



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Colombia - Santa Marta

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bogotá
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 2392,65
- ✓ **Population:** ± 455,000
- ✓ **Currency:** Colombian Peso's (COP)
- ✓ **Country code:** +57 (5)
- ✓ **Visa:** For 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 guerillas. '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: 6m. Climate: Hot steppe.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Bahia Concha (just inside Tayrona NP) has no entrance fee.
- ☺ Free museum: [Museo del Oro](#)
- ☺ Take public transport to Paso del Mango: Hike along waterfalls, pools and flora & fauna. Also: Valencia Brook's waterfalls.
- ☺ Beaches: Ensenada de Chengue, Playa Blanca, Playa Cristal.
- ☺ Relax at Parque de los Novios.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 Inevitable: Visit Tayrona NP. Bring a passport and cash. Under 26 and a student? Bring a student card for a huge discount. 1 day is not enough!
- 👉 Must-do: Visit the villages of Minca and Palomino. You might stay there longer than expected.
- 👉 4/5/6-day hike to [Ciudad Perdida](#). Entrance not allowed without guide.
- 👉 Only for the (budget) dive enthusiasts: Taganga.

Tourist Trap Alert

⊗ The entrance to Ciudad Perdida is admitted in a guided tour only. The price is regulated by the government and is quite outrageous.

Budget Bites

⌘ Markets: Around area 11#11.

⌘ 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.

⌘ Supermarket: Fxito / Ranimercar.

Festivals

⚙ Fiestas del Mar: Miss/watersports, Jul.

⚙ Caribbean Theatre Festival: Drama, Sep.

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. →

Next?

➔ In Colombia: Popayan, Cali, Armenia, Salento, Medellin.

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

Sleep Cheap

❖ Playa del Ritmo, +573016973687, Carrera 1 # 7-15 (get out the bus at Sierra Laguna and walk down the road).

❖ La Villana, +5754209566, Calle 17 # 3-70.

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

Nights Best Spent

◆ Miko, Carrera 1 # 22-93.

◆ Crab's Bar Santa Marta, Carrera 3 # 18-69.

◆ [Chiva party bus](#).

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Cheap private classes](#).

Free-Riding?

■ All distances in the city centre are walkable. However, you might not want to: The heat will drain you.

■ Buses go anywhere and are privately owned, the destination on the front. Locals are willing to help you. Buses to Minca: 11#12, buses to Tayrona / Taganga / Palomino: 11#11. To get to the terminal: Take a bus on Carrera 1 to UCC Transporte (45 mins).

■ If you're resistant to heat: [Eco 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.

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