



Bogotá

Photo: Michael Baron/unsplash.com



Alejandro Alfaro M/unsplash.com

Bogotá is the sprawling, high-altitude capital of Colombia. In fact, it is the third highest capital in the world! Cradled by chilly and lush Andean peaks, the city features colonial-era historical centre La Candelaria. Colonial buildings and cobble streets attract visitors to explore the pre-Colombian Gold Museum, Fernando Botero's art and ornate churches. Bogotá's monumental government buildings and human-scale brown brick houses are a real treat for architecture lovers. Another major attraction is the city's vibrant and varied nightlife.





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THE CITY



Juan Nino/pexels.com

Bogotá is the capital of and largest city in Colombia. With 8 million inhabitants, it is a melting pot for people from all around the country, as well as the city with the most economic opportunities. The streets are always busy and lively, especially on weekends when entire families head to the city centre for a lunch and stroll.

The city was founded as Santa Fe de Bogotá in 1538 by Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, a Spanish military leader who conquered the area's Muisca and Chibcha Indians. Protected from winds by the mountains of Monserrate and Guadalupe, the town flourished and took advantage of the plentiful water, wood and planting land. Urban design consisted of squares of one hundred meters, which gives the historical centre its present street grid. As a rule, the east-west streets were called carreras and the north-south ones are called calles.

Despite its size, Bogota city centre is easily walkable and most of the top attractions are accessible on foot. As a visitor, you are most likely to spend a lot of time in La Candelaria, where the most visited tourist attractions are located. A short Uber or bus ride away you'll find the wealthier neighbourhood of Chapinero. Many hotels, restaurant and nightlife hotspots

are found in this general direction.

While Bogotá is a densely populated city with occasionally hellish traffic, it is incredibly green thanks to all the moisture captured by the Andean peaks along the eastern side of the urban blocks.

Thanks to this fusion of the past and present, Bogotá is an ideal location with history, entertainment, delicious cuisine, culture, business, and much more.

DO & SEE



Delaney Turner/unsplash.com

Colombia's capital is truly packed with touristy things to do. From free walking tours, bike rides, street art and world-class museums to flea markets, culinary gems, colonial and pre-Colombian cultural heritage.

Start your day overlooking the city from Mount Monserrate 3,152 meters above the sea level. Explore the cobble streets and museums of La Candelaria and head to the Chapinero neighbourhood for hip cafes, shops, restaurants and nightlife.

La Candelaria



Once a sacred site for the ancient indigenous community of Muisca, La Candelaria neighbourhood is where Bogotá was founded back in 1538. Naturally, this is the first stop for many tourists. Steep stone streets are lined with colonial buildings that house cafes, restaurants and artisanal shops. Some buildings are showing signs of their long life, while others have been revitalised with colourful street art.

You will find major cultural hotspots like the Gold Museum, Museo Botero, the colonial-era cathedral dedicated to the Virgen de la Candelaria and the neoclassical Capitol flanking Bolivar Plaza. Navigate the winding streets of the historical centre yourself or follow a guided tour of La Candelaria.

Photo: Pedro Szekely/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr (cropped)(image cropped)

Internet: www.colombia.travel/en/bogota/take-tour-in-la-candelaria-neighborhood

Free Walking Tour



You can find free walking tours in most major cities, and Bogotá is not an exception. Most guides will take you through the historic centre of La Candelaria — the creative hotspot of the city set in the winding cobble streets. You will learn about colonial houses and baroque churches, the Colombia's colonial and indigenous past, striking graffiti and the impact of the Colombian drug trade.

The most popular free tour is organised by Gran

Colombia Tours, but check the link below to find a tour that fits your interests best.

Photo: Pedro Szekely/cc by-sa 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Internet: www.guruwalk.com/bogota

More Info: The tours are free. However, a tip of at least 10 USD is expected.

Gold Museum



The Gold Museum is the most well-known museum in Bogotá, with 6,000 of artefacts on display and another 49,000 in the archives. Explore pre-Hispanic cultural heritage presented over three floors. Jewellery, masks, bowls, ritual offerings and armour are separated by themes and geographic area.

Guided tours are conducted in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese. Check the schedule on the official website.

Photo: Reg Natarajan/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Museo del Oro, Carrera 6 # 15-82 (Parque Santander); Bogotá

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-5pm, Mon closed

Phone: +57 601 343 2222

Tickets: Free entry on Sundays

Internet: www.banrepcultural.org/bogota/museo-del-oro

Botanical Garden



Beautifully laid out and maintained botanical gardens. A refuge from Bogotá's hectic traffic, this place is always peaceful and never too crowded. Spectacular tropical greenhouses were completed in 2020 and now offer special exhibitions that feature the various climates and

regions of Colombia. Stroll around the pond and try your luck spotting lizards, turtles, ducks, peacocks, and other animals. The small outdoor cafe on the premises serves great spiced coffee.

Nature lovers will benefit from a guided tour — a perfect introduction to Colombia's ecosystem.

Photo: Sebaxo93/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia Commons (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: Jardín Botánico de Bogotá, Calle 63 #68-95, Bogotá
Opening hours: Tue-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat & Sun 9am-5pm, Mon closed
Internet: www.jbb.gov.co

Mount Monserrate



Monserrate is a dramatically high mountain over 3,152 meters (10,000 feet) high that dominates the city centre of Bogotá. You can

reach the top on foot, but be warned that it won't be the easiest trek of your life because of the altitude. Alternatively, take the cable-car or the funicular. They will safely deliver you to the church with a shrine devoted to El Señor Caído with astonishing views over the city.

If you are superstitious, be warned: Colombians believe that couples who visit Monserrate together will never get married.

Photo: Felipe Restrepo Acosta/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Opening hours: The hours of operations are a bit restricting. The hiking route to the top is open Mon & Wed-Sun from 5 am till 1pm and is closed on Tuesdays. For the cable-car and the funicular, check the official website.

Internet: www.monserrate.co/en/welcome-a-monserrate

More Info: Safety note: it has been reported that tourists are targeted on the street leading up to the funicular and cable-car station. Take an Uber or travel in big group.

National Museum of Colombia



The National Museum of Colombia houses in a sprawling 19th century prison built in the style of a fortress. Without a doubt, this is the biggest

and oldest museum in Colombia. Permanent exhibitions will introduce you to over 20,000 archaeology and ethnography samples from Colombian treasures dating 10,000 years BC, up to twentieth century indigenous and afro-Colombian art and culture.

Fine art lovers must not miss the chance to see paintings by masters Débora Arango, Fernando Botero, Enrique Grau, Ignacio Gomez Jaramillo, Santiago Martinez Delgado, Alejandro Obregón, Omar Rayo, Andrés de Santa María and Guillermo Wiedemann.

Photo: Felipe Restrepo Acosta/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Museo Nacional de Colombia, Carrera 7 #28-66, Bogotá

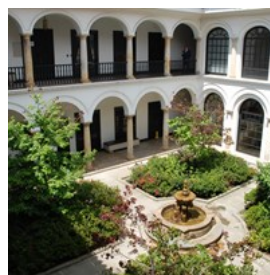
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-5pm, Mon closed

Tickets: Free entrance on Sundays

Internet: www.museonacional.gov.co

More Info: In addition to the permanent galleries, the museum hosts lots of special exhibits, seminars, and musical performances.

Botero Museum



Fernando Botero is known for his peculiar artistic style — he paints portrait and creates sculptures of people, animals, and fruits, but

makes them all plump like an exaggerated cherub. Born in Medellín, he's probably the most internationally famous Colombian artist.

Enjoy the beautifully renovated colonial house with a lush courtyard and be amused by one chubby art piece after another.

Photo: Banrep cultural/cc by-sa 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Museo Botero, Calle 11 #4-41, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon 9am-7pm, Tue closed, Wed-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Phone: +57 1 343 13 16

Tickets: Entrance is free

Internet: www.banrepultural.org/bogota/museo-botero

Plaza de Bolívar



Plaza de Bolívar is the political heart of Colombia. The massive square is surrounded by the Cathedral of Bogotá, the mayor's office and the Capitol Building. The Palace of Justice, once besieged by the infamous Pablo Escobar, is also here. Just around the corner you'll find the heavily guarded Casa de Nariño — the official home and principal workplace of the President of Colombia.

Spend some time on this square crowded with street-sellers, pigeon and monumental buildings. An absolute must-see.

Photo: Baiji/cc0 1.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: La Candelaria neighbourhood, Bogotá

Usaquén Flea Market



Every weekend, the sweet little village of Usaquén on the city's edge hosts a flea market. So many beautiful things to decorate your house or to gift to friends back home: blankets, ponchos, pictures, jewellery, antique kitchen stuff, purses,

personalised leather bags and famous Colombian mochilas — the list goes on and on. Cash is king.

The flea market is a major attraction for tourists and locals. Numerous cafes and restaurants have sprung up in the area, serving traditional Colombian dishes as well as international cuisine.

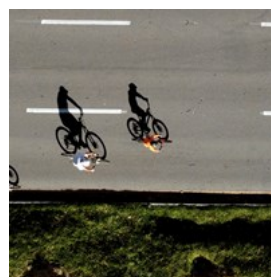
Photo: Mats Hagwall/unsplash.com

Address: Mercado de las Pulgas de Usaquén, Calle 119 & Carrera 6a, Bogotá

Opening hours: Sat, Sun & festive days 9am-5:30pm

Internet: www.mercadopulgasusaquen.com

Bike Sundays

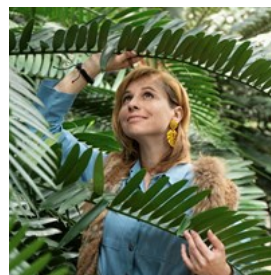


Every Sunday, Bogotá closes over 100 km of roads for cars and allows cyclist, roller-skaters and joggers to enjoy the city without traffic. It is a marvellous initiative that brings out the young and the old. Rent a bike and join the fun. Make your way to one of the many parks and join a dance or aerobics class — look up Recreovia for exact time and location.

Ciclovía Sundays are a perfect time to make your way north towards the Usaquén flea market.

Photo: Carlos Felipe Pardo/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

93rd Street Park



Parque 93 is a fairly small but very popular park, located in the rather affluent neighbourhood of Chapinero. The park has green shaded lawns and plenty of space for kids to run around, plus a playground. You'll find numerous trendy

restaurants, cafes and shops on all sides of the park.

Photo: Victoria Borodinova/cc0/maxpixel.net

Address: Parque 93, Calle 93 #12-41, Chapinero, Bogotá

Internet: www.parque93.com

Graffiti Tour



Bogotá is a major attraction in the world of street art — enough to compete with the likes of Miami, Amsterdam, Río, and México City! You can stroll around and find the graffiti at random, finding surprises around every corner. Or you could join a walking or biking tour of the city and get an eye-opening look into Colombia's tumultuous past and hopeful future as depicted by local artists. You'll learn about artists and get the necessary background to truly understand Bogotá's street art. The whole city is a museum!

Photo: Jorge Gardner/unsplash.com

Address: La Candelaria neighbourhood, Bogotá

Military Museum of Colombia



Military Museum of Colombia is run by the armed forces and aims to show you more than 200 years of the country's military history. You'll see uniforms, flags, weaponry, medals, aircraft, scaled-models of ships and some full-size vehicles. In the two courtyards you can see actual tanks, cannons and airplanes.

Photo: National Police of Colombia/cc by-sa 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Museo Militar de Colombia, Calle 10 #4-92, Bogotá

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-4pm, Mon closed

Tickets: Free admission

Internet: www.museomilitarco.com/en

More Info: Unfortunately, no photos are allowed

Museo Santa Clara



Museo Santa Clara is a former church built in the 17th century. These days it is open as a museum and is jam packed full of beautiful art. You can both discover the colonial-era Baroque architecture and explore temporary modern art exhibitions. Don't miss the murals and the 950 wooden, hand-carved and gold-foiled flowers covering in the ceiling.

Photo: Bernard Gagnon/cc ba-sa 4.0/Wikimedia

Commons(image cropped)

Address: Carrera 8 #8-91, Bogotá

Museo de Arte Miguel Urrutia — MAMU



This art museum showcases local and international artists from the 16th century to the present day. From the numismatist's dream of old coin minting machines to exquisite masterpieces from all over Latin America — this a thoughtfully designed art lover's dream. The galleries of this modernist building seem endless. Along the way, enjoy the courtyards, fountains and a cosy cafe.

Photo: Banrepcultural/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: Calle 11 #4-21, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon 9am-7pm, Tue closed, Wed-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Tickets: Admission is free

Internet: www.banrepcultural.org/bogota/museo-de-arte

Bogotá Museum of Modern Art — MAMBO



The MAMBO is a multicultural and dynamic art space that investigates, communicates and exhibits Colombia's cultural heritage and the various expressions of modern and contemporary art. There is no permanent exhibition, but a series of temporary ones spread over the four floors on the gorgeous brick building designed by architect Rogelio Salmona.

Photo: Michael Barón/unsplash.com

Address: Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá (MAMBO), Calle 24 #6-00, Bogotá

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-5pm, Mon closed

Internet: www.mambogota.com

Cinemateca de Bogotá



Cinemateca is a fantastic cultural place for movie lovers. The venue has three screens dedicated to showing lesser known, alternative films from Colombia, Latin America and the entire world. The tickets are super cheap and you never know what kind of masterpiece you'll get to watch. Cinemateca also hosts several film festivals every year.

Don't forget to check out the gallery in the basement of the building. The modern art exhibitions are small, but always interesting.

Photo: Tima Miroshnichenko/pexels.com

Address: Carrera 3 #19-10, Bogotá

Internet: www.cinematecadebogota.gov.co

Bogotá Food Experience



Two birds with one stone: walk through the historic streets of Candelaria and experience Bogotá's gastronomy. You will be guided through flavours of several Colombian regions. The tour is always changing and evolving to better showcase seasonal dishes prepared by family-owned businesses.

Your guide will make accommodations for vegetarian and vegan guests as long as you let them know in advance. Make sure to bring a strong appetite, good walking shoes, an umbrella and some water.

Photo: TitiNicola/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons (cropped and colour corrected)(image cropped)

Address: The Cranky Croc Hostel, Calle 12d #3-46, Bogotá

Opening hours: Tours depart in the early afternoon

Play Tejo



Tejo (or turmequé) is a popular game that is similar to pétanque or cornhole, only played with a flat puck rather than a ball or a sack. Beer companies and small breweries have been promoting the game as a perfect pastime — and for a good reason! Enjoy a glass or artisanal beer and compete in a game of marksmanship.

Tejo is a lot more explosive than pétanque — the target is rigged to explode if hit just right. Fireworks and beer are a winning combination when done safely.

Photo: Julieta.g612/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

DAY TRIPS



Romain Bréget/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Far above sea level, hugged by mountains on every side, Bogotá is fast-growing, intensely urban and sometimes exhausting city in Colombia. Beyond the city limits, in the urban sprawl and in the hilly jungle beyond, you will find plenty of hidden gems.

Even staunch supporters of the urban lifestyle will find themselves longing for some quality time outside the embrace of the concrete maze of city streets. Fortunately, lush national parks and stark deserts, salt mines and coffee plantations are all just a short drive away. Make Bogotá your gateway to the Colombian adventure.

Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá



Step inside one of Colombia's most unique architectural works — the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá. It is an underground Roman

Catholic church built within the tunnels of a former salt mine 200 m underground. The quaint town of Zipaquirá is worth a visit for its old city centre. Its main square is surrounded by old buildings in the Spanish Colonial style. Another salt mine is located nearby in the town of Nemocón.

Zipaquirá can be reached by train from Bogotá, but taking a guided tour that includes transportation by bus might be more practical.

Photo: Mario Duran-Ortiz/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Parque De La Sal, Zipaquirá

More Info: Zipaquirá is about an hour away from Bogotá

Villa de Leyva



Villa de Leyva is an enchanting colonial town from 1572 with the largest plaza in Colombia. Explore the 400 years of history and walk around the historic cobbled streets lined with white facades.

Visit the house of Antonio Nariño, the Colombian ideological precursor of the independence movement.

Some day trips include a stop at the Pozos Azules — fluorescent blue natural pools that shimmer like giant emeralds.

The Casa Terracota is a fully liveable house made entirely out of clay. The corridors, bedrooms, kitchen and terraces are all part of the biggest ceramic creation that looks like an enormous honeycomb from afar.

Photo: Foturcolombia/cc by 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

More Info: 3-4 hours away from Bogotá

Lake Guatavita



Lake Guatavita is a small forest-fringed crater that was a sacred site for the Muisca people. They would cast elaborate gold offerings into its depths,

inspiring the legend of El Dorado and several ill-fated attempts to drain the lake. Learn the legends, hike forest trails and spot some exotic birds.

The nearby town of Guatavita has charming colonial architecture and a popular craft centre. If you're in the mood for a more active holiday, Tominé Reservoir is a hub for water sports.

Photo: Steven dosRemedios/cc by-nd 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)
More Info: About 2 hours away from Bogotá. Many tours to Guatavita will also include a visit to the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá

Coffee Tour to Hacienda Coloma



Get up close and personal with the fascinating process of growing and producing Colombian coffee at the Hacienda Coloma in Fusagasugá.

Explore the entire journey from seed to cup, surrounded by the lush landscape.

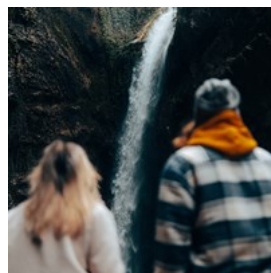
The tour will take you from the coffee seedbed to a flowering coffee plantation of shade-grown Arabica varieties. Continue on to the traditional Colombian Beneficiadero — where each coffee bean is washed, pulped, dried and hand picked. Then on to the Thresher and the roasting of the coffee. Of course, you will be able to taste freshly brewed coffee at the end.

You have probably seen the red Willys Jeep

photos all over social media. Get yours at Hacienda Coloma!

Photo: Public Domain/pxhere.com
Internet: www.haciendacoloma.com.co
More Info: About 2,5 hours away from Bogotá

La Chorrera & El Chiflón Waterfalls



Spend a day immersed in nature on a full-day waterfall hike through the Andean jungle. The 3-4 hour hike up to Colombia's highest

waterfall, La Chorrera, is filled with breathtaking views and a jaw-dropping diversity of vegetation. The smaller waterfall El Chiflón gives you the opportunity to walk behind the waterfall and be enveloped in the magical mist. If you are adventurous, you can always take a swim at the waterfall's base.

Most tours will include a meal in a family-run restaurant with panoramic view, as well as snacks along the way.

Photo: Guryan/pexels.com

Tatacoa Desert



Tatacoa Desert is one of Colombia's most astonishing natural wonders. If we are being realistic, this is definitely a weekend trip rather than a

single-day trip. You can camp under the stars, far away from any light pollution.

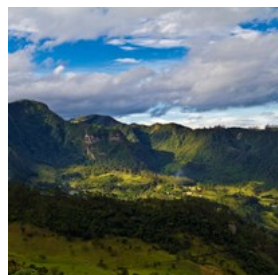
This enormous desert was actually once dry tropical forest. The red sand part has the characteristic of American Western films. In the grey sand areas, discover sand mazes, canyons

and moon-like landscapes.

Photo: Sara Pons /cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

More Info: About 7 hours from Bogotá. It is a long drive, but you will see a lot from the bus window

Chicaque Natural Park



Chicaque is a mountainous park with over 20 km of scenic hiking and horseback riding trails. A total paradise for nature

enthusiasts that stands in stark contrast to the busy streets of Bogotá just an hour away. If you are lucky and attentive, you'll spot sloths, plenty of gorgeous hummingbirds, majestic eagles and many more tropical animals.

The park conveniently offers two restaurants, lodging and a zip line.

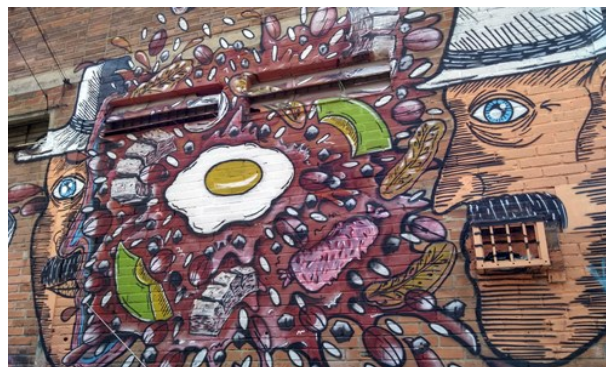
Photo: Sergio Fabara Muñoz/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Opening hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm

Internet: www.chicaque.com

More Info: One or two hour away from Bogotá depending on the traffic.

DINING



JJ Merelo/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr (image cropped)

Colombia's most quintessential dish is Bandeja paisa — a full meal that carries the name of the Paisa Region. It comes in a wide variety of interpretations, but usually consists of two types of sausage, ground beef, rice and red beans, chicharrón (fried pork rind), an arepa, a plantain, a slice of avocado and a fried egg to top it all off. You are going to find these ingredients again and again in every traditional restaurant.

As any modern metropolis, Bogotá offers upscale restaurants where celebrity chefs use avant-garde techniques and carefully selected ingredients. Some chefs apply their tremendous skills to celebrating their country's history and reviving indigenous food culture.

Lastly, Asian food has conquered the hearts of Bogotanos. You'll find plenty of curries from all over the Asian continent, chewy noodles and delicate wontons.

La Puerta Falsa



La Puerta Falsa is an Anthony Bourdain approved traditional spot that has not changed in decades. The menu has also remained largely unchanged since the restaurant was founded in

1816. Try their amazingly authentic ajiaco chicken soup, the hearty Changua breakfast broth and excellent tamales. Don't skip the dessert — their Chocolate Completo hot chocolate is a must.

Low prices, big portions. Make sure to come hungry!

Photo: Reg Natarajan/cc by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: Calle 11 #6-50, Bogotá

Opening hours: Daily 7am-9pm

Phone: +57 1 286 50 91

More Info: Next to Plaza de Bolívar

Restaurants around Parque 93



Parque 93 is a destination in itself, but you can also find some of the best restaurants in the city all around. Check out La Lucha Sanguicheria

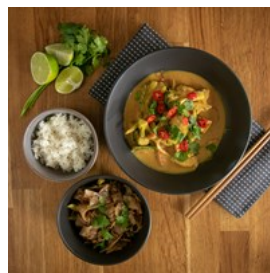
Criolla for amazing sandwiches, grilled meat and the best fruit smoothies. Try the excellent Peruvian ceviche at Cocina Abierta. Go for ramen and sushi at Osaki. Have Mexican classics at Azul Azteca.

You could also stop by the cosy food court at Salvio apartment complex north-west of the park. Impressive choice of world cuisines and smooth Japanese coffee guaranteed.

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio/pexels.com

Address: On all sides of Parque 93

Wok



If you want to take a brief break from Colombian food and explore Asian cuisine — Wok is the go-to place in Bogotá. There are many WOK

restaurants around the city, and they are extremely popular. Browse their extensive menu filled with spectacular photos of dishes from all over the Asian continent. The cooking is authentic and the portions are generous.

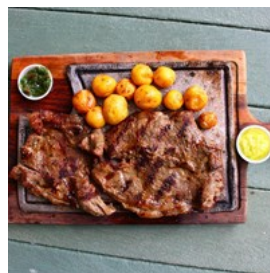
Photo: Paul Rogers/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 69 & Carrera 9, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Wed noon-9pm Thu-Sat noon-10pm, Sun noon-7pm

Phone: +57 1 212 01 67

Andrés D.C. & Andrés Carne De Res



Andrés Carne De Res is a juggernaut of a restaurant — a legendary steakhouse and bar that morphs into a nightclub on weekends. Colombians

from all walks of life strive to get a table: students, the working-class, the wealthy and the famous. Andrés charms with its eclectic decor, boisterous atmosphere and live music. The menu is a thick book filled with dozens of Colombian classics.

Photo: Samuel Fernandez Rivera/pixabay.com

Address: El Retiro Shopping Center, Calle 82 #12-21, Zona T, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Wed noon-midnight, Thu noon-1am, Fri & Sat noon-3am, Sun noon-10pm

Phone: +57 305 734 19 31

More Info: The original Andrés in the suburb of Chia, about 45 km from the city centre, is the better choice as a nightclub. You'll still have plenty of fun in Andrés D.C. in Zona T, though

Wu Dumplings and Beer



Asian food is having a real moment in Bogotá. If you are a dumpling lover, Wu Dumplings and Beer is the place for you!

Wontons, ramen and small bites are what it's all about. Crunchy fried aubergine is unforgettable. Wu is popular with a younger hipster crowd.

Photo: Pooja Chaudhary/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 69a #9-66, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Sat noon-10pm, Sun noon-8pm

Internet: www.instagram.com/wu_dumplingsandbeer

Leo



Leo is a fine dining establishment that celebrates lesser-known Colombian ingredients and revive indigenous gastronomic

traditions.

One of the dining rooms is run by the renowned chef and restaurateur Leonor Espinosa. The other is overseen by her daughter and sommelier Laura Hernández Espinosa with a smaller menu but a greater focus on the art of mixology, unusual wines and Colombian liquors produces in-house.

Photo: Delightin Dee/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 65 Bis #4-23, Bogotá

Phone: +57 317 661 68 66

Email: reservas@restauranteleo.com

More Info: Leo is currently ranked the 14th best restaurant in Latin America and 46th best in the world

Harry Sasson



Harry Sasson is one of Colombia's most famous chefs-restaurateurs. His flagship restaurant combines Latin American, Asian and European

elements to crowd-pleasing effect: wok-fried seafood dishes alongside Japanese robata-grilled meats, as well as empanadas, pasta and paella.

The restaurant is housed in a century-old mock-Tudor mansion, with intimate dining rooms, a spacious rear patio and open kitchen domed with a modern glass-and-steel atrium. It also boasts one of the country's most wide-ranging wine lists.

Photo: Stefan Schauburger/unsplash.com

Address: Carrera 9 #75-70, Zona G, Bogotá

Phone: +57 1 347 71 55

Internet: www.harrysasson.com

More Info: Harry Sasson is ranked 18th on the list of the best restaurants in Latin America

El Abeto



El Abeto is an unpretentious soul food restaurant that is most popular for its lunch menus. You can order a la carte or take the standard

lunch option, which actually means creating your dish out of a ridiculous number of options. Always fun and a great place to experience an authentic Colombian lunch hour.

Photo: Nicole Tarazona/cc by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Calle 73 #9-63, Chapinero, Bogotá

Zona G



Zona G in the Chapinero district of Bogotá is a true foodie destination peppered with many of the swankiest restaurants. The "G"

stands for "gourmet", naturally. Explore the area's gastronomic hotspots include chic brunch bistros and cafes that showcase cuisines from all over the world. Argentinian meats, Arabic delicacies, flavours of the Caribbean and the Colombian Pacific, spicy Chinese or Thai food, upscale French and Italian restaurants, sophisticated Japanese eateries, plus bakeries and patisseries for dessert.

The Area keeps growing, but most people define it as the compact region from carreras 7 and 4 and calles 75 and 65.

Photo: Helena Lopes/pexels.com

Address: entre las calles 65 y 76, arriba de la carrera 7 OR second and ninth careers and 64 and 72 streets.

CAFES



Louis Hansel/unsplash.com

Bogotá has a rich, diverse, and complex coffee culture that is defined by the Colombia's diversity and inequality. Alongside the humble cigarrerías and street vendors, cafe chains and stylish coffee shops have popped up, offering Italian-style espresso drinks.

The traditional cup of coffee in Colombia is known as tinto or tintico. Ground coffee is added to boiling water directly and is allowed to brew for a few minutes.

Many of the third wave coffee shops are also micro-roasters, selling and serving incredibly fresh single-origins and blends. Many baristas are business owners themselves and they tend to have strong relationships with coffee producers and roasters.

Make sure to explore the many aspects of Bogota's coffee scene: the affordable tintico, the upscale cappuccino, or the exquisitely natural Chemex brew.

Varietale Chapinero



Located next to a big university campus, Varietale is always alive with vibrant youth energy. Excellent atmosphere, great coffee and delicious bistro food. Spend some time relaxing in their cosy backyard garden.

Photo: Isabela Kronemberger/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 41 #8-43, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9am-6:30pm, Thu & Fri 9am-7pm, Sat & Sun 10am-7pm

Internet: www.varietale.com

More Info: Varietale has become opened a few new locations, including one in Candelaria

Colo Coffee Usaquéen



Artisans from Colo follow coffee beans through cultivation, harvest, roasting and, finally, the preparation. They have a great selection of

regional coffees that allow you to taste test your way through the country. Make sure to try the Castillo Black Honey which undergoes a prolonged fermentation. Pastries and food are also excellent. Combined with slick, modern decor of dark wood, lush plants, concrete and brick — truly one of the best coffee chains on the continent. The Financial Times agrees, calling Colo one of the best independent coffee shops in the world in 2021.

Photo: Inside Weather/unsplash.com

Address: Carrera 6a #117-26, Bogotá

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 7:30am-9pm, Fri & Sat 7:30am-10pm

Internet: www.colo.coffee

More Info: Colo Coffee has four locations: Zona T, Quinta Camacho, Aguas and Usaquéen

Libertario Coffee Roasters



Libertario is one of the best places for coffee in Bogotá, both the beans and the prepared drinks. It's a great spot to have a warm drink outdoors

surrounded by plants. The staff is incredible, coffee is top notch and food is great. Be sure to try this almond croissant!

You will have a very nice outdoor space and a very comfortable indoor space with areas, either for working or enjoying a coffee and a book.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash.com

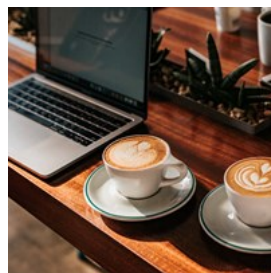
Address: Calle 70a #5-37, Zona G, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-7pm, Sun 8am-6pm

Internet: www.libertariocoffee.co

More Info: Libertario has three locations: Zona G, Quinta Camacho (Chanpinero) and Usaquéen

Juan Valdez



The country's most recognised brand of coffee has multiple outlets throughout Bogotá, which is part of the reason it's been

dubbed 'the Colombian Starbucks'. Each coffee shop is a casual affair with a comprehensive coffee menu. Bagged beans and various merchandise can also be purchased straight at the shops.

Juan Valdez in Zona G is an awesome three-storey place with cosy sofas, plenty of sunlight and an rooftop terrace.

Photo: Tyler Nix/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 70 #6-09, Zona G, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-9pm, Sun 8am-8pm

Internet: www.juanvaldezcafe.com

Casa Cafe Cultor



Cultor is a cafe with a lovely backyard that's popular with office workers and students. Helpful barista will explain the difference

between different Colombian coffee regions, how the soil and altitude affect the flavour of the drink. Their covered patio is a mini oasis perfect for a coffee break.

Photo: Alina Kovalchuk/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 70a # 9-44, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7:30am-7:30pm, Sun 9am-3pm

Internet: www.cafecultor.co/en

Pastelería Florida



Florida bakery and coffee shop was founded in 1936 by a young Catalan pastry chef. Back then, Bogotá was just a town of 300,000 people. To this day, the cafe preserves the its country charm while serving amazing desserts in a grand café atmosphere.

Known primarily for their signature hot chocolate and macaroons, Florida also boasts a rich lunch menu.

Photo: YeeLoon L./unsplash.com

Address: Carrera 7 #21-46, Cundinamarca, Bogotá

Opening hours: Daily 8am-7pm

Internet: www.pasteleriaflorida.com.co

Tostao'



While there are plenty of independent cafes in Bogotá, Colombia's most ubiquitous cafe chain Tostao' deserves a mention. There are hundreds of these small cafes all over the capital. Their 'tinto' coffee is not brewed for the most sophisticated palate, but is sure to wake you up in an instant. Extremely convenient for a quick break or to hide from the weather, since there is a Tostao' around the corner almost everywhere.

Try their 'torta de vino' — one of the most delicious cakes you'll every try.

Photo: Nathan Dumlao/unsplash.com

Internet: www.tostao.com

NIGHTLIFE



piqsels.com

Nightlife in Bogotá is a serious affair. You can choose to relax with a cocktail or stay up till the morning light partying hard with the locals. There are plenty of raucous bars and clubs for you to choose from.

The closest thing to a party in Bogotá is Zona T or the more upscale Parque 93. The busiest and craziest nights are around 15th and 31st of every month — the payday rush. Most businesses close at 3 am, but there are many exceptions.

Colombia's capital has a thriving LGBT community. If you plan to visit only one club in the city, make it Theatron — an enormous party complex that is equally fun for everyone and gives you the biggest choice of music styles in one place.

Theatron



Theatron is a gay bar, dance club, and nightclub complex. This club, housed in a former cinema, is spread across 5 levels with 13 different club rooms. Each room has its own theme such as the 80's room, the Salsa room, Reggae dance floor and more. There's even a dance floor only for women! Although the club is the central point

of the gay community of Bogota, it is by no means exclusive — as everyone is welcome.

Theatron is often described as the largest gay-themed club night in Latin America that can allow up to 5,000 people on Saturday night. It is an absolute must do.

Photo: Nicholas Vos/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 58 #10-32, Cundinamarca, Bogotá

Internet: www.portaltheatron.co

Bogotá Beer Company — BBC



Bogotá Beer Company, also known as the BBC, is a major producer of artisanal beer in the country. Its numerous pubs have a laid back, chill vibe and, of course, great beer. All venues have screens that are tuned to sports channels, so it's a great option to watch a game.

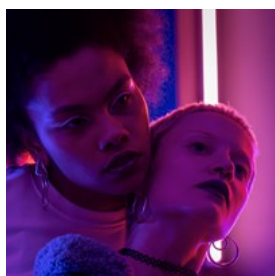
BBC pubs stay open till very late and serve hearty pub grub. Try their dark beer with the coffee flavour to keep you tipsy yet awake.

Photo: Natalia Wilson/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Carrera 11a #93-94, Bogotá

Internet: www.bbccerveceria.com

Presea Rooftop



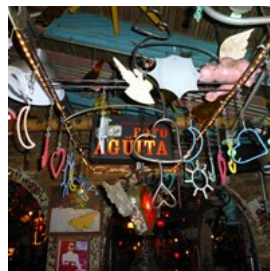
Presea is a loud and obnoxious rooftop bar in Zona Rosa known for its wild reggaeton nights. Great views of the city, youthful atmosphere and fun, outgoing crowd. It might be a good idea to bring earplugs for this one.

Photo: Mikhail Nilov/pexels.com

Address: Calle 85 #14-43, 5th floor, Zona Rosa, Bogotá

Opening hours: Wed-Sat 8pm-5am

Andrés Carne De Res



Andrés Carne De Res has been described as a "Cheesecake Factory crossed with a nightclub on steroids". It is an iconic restaurant, bar and

club that is an absolute must for any self-respecting nightlife aficionado. You can start the night with an early dinner. The party gets going early, around 9pm, and soon takes over the several floors of this eclectic venue.

The original venue is located in the suburb called Chia about 45 km from the centre of Bogotá. Totally worth the drive! If you are short on time, you can try the other venue near Zona Rosa.

Photo: David Berkowitz/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Calle 3 #11a-56, Chía

Opening hours: Wed-Sun noon-late

More Info: There are two locations: One in Chia, about 45 km from the city centre, and one near Zona Rosa. The Chia branch is better, but you'll still have a lot of fun in the second one.

Video Club



Video Club is located in a renovated warehouse, which gives it that industrial vibe popular with the hipsters of Chapinero. Dance to

electronic music (techno, tech-house, deep house, acid jazz, etc) in the main room or get sensual to some Latin beats on the smaller dance floor. There is an outdoor terrace for you to cool down and chat people up.

Photo: Long Truong/unsplash.com

Address: Calle 64 #13-09, Bogotá

Opening hours: Fri & Sat 9pm-6am
Internet: www.instagram.com/videoclubx/?hl=en

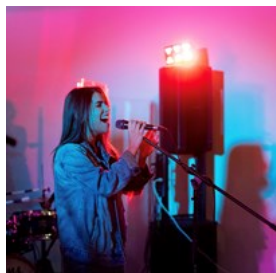
Octava Club



Octava Club is a large venue with a futuristic design. Big name DJs play techno, electro, house, EDM and the compulsory reggaeton, accompanied by a spectacular light show. The club has three floors and a nice rooftop terrace. Dress to impress!

Photo: Gianni Scognamiglio/unsplash.com
Address: Carrera 8 # 63-41, Bogotá
Opening hours: Fri & Sat 9pm-6am
Internet: www.instagram.com/octavaclub/?hl=en

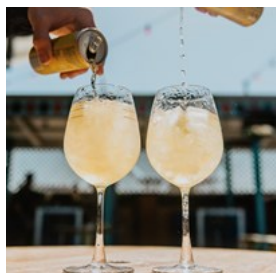
El Recreo de Adán



El Recreo de Adán is a long-standing gay bar in Zona Rosa. Friendly and cute staff, unpretentious vibe, a healthy demographic mix, board games and karaoke. The DJ usually plays local and global pop hits. Wednesday is karaoke night lead by a drag queen. Whether you feel like singing or not, you will feel right at home.

Photo: Brandi Alexandra/unsplash.com
Address: Carrera 12a #79-45, Zona Rosa, Bogotá
Phone: +57 313 248 63 62
Internet: www.instagram.com/elrecreodeadan/?hl=en

Click Clack Rooftop Bar — Apache Bar

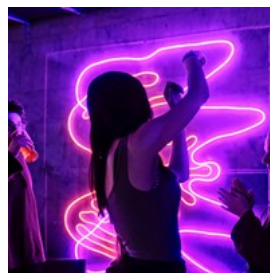


Right next to Parque 93, you can find a small rooftop bar and burger place on the top floor of the Click Clack Hotel. The star of the show is the

beautiful views of the city. Try to make your way here to see the sunset.

Photo: Danny Howe/unsplash.com
Address: Carrera 11 #93-77, Bogotá
Phone: +57 312 328 05 05
Internet: www.clickclackhotel.com
More Info: Located in The Click Clack Hotel Bogotá

Kaputt Club



Kaputt Club is not for everyone, but that's its strength. Arcade games, fire pit, great lighting, rooftop terrace and five different rooms with distinct music styles. There is a clear extravagant atmosphere: best to sport an eccentric look — think mild Burning Man meets Blade Runner.

Photo: Alexander Popov/unsplash.com
Address: Avenida Caracas #72a-19, Bogotá
Internet: www.theghettoproject.com
More Info: Part of the Ghetto Project — look then up!

SHOPPING



Michael Barón/unsplash.com

Shopping opportunities in Bogotá are plentiful and varied. In the historical city centre is the best place for handicrafts and bargains. Up north, around Zona T, you will find upscale shopping malls and boutiques, with plenty of cafes and restaurants to recharge your batteries.

Colombian artisans are well known for their leather shoes and purses, precious emeralds and intricate gold jewellery. You can haggle for better prices in the centre, but be prepared to pay the sticker price in the more upscale shops.

Usaquén Flea Market



Every weekend, the sweet little village of Usaquén on the city's edge hosts a flea market. So many beautiful things to decorate your house or to gift to friends back home: blankets, ponchos, pictures, jewellery, antique kitchen stuff, purses, personalised leather bags and famous Colombian mochilas — the list goes on and on. Cash is king.

The flea market is a major attraction for tourists and locals. Numerous cafes and restaurants have sprung up in the area, serving traditional Colombian dishes as well as international cuisine.

Photo: Mats Hagwall/unsplash.com

Address: Mercado de las Pulgas de Usaquén, Calle 119 & Carrera 6a, Bogotá

Opening hours: Sat, Sun & festive days 9am-5:30pm

Internet: www.mercadopulgasusaquen.com

Paloquemao Fruit Market



The Paloquemao Fruit Market is a large local farmers' market with an indoor hall selling fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, fragrant flowers and lush plants. Come here solo or as part of a guided tour and taste the exotic flavour of Colombia, surrounded by the atmosphere of

authenticity.

Photo: piqsels.com

Address: Mercado de Paloquemao, Calle 19 #25-04, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 4:30am-4:30pm, Sun 5am-2:30pm

Internet: www.plazadepaloquemao.com

Wilborada Bookstore



Wilborada is one of the best places in town if you like books, bookshops or libraries. It is a house full of books — charming, simple and nothing pretentious. You can have a specialty coffee here and immediately dive into the book you just bought.

There is a small shelf by the entrance dedicated to books in English.

Photo: Timothy Barlin/unsplash.com

Address: Librería Wilborada, Calle 71 #10-47, Bogotá

Internet: www.wilborada1047.com

Andino Shopping Mall



The Andino shopping mall located in the upscale El Retiro neighbourhood of Bogotá. Apart from 205 stores, people flock here for multiplex cinema and a big food court with excellent restaurants.

Photo: momentcaptured1/cc by 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Carrera 11 #82-71, Bogotá

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-9pm, Fri & Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 10am-7pm

Internet: www.centroandino.com.co

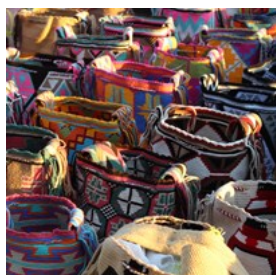
Three Little Birds — TLB Records



TLB Records is a compact record store in Chapinero. Street art covers the walls, and some Saturdays you may find DJs playing themed sets for a small crowd of dancing patrons. Stop by to pick up new or used records by big names as well as smaller Afro-Colombian albums

Photo: Konstantinos Hasandras/unsplash.com
Address: Carrera 7 #54a-36, 3rd floor, Bogotá
Phone: +57 310 2276011
Internet: www.tlbrecords.co

Artesanías de Colombia



Artesanías de Colombia is a chain of classy shops that sells higher-end artisanal craft items like decorative home accessories, bags, toys, hammocks and some clothing. A big portion of profits is guaranteed to be received by the artisans who live in village communities all over Colombia.

Photo: Jucami07/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Carrera 2 #18-58, Bogotá
Internet: www.artesantiasdecolombia.com.co
More Info: The organisation has several shops, three of them in Bogotá

Pasaje Rivas



Pasaje Rivas is an energetic passageway with numerous stalls that sell homewares, clothing, artwork and all sorts of artisanal goods. You are certain to find something to take home with you,

be that art or something for your kitchen.

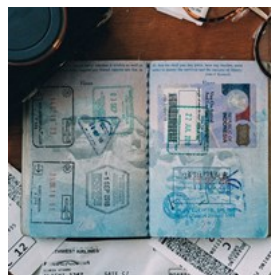
Photo: Felipe Restrepo Acosta/bb by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Carrera 10 #10-54, Bogotá
Opening hours: Most stalls open Mon-Sat 9am-6:30pm, Sun 10am-3pm
More Info: Close to Plaza de Bolívar

TOURIST INFORMATION



Vlado Paunovic/unsplash.com

Passport & Visa



Citizens of the European Union, most countries in the Americas, Australia & Oceania, as well as several Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days. In cases when an entry visa is required, the application can often be done online.

Nationals of Cuba and those holding passports issued by Palestine will need to apply for a visa, even if they will be entering Colombia for transit purposes only.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash
Internet: www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visa/requirements

El Dorado International Airport (BOG)



El Dorado International Airport, also known as Luis Carlos Galán Sarmiento Airport, is located about 15 km away from Bogota's city centre.

The airport is a major travel hub for South and Central America.

The fastest and safest way to go to and from the airport is by Uber. Since ridesharing apps operate in a grey legal area, the drivers will likely ask you to be picked up on the second (departures) level or at the parking lot outside the terminal. They will also want you to sit in the front seat.

Busses, including Transmilenio, pass by the Terminal 1. You will need a Tullave public transit card to take the bus, though.

If you are staying at a hotel, ask about a shuttle bus.

Photo: QuinteroEsteban/cc by-sa 4.0/Wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)
Phone: +57 601 266 2000
Internet: www.eldorado.aero/en

Best Time to Visit Bogota



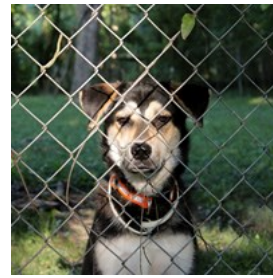
Bogota is the third highest capital in the world (after La Paz and Quito) with a ridiculous elevation of 2,625 m (8,612 ft). Through the year, daytime temperatures will stay around 18-20° C (mid-60s F), but you will definitely want a thin jacket in the evening.

December through March are often described as

"dry" season, but, honestly, you can count on it being overcast every day. It will rain most afternoons and evenings in Bogota, no matter the month.

Photo: Saul Mercado/unsplash

Is Bogota safe?



Opinions of Bogota's safety vary widely. The days of rampant violent crime are thankfully over. Pickpocketing and street robberies aren't

uncommon, though. Bogotanos will be quick to give you their favourite piece of advice: No dar papaya — the local equivalent of "don't get caught with your pants down".

In other words, stay vigilant and don't put yourself into a vulnerable position. Stick to streets that have other people, don't take walks after dark, limit the use of your phone out in the open, watch out for pickpockets and generally don't carry too many valuables.

Allegedly, downtown and especially the street that leads to Monserrate cable car and funicular are the most risky places for tourists.

Photo: Conor Brown/unsplash

Public Transport



As a tourist, you are most likely to catch one of the Transmilenio busses along Avenida Caracas or Carrera 7 (referred to as "la septima" — the seventh). The busses run often and are relatively safe. Watch out for pickpockets, though.

You can pay for your trip only with a Tullave public transit card. You can buy them at most stations on Avenida Caracas and recharge them at the same place, as well as in some convenient stores. Cash only, unfortunately.

Google Maps is alright for planning your trip, but Moovit app works better in Bogota. Keep in mind that a lot of busses follow express routes and don't stop rarely.

Screens on the bus will indicate indicate two stops: the next one and the one after. The letter K stands for Carrera and C stands for Calle.

Photo: Nelson Rodz/unsplash
Internet: www.transmilenio.gov.co

Taxis



the front seat.

Do not stop and get into a taxi on the street. Use Tappsi, Uber, Beat, DiDi or Cabify. Most drivers working for ridesharing apps will ask you to sit in

Many hotels will offer to call a trusted taxi service. Those can be trusted. Be sure to tip your driver.

Photo: Gustavo/unsplash

Cash or Card?



operate on cash alone. Cash will definitely be

While many establishments across Bogota do accept credit and debit cards for payment, many still either only do so nominally or

needed for smaller purchases, especially from small old-fashioned businesses.

ATMs are widely available; withdrawal fees will likely depend on your bank and the bank that operates the ATM. When choosing an ATM, go for ones that aren't in isolated locations, and make all your withdrawals during daylight hours. Big supermarkets will often have ATMs inside.

Photo: Liza Summer/pexels

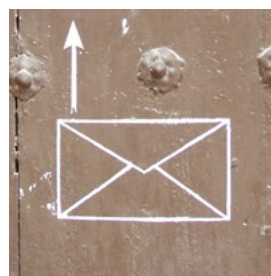
Power Plugs



Power plug types A and B are used in Colombia (these are plugs with two parallel flat pins, common throughout North America). Voltage 110 V; frequency is 60 Hz. If the standard voltage in your country is between 110 and 127 V, you will NOT require a voltage converter.

Photo: Kelly Sikkema/unsplash

Postal Service



The main public post carrier in Colombia is the "4-72"; the office closest to you may be located on their website. It is important to note, however, that 4-72 is notoriously unreliable, and anything more valuable than a simple postcard is best sent via a private carrier, such as DHL. 4-72 has a reported success rate of somewhere between 70 and 50 percent, meaning that up to half of all mail sent through them is gone without a trace and never arrives at the intended addressee.

It is also quite pricey to send mail abroad,

especially if you choose to go for the "correo certificado" options, which allows one to track each mailing's location. To send with "certificado", you'll need to arrive at a physical office in person and present your official ID/passport number.

Photo: Daniel Lobo/cc by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)

Internet: www.4-72.com.co

More Info: Some shops working with DHL will have 50% off days. Looks around before you commit

Phone Calls



+57 is Colombia's country code, 601 is the area code for Bogota. +57 601 will then normally be followed by a 7-digit local phone number.

Photo: cottonbro/pexels

Population

8 million (2022)

Currency

Colombian peso, COP or COL\$

Banknotes go from 2,000 to 50,000 so get used to a lot of zeroes.

Newspapers

El Tiempo — www.eltiempo.com

El Universal — www.eluniversal.com.co

El Espectador — www.elespectador.com

In English:

The Bogotá Post — www.thebogotapost.com

Colombia Reports — www.colombiareports.com

The City Paper — www.thecitypaperbogota.com

Emergency numbers

National Emergency Number: 123

Tourist Police: + 57 571 337 4413

Information: 113