



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Colombia - Minca

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bogotá
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Population:** ± 1000
- ✓ **Currency:** Colombian Peso's (COP)
- ✓ **Country code:** +57 (3)
- ✓ **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												
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 660m. Climate: Cooler mountain air than at the coast, but still quite warm.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Curious to see the biggest hammock in the world? Hike up to Casa Elemento (2-3 hrs) or take a motortaxi (negotiate the price, it's flexible!).
- ☺ Hike in an hour from the village to the Pozo Azul waterfalls.
- ☺ Hike in any direction and explore the splendour of Sierra Nevada.
- ☺ Free (tip-based) forbidden waterfalls tour leaving from Casa Loma.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Walk in 45min from the village to the Marinka waterfalls. Entrance: COP3000.
- 👍 Go tubing, birdwatching, canyoning, mountainbiking, mule riding, rapelling or paintballing, f.e. via [Jungle Joe](#) (also accepting volunteers).
- 👍 [El Dorado Bird Reserve](#).
- 👍 Survival workshops: [DC Bushcraft & Survival](#).

Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ The only tourist trap is that you might think Minca can be done in a 'daytrip'. You are going to regret that decision afterwards.

Budget Bites

⌘ Go for a 'menu ejetivo' (daily menu) for COP 8000.

⌘ 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), almojabana, bandeja paisa. Healthy: Corn (sin mantequilla), mango with lime, coconut, guanabana, guayaba.

⌘ Buy ingredients in a 'tienda' or shop in Santa Marta in Exita before leaving.

Mama Said

☠ There are no ATM's in Minca, bring enough cash.

☠ Bring mosquito repellent.

☠ Be careful with taxi's. →

Next?

→ In Colombia: Santa Marta, Tayrona NP, Palomino, Barranquilla, Cartagena.

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

Sleep Cheap

❖ Casa Loma, +573138086134, on the hill right of the church.

❖ Casa Elemento, +573116559207, 30min motortaxi ride from Minca.

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

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: Casa Loma.

Free-Riding?

■ All distances in the village are walkable. The centre is 1 street.

■ Jeeps and vans drive between Minca and Santa Marta and leave when they're full. The price is COP6000-7000, don't pay more (some drivers will try).

■ Motortaxi's bring you around the different villages and mountain routes, ask to use the driver's helmet or you will have none.

■ 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](#).

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