Guatapé Bike Tour from Medellín – The Back-Roads E-Bike Route

Guatapé, Oriente, Antioquia, RAP del Agua y la Montaña, Colombia

Everyone who researches a trip to Guatapé reads the same complaint in the reviews: the traffic. On a weekend, the last stretch from Marinilla to Guatapé can double or triple the drive, and you spend your day trip sitting in a van.
This **Guatapé bike tour** doesn't go that way. We take the back roads, quiet lanes through the hills of eastern Antioquia that almost no tourist ever sees, and arrive at the lake on an e-bike, with the wind in your face instead of a bumper in front of you.

The most adventurous way to reach Guatapé

It works like this. We shuttle you and the bikes out to **San Vicente Ferrer**, and from there you ride: 68 km of public roads with little to no traffic, through two of Antioquia's best-preserved heritage towns, past a waterfall, and finally along the Guatapé reservoir itself. When you arrive, the shuttle is waiting to bring you back, or to hold your luggage if you're staying on.
These are **Specialized Turbo Levo** e-bikes, so the distance isn't the obstacle it sounds like. The first 40 km are paved and gently rolling; the last 28 are off-road with the real climbing. The motor does the heavy lifting on the hills. What you bring is a willingness to sit on a bike saddle for the better part of a day and enjoy the ride. Prefer to stay closer to the city? The same bikes run on our Arví Park e-bike tour.

Two towns most visitors never see

The point of going the back way isn't only the traffic. It's what's on the back way. **Concepción** and **Alejandría** are National-Heritage-grade colonial towns, cobblestoned and largely untouched by mass tourism, and we stop and explore both. Coffee in the main square. Local food. Eighteenth-century churches. A swim beneath a waterfall. This is the Antioquia that the direct road to El Peñol skips entirely.
By the time you reach Guatapé, you've already had the best day. The town is the finish line, not the whole point.

Tour Facts

Group Size:
6
Language:
English, Spanish
Duration:
8
Tour Type:
continuous

Tour Itinerary

8:00 AM : Meet near the airport, shuttle to San Vicente

We meet at our base near José María Córdova airport; come by ride-hailing app. Load up and drive 45 minutes out to San Vicente Ferrer.

Duration
45 Minutes
Elevation Gain
2100 Meter
Location
Airport

8:45 AM : Start riding

Bikes fitted, assist modes explained, and we roll out of San Vicente onto the quiet road toward Concepción.

Duration
45 Minutes
Elevation Gain
2150 Meter
Location
San Vicente

9:45 AM : Concepción, first coffee

23 km in. We stop in this untouched heritage town, walk the cobblestone streets, and have a coffee in the square.

Duration	Elevation Gain	Location
1 Hour	1875 Meter	Concepción

10:30 AM : Matasanos Waterfall

A short ride to the waterfall: cascades, natural lagoons, and a swim if you're up for it.

Duration
1 Hour

12:00 PM : Alejandría, snack stop

On along the Nare River to "The Town of Sympathy" for a second coffee break on the main park.

Duration	Elevation Gain	Location
3 Hours	1650 Meter	Alejandría

3:00 PM : Guatapé, lunch by the lake.

The off-road final leg delivers you to the reservoir. We ride along the water and stop for a well-earned lunch.

Duration	Elevation Gain	Location
1 Hour	1927 Meter	Guatapé

5:30 PM : Back at the meeting point

The shuttle returns you near the airport, where transport back into Medellín is easy. Staying in Guatapé instead? Your bags have been on the shuttle the whole time.

Duration	Elevation Gain	Location
90 Minutes	2100 Meter	Airport