



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Colombia - Medellín

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bogotá
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** ±1150
- ✓ **Population:** ± 2,4 mln
- ✓ **Currency:** Colombian Peso's (COP)
- ✓ **Country code:** +57 (4)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 123
- ✓ **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	driest											
Wet					cool		warm			wettest		
Best						school	holidays					
Budget												

Altitude: / "City of eternal spring"

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ A must: Tip-based [Real City Tours](#). Weekdays 9:30AM / 2:30PM, subscription required.
- ☺ Free parks & plazas: Parque Botero, [Jardín Botánico](#), Parque de los Píez Descalzos, Plaza Cisneros, Bolívar.
- ☺ Go outside Poblado: Central / Laureles / Envigado.
- ☺ Take the Medellín Metrocable up to Biblioteca España (no extra costs: part of metro system.).
- ☺ Check Pablo's grave at Cementerio de San Pedro (metro stop: Hospital).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Daytrip: Guatapé (bus: COP12000 from Terminal Norte). Alternative: Río Claro.
- 👍 Overnight trip: Jardín (COP18000 from Terminal Sur). Sublime hiking.
- 👍 Take the Metrocable further up to Parque Arví (bring your walking shoes & a sweater).
- 👍 Only for the art fanatics: [Museo de Antioquia](#), [Museo de Arte Moderno](#) & Poblado Castle.

Tourist Trap Alert

- ☹ Poblado is nice (especially for nightlife), but a true tourist hang-out. Check out other areas to get a sense of the real Medellín life.
- ☹ The 1000 and 10.000 bill look very much alike and therefore trigger scams. Check your change!

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets: Plaza Mayorista. Good (German) bread: Calle 12 con Carrera 43D-17.
- ⌘ Streetfood is dirt cheap. Tasty (and greasy) in Colombia: Buñuelos (deepfried bread), pan de queso, chicharon (fried fat), arepa's with cheese/meat/ chocolate etc., empanadas (deepfried pastries). Healthy: Corn (sin mantequilla), mango with lime, coconut, guanabana, guayaba.
- ⌘ Supermarket: Exito / Cheap: Tienda D1.

Festivals

- ⚙ Festival Internacional de Poesia: Poetry, Jul.
- ⚙ Feria de las Flores: Flowers, Jul-Aug
- ⚙ Feria (Navidad): Christmas, Dec.

Mama Said

- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular. Pickpockets work tourist areas.
- ☠ Colombians don't walk around at night, not even the smallest distances. Don't test it.
- ☠ Be careful with taxi's. →
- ☠ Dangerous areas: Comuna 13, Prado, Barrio Antioquia, La Sierra, Parque de las Luces (at night), Parque San Antonio (at night).
- ☠ Show some respect, don't talk in English about mr. Escobar or coke, it's quite painful that tourists finally come and only talk about this.

Next?

- ➔ In Colombia: Popayan, Cali, Armenia, Salento, Barranquilla, Cartagena.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Ecuador, Venezuela. Brazil. Panama.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Waypoint Hostel, +5743125294, Carrera 48B # 10Sur-10.
- ❖ Bambu Glamping, +5743118136, Calle 6 # 32-164.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Or check [workaway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ [Poblado Pub Crawl](#), Friday 9:30PM, [Tree bar](#).
- ◆ Bring your bottle to Parque Lleras (Poblado).
- ◆ Trilogia Live Bar, Carrera 43G # 24-08.

... Seated Down

- ◆ [El Teatrigo](#), 46 Av. Nutibara (Laureles).
- ◆ [Pequeno Teatro](#), Carrera 42 # 50A12.
- ◆ [Teatro Metropolitano](#), Calle 41 # 57-30.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

- 📖 Hable español: [UPB](#), [Toucan](#) or [EAFIT](#).
- 📖 Colombia = salsa: Eslabón Prendido, Calle 53 #42-55.
- 📖 Guitar / Dance / Art: [Gozarte](#).

Free-Riding?

- Separate areas are walkable, but to get from area to area alternative transport is recommendable.
- Buses to northern destinations leave from terminal Norte (metro stop Caribe), southern destinations from terminal Sur (15 minutes walk from Poblado metro station, but area dodgy at night). City buses go from and to everywhere, route on front... but with traffic jams it takes a loooooong time.
- The metro links the entire city, check routes [here](#).
- There is a public biking system, [Encicla](#), but it doesn't quite work yet (closed stations, bikes unavailable etc.).
- Taxi's are relatively cheap, but take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Call official radio-taxi's or use [the Easy Taxi app](#).

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