



Colombian Country Guide

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Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter Colombia. The period of admission granted will be decided by immigration authorities upon entry (usually up to 90 days). Passports should be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination. Further conditions may apply to minors. An airport tax is payable upon departing Colombia by air if not already included in the cost of air tickets. This tax is usually around US\$38 (varies with exchange rate) and applies to those who have stayed in Colombia for over 60 days.

For further information, and to confirm that you are eligible to travel to Colombia without a visa, please contact a Colombian mission on the details provided below. Persons travelling via the US are reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry and transit requirements.

Vaccinations & Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Colombia. Vaccination against Hepatitis B, Rabies (particularly if working with animals) and Typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers to Colombia. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. There is a medium risk of Malaria in Colombia; Dengue Fever and widespread transmission of the Zika virus also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary; pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Colombia. As Yellow Fever occurs, vaccination may be recommended depending on itinerary. Travellers returning to Australia (or entering many countries) within six days of visiting Colombia will be required to present a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Colombia should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the Zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution overall in Colombia because of the threat of terrorism and criminal activity. Reconsider your need to travel to the departments (provinces) of Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Chocó, Guainía, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Valle de Cauca and Vichada due to the high threat of terrorist attack and criminal activity. Do not to travel to areas within 20 kilometres of the Venezuelan or Ecuadorian border (except the Pan American highway), or to the port cities of Buenaventura and Tumaco, due to the high threat of terrorist attack and high levels of violent crime.

Minimise road travel through rural areas. Avoid trouble spots by flying where possible. If you plan to visit the Caño Cristales river, fly to the gateway township of La Macarena. See [Local travel](#). Don't hail taxis on the street due to the risk of robbery. Use only licenced taxis booked through a dispatch service or your hotel. See [Local travel](#). Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks. See [Safety and security](#).

A temporary ceasefire agreement between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) ended on 9 January 2018. The ELN has resumed attacks against government and economic targets in Colombia. Avoid government buildings and military sites. See [Safety and security](#). The Venezuelan Government periodically closes its border with Colombia due to security and smuggling concerns. Even if it's open, don't attempt to cross the Venezuela-Colombia border by land. See [Safety and security](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full (including to read a full list of departments where DFAT advise Australians to reconsider their need to travel or advise against all travel), subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Colombia at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Colombian Representation in Australia

Embassy of Colombia, Canberra

Level 2, 40 Macquarie Street
BARTON ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6273 2090

Web: <http://australia.embajada.gov.co/en>

Consulate General of Colombia, Sydney

Level 12, Suite 2, 100 Walker Street
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Tel: (02) 9955 0311

Web: <http://sydney.consulado.gov.co/en>

Colombia also maintains Honorary Consulates in Australia that can be contacted on the following numbers:

VIC - Tel: (03) 9602 1164
WA - Tel: (08) 9268 2890
QLD - Tel: (07) 3138 9422



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Time Differences between Colombia and Australia

Colombia is Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Colombia Time (COT). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Colombia, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in Colombia, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Colombia, 12 noon, December = Perth 1am; Darwin 2:30am; Brisbane 3am; Adelaide 3:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.
 Colombia, 12 noon, June = Perth 1am; Adelaide, Darwin 2:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Colombia: +57

To Dial Australia Call:

Movistar (Default Carrier) - 009
 ETB - 007
 UNE EPM - 005
 followed by 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
 01 800 944 2898

Visa Global Assistance:
 01 800 912 5713

MasterCard:
 01 800 912 1303

American Express Travellers Cheques:
 980 912 3054

Emergency Services:
 123

The emergency services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Spanish speaker to call the emergency services.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Colombia

Australian Embassy, Colombia

Edificio Tierra Firme
 Avenida Carrera 9 No. 115-06/30
 Oficina 2002
 BOGOTA

Tel: (+57 1) 657 7800

Web: www.colombia.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Colombia are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Bogota, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Colombia and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering Colombia:

Alcohol: 2 bottles of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 50g of tobacco.
 Total Goods: Up to a value of US\$1,500.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Colombia and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further information regarding Australian customs regulations please visit www.border.gov.au.

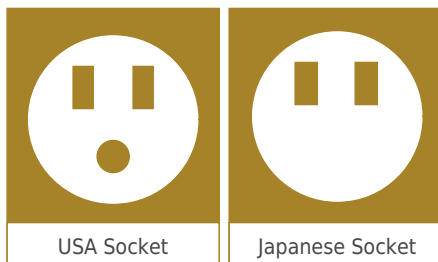
Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA and Japanese

Voltage: 110-120 volts (different to Australia, voltage/frequency converter required).

Modem Plug: USA.

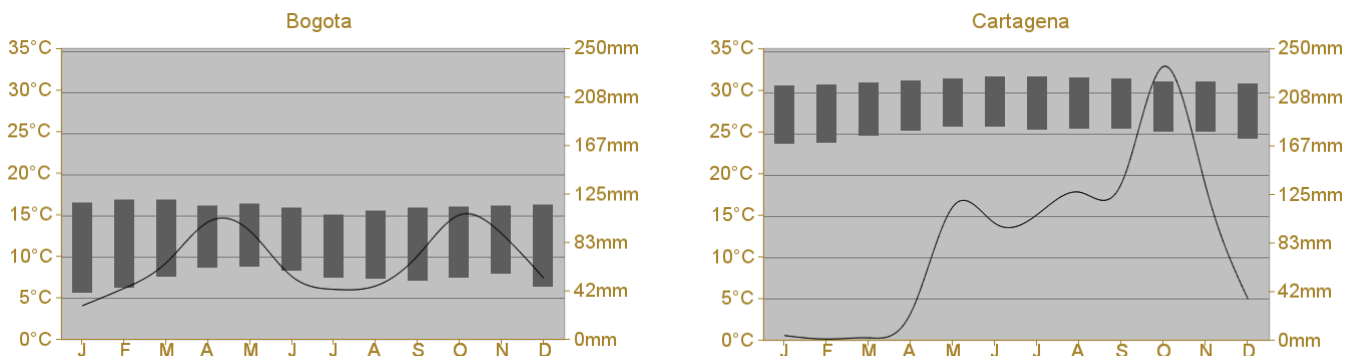
Source: Korjo Travel Products. To purchase electrical adaptors, or for further information, please go to www.korjo.com.au.



Colombian Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	02 Jul:	St Peter and Paul
08 Jan:	Epiphany	20 Jul:	Independence Day
19 Mar:	Saint Joseph Day	07 Aug:	Battle of Boyacá
29 Mar:	Maundy Thursday	20 Aug:	Assumption Holiday
30 Mar:	Good Friday	15 Oct:	Columbus Day
01 May:	Labour Day	05 Nov:	All Saints' Day
14 May:	Ascension Holiday	12 Nov:	Cartagena Day
04 Jun:	Corpus Christi	08 Dec:	Immaculate Conception
11 Jun:	Sacred Heart	25 Dec:	Christmas Day

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Colombia



Source: Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environment, Colombia. For local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 2,292 Colombian Pesos
 1,000 Colombian Pesos (COP) = 0.44 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 2,204 Colombian Pesos
 1,000 Colombian Pesos (COP) will cost 0.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

500 COP = \$0.23 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		100,000 COP = \$45.38 AUD	
1,000 COP	= \$0.45 AUD	10,000 COP	= \$4.54 AUD	200,000 COP	= \$90.76 AUD
2,000 COP	= \$0.91 AUD	20,000 COP	= \$9.08 AUD	300,000 COP	= \$136.15 AUD
3,000 COP	= \$1.36 AUD	30,000 COP	= \$13.61 AUD	400,000 COP	= \$181.53 AUD
4,000 COP	= \$1.82 AUD	40,000 COP	= \$18.15 AUD	500,000 COP	= \$226.91 AUD
5,000 COP	= \$2.27 AUD	50,000 COP	= \$22.69 AUD	600,000 COP	= \$272.29 AUD
6,000 COP	= \$2.72 AUD	60,000 COP	= \$27.23 AUD	700,000 COP	= \$317.68 AUD
7,000 COP	= \$3.18 AUD	70,000 COP	= \$31.77 AUD	800,000 COP	= \$363.06 AUD
8,000 COP	= \$3.63 AUD	80,000 COP	= \$36.31 AUD	900,000 COP	= \$408.44 AUD
9,000 COP	= \$4.08 AUD	90,000 COP	= \$40.84 AUD	1 million COP	= \$453.82 AUD

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Colombia is the Colombian Peso, which is abbreviated using the symbols "\$" or "COL\$" or the currency code "COP". The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation, including older coins. Travellers should note that the \$50,000 note only displays the numerals "50". Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About Colombia

Full Name: Republica de Colombia.

Independence: 20 July 1810 (from Spain).

Size: 1,138,910 sq km (similar to the Northern Territory).

Population: 45 million (double Australia).
Bogota 8.7 mil; Medellin 3.6 mil;
Cali 2.4 mil; Barranquilla 1.9 mil.

Ethnicity: Mestizo 58%, White 20%, Mulatto 14%, Black 4%, mixed Black-Amerindian 3%, Amerindian 1%.

Language: Spanish.

Religion: Roman Catholic 90%, other 10%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$10,700 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- 3,000 BC - Villages created along the Caribbean coast.
- 1400's AD - Chibcha people settle villages in the Andes mountains.
- 1525-38 - Spanish conquest begins. Bogotá founded. The region is named Nueva Granada.
- 1550 - African slaves brought in to work in the gold mines.
- 1700's - Viceroyalty of Nueva Granada formed, including present day Venezuela, Ecuador & Panama.
- 1819 - Simón Bolívar defeats Spain at the Battle of Boyacá. County of Gran Colombia is formed.
- 1830 - Venezuela & Ecuador succeed.
- 1903 - Panama becomes independent.
- 1948-57 - Civil War kills 300,000.
- 1960's - Several guerrilla groups form including Farc, ELN and M-19.
- 1960-70 - Colombia becomes a leading supplier of illegal drugs.
- 1999 - "Plan Colombia" policy improves Colombian security situation.

