



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Colombia - Cartagena

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bogotá
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 572
- ✓ **Population:** ± 896,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Colombian Peso's (COP)
- ✓ **Country code:** +57 (5)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 112
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / DTP / Yellow fever / Malaria prevention

Read more about the [FARC](#) and their [ideals](#), [Plan Colombia](#) and [Colombia's drugs war](#).

History Recap Over 1 Drink

1525: Spain arrives. 1819: Bolivar defeats Spanish → Gran Colombia with Ecuador, Panama & Venezuela. 1829-30: dissolved. 1899-1903: War of the Thousand Days: 120000 die in civil war Liberals&Conservatives. '48-57 - 250000-300000 killed in civil war. '58: Conservatives&Liberals: National Front to end civil war. '65: Leftist ELN&EPL, '66: FARC, '71: M-19 guerrillas. '78: President Turbay: fight drug traffickers. '82: President Betancur grants guerrillas amnesty & frees political prisoners. '85: 101 people killed by M-19 in Palace of Justice → Patriotic UP founded. Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupts: 23000 killed. Right-wing paramilitary: murder campaign against UP / violence by left-wing groups/ death squads by drugs cartels. '93: Pablo Escobar (drug cartel) shot dead. '98: Arango president: Peace talks guerrillas → safe haven in south-east. '99: Earthquake kills 1000 people (Armenia/Pereira). 2000: Plan Colombia from US against drugs. 2001: San Francisco agreement FARC: ceasefire → after 3 years peace talks stop: explosion Bogotá. 2004: Right-wing AUC&government peace talks, 2005 with ELN. 2007: Many FARC freed → FARC frees hostages. Venezuela tensions. 2011: Country-wide protests against FARC. 2014: Peace negotiations.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet										wettest		
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 2m. Climate: Tropical, always hot.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ The old town is an open air museum. Free: [Museo del Oro](#). Free art gallery: NH Galería.
- ☺ Relax at one of the many city beaches.
- ☺ Enjoy the high amount of talented street artists (Plaza Santa Domingo / Plaza Bolivar etc.)
- ☺ Visit Mercado Bazurto for a look into local culture.
- ☺ Churches: San Pedro Claver, La Popa de la Galera , La Trinidad, Templo de Santo Domingo, St. Catherine.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Take a boat to Tierra Bomba: Day/overnight. Or go to Playa Blanco, Isla Mucura or Islas del Rosario.
- 👉 Book a tour via [Cartagena Connections](#).
- 👉 Museums: [Museo de Arte Moderno](#), Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas, [Joyeria Caribe](#), [Museo Naval](#).
- 👉 Once in a lifetime: Book a sail trip to Panamá via San Blas or arrange it in Panamá City (cheaper).

Tourist Trap Alert

☹ If you hate touristic places, avoid Cartagena. However, you might do yourself short.

☹ Did you ever see a Colombian driving in a horse and carriage? Right. If you want to imitate the former colonialists that oppressed the country, go ahead.

☹ You want to Pay COP45,000 for the hop-on hop-off tour and meet only tourists, or pay COP1,800 for public buses and see the same things with the locals?

Budget Bites

⌘ Markets: Mercado Bazurto

⌘ Streetfood is dirt cheap. Tasty (and greasy) in Colombia: Buñuelos (deepfried bread), pan de queso, chicharon (fried fat), arepa's with cheese/meat etc., empanadas (deepfried pastries), almojabana, bandeja paisa. Healthy: Corn (sin mantequilla), mango with lime, coconut, guanabana, guayaba, granadilla.

⌘ Supermarket: Exito.

Festivals

⚙ Hay Festival: Indias culture, Jan.

⚙ Festival Internacional de Musica: Music, Jan.

⚙ Film Festival: Mar.

Mama Said

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets are very active in tourist places like Cartagena, especially in the centre.

☠ Colombians don't walk around at night, take a cab or bus outside the city walls.

☠ Be careful with taxi's. →

Next?

→ In Colombia: Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Minca, Palomino, Medellin.

→ International destinations closeby: Venezuela, Brazil, Panama, Ecuador, Peru.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Akel House Hostel, +5756605497, Calle San Andrés 30-28.

❖ Casa Mara, +5756641574, Espiritu Santo.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Or check [workaway](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ Check out the Getsemani area for clubs and street parties.

◆ El Laboratorio, Calle Media Luna #10-20.

◆ Havana, Calle Media Luna and Calle del Guerrero.

... Seated down

◆ Teatro Heredia (Teatro Adolfo Mejia), Plaza de la Merced #38-101.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Nueva Lengua](#).

📖 Cook Colombian: [Cartagena Connections](#).

📖 Caribbean dancing: [Ekobios](#).

Free-Riding?

■ All distances in the city centre are walkable.

■ Buses go anywhere and are privately owned, the destination on the front. Locals are willing to help you.

■ If you're resistant to heat: [This Is Cartagena](#) bike tours.

■ Taxi's are cheap, but take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Call official radio-taxi's or use [the Easy Taxi app](#). Other option: Motortaxi's. From the bus terminal it's WAY cheaper (and easy) with a local bus.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Colombia app for an offline map, offline guide & more. Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

The Earth Becomes My Throne