

Taganga, Tayrona National Park, Colombia Fundiving in Colombia

The diving

Experience Taganga, where Colombia meets the Caribbean, and enjoy diving in the marine protected area of Tayrona National Park.

Nearly all dive sites in this area are located in the national park, only a few minutes away by boat. Due to the sandy and rocky grounds you will see different corals than normally found in the Caribbean and there is a guarantee schools of colorful reef fish will accompany on your dives – even dolphins and turtles if you are lucky.

The 22 dive sites within Tayrona National Park combines pinnacles of coral reef, sunken ships, caves, and a variety of marine ecosystems. The sites offer diving for everyone, beginner or professional, with both shallow and calm sites but also sites great for deep and drift diving due to strong currents in some areas. It's the perfect place to challenge yourself and your diving skills.

On top of the supreme diving, Taganga is also the gateway to the famous Lost City Trek, beautiful waterfalls and will probably have you stay longer than planned with its contagious beach village vibe.



Area name / Island name

Taganga, Tayrona National Park, Colombia

Nearest airport

Santa Marta, Simón Bolívar International
Airport

Season

All year round
Colder temperatures and stronger winds from December to March with a drop down to 20 degrees. You'll be diving in a 5mm, so you will be comfortable and warm in the water

Center type

International dive center
German owned
European standards
PADI 5 star Instructor Development Resort
PADI Tech Diving Facility
Sidemount Facility

Experience level

PADI Open Water Diver or equivalent

Minimum age for participation

12 Years

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Location

Taganga is an old fishing village located just 15 minutes from the big bustling Santa Marta. It is known to be a popular destination for backpackers wishing to stay close to the water, have a couple of drinks and dive in a relaxed atmosphere (of course not in that order). The main road along the beach, is filled with fishermen and local kids playing football during the day. In the evening, when the temperature drops, the restaurants, cafés and beach front attracts divers, hikers and backpackers alike. The many activities around Taganga and Tayrona National Park will keep you busy for days and are also the reason why many travelers end up extending their stay in this area of Colombia.

Your Guesthouse

La Casa Felipe is your cozy home during your stay. This colourful little pearl has great communal areas, is filled with plenty of hammocks to hang out in and it is located just a five minute walk from the beach and the dive center. It is super clean and cozy, with the friendliest reception staff, who are happy to help you plan your onward travels, or trekking in Tayrona! If you prefer to cook your own food, there is a little communal kitchen. The French and Colombian couple that owns this cool little hostel in Taganga, offers tasty breakfast options and afternoon/evening meals at low cost. There's laundry service and free WIFI.

Your room - Private accommodation

Twin or double bed in spacious room with private bathroom, fan cooling and semi-hot water for your shower (This you will realise is quite a standard for Colombia, but if you want a hot shower, you can take one at the dive center, where they will provide you towels after your diving for that exact purpose).





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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. Dive sites are picked on a daily basis, and is dictated by the experience level of the divers and the safeness of the environment.

Our dive center in Taganga is special in many ways. Besides being utterly professional, they are known for taking their divers to the best dive sites, not the nearest!

Isla de La Aguja

This island, 15 minutes from Taganga Bay, is home to four of the best dive sites in Tayrona National Park. These dive sites are perfect year around, as the dive center will moor the boat on the calm side of the island and let you decide how challenging you want your dive to be. If you like to play around in strong currents, we can really recommend a drift dive on the western side of the island. If cute Puffer and Angelfish are more you, hang out on the shallow top reef, where the conditions are calm. While you're there, see if you can find a Spotted Moray eel poking its head out from it's little cave.

Morrito Largo

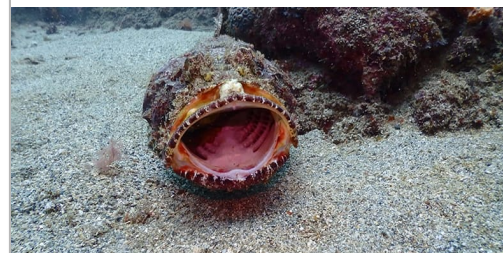
Not too far away from Isla de La Aguja, you will find a very calm area, well protected from trade winds, which makes it perfect to spot the Hawksbill turtles that usually hangs out here. You will find many patches of coral and a large amount of different species of reef fish – even huge schools of fish, which is always a fantastic sight, often pass by!

El Torrin

Without a doubt one of the dives which almost guarantees the best visibility. This dive is to a maximum of 18m, on a reef covered with a wide variety of coral species with impressively large colonies of moose and brain corals.

El Coro point

If you're trained in cave or cavern diving, and holds a certificate of Advanced or Deep diver, this is a must do in Taganga.



Conditions:

Visibility
10-25m

Temperature
20 – 28 degrees
Lowest temperatures from Dec - Apr

Current
Site-dependent
There is always a calm lagoon for those who do not wish to kick a current or drift dive

Surface
Taganga is hot, luckily you will be close to the water at all times and can cool down

Special marinelife
Turtles, Barracudas, Moray Eels,
Seahorses & Dolphins

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Itinerary

On the day of arrival, you will be greeted in the dive shop by the dive staff who will give you an orientation of the dive shop and of the diving you will be doing. Your equipment will be fitted and packed for the following days of diving. You'll then be shown to your accommodation to check in. The rest of the day is left for exploring on land and settling in on your own.

The days with diving included will consist of 2 dives from the dive boat in the morning (usually) or afternoon, weather depending. Snacks and water is served between the 2 dives, on the boat. There will be no refund on dives not used. Night dives are also available, and can be booked on location.

DIVE PACKAGE: 5 days / 4 nights - Fundiving Taganga National Park.

Day 1: Check in at dive center and hostel

Day 2: 2 dives, all inclusive

Day 3: 2 dives, all inclusive

Day 4: No diving - please allow time to off-gas before leaving Taganga area.

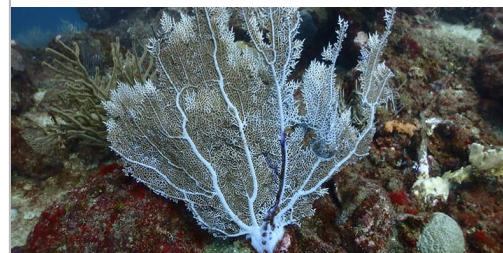
Day 5: Departure day. Check out is at noon.

Taganga is nestled by the ocean. To transfer to other bigger cities, you need to travel by road or plane at heights over 300m of sea level. This requires 24 hours without diving, which is why we have added a day of "no diving" in the itinerary. If you are feeling active, talk to the dive center of snorkeling or other activities for this day of off-gassing.

Please note

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can easily add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.



Activity starts

Meet at 8am in the dive shop on days with diving
(can be changed on a day to day basis, depending on the ocean conditions)

Activity starts from

The dive center

Group Size

Max. 4 divers per instructor/guide

Language

English

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Getting to Taganga from:

Santa Marta Airport (SMR):

When arriving in Santa Marta International Airport you have two choices of transportation. The cheapest way to get to Taganga is by public busses, the first one leaves just outside of the arrival hall (there's only one bus line leaving from the airport, so you can't miss it) That will take you to Carrera 5 in the center of Santa Marta. From there catch any bus that says 'Kra.11 Taganga' to Taganga. The journey takes around 30-40 minutes and will cost you around 1EUR. The busses run every 10-15 minutes from 06.00 to 21.00 (6 am - 9 pm)

The easier option is to take a taxi from Santa Marta Airport to Taganga. Remember to always negotiate the price before getting into the car to avoid misunderstandings. The ride should not cost you more than 35.000 pesos (10 EUR) during the day and 50.000 pesos (13 EUR) at night. We recommend this option after dark.

Cartagena or Barranquilla:

It is no problem to travel from west to east on the northern coast of Colombia. From Cartagena several minivan services will take you to directly to Taganga. They even offer hostel to hostel drop off and pick up. The journey from Cartagena takes around five hours and costs approximately 52.000 pesos (15 EUR) one way, from Barranquilla three hours and costs 35.000 pesos (10 EUR).



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

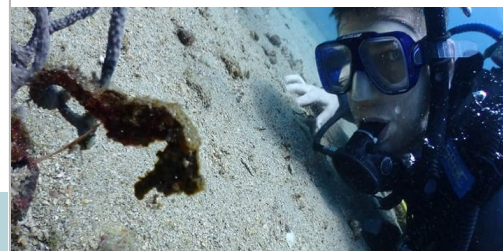
FUNDIVING - PRIVATE ACC.	
Days / Nights	5/4
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	326 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day diving (2 dives) - no accom	97 EUR
Extra night in dorm (after package)	18 EUR
Extra night in dorm (before package)	18 EUR
Extra night in private (after package)	25 EUR
Extra night in private (before package)	25 EUR
Refresher Dive (added to 1st dive)	22 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, rooms and boats get filled fast and you might find trouble getting an extra night of accommodation or an extra day of diving.



Included

Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment
guide or instructor
Soft drinks and snacks on boat
Accommodation in Private room
Towels
Bed linen
Wifi at Hostel
Dive insurance

Not included

All meals
Soft and alcoholic drinks
Transfers

Also available on site

Extra accommodation if available
Extra days of diving if available
Upgrading to private room if available
Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

As in terms and conditions on voucher

Dive insurance

Basic dive travel insurance required
(included)

Please note

For the dive insurance, you need to bring your passport to the dive center on day 1

General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.