



ORCHIDS
FOR PEACE



Colombia's Hidden Orchid Paradise

An exclusive 15-day discovery adventure

August 5-19, 2026 | www.orchidsforpeace.org

This 15-day tour focuses on the Coffee Region's extraordinary orchid habitats, blending accessible nature reserves, world-class nurseries, and cultural immersion.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Colombia's epic orchid diversity in the heart of the coffee region.
- Visit botanical gardens, nurseries, and cloud forest reserves with expert guides.
- Engage with local growers, conservationists, and scientists.
- Experience Colombian culture through rural landscapes and traditional cuisine.
- Witness more than 200 orchid species blooming throughout the journey.

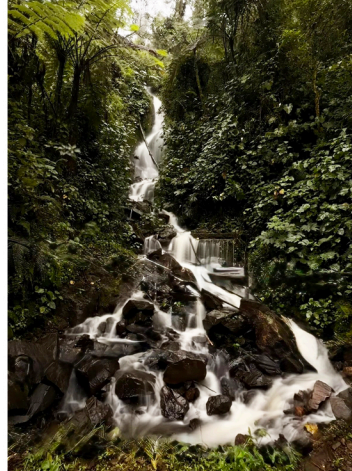
TOUR LEADERS

Sebastián Moreno, M.Sc. One of Colombia's leading orchid taxonomists, particularly noted for his work with Pleurothallidinae. He has co-described dozens of new orchid species, including many *Lepanthes*, from diverse Andean ecosystems. His expertise spans taxonomy, systematics, and discovering orchids in Colombia's high Andean and Chocó-Andean regions. Sebastián brings unique insights from years of field and lab work on Colombia's extraordinary orchids.

Challen Willemsen, B.Sc. An ecologist, educator, and orchid specialist with over 14 years of field experience in Guatemala. He has worked extensively in orchid conservation, urban biodiversity, and epiphyte ecology, including long-term research and stewardship at Santuario Natural El Tular. In addition to his work as a botanist and conservation advocate, Challen is an experienced nature tour guide specializing in tropical flora and plant ecology.

KEY DESTINATIONS

- **Medellín** – Botanical Garden & emblematic orchid collections
- **Jardín** – ProAves Reserve & orchid-rich cloud forests
- **Manizales** – Los Nevados National Park & Romelia Reserve
- **Salento** – Cocora Valley & La Dicha Reserve
- **Montezuma** – High-elevation orchid hotspot



ITINERARY

August 5: Arrival in Medellín

Upon arriving at José María Córdova International Airport (MDE), transfer to a charming rural hotel near the airport, where we'll be staying for the first three nights. In the evening, join us for the inaugural dinner, a special occasion where you will meet some of Colombia's leading orchid growers and get your first introduction to Colombia's vibrant orchid culture amidst a dazzling showcase of native flora.

August 6: Botanical Garden and Medellín

Spend the day exploring the lush Jardín Botánico, one of the most iconic and culturally significant green spaces in Medellín with tropical forests, desert gardens, a butterfly house, and a palm collection. In the evening, before dinner, gather for a welcome session to review the tour's goals and expectations—and to get to know each other better.

August 7: Orchid Workshop and Colomborquídeas

Engage in a morning workshop that introduces you to Colombia's extraordinary orchid diversity, its rich and varied landscapes, and ongoing efforts in orchid conservation and cultivation. Through hands-on activities and discussions with local experts, gain a deeper understanding of why Colombia is considered the orchid capital of the world. In the afternoon, enjoy a private visit to the famous Colomborquídeas collection, guided by Juan Felipe Posada, one of Colombia's most respected orchid growers. Often described as the "Disneyworld" of orchids, Colomborquídeas is a true wonderland, home to thousands of meticulously cultivated plants. Founded by the iconic Posada family, it has played a major role in elevating Colombian orchids to global fame.

August 8: Alma del Bosque and Cantos de Agua Tour

Begin the day with an immersive tour of Alma del Bosque, a botanical sanctuary in La Ceja, Antioquia. Home to over 25,000 orchids, it offers immersive tours, education, and conservation initiatives centered on Colombia's biodiversity. The tour is guided by Daniel Piedrahita, a renowned orchid grower whose dedication and exceptional cultivation have earned him multiple First-Class Certificates. In the afternoon, visit the serene Cantos de Agua gardens in El Retiro, known for their lush landscapes and native flora.

August 9: Travel to Jardín, Antioquia

Enjoy a scenic drive to the picturesque town of Jardín, with a traditional Colombian lunch along the way. In the afternoon, take a short walk just outside Jardín to witness the spectacular Andean Cock-of-the-rock at its lek. Spend the next two nights at the eco-friendly Hotel Plantación, where sustainability meets comfort in a stunning natural setting.

August 10: Orchid Exploration in Jardín

Start the day with a guided visit to the stunning Reserva Orquídeas, a paradise for orchid enthusiasts. See diverse species of *Lepanthes* and other Pleurothallidinae growing in the wild. Enjoy a *Dracula* collection and many "circa situm" cultivated orchids, learning about the ongoing conservation efforts to protect these unique plants. Next, head to Ventanas road, climbing to 8,200 feet (2,500 m), where the highland environment reveals more breathtaking orchid species in their natural habitat. Overnight in Jardín, surrounded by the beauty of the Andes.



August 11: Journey to Riosucio and ProAves Reserve

Depart Jardín and make your way toward Riosucio, where we will visit a ProAves reserve known for its rich biodiversity and dedication to conservation. This reserve is home to *Masdevallia hortensis*, as well as the endangered Yellow-eared Parrot. Additionally, encounter *Passiflora jardinensis*, a rare and striking passionflower endemic to these cloud forests, and several species of Quindío wax palms (*Ceroxylon* spp.). These towering palms, Colombia's national tree, play a vital ecological role by providing habitat for endangered species like the Yellow-eared Parrot. Explore the lush surroundings and learn about the ongoing conservation efforts to protect both flora and fauna in this region. In the evening, settle into the peaceful Recinto del Pensamiento in Manizales, an eco-conscious retreat nestled in the heart of the coffee region where we will spend two nights. Relax and unwind in this serene environment, surrounded by nature, after a day of exploration.

August 12: Orchids of Los Nevados National Park

Spend the day exploring Los Nevados National Natural Park, a stunning landscape of high Andean ecosystems, volcanic peaks, and unique biodiversity. The park is a treasure trove for orchid enthusiasts, with species adapted to extreme altitudes (up to 10,500 ft / 3,200 m), such as *Maxillaria*, *Cyrtorchilum*, *Oncidium*, and *Caucaea*, which thrive in the cool, misty environment of the paramo. These orchids, along with other rare flora, paint the park with vibrant colors amid the dramatic scenery. Trek through the park's rugged trails, taking in the sweeping views of snow-capped mountains, glacial lakes, and cloud forests. Learn about the park's crucial role in preserving Colombia's high-altitude ecosystems. In the evening, return to your hotel in Manizales to rest and reflect on a day filled with wonders.

August 13: Coffee Region Orchids – Manizales to Pereira

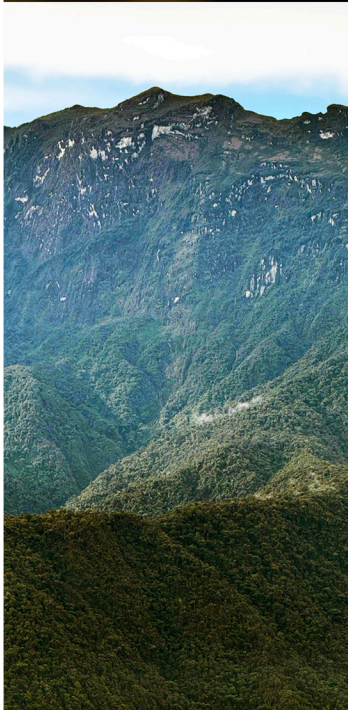
Explore the Romelia Reserve near Manizales, a private paradise that is a haven for both orchids and birds. The reserve is home to over 300 species of wild and cultivated orchids, thriving amidst the rich cloud forest ecosystem. As we explore the lush trails, we will also have the chance to spot rare bird species, such as the beautiful Ultramarine Grosbeak, adding to the immersive experience of this biodiverse sanctuary. After this unforgettable experience in the heart of nature, travel to Pereira, where you'll enjoy a relaxing evening at one of the region's top hotels, offering comfort and stunning views of the coffee region's mountains.

August 14: Wild Orchids of Quindío

Explore the lush Otún Quimbaya Sanctuary, home to wild orchids like *Comparettia falcata*, *Oncidium chrysomorphum*, *Cyrtorchilum midas*, and rich birdlife. Wander through cloud forests and enjoy the natural beauty of this biodiverse haven. After a traditional lunch in La Florida, travel to El Cairo Reserve near Salento, where we will spend two nights surrounded by the stunning Cocora Valley, known for its towering wax palms. This peaceful setting is the perfect place to relax.

August 15: La Dicha Nature Reserve and Trip to Toche

Start the day with a visit to La Dicha Nature Reserve, home to 90 native species of orchids and part of a "circa situm" conservation project led by the renowned conservationist Jorge Enrique Orejuela. This initiative focuses on the preservation of species in their natural habitats, ensuring that conservation efforts are deeply connected to local ecosystems. After exploring the reserve, enjoy a relaxing afternoon in Salento, a charming town known for its colorful streets and vibrant culture. Then, take in the breathtaking beauty of the Toche Valley, famous for its towering wax palms that rise majestically against the backdrop of the Andean mountains. Whether strolling through the valley or simply soaking in the views, it's the perfect way to unwind in one of Colombia's most picturesque landscapes.



August 16: Journey to Montezuma

Travel from Pereira to Pueblo Rico, a small town nestled near the breathtaking Tatamá National Park, where the Tatamá Massif offers stunning views. From Pueblo Rico, take a 4x4 ride up to Cerro Montezuma, a haven of biodiversity. Spend the rest of the day exploring the lush tropical forests of Montezuma Rainforest Lodge. Discover an array of rare orchids in genera such as *Erycina*, *Rodriguezia*, *Maxillaria*, *Sigmatostalix*, and *Scaphosepalum*, along with many other incredible species hidden in the dense greenery. We will spend two nights at the lodge, surrounded by nature's beauty.

August 17: Upper Montezuma Exploration

Head to the top of Cerro Montezuma (8,500 ft or 2,600 m) for a breathtaking sunrise with panoramic views of the Tatamá Massif. Afterward, explore the surrounding roadsides, searching for a variety of highland orchids. As their blooming season begins, we may encounter beautiful species like *Otoglossum*, *Phragmipedium*, *Dracula*, *Porroglossum eduardi*, *Brachionidium imperiale*, and several *Lepanthes*. It's a day full of discovery in the misty highlands, with opportunities to marvel at the delicate beauty of these orchids in their natural habitat. Overnight at Montezuma Rainforest Ecologde.

August 18: Montezuma to Pereira

Enjoy a final morning exploring Montezuma's rich habitats, following a trail through a mix of pasture and forest to discover middle-elevation orchids in genera such as *Pleurothallis*, *Dichaea*, *Epidendrum*, *Sobralia*, *Elleanthus*, and *Huntleya*. Afterward, unwind with a swim in the crystal-clear river near the lodge or take a short walk upstream, where you may encounter blooming *Polycynis* and a variety of *Pleurothallis*, *Elleanthus*, and *Sobralia*. Return to Pereira, preparing for your departure and enjoying a farewell dinner.

August 19: Departure from Pereira

After a leisurely morning, a private transfer will take you to the Matecaña International Airport (PEI) in Pereira. Take home unforgettable memories of Colombia's breathtaking orchids and landscapes!

PRICING (all-inclusive 15-day experience):

Double occupancy: US\$8,500 / **Single occupancy:** US\$5,040

All profits directly support the conservation and education mission of Orchids for Peace.

Includes:

- **Lodging:** Hotels with hot water, Wi-Fi, and laundry facilities
- **Dining:** All meals, with accommodations for special dietary needs
- **Hydration:** Bottled water and other beverages
- **Transport:** Private vehicle with a professional driver
- **Guides:** Experts to accompany and guide you through every location
- **Insurance:** Medical travel insurance for the duration of the trip

Excludes: International flights, alcoholic beverages, tips, and personal expenses. Travel insurance is highly recommended.

Deposit Due: 50% on June 5, 2026 / **Final Payment:** 50% on July 5, 2026

Cancellation Policy: If you cancel before July 15th, you'll get your final payment back, but the 50% deposit is non-refundable. No refunds after July 15th.

Group Size: Limited to 10 participants—secure your spot!

CONTACT & BOOKING

Inquiries: contact@orchidsforpeace.org

Website: www.orchidsforpeace.org