

10



Rumba, Cali.

Coffee.

Let the aroma and taste  
of the best coffee in the  
world surround you.

5



Gastronomy

Fall in love with  
the spirit in  
every heart.

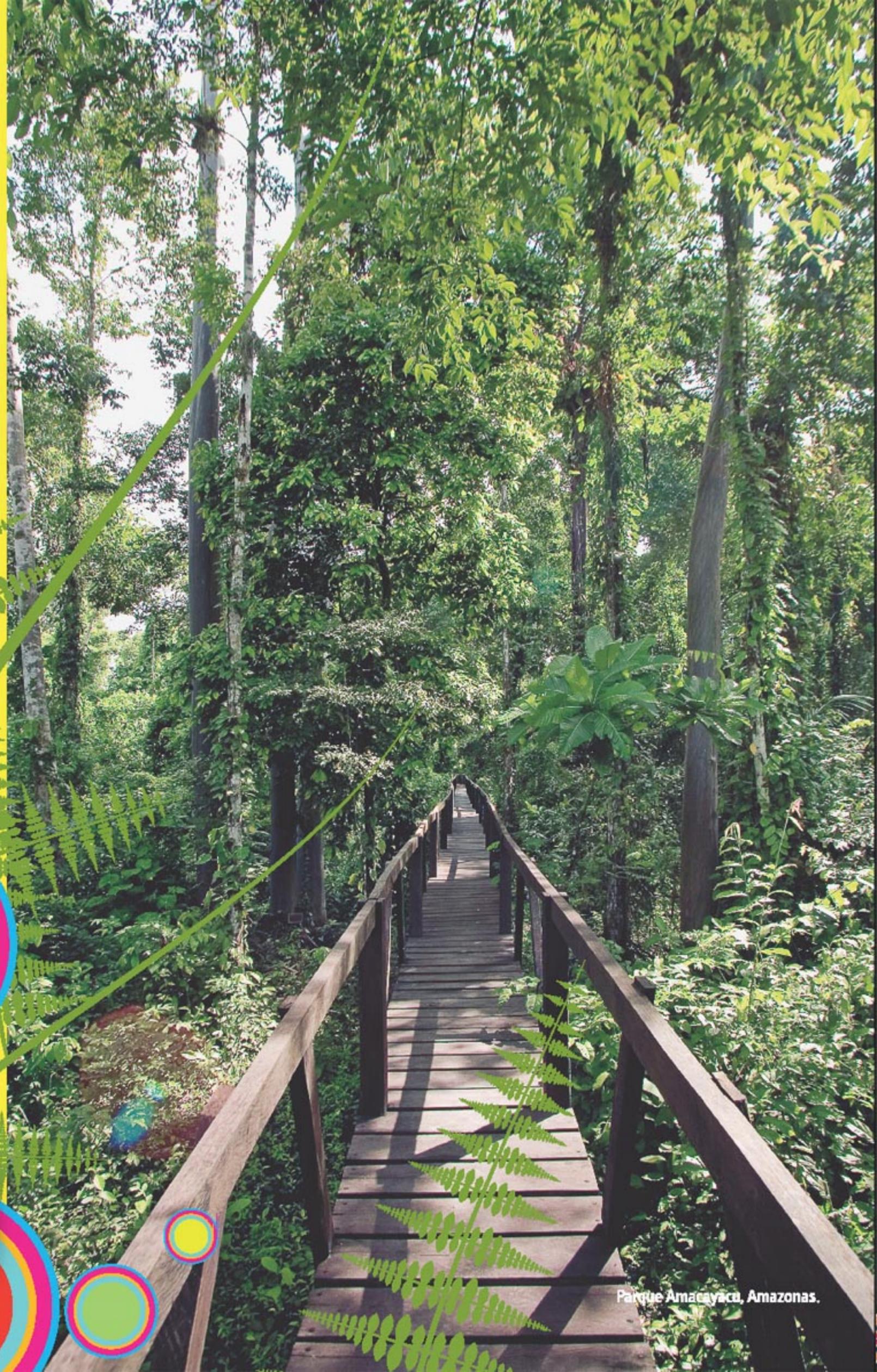
9



Andrés Carne de Res Restaurant, Bogotá.

The Colombian Amazon Region  
In a land where the  
earth breathes.

6





The two coasts

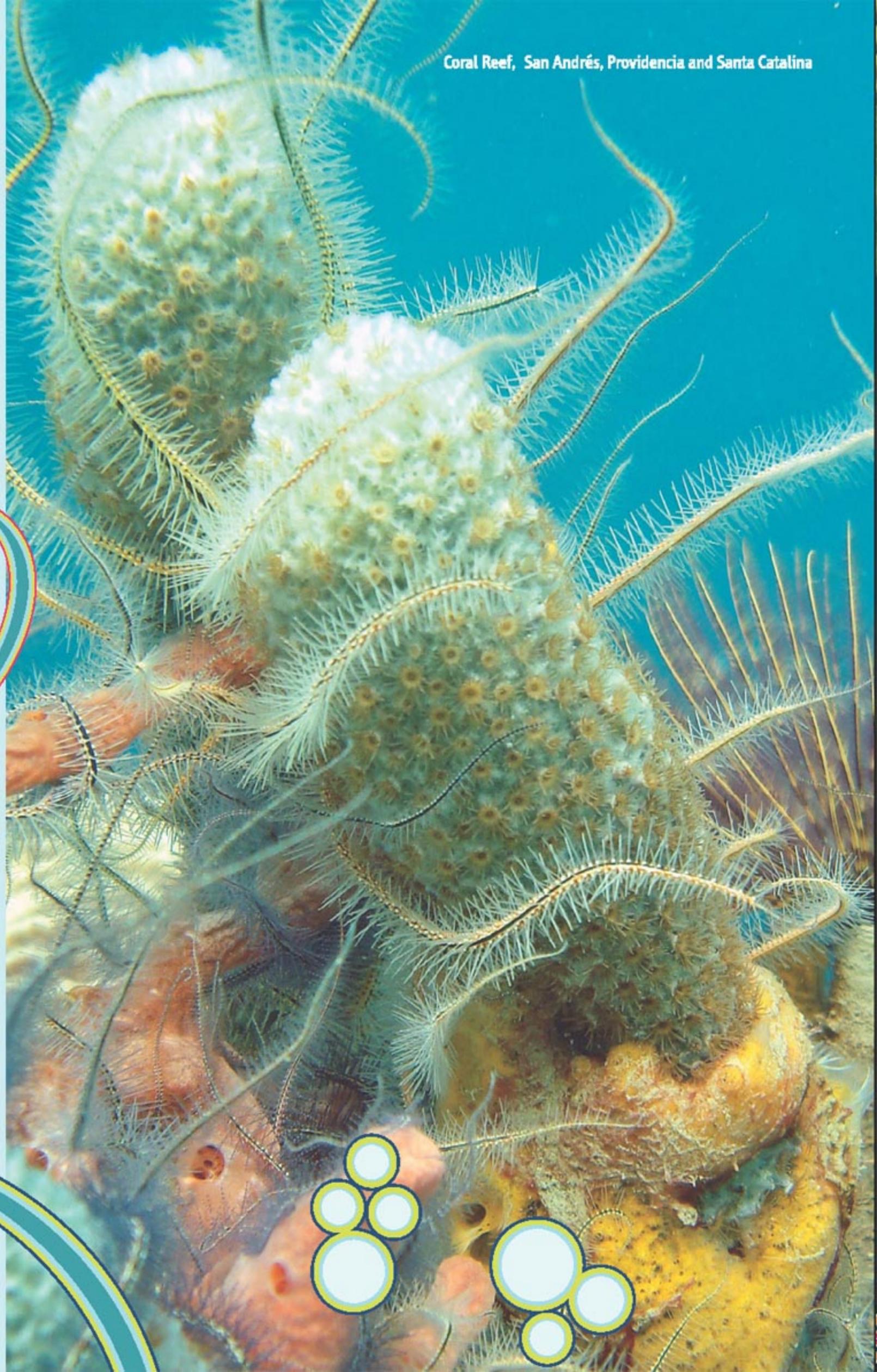
The place where  
the sand is caressed  
by two oceans.



Diving

Go to the depths of  
our colorful seas.

7





Coral reef, San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina.

The biodiversity of our country is reflected not only in its terrestrial parks. Under our two oceans and the Caribbean Sea, there is a world that seems designed for the delight of divers. It is an underwater party with great plant diversity and particular adaptations of its living beings.

On and around the Island of Providencia, in the Caribbean Sea, lies the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve. The coral barrier that surrounds the island – 32 km long and an area of 255 km<sup>2</sup> - makes it the third largest reef in the world and the second in the Caribbean. The crystalline waters are perfect for observing shiny starfish, crabs, angelfish, swordfish, anemones, corals, sponges, sea lilies, and many other species in strange shapes and vibrant colors.

In the Pacific Ocean, you will be sure to enjoy Malpelo, the western most oceanic island in the country and a World Natural Heritage Site. Its rocky walls descend 4,000 meters into the sea and large concentrations of hammerhead sharks, yellow mackerels, snappers, bravo fish, tuna fish, eagle rays, morena fish, and barracudas are easily observed year round.

Immerse yourself in the marine depths of the Corales del Rosario National Natural Park, the islands of Barú and San Bernardo in Cartagena de Indias; the Tayrona Park in Santa Marta; the Gulf of Morrosquillo on the Caribbean Coast, and Nuquí, Bahía Solano, and Utría Cove on the Pacific Coast.



With the most copious river in the world (6,800 km long) and the largest tropical jungle on the planet (109,665 km<sup>2</sup>), the Amazon Region we share with our Brazilian and Peruvian neighbors is a true treasure. A prodigious place, not only for the size of the river and the aboriginal people who inhabit it, but also for the life that originates and takes its nourishment from the riverbanks.

Enjoy the fauna and flora of the jungle by zipping between 35-meter tall trees along an 80-meter line. Navigate the river aboard the floating house and take pictures of pink dolphins. Hike along jungle paths and learn about Indian communities. Explore the Parque Amacayacu, with its malocas (Indian houses), biological stations, and river ways that allow night excursions in search of caimans and outings to virgin islands where the Victoria Regia abounds.

The Colombian Amazonia is the traditional destination of scientists and scholars who want to learn from Indian masters the art of talking with nature. It is the largest oxygen reserve and the natural laboratory for medicines to cure the planet.



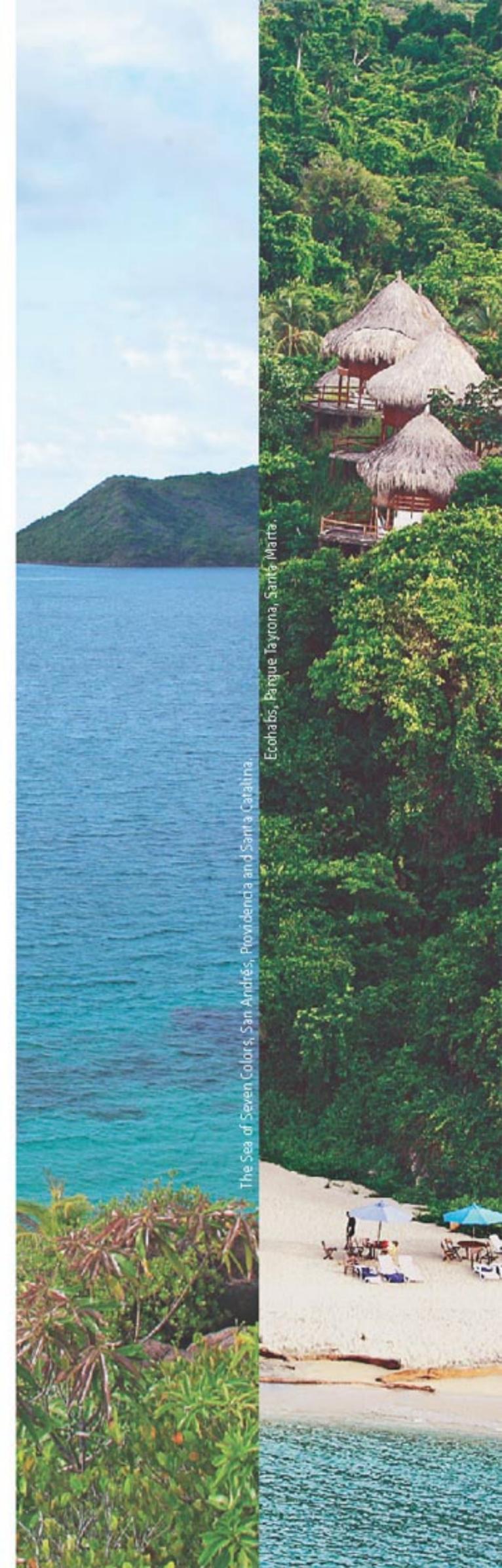
Parque Amacayacu, Amazonas.



Colombia's privileged location allows us to enjoy over 2,900 km of coasts on two oceans and the Caribbean Sea – standing invitations to take pleasure in sun and beach.

Long, tranquil beaches between virgin jungles and the sea line most of the Pacific Coast, and crystal water streams cross them on their way to feed the sea. This is the perfect place for relaxing far from the usual congestion and shopping opportunities of massive beach destinations.

In contrast, the Caribbean Coast, with its modern tourist sectors, wide beaches, large hotel complexes, shops, and restaurants, is an invitation to family relaxation, although without ignoring the activities of city life. The Caribbean invites us to tour history through the walls and pirate tales of Cartagena de Indias, the narratives of Tayrona Indians, the memorabilia of Liberator Simón Bolívar, and the island culture of San Andrés and Providencia. It gives us the possibility of sailing to uncrowded islands to rest in comfortable hotels or on lonely beaches in the sole company of nature and the blue sea. For the latter, some options are Punta Faro, Barú, and Majagua (in Cartagena de Indias); Playa Cristal and Playa Blanca (in Santa Marta); and the cays near San Andrés and Providencia.



The Sea of Seven Colors, San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina. Ecohabit, Parque Tayrona, Santa Marta.

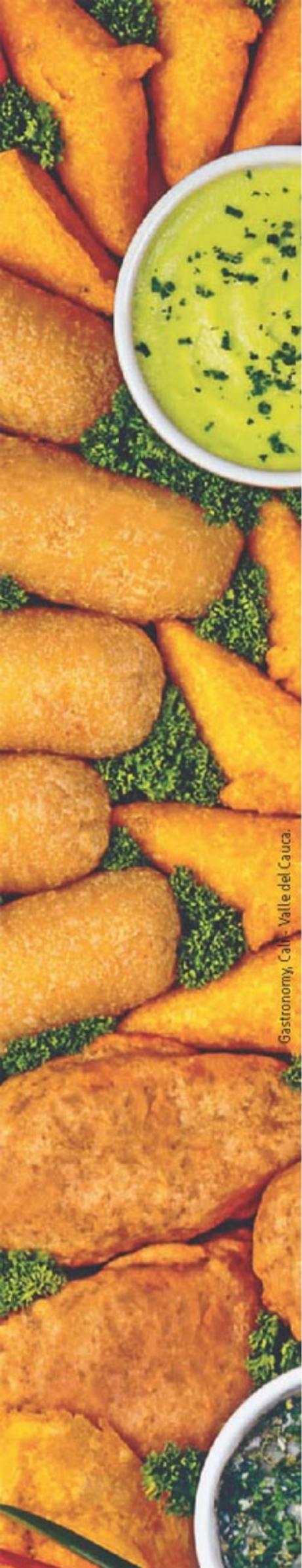


For in-depth knowledge of the land that produces the best coffee in the world, we invite you to visit the three departments that make up the Café Triangle. Experience the magic of a 100% coffee adventure and get to know the beauty of the region and the hard-working, prosperous farming people who offer the world the hospitality of its coffee haciendas.

Get up in the morning to the aroma of a cup of the best coffee in the world on a traditional coffee hacienda. In addition to the combination of nature, coffee, and adventure, beautiful coffee hacienda houses offered as tourist lodgings led the Café Triangle to become the first rural destination in Latin America. Our visitors will find luxury suites, theme parks, golf courses, extreme sports sites surrounded by nature, and of course, the possibility of observing all the stages of coffee production.

The region has an excellent road network that allows easy traveling, whether to close business deals, admire nature, embark on an adventure, go shopping, or simply relaxing. The Café Triangle is an original, elegant, and different option for a unique coffee experience.





Gastronomy, Cali - Valle del Cauca.



Colombian gastronomy is as varied as its natural regions and is the result of the contributions of Indians, Spaniards, Africans, and Arabs during the process of racial and cultural mixing that has been going on for centuries.

Every region has its own gastronomy, related to its natural resources. Dishes are based on fish, shellfish, plantains, and manioc in the Caribbean region; on meat, potatoes, beans, and corn in the Andean region; on rice, lentils, and rice on the Pacific Coast; and on veal, manioc, and fish in the Orinoco River region.

In addition to traditional Colombian dishes, the enormous variety of fine international dishes makes Colombian cooking a gourmet fusion that delights the most demanding palates when served in exclusive restaurants in capital cities and important destinations.



The broad and varied Colombian geography is the perfect setting for a good number of adventure sports. Our mountains, valleys, savannas, deserts, seas, lakes, and rivers are an open invitation to the brave who want to experience memorable sensations.

For nautical sports - lightning sailing, snipe sailing, windsurfing, and kite surfing - we have excellent winds on our Pacific and Atlantic coasts and on the reservoirs and lakes in the center of the country. Examples are Tominé, Tota, and Calima, in the departments of Cundinamarca, Boyacá, and Valle, respectively.

The strong currents that gush down the Andes Mountains are perfect for canoeing and rafting. The Fonce and Chicamocha Rivers in the department of Santander, the Negro River in Tobia, department of Cundinamarca, and numerous rivers that cross the Café Triangle are worth mentioning.

The Andes offer perfect sites for climbing and hiking, especially in Los Nevados and El Cocuy National Natural Parks. Suesca and Gachetá (near Bogotá), Guatapé (in the department of Antioquia), and Las Juntas (in the department of Tolima) have excellent sites for rock climbing.

Several caves invite explorers, mainly in the departments of Santander, Boyacá, Antioquia, Huila, and Tolima. If you like horseback riding, we invite you to our beautiful landscapes, and if you prefer sports or artisan fishing, we recommend the Gulf of Tribugá in the department of Chocó and the rivers of the Amazon region.

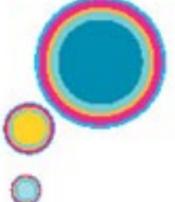
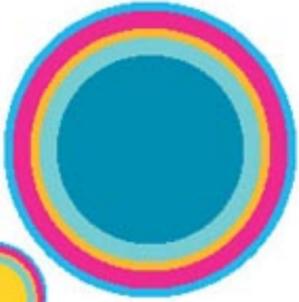
However, one destination has sites for all extreme sports. Not in vain is it called "Land of Adventure". It is the department of Santander, where a wide range of extreme sports and adventures is always available: kayaking, rafting, and canoeing in the waters of the Fonce River, in the Guanentá province, paragliding in the canyon of the Chicamocha River and in the Mesa de Ruitoque; caving, in the mysterious caves of the municipality of Páramo, horseback riding on the picturesque stone paths of the province of Barichara.



Paragliding in Ruitoque, Santander.

Rafting, Santander.

Canyoning, San Gil.



Colombians enjoy a party atmosphere throughout the country to the beats of crossover and autochthonous music.

In Bogotá, nightlife receives the influence of world capitals and dons its party attire in streets, sectors, and corners full of magic and movement like the 93rd Street Park, the T Zone, and the nearby town of Chía.

In Cali, the capital of salsa, musical merrymaking enlivens the night to the point of making even the less inclined move their bones.

In Barranquilla, party sprees begin to the beat of *vallenatos* and *merengues*. With luck, a group playing the typical rhythms of the Atlantic Coast on millo flutes may liven up your night.

In Cartagena de Indias and San Andrés beach parties, African and Jamaican rhythms, for example *champeta* and reggae, are true favorites.



Andrés Carne de Res Restaurant, Bogotá.





Feria de las Flores, Medellín.



We Colombians are festive by nature. No matter the circumstances, we always find reason to celebrate and keep our Spanish, Indian, and African traditions alive.

Every year goes by amid carnivals, parades of various kinds, dancing, costumes, and fascinating music. Our religious festivities, historical milestones, and even the victories of our sportspeople are events we celebrate to the limits of our endurance.

To get to know Colombia really, it is necessary to experience its feasts. The following and many others embellish the joyful spirit of our country: **the Carnaval de Barranquilla**, a four-day festival that joins parades, costumes, and floats that fill the streets with happiness and the beat of *cumbias*, *mapalés*, *porros*, and other African rhythms; **the Feria de las Flores de Medellín**, during which hundreds of flower carriers parade the streets with enormous flower arrangements on their backs; **the Festival de la Leyenda Vallenata**, in Valledupar; **the Bambuco Beauty Pageant**, in Neiva, which honors Andean rhythms like the *bambuco* and the *sanjuanero* and crowns the best interpreter from among the contestants of the Pageant; **the Feria de Cali**, an outstanding salsa repertoire in the midst of horseback riding parades and bullfights; **the Carnaval de Negros y Blancos**, in Pasto, department of Nariño, the most important feast in southern Colombia, where gigantic figures representing the racial diversity of the region.





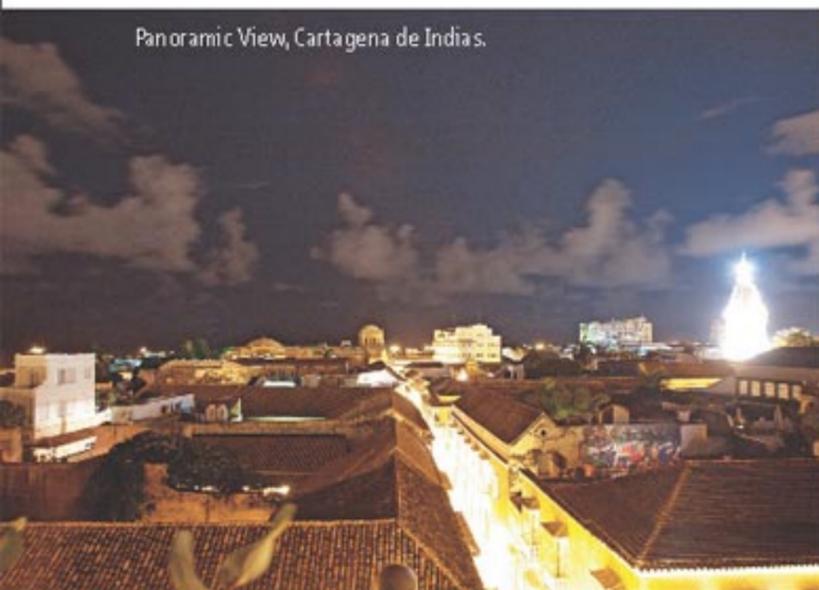
The magic that envelops marvelous scenery, sites, and activities containing pirate and buccaneer tales, mythical legends from colonial times, and fantasies from the imaginary town of Macondo makes everyone who sets foot on the country fall in love with it.

The tourist attractions of its cities are auspicious settings for marriage proposals, weddings, honeymoons, and romantic getaways.

You may want to consider the following for special moments:

- \*Stunning sunsets in Nuquí
- \*Lovers Bridge between Providencia and Santa Catalina
- \*A tour of Cartagena de Indias walled city in a horse drawn carriage
- \*A visit to Hacienda Paraíso, the birthplace of the best example of Latin American romantic novel – “La María” by Jorge Isaacs
- \*A tour on the floating house of the Amazon River
- \*A comfortable coffee hacienda in the Café Triangle
- \*The cobblestone streets of colonial Barichara
- \*A starlit dinner in Villa de Leyva

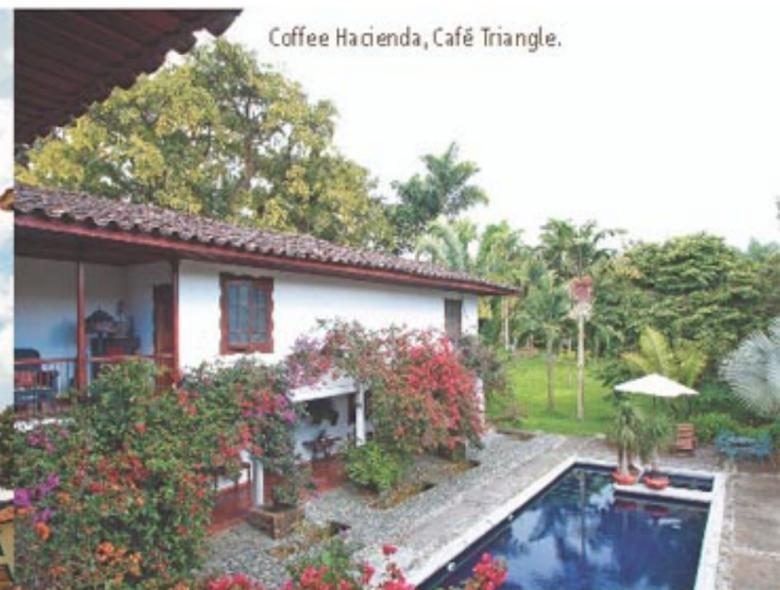
Colombia offers these and quite a few more experiences to couples.



Panoramic View, Cartagena de Indias.



Barichara, Santander.



Coffee Hacienda, Café Triangle.





There is a country seeking to show its true face to the world, a country that has passion as its distinguishing and uniting feature. Passion is our guiding and driving force, as well as the source for our extraordinary intensiveness, creativity, resourcefulness, and tenaciousness under difficult circumstances. Passion comes naturally to us; it is part of our DNA. We are one of the happiest countries on earth thanks to the passion we feel for life, work, family, peace...

We are a country of marvelous people - unassuming, hard working, creative, resourceful, and cheerful. And we are always willing to welcome the whole world with open arms and pass along some of the magical energy that impels us forward.

Although we are very different from each other, passion unites us. Passion for science, work, the development of technology. Passion for creating and serving, and above all, for making Colombia a land of peace and prosperity.





Parque Amacayacu, Amazonas.



Colombia occupies the first place in the world in amphibians, butterflies, and flower production, and second place in biodiversity, with 1,865 bird species.

Our varied geography inspires us to travel and enjoy the extensive system of protected natural areas that covers 10% of Colombia's territory. The system includes 37 national parks, 12 fauna and flora sanctuaries, 2 natural reserves, 1 unique area, and 1 parkway – 11,000,000 hectares that encompass beautiful scenery, a variety of climates and soils, a huge diversity of flora and fauna, and 230 civil society natural reserves.

The strategic location of our country, the presence of tall mountains, broad savannas, and rainforests endow Colombia with a unique water potential.

Every year, between June and November, the country turns into the home of hundreds of bird, whale, and marine turtle species that visit the Colombian Pacific Coast to mate, feed, and take a rest on their migratory journey.





Heredia Theater, Cartagena de Indias.

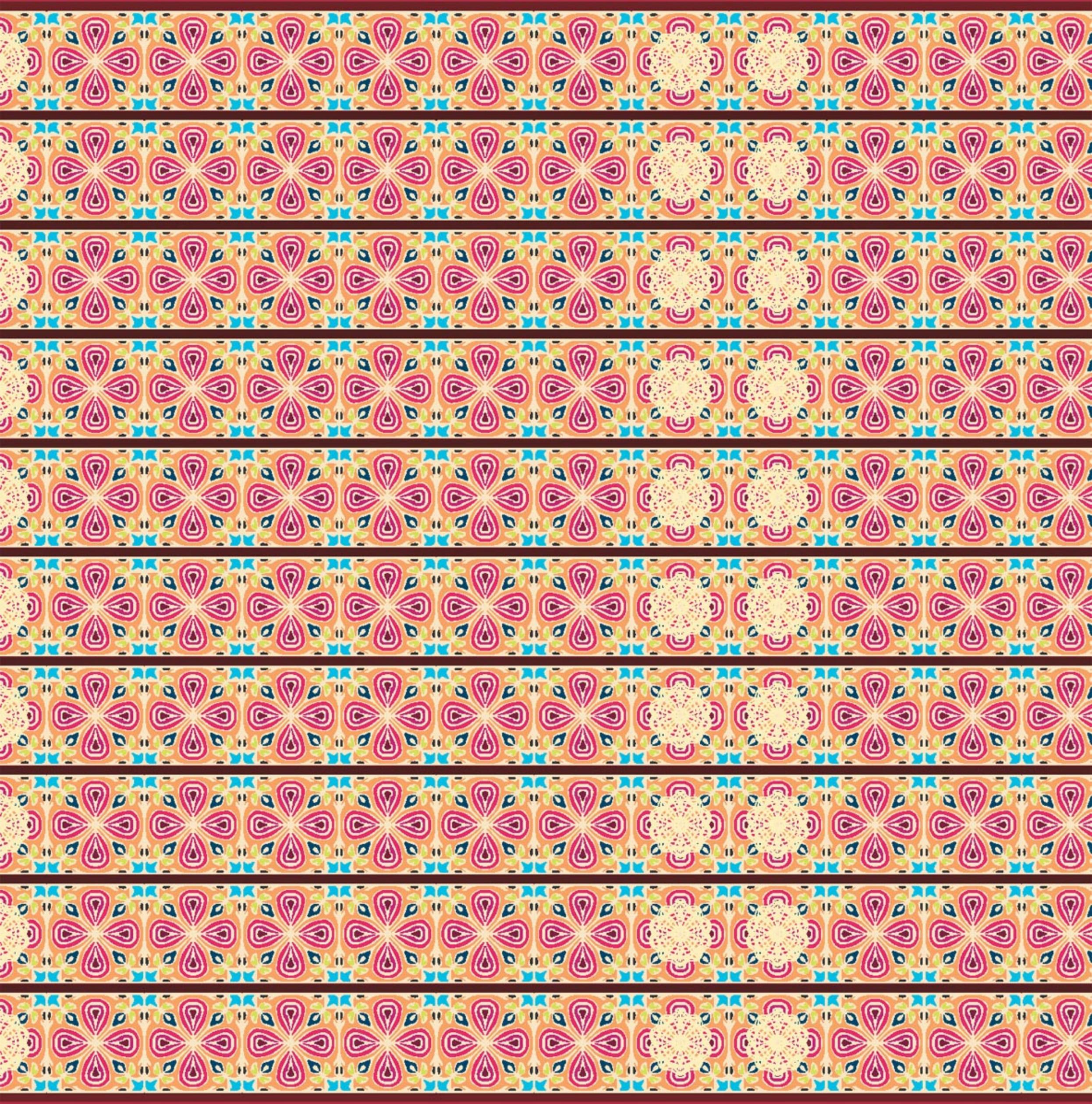


One September night, I arrived in the island of San Andrés. I slept in a hotel that faced the beach, and the day after... it seemed I was still dreaming. When I woke up, I saw Johnny Cay in front of me, and separated only by a stretch of the sea of seven colors that can only be found here... this has stolen 12 years of my life. Today, as I walk along the pedestrian path, tour the island, or go out to sea, I meet people who are valuable for what they are, not for what they own.

When these people ask you what you need, they say it with their heart... every time I talk with them, now I can say I live... ¡where angels go on vacation!



Daniel Florio  
Italian in love  
with Colombia



Colombia,  
the only risk  
is wanting  
to stay.

You will find here **12 reasons**  
for going to Colombia and, once you are there,  
a **million** reasons for wanting to stay.



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