



**OK CYCLE &  
ADVENTURE  
TOURS** SINCE 1995

**Colombia - Crossing the Andes - The Mythical Letras Mountain Pass Road Cycling Tour (2017)**  
**Guided**  
**8 days/7 nights**



The coffee region awaits us with its stunning coffee fields and landscapes, with its incredible people and delicious food, but more importantly with its majestic mountains, that every cyclist wants to conquer. We will do a few nice mountain passes, but before you can call yourself an authentic “Escarabajo”, there is one small obstacle we have to cross. “Alto de Letras” will appear in front of us, challenging us to cross it, 80 km long at 6% it will seem like we have been preparing our legs and our head for this climb; and we will be there assisting you in every single pedal, in every single kilometer to help you to conquer its top at 3700 m.



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### Itinerary Day to Day

#### **Day 1: Arrival in Pereira**

*Pick up at the Airport and transfer to Hacienda San José*

*Lunch if arrive before noon*

*Short city tour depending on time of arrival*

Founded on August 30, 1863, Pereira is part of the territory in 2011 UNESCO declared World Heritage Site: the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia. This city, the capital of the department of Risaralda, Antioquia is the result of colonization, whereby its inhabitants retain features of the culture of the carriers, like kindness and entrepreneurship.



#### **Day 2: Pereira – Manizales 74.3 km**

6:00 am: Pick up at hotel and drive to Pereira exit

7:30 am: Start the ride

*About Manizales:*

Manizales is the northern point of the Coffee Region and is a pleasantly cool, mid-sized university town, surrounded on all sides by a stunning green mountain landscape. Is the capital of the Caldas department and was founded in 1849 by a group of Antioquian colonists looking to escape the civil wars of that time. Two earthquakes in 1875 and 1878, and a fire in 1925 hindered the town's early development. We will visit the Cathedral that has been restored after each one of the disasters and climb to one of its towers to see Manizales from above.

#### **Day 3: Manizales – Anserma – Manizales – 141.0 km**

8:00 am: Start the ride

*About the ride:* A beautiful ride, always along creeks and rivers while we head north and arrive to the town of Supía. We will turn back to Manizales Vía Anserma across sugar cane fields.

#### **Day 4: Manizales – Salamina – Aguadas – 116.2 km**

6:00 am: Start the ride

Return to Manizales by car

*About Salamina:* Located on top of a hill with steep streets, Salamina, declared a National Monument in 1982, looks in the distance like a collection of adobe houses with tiled roofs. This town, which is part of the Colombian Network of Heritage Towns, was founded on June 8, 1825 and its architecture is a mark of the style that prevailed during the colonization of Antioquia.



*About Aguadas:* Aguadas, 125 km north of Manizales, welcomes travelers with fields of coffee, banana, and sugar cane. This town in the department of Caldas, part of the Colombian People's Heritage Network, is famous for its iraca palm handicrafts and for hosting the Colombian National Pasillo Festival, which celebrates Andean rhythms. An icon of Aguadas is the aguadeño hat, woven with fibers from the iraca palm.

**Day 5: Manizales – Los Nevados National Park – Manizales – 61.2 km**

6:00 am: Pick - up at hotel

7:00 am: Start the ride

*About the ride:*

We will climb Letras Mountain Pass from Manizales side, 30 km of climbing and just a few kilometers before Letras we will detour to enter to Los Nevados National Park where we will see the most beautiful landscape of the tour. We will be entering the "Paramo" ecosystem, cycling above 3000m and we will reach 4000m at the end of the climb.



**Day 6: Recovery Day Manizales**

*About Manizales*

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*Activities Included*

*Coffee tour Hacienda Venecia:* In Hacienda Venecia Coffee Tour, you will learn about coffee process, the culture, history and varieties of coffee, witnessing the process of roasting, experimenting with aromas, walking through the coffee plantations and visiting the Wet Mill where they wash, dry and pack the most important product in our region.

*Manizales city tour*

After the coffee tour, we will go back to Manizales and have for lunch the typical dish of the region "Bandeja Paisa" in Frijoles Don Joaco Restaurant in El Cable area. After a good lunch, we will go to the Cathedral, where we can hear a little bit about Manizales and how fires and earthquakes marked the history of the city, the cathedral remains after these disasters and after a few restorations we can now climb to the tallest tower and see the city from above. To finalize our tour in Manizales, we will go to the colonizers monument to learn about how this region was populated with people from Antioquia region, this period was called the Antioquian Colonization.

Transfer to Mariquita



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**Day 7: Mariquita – Manizales – 106.8 km**

6:00 am: Start the ride

About the ride:

Finally we are in front of the longest climb of the world, finally it is time to test all those years of hard training and you have the best team behind you to help you accomplish this goal. We will start at 500 m and will finish at 3700 m and as we go we will see and feel how the environment changes, the weather, the temperature, the vegetation, the landscape, etc. we will meet other cyclists on the way and we all are going to reach the top, because in the other side, is one of the most beautiful regions of Colombia and we want to get there, "the coffee region".

Accommodation: Recinto del Pensamiento/ Hacienda Venecia

**Day 8: Transfer to airport**





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### Route



### Technical Characteristics:

**Route Profile:** Moderate. A very well balanced tour in all senses with good mountain stages but also good flats and downhills, a very complete tour for any cycling enthusiast. Starts with 2 days of easy riding coming down from Bogotá to Mariquita. The third day we have the queen stage climbing Letras Mountain Pass. We will be changing altitude starting at 2600 m, going down to 500 m and then climbing up to 3700 m. We will pass through all the ecosystems and the weather conditions along with temperature will vary a lot during the tour.

**Distance:** 499.5 km

**Travel Dates:** Departures dates available on request.



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**Price per Person: based on 2 people registering**

Double Occupancy	\$ 3100.00 USD
Single Occupancy Surcharge per night	\$100.00 USD

**Accommodation:**

4\* Haciendas and Hotels. Suggested hotels are subject to availability, in any case, hotels of the same level will be chosen.

**Included:**

- Pick up at hotel on the first day and subsequent days
- All meals
- Accommodation in 4\* hotels
- Specified activities
- Hydration
- Snacks
- Water Bottle
- Cycle Jersey
- Companion car
- Spare tubes
- Assistance during the tour
- Shuttle back to hotel
- Bike transportation to Bogotá after the tour (clients own bike included)

**Not Included:**

- Bike Rental: \$40.00 USD per cycling day
- Bicycle assembly: \$50.00 USD per bicycle (clients own bike including disassembly)
- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip pick - up/drop - off locations
- Alcoholic beverages
- Activities not specified



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Bikes



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**THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
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