



# **BLACK GIRLS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2026:**

AFRO-COLOMBIAN CONNECTIONS  
IN SISTERHOOD

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*Hosted in Cartagena, Colombia*

**June 6 – June 13, 2026**

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# TRIP OBJECTIVES

- Engage in an immersive Afro-Colombian Cultural Experience for Healing, Justice, and Liberation
- Dialogue and Learn about the African heritage, and current Racial Realities of Afro-Colombian Life
- Support and Visit the First Independent African Community “Palenque” in the Western Hemisphere, Established Through Resistance to Enslavement
- Enhance the Leadership Skills of Young Black Women Graduates of OUSD who are current Oakland Promise College Students
- Continue to Build a Global Sisterhood of Visionary, African Centered Leaders





## WHY CARTAGENA?

## WHY AN AFRO-COLOMBIAN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE?

CARTAGENA IS A LIVING CLASSROOM FOR UNDERSTANDING AFRO-COLOMBIAN HERITAGE, WITH ITS COLORFUL STREETS, MUSIC, AND TRADITIONS TELLING STORIES OF RESILIENCE, CREATIVITY, AND CULTURAL PRIDE.

As a historic port city central to the transatlantic slave trade, Cartagena holds deep significance in the African diaspora. Walking through its walled city, you encounter vibrant murals, local rhythms like champeta, and oral histories passed down through generations, all of which illuminate the enduring presence and contributions of Afro-Colombian communities. The city is not only a UNESCO World Heritage Site but also a space where history is felt in daily life—offering students the chance to learn beyond the textbook through lived experiences and community voices.

Just an hour away is San Basilio de Palenque, the first free Black town in the Americas, founded by escaped enslaved Africans. Palenque stands as a powerful example of cultural preservation, with its own language, music, and traditions recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Visiting this community fosters deeper understanding of how Afro-Colombian identity has been shaped by both historical struggle and modern expressions of self-determination. We will engage not just as observers but as participants—learning from local leaders, artists, and historians—gaining insights into the intersections of race, culture, and resistance that continue to shape Colombia today.



# TRIP ITINERARY

## JUNE 6 - 13, 2026



### Daily Itinerary

*Our retreat will take place on-site in Cartagena, Colombia*

#### Day 1 - Saturday, June 6

- Travelers arrive at Rafael Nunez International Airport (code CTG)
- Check-in to our special little island oasis Tiny Village Cartagena. Just a 10 minute boat ride from Cartagena, we have the entire island to ourselves, with a private chef, pool, activities, gathering spaces and more.
- Welcome Group Dinner

#### Day 2 - Sunday, June 7

- Breakfast is included each morning
- Afro-Colombian Walking Tour to Explore "La Heroica", the Walled City (UNESCO) with our Afro-Colombian guide to learn about this magical city with its stunning colonial architecture juxtaposed to the city's key role in the transatlantic slave trade, invasions from European nations at war to monopolize the region and more
- Hosted Lunch
- Visit with Fundación por la Educación Multidimensional (FEM), an organization that supports Afro and Indigenous communities with a focus on women
- Return to our private island
- Dinner on the island
- Evening Workshop: Essential Leadership Skills for Today's Black Woman, Dr. Siri Brown

#### Day 3 - Monday, June 8

- Walking Tour and Exploration with our Afro-Colombian guide, of "Barrio Getsemani" where street art/murals, live music, local cuisine, and the people of Colombia live, work, and express the depth of the culture. During our visit to this neighborhood, we will learn about its history where the enslaved, slave traders, and poor whites lived together in a mix of competing interests
- Hosted Lunch
- Panel Discussion: Afro-Colombian life – Challenges and Triumphs of Race and Identity. Afro-Colombian community organizers, artists, and academics will join us for a conversation to deepen our Pan African understanding of Black World
- Return to our private island
- Dinner on the island

#### Day 4 - Tuesday, June 9

- Private day tour to visit the Palenque! A liberatory celebration of our heritage and resilience. Roughly an hour's drive outside of Cartagena, we will visit the often-overlooked community of Palenque on a private tour from Cartagena. You'll learn about the Palenqueros' fight for freedom against the slave system, and the retention of African cultural traditions that have been passed down through generations. Highlights include the museum dedicated to the town's Afro-Colombian heritage, seeing the traditional houses, and witnessing the vibrant African drum and dance that are an integral part of daily life in the community.
- Hosted Lunch
- Group discussion with Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas (LMD) a local organization that advocates for displaced women and gender justice
- Dinner on your own in Cartagena. Suggestions provided.
- Return to our private island

#### Day 5 - Wednesday, June 10

- Free day to explore Cartagena as a group. Recommendation of museums, art galleries and more will be provided.
- Dinner as a group on the island

#### Day 6 - Thursday, June 11

- Beach Day! We have reservations at a Private Beach Club with lunch provided. Relax and enjoy the white sand beaches and warm water with good friends.
- Afternoon Workshop: Self Care, Race and Gender – An Internal Revolution for Healing, Dr. Pam Jenkins
- Dinner on the island

#### Day 7 - Friday, June 12

- Last day in Cartagena to pick up gifts to take home or relax by the pool.
- Lunch on your own. Suggestions will be provided
- Sisterhood Closing Dinner

#### Day 8 - Saturday, June 13

- Return to the U.S.







TOUR ORGANIZER

# GLOBAL ACADEMICS

DR. SIRI BROWN, PH.D., CEO AND FOUNDER

For Questions Please Contact Dr. Siri Brown at [tours@global-academics.org](mailto:tours@global-academics.org) or (510) 649-5664



Global Academics is owned and operated by Dr. Siri Brown, a long-time educator in the Bay Area. Dr. Siri Brown is a two-time Fulbright scholar for abroad projects in both Brazil (2012) and South Africa (2019). The mission of Global Academics is to provide the most in-depth cultural immersion tour related services to fulfill your organizations objectives in adding Black World travel to your community work. The most unique aspect of our service is that we have years of experience in the countries and local communities you will visit. This depth of experience has resulted in relationships with internationally known Black artists, academics, intellectuals, and community leaders who you will meet, learn from, and enjoy during your time abroad with Global Academics.

Dr. Brown has over 20 years of teaching experience as a tenured faculty member in African American Studies at Merritt College, and part time in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. She recently served as the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs & Student Support Services at Peralta Community College District and was the chair of the Ethnic Studies & Social Sciences department for over 10 years. Dr. Brown holds an M.A. in African American Studies and a Ph.D. in U.S. History with an emphasis in Early American, African American, and U.S. Women's History from The Ohio State University.