

COFFEE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN COLOMBIA

National and local actors involved in the management of the [Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia](#) are promoting interesting new ways of sustainable tourism to enhance and preserve this national and international heritage.

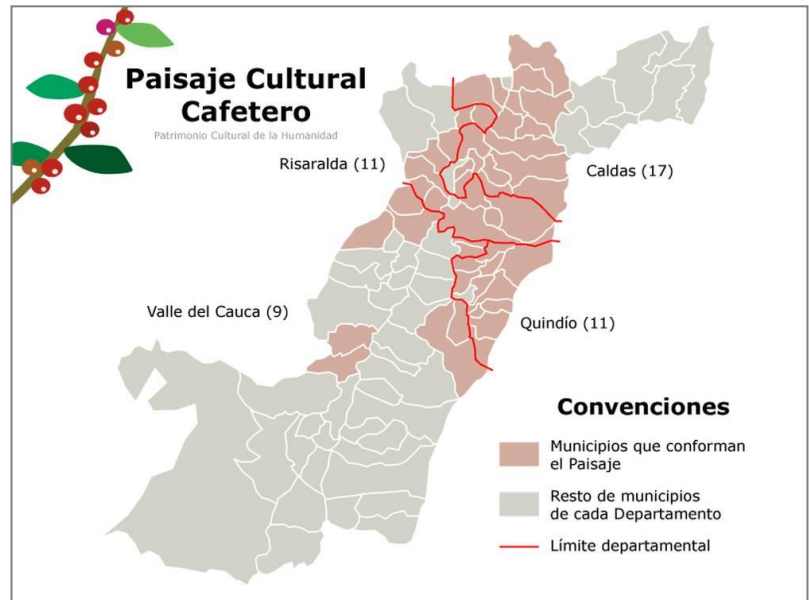
The World Heritage Committee of [UNESCO](#) inscribed the [Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia in the World Heritage List](#) in 2011. UNESCO's recognition is the result of ten years of work by regional actors (governments, universities and institutions), coffee growers associated in the Colombian National Coffee Growers Federation and the Ministry of Culture.

The Coffee Cultural Landscape is made up of coffee growing areas from the departments of Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca located in the Andes mountain range. This region, traditionally known as *Eje Cafetero*, includes 47 municipalities and 411 villages (*veredas*). It comprises nearly 24,000 farms in which 80 thousand people dedicate their life to growing coffee.

[The UNESCO website](#) underlines that *the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia is an exceptional example of a sustainable productive and cultural living landscape. It reflects a centennial tradition of coffee growing in small plots in the high forest and the way farmers have adapted cultivation to difficult mountain conditions. The urban areas, mainly situated on the relatively flat tops of hills above sloping coffee fields, are characterized by the architecture of the Antioquian colonization. Building materials were, and remain in some areas, cob and pleated cane for the walls with clay tiles for the roofs.*

Cultural traditions, in agricultural practices and in fields as music, dance, traditional culinary and architecture, transmitted from generation to generation, contribute to the image of a continuing, productive and living landscape.

Colombian coffee has gained worldwide recognition as one of the best coffees produced in the world. In this region, land tenure is based on a small farm production system which reflects an economic, social and environmentally sustainable coffee growing model, implemented with the support of the [Colombian Coffee Growers Federation \(FNC\)](#).



Colombian coffee comes from more than 500,000 small families of coffee growers who have organized themselves through the National Federation of Coffee Growers, defining quality standards for export, which are carefully applied. The reputation in international markets is due to the existing environmental conditions in Colombia and [the quality management and support system that small Colombian producers have designed.](#)

The Colombian Coffee Growers Federation also counts with Coffee Growers Cooperatives that guarantee producers the purchase of their harvest all year round at the best possible price. In order to do so, Cooperatives have purchase points in nearly 550 places in Colombia's coffee growing regions, of which 106 are located in the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia's main area.

This production system based on small farms and in the valorization of local culture, has demonstrated its ability to evolve over time, gaining important international recognition.

The Management Plan of the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia encourages the region's inhabitants to conserve the landscape in a sustainable way that harmonically coexists with the economic activities developed in the area. The guiding principles are: economic and social welfare for all its inhabitants, valorization of the cultural heritage, and environmental sustainability.

In order to reach this goal, the Ministry of Culture, the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation, local Governments, Regional Environmental Agencies, and a group of universities from Caldas, Quindío, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca are working together.

In this framework different initiatives are being developed to promote national and international tourism in the territories of the Coffee Cultural Landscape. The farms of coffee producers offer their spaces to host travelers interested in knowing the natural beauty of the territory, its landscapes, villages with its traditional architecture, handicrafts, music and cultural events. And also to appreciate the sustainable ways that are still being used to produce the famous Colombian coffee with the participation of small local producers.

To know more

Paisajeculturalcafetalero.org

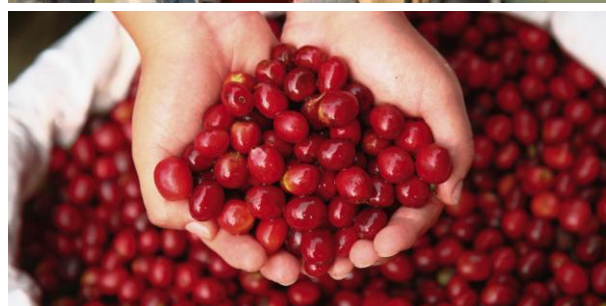
[UNESCO Coffee Cultural Landscape presentation](#)

[UNESCO news](#)

[Federacion Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia](#)

[Rutas del Paisaje Cultural Cafetero](#)

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[Destinocafe website](#)

[Turinter.wordpress](#)

[Cronicadelquindio website](#)

[Article in elcomercio.com website](#)

[Article in cafedecolombia.com website](#)

[El Eje Cafetero in Wikipedia](#)

[Paisaje Cultural Cafetero in Wikipedia](#)

