



Juan Ortiz

Co-Founder

The Colombian Project

**26 OCTUBRE 2016 –
PEREIRA, COLOMBIA**



Refugio La Pastora, PRN Ucumari, Risaralda

X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





El primo

X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016

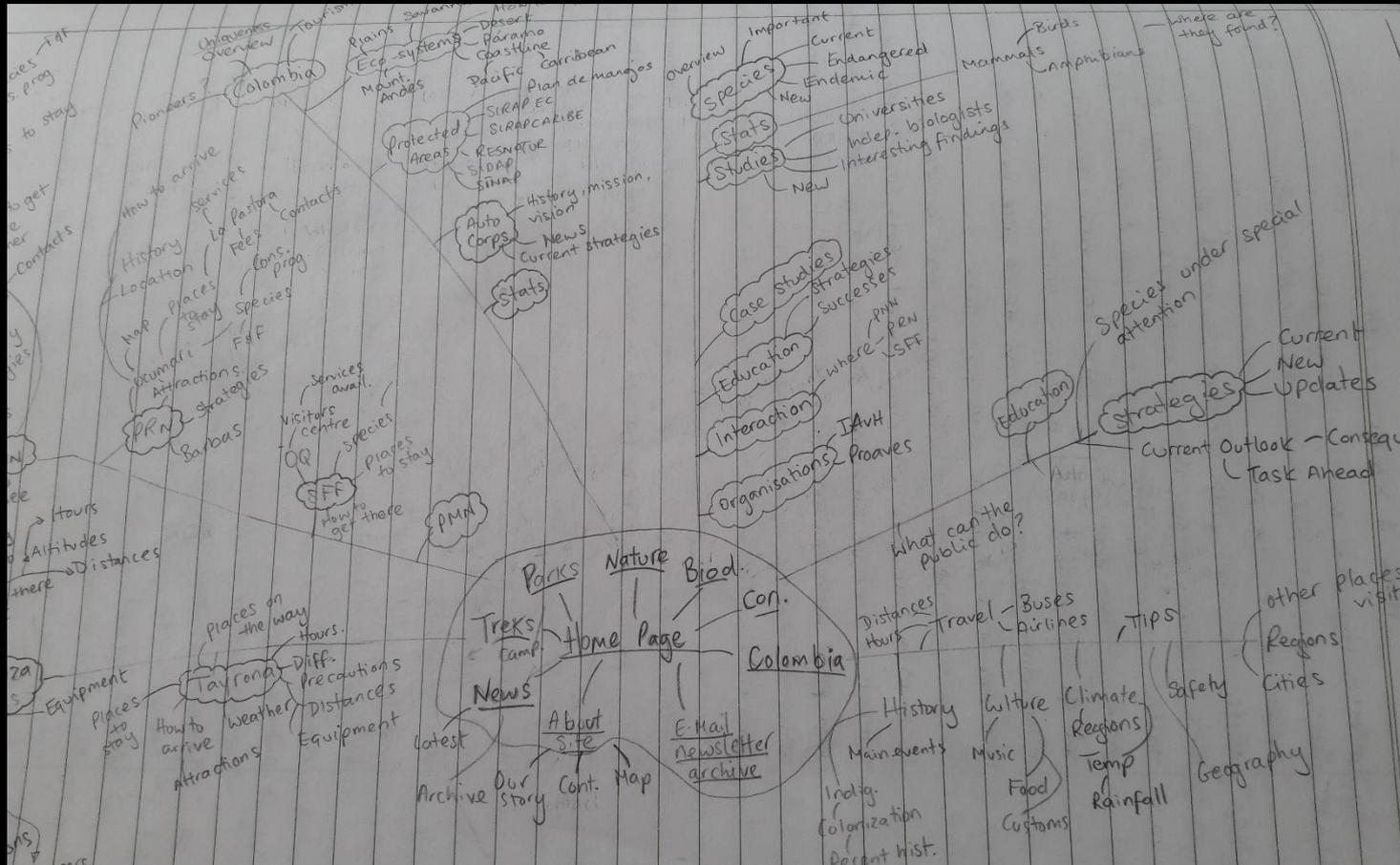




Laguna del Otun, PNN Los Nevados, Risaralda

X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





X ENCUESTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





Carretera, SFF Otun-Quimbaya, Risaralda

X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016



THE COLOMBIAN PROJECT



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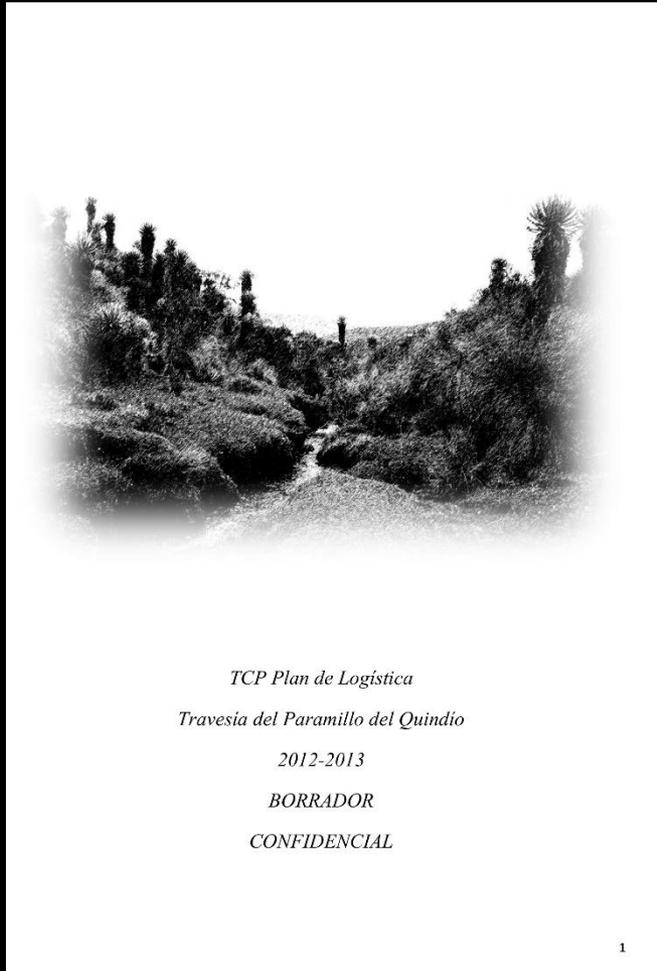




El Nevado del Tolima, PNN Los Nevados

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Plan de logística, caminata PNN Los Nevados

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Capacitacion de equipo de camping, Oct 2016

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Para Juan Ortiz,
Con Mucho Aprecio,
Steve Hilty. 2016



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Birding in Colombia ¿Que necesitamos saber?

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Birding in Colombia
¿Soy endemico?

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Birding in
Colombia
¿Soy facil de
ver?

X ENCUENTRO TURISMO NATURALEZA 2016





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Birding in Colombia ¿Como son mis clientes?

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PRN Campolegre, Santa Rosa, Risaralda

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“.....afternoon transfer to.....”

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¿Hablas 'Guanese'?

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“.....I wish I had more operators that were as thorough as you!.....” (*Me gustaría tener más operadores que eran tan completo como ustedes!...*)



Santuario de Flora y Fauna Otun-Quimbaya

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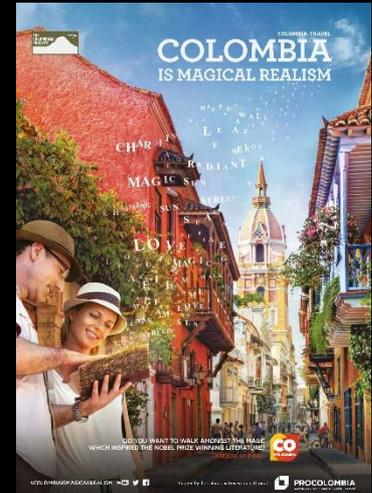
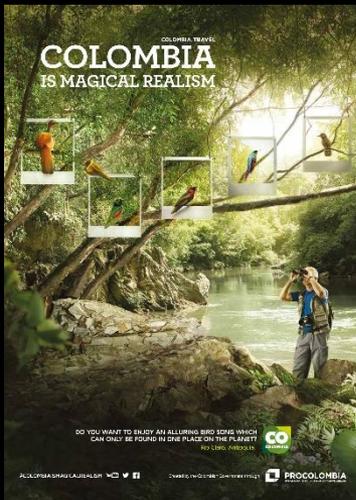
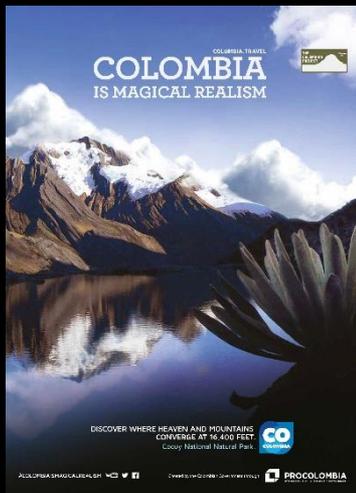
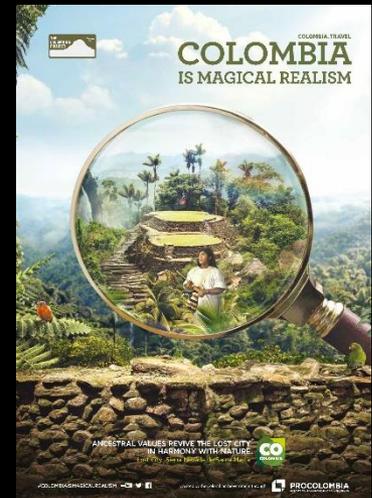
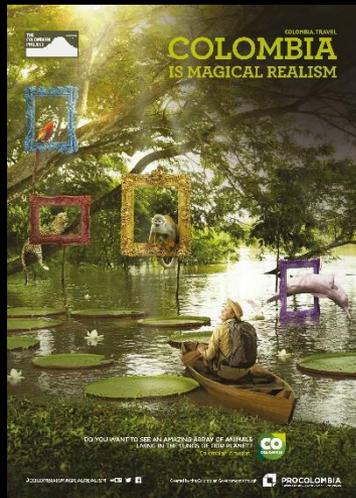
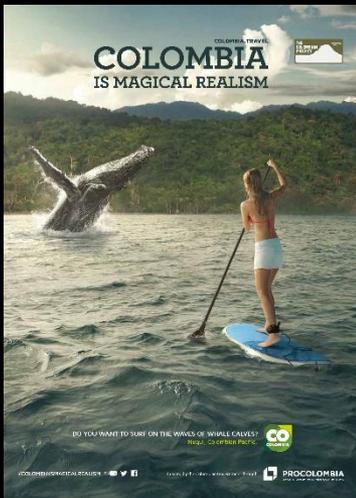


Montezuma Ecolodge, PNN Tatama



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Alejandro Pinto

Tour de
avistamiento de
aves, Sept 2016

Amazonas,
Colombia

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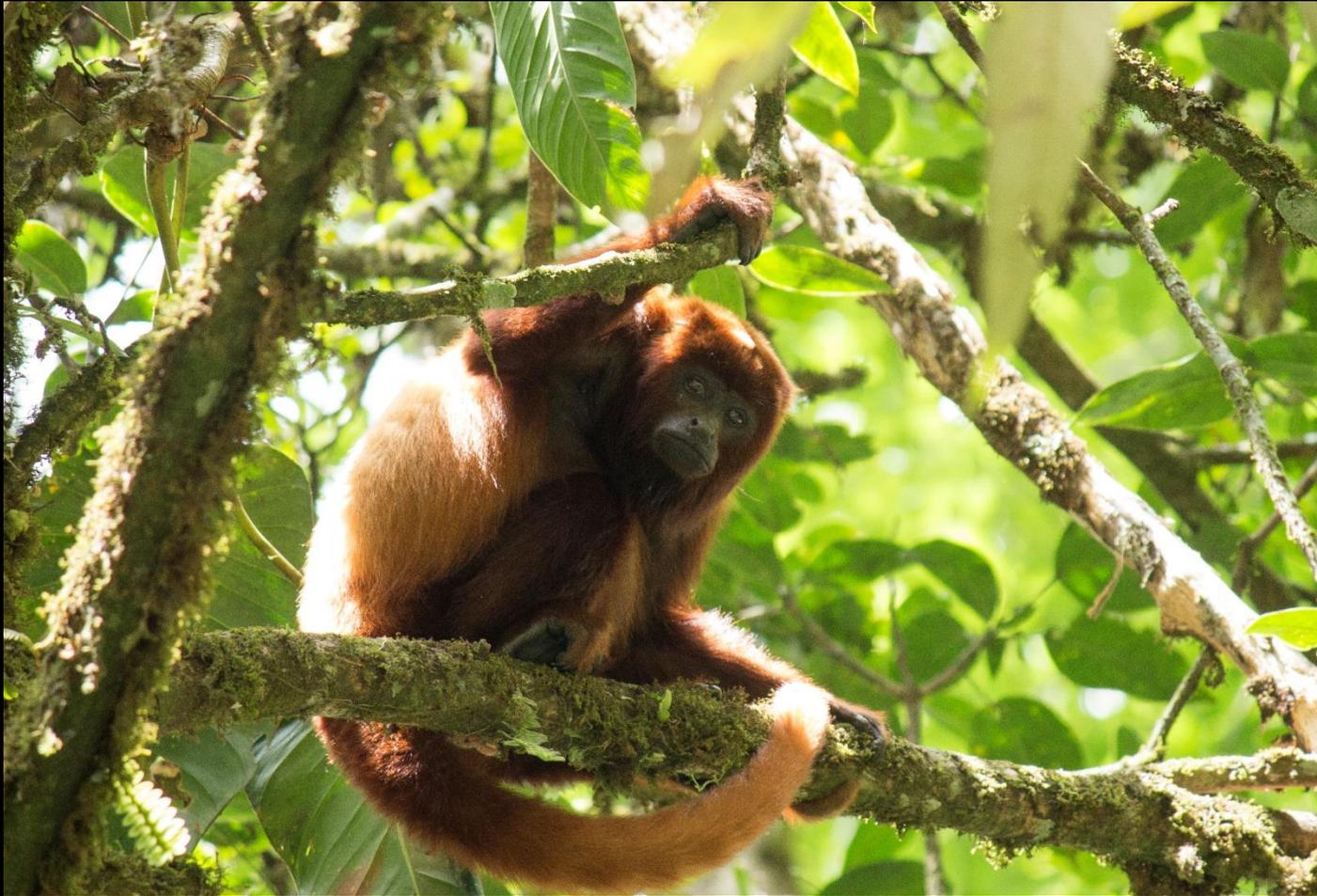




Arnulfo Sanchez, Mistrato, Risaralda

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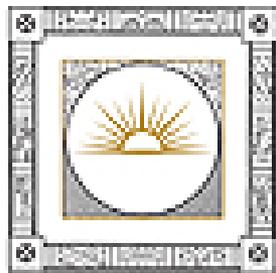




Mono Aullador Rojo – Red-howler Monkey

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Reef & Rainforest

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Donacion del grupo Langdale Walking Holidays 2015

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Foto: Max Hopfl, Steppes Travel birding tour, Llanos 2016

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Anaconda apareando. Foto: Max Hopfl, Steppes Travel birding tour, Llanos 2016

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Green shoots

Columbia In the wake of the rebels' ceasefire, the notorious jungles of the Darién Gap are finally opening up to adventurous tourists. *By Martin Fletcher*



From top: The village of Capurganá; trekking in the jungle of the Darién Gap

A bloodstain from the roof on which he was shot, and the Museo Botero, which contains not only the magnificent collection of Fernando Botero, Colombia's most famous artist, but also scores of his own trademark Apaches of grotesquely voluminous figures. We also admired another of Colombia's artistic specialties – the huge, fantastical murals that seem to cover every wall.



Later, flanked by green male pacaris called 'cariacá' and succulent roasted ants bought from street vendors, we took a fantastic zip line called Cerro de Manacargate and enjoyed spectacular views from the top of the forest peaks of the western Andes.

When the migrants near the end of our arduous hike into that vast expanse of mountainous rainforest that spans the nations linking Colombia to Panama and known as the Darién Gap. There were 17 of them – men and women, Haitians, Congolese and Tigrayan. All hoping eventually to reach the US but hopelessly ill-equipped for this most hazardous stage of their journey.



From top: The village of Capurganá; trekking in the jungle of the Darién Gap

The first morning we flew to Medellín, the world's cocaine capital and most dangerous city when Escobar's cartel controlled it late last century. Today the 'City of Eternal Spring' – a moniker derived from its perfect climate – is both as safe as London or New York. Thicker of smog than high rise dot the floor of the steep Andean valley in which it sits. A few motor cars along the valley floor, and cable cars serve the shabby towns that tumble down its sides.

Capurganá, flanked by sea and forested mountains, is not for the high-end traveller, but it does have character and an edge sort of charm. On the lock over our names were entered into a ledger by hand. Our hotel sent a man with a wheelbarrow to fetch our luggage, for there are no cars. A few brightly painted bars and bistros are the basic establishments backpackers who reach the place.

What became of those desperate people I still have been. Writing this is the conduct of my London boss. I feel ashamed for that determination to risk so much for better, but ashamed at my inability to help them. I also find a matter almost literally of life or death, funder for more adventures.



From top: The village of Capurganá; trekking in the jungle of the Darién Gap

Eager to jettison associations with its seamy past, the city's authorities discourage the unofficial Pablo Escobar tours, but we took one across Cerro Páramo, a former policeman who claims the cartel four times tried to kill him, showed us the fancy block where Escobar lived with his family in the penthouse and tortured prisoners in the basement. La Catedral, the barbarous 'biggest prison' that Escobar built when he agreed to voluntary incarceration to avoid US extradition, and the suburban house where he was shot in 1993 are his scumbag success and an attempt to avoid capture.

Palma also took us to Escobar's grave in the Montesverde cemetery. People still fly flowers there for Escobar, who is buried in a 'Robin Hood' inn, building homes and football pitches for the poor. Palma's wife said: 'You tried to kill me many times, but you didn't. I was thank you, because now you're in the ground and I'm making money to pay taxes.'

A colleague and I fly to Bogotá and were conducted by a vibrant capital. We stayed at the Hotel de Oros, a charming colonial mansion in the historic, Casco Viejo district. We enjoyed three of the city's many splendid five-star restaurants – the Museo del Oro, which showcased gold artefacts from the Incas; Plaza Mayor (Bogotá) are replaced the legend of the Dorado, the mythical city of gold, where the most popular exhibition are the commissioned Harley Davidson of the late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar and



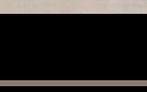
From top: The village of Capurganá; trekking in the jungle of the Darién Gap

broken shoes, discarded clothes, even a used nappy – presumably left by migrants heading to Panama. At one point we encountered two smiling young men, one carrying a revolver. They were 'cariacá' – migrant smugglers – returning to the border.

After eight exhausting hours we came over a hill and there was the line – a cluster of one-km cabins spread out like a mirage in a clearing below us. We were welcomed by Elder and Andrea, the two young men who ran the place, and given sweet limoncitos (a fruit to revive us. Soon we were heading into heavy bushes in the jungle river.

Over a rope that led us to a boat named by Jorge Eliécer and his wife, María Elena – Capurganá for us, who wanted a boat to because they fear civilisation will collapse. They brought a one-year-old son, who still controlled the jungle, but the guerrillas let them stay unless they could take some of its produce. Today the couple keep chickens, turkeys, pig and ducks. They grow rice, yuca, plantains, mango, papaya, guava and peach besides. Elder said hundreds of migrants now pass through the jungle each month but they avoid the line.

It would like to have moved longer at the fence. Elder said there were pathfinders and dogs near the river, and magical animals. We could have been deeper into the jungle, but we had schedules to keep and places to eat so returned to Capurganá the following day – finding the last Caracol restaurant.



From top: The village of Capurganá; trekking in the jungle of the Darién Gap

We met Héctor and his wife in their 'La Lucha Continua' that evening. They said they wanted more tourists to visit the basin in order to offset the impact of the forest. But they said the great virgin cucumber of the Darién Gap will soon be destroyed by logging and miners. 'Peace is a good blessing,' Héctor said. 'But we must be careful to go in there. The conflict was what kept it poor and empty.'

At night we ate delicious seafood at a beach hut with plastic tables by a single bulb hanging from a tree.

At night we ate delicious seafood at a beach hut with plastic tables by a single bulb hanging from a tree.

Articulo en The Financial Times (UK) Oct 2016

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