

Big Five Invites Guests to Participate in Colombian Cleanup Project



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Big Five Tours & Expeditions is inviting its customers taking tours to Colombia to participate in a project it initiated to help communities replenish and restore natural mangrove forests that are being depleted through waste dumping in the waters and urbanization.

Big Five Tours works with local Colombians to sweep the beaches for seaweed and debris, then retrieve seeds and wash them in a saltwater solution to remove chemicals and foreign substances.

"Together with our catamaran partners, we collect red mangrove seeds from the garbage, which are washed with a saltwater solution to remove chemicals and foreign substances," said Ashish Sanghrajka,

president of Big Five. "Then, on all our catamaran excursions, our guests can choose to help replant the seeds. Guests can be as involved as they want to be. This is what sailing with a purpose looks like."

The project, conducted by Big Five in partnership with Cartagena Unida, is designed to clean up pollution as well as to provide work for local fishermen. It has helped support some 100,000 people in local communities such as Bocachica and Tierra Bomba.

"I recently traveled there with the Colombian Navy and we helped to help feed 300 more families. We want to get them back to work through tourism, showcasing their unique fishing style to our guests," said Sanghrajka. "This project is about empowering the communities around Cartagena to become self-sufficient by providing for their families through tourism."

Travelers with Big Five may opt to join in the project on any tour to Cartagena, such as the 10-day President's Pick Colombia In the Heart of It tour. Catamaran trips already booked with Big Five automatically include this experience.

For more information, call 800-244-3483 or visit www.bigfive.com.