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## Colombia Grandioso! June 29 to July 8, 2020

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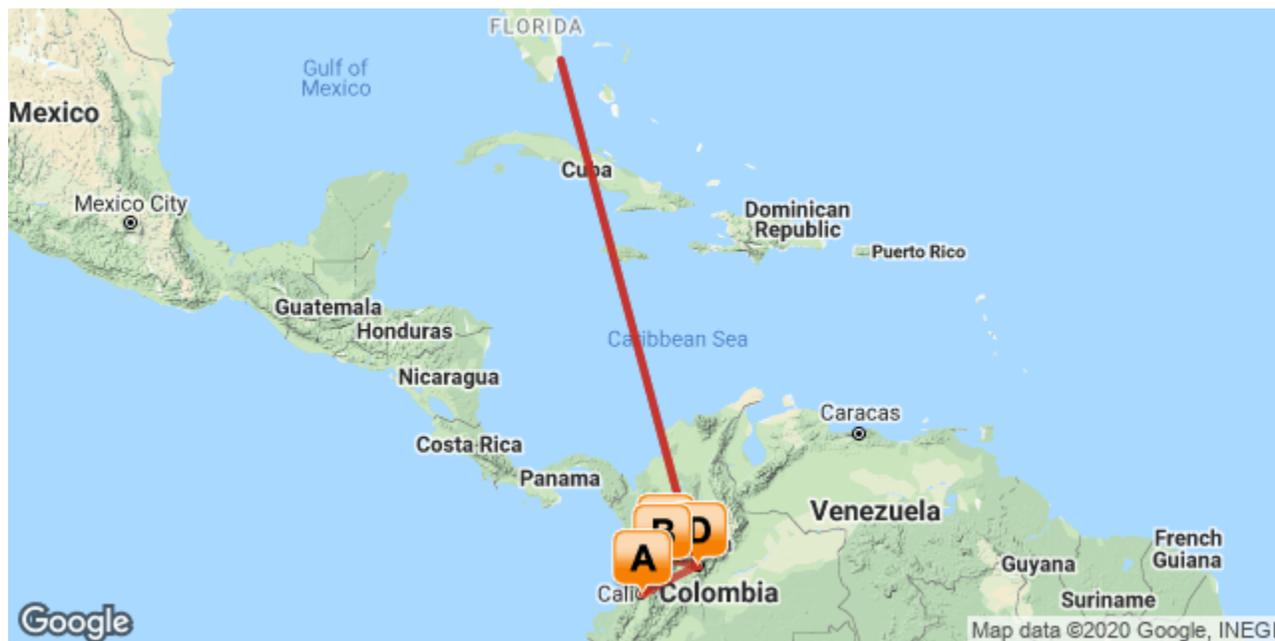


## Colombia Grandioso! June 29 to July 8, 2020

*Cali - The Coffee Triangle - Manizales - Bogota*

*10 Days / 9 Nights*

**June 29, 2020 - July 8, 2020**



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

## Introduction

The TREE Institute invites you to *Colombia Grandioso!*

An exclusive invitation only available through the TREE Institute International! Join us for an adventure in Colombia, South America.

### PRIVATE TRIP

10 days/ 9 nights June 28 to July 8, 2020

Cali, Armenia, Salento, Santa Rosa Manizales, Bogota

Travel safe and sound with us!

Experience the ecosystems, plants, gardens, fabulous cities, culture, food, art, music, museums and architecture. **Visit places only available to the TREE Institute and its affiliates.** A highlight of this trip is visiting the natural habitat of the tallest palms in the world. Colombia is a photographer's paradise!

Package Includes hotels, transportation, baggage handling, local guides, national flight Manizales to Bogota, entry fees, meals as per itinerary. No Visa is required.

Want to arrive a day earlier in Cali or stay a day or two longer in Bogota? Optional additional nights are available as well as extension tours to Medellin and Bogota.

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Duration
Movich Casa del Alferéz	Cali	Jun 29	Jul 2	3 Nights
Bio Habitat Hotel	The Coffee Triangle	Jul 2	Jul 4	2 Nights
Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones	Manizales	Jul 4	Jul 6	2 Nights
Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel	Bogota	Jul 6	Jul 8	2 Nights

## Price

- \$3,799.00
- Add \$700.00 for single supplemental

## Included

- International flight from Fort Lauderdale (FLL)
- Hotel accommodations
- Transportation
- Baggage handling
- Local guides
- National flight from Manizales to Bogota
- Entry fees, meals as per itinerary

## Excluded

- Tips,
- Alcoholic beverages,
- Extras at hotels such as laundry, mini bar and phone calls

## Terms and Conditions

### Itinerary Terms and Conditions

- Deposit: \$700.00 per person deposit with registration is required to hold a space.
- Balance of trip is due by March 1, 2020.
- Your completed registration forms with valid info and passport photo must be submitted by March 1, 2020. (This is a good time to check that your passport expiration is good through January 2021 or get it renewed now!!)

### Cancellation policy:

- \$500.00 of the deposit is non-refundable
- As of March 1, 2020 the entire amount of the trip is non-refundable.
- Please keep in mind, TREE must pay advance deposits for hotel, tour and transportation including international flights on your behalf and for this reason, we cannot make exceptions to our cancellation policy.
- Substitute travelers: Should you not be able to travel after deposits are non-refundable, you have the option to substitute travelers up to 60 days prior to the departure date. There will be a one-time \$250 administrative fee to process the transfer plus any additional transportation costs (i.e., prepurchased airline tickets).
- Credit cards accepted for a 3% non-cash courtesy fee.

## Day 1: Movich Casa del Alferéz, Cali (Mon, June 29)

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### Day Itinerary

Day 1: Fort Lauderdale to Cali - January 17

Depart Fort Lauderdale in the afternoon with a connection in Bogota. Arrive in Cali where our team will transfer you from the airport to the Movich Casa del Alferéz Hotel. Meet and greet your fellow travelers, relax and enjoy the ambiance of the hotel.

### Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
29 Jun	Scheduled		Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport [FLL]		Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]			
29 Jun	Scheduled		Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]		Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport [CLO]			

**Transfers**

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
29 Jun		Alfonso Bonilla Aragón International Airport [CLO]	Movich Casa del Alférez		Transfer

**Activities*****Cali***

Set to the west of the Cauca River in the Cauca River Valley and fringed by the Farallones de Cali mountains, the town of Santiago de Cali, also referred to as Cali, serves as the capital of the Valle del Cauca department. Cali features a thriving nightlife, great restaurants, diverse Afro-Colombian heritage and is famed as a salsa mecca boasting Caribbean-style music and rhythmic dancing. It is also known as the centre of sports in Colombia, hosting a number of prominent sports championships over the last few decades. Visitors can look forward to many wonderful activities, including strolling along the banks of the river, enjoying the impressive architecture of the numerous national monuments and churches, as well as visiting the many museums in Cali. Don't miss the opportunity to soak up the spectacularly scenic mountain views, take an energetic salsa class and sample an array of tasty Colombian cuisine.

**Overnight: Movich Casa del Alférez**

Movich Casa del Alférez is in the Granada neighborhood, close to some of the best restaurants in Cali. This is the city's main hotel area, with quieter streets and refreshing breeze.

Live the Movich experience through a variety of rooms that have been designed with your rest and comfort in mind. Choose the room that best suits your needs, whether you are travelling alone or with a partner, looking for a one-bedroom suite or something more sophisticated. The Movich Casa del Alférez team will do whatever is needed to meet your needs and expectations.

An exquisite, author's cuisine restaurant with a perfect fusion between the best traditional dishes and haute cuisine techniques—the result: unique, unforgettable recipes.




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## Day 2:      **Movich Casa del Alferez, Cali**      **(Tue, June 30)**

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### Day Itinerary

Day 2: Cali- January 18

After breakfast, we will start our adventure at a wonderful private farm preserve to see hundreds of hummingbirds (over 20 species) and other rare species of birds. Then, we will continue on our adventure to the rainforest area, as well as visit a small town surrounded by rainforests, rivers and waterfalls to experience this unique area.

Stop for lunch.

Return to the hotel and savor a great Colombian dinner.

Overnight at Movich Casa del Alferez Hotel. (B,L, D)

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## Day 3:      **Movich Casa del Alferez, Cali**      **(Wed, July 1)**

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### Day Itinerary

Day 3: Cali- January 19

We will start the day with a visit to Cali with a stop to visit an artisan store and local market, then on to visit a spectacular privately-owned botanical garden set on the side of a mountain in the cloud forest. Lunch will be served at this private garden where Mr. Alvarez, leading botanist, will give a lecture on the importance of the area to include the hummingbirds and orchids of the region. Some free time is yours before a surprise, then hit the streets for Salsa dancing and delectable dinner.

Overnight at Movich Casa del Alferez Hotel. (B, L, D)

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## Day 4: Bio Habitat Hotel, The Coffee Triangle (Thu, July 2)

### The Coffee Triangle

Colombia is known to produce some of the world's best coffee – in a picturesque mountain region called the Zona Cafetera - meaning the Coffee Triangle. Encompassing the Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío regions, Zona Cafetera has embraced tourism and offers a wide range of authentic hotels or traditional farmsteads, from which travellers can tour the area's emerald-green hilltops, fertile valleys and famous high-altitude coffee plantations. Visitors can spend time on the farms, learning about the coffee growing process, which is especially fun during the harvest seasons that run from April to May and October to December. Those looking for a laid-back local experience will enjoy the sleepy little backpacker town of Salento in the Quindío department, while nature lovers shouldn't miss trekking in the breath-taking Valle de Cocora and visiting the Parque Nacional Natural Los Nevados, one of Colombia's most famous national parks.

### Day Itinerary

Day 4: Cali/Armenia - January 20

We set out early for our scenic trip to Cali. On the way, we will stop at the Jardín Botánico del Quindío that has marvelous trails and a butterfly conservatory. On the way, we will visit a tiny town with a historic apparition church, where it was reported that the Virgin Mary appeared to thousands of people. Our journey will pass many local fruit stands and we will stop at a local's favorite market where we can try local delicacies and grab a lite lunch on your own.

Check into Bio Habitat Hotel, relax and have dinner. (B, D)

### Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
2 Jul		Movich Casa del Alférez	Bio Habitat Hotel		Transfer

### Overnight: Bio Habitat Hotel

Surrounded by native forest, at the highest point of the mountain, Bio Habitat Hotel is located in Armenia. The property features suites equipped with a large terrace, outdoor Jacuzzi, chill-out room, king bed, desk and air-conditioning. Guests can dine at the on-site restaurant or enjoy the complimentary breakfast served daily. Other services include airport transfers.



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## Day 5: Bio Habitat Hotel, The Coffee Triangle (Fri, July 3)

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### Day Itinerary

Day 5: Salento/Santa Rosa - January 21

After breakfast, enjoy a surprise! We will then visit the spectacular village of Salento set in a valley in a National Park surrounded by the Andes. This is a photographer's paradise. Spend time exploring the local streets filled with unique arts and crafts stores. Marvel at the famous Cocoran Valley where the World's tallest palms grow in the wild. Top off the visit at a great local's place for lunch.

Our adventure will continue to the thermal springs of Santa Rosa where we will bathe in the springs and also hike along the many waterfalls and tributaries of this beautiful area. Snacks, drinks and light bites can be purchased at the top of the falls.

Overnight at Bio Habitat Hotel (B, L,)

### Activities

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#### *Salento*

Located west of Bogota in beautiful Colombia, the colourful colonial town of Salento is best-known for its coffee plantations, lush scenery, rich culture and its thriving community of artisans and craftsmen. Salento serves as a gateway to the snow-capped peaks of the beautiful Los Nevados National Natural Park. Visitors can look forward to soaking up the spectacular views of Cocora Valley, sampling authentic Colombian coffee, and strolling through the character-filled town square. Other popular activities include: horse riding, bird watching, mountain biking, rafting, hiking and camping. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a coffee estate and learn how coffee is grown.



## Day 6: Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones, Manizales (Sat, July 4)

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### Manizales

Situated in the Department of Caldas, Manizales is a city in western Colombia. The city is set in the mountainous coffee-growing region of Columbia. It is the main centre for the production of the world-renowned Colombian coffee and is famous as the home to an array of higher educational institutions. Manizales is best known for its cool climate, vibrant cultural festivals, steep hilly streets and breath-taking views of the magnificent Nevado del Ruiz Volcano. Visitors can look forward to an array of activities including taking in the sweeping views of the city from the rooftop viewpoint of neo-Gothic Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, stroll through the Central Bolívar Square and visit the neo-colonial Governor's Palace. This charming city has a European feel with the charm of a small city in the Swiss Alps. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the spectacularly scenic natural surroundings and enjoy Manizales' buzzing nightlife.

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### Day Itinerary

Day 6: Armenia/ Manizales January 22

After breakfast and a leisurely morning enjoying the beauty of our hideaway, we will venture to Manizales for a Tour of the city highlights, lunch at a magnificent roof top restaurant overlooking the city.

Check into Estelar Hotel RECINTO DEL PENSAMIENTO. The hotel is inside a botanical garden and reserve. Have some free time to walk the grounds.

Dinner at the hotel on your own. (B,L )

### Activities

#### *Manizales*

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## Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
4 Jul		Bio Habitat Hotel	Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones		Transfer

### Overnight: Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones

Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones is located in the city of Manizales in Columbia. Accommodation consists of a variety of guest rooms, each equipped with a TV, a minibar, a safety deposit box and a private bathroom. Guests can enjoy a wide range of delicious Colombian cuisine at the on-site restaurant. Other amenities and services offered are internet access, laundry service and a tour desk.



## Day 7: Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones, Manizales (Sun, July 5)

### Day Itinerary

Day 7: Manizales – January 23

On this day, we will be up very early to see an incredible reserve called Rio Blanco, which is above the Cloud line of the mountains. We will explore the incredible plant life, as well as have a chance to see very rare birds of this area. After our visit we will have brunch, and then some free time before another surprise.

Visit a working coffee plantation that is also home to over 100 species of birds, many orchids and really is its own private botanical garden. Taste some of Colombia's finest coffee.

Return to the hotel. Experience a chairlift adventure over the reserve or enjoy opt to enjoy the spa.

(B, D)

## Activities

### *Rio Blanco*

Rio Blanco is a cloud-forest reserve located in Manizales, Colombia. The 3600-hectare reserve is situated between 1 and 2 metres above sea level and is home to many endangered species which includes the oso andino. Around 362 bird species are present, as well as butterflies and orchids. Visitors can explore the reserve via nature trails.

## Day 8: Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel, Bogota (Mon, July 6)

### Bogota

Located 2600m above sea level at the base of the Guadalupe and Monserrate mountains is Colombia's capital and one of South America's leading cultural destinations. Patrons of the arts are spoilt for choice with the city's museums, art galleries, stage theatres and national monuments. So impressive is Bogota's collection of libraries and academic institutions that the city has earned itself the nickname "The Athens of South America". The historic district of La Candelaria boasts many of these sites as well as stunning historic architecture and numerous hotels and hostels that make it an ideal setting for travellers wanting to take in the essence of the city.

### Day Itinerary

Day 8: Manizales to Bogota – January 24

After early breakfast, checkout before your flight from Manizales to Bogota. We will board our transportation and head to the magnificent Botanical Garden of Bogota. Jardín Botánico José Celestino Mutis is a massive and well-maintained botanical garden with a variety of different areas, including an exhibit of 5,000 indigenous orchids. Lunch at their café on your own.

Then we head to the famous Salt Cathedral. The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá (Spanish: Catedral de Sal de Zipaquirá) is an underground Roman Catholic church built within the tunnels of a salt mine 200 meters underground in a Halite mountain. It is a very popular tourist destination and place of pilgrimage in the country. The name "Salt Cathedral" is mostly to attract tourists - while a functioning church that receives as many as 3,000 visitors on Sundays, it has no bishop and therefore no official status as a cathedral in Catholicism. The temple at the bottom has three sections, representing the birth, life, and death of Jesus. The icons, ornaments and architectural details are hand carved in the halite rock. Some marble sculptures are included. The Salt Cathedral is considered one of the most notable achievements of Colombian architecture. Also, it has been nominated as a 'Jewel of Modern Architecture'. The cathedral represents for the Colombian people a valuable cultural, environmental and religious patrimony. The cathedral is part of a larger complex including "Parque de la Sal", (Salt Park), and a Museum of Mining, Mineralogy, Geology and Natural Resources.

Some free time before dinner at a local's hot spot, Andre's Steakhouse.

Overnight at the Hotel Estelar Windsor House. (B, D)

## Activities

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### *Bogotá Botanical Garden*

The Bogotá Botanical Garden is Colombia's biggest botanical garden and is situated in the city of Bogotá. The garden is used for recreation and research centre with an emphasis on Andean and Páramo ecosystems and features plants from every Colombian altitude, climate and region. A sun clock, a palmetum, an orchid collection, a wide variety of Amazon flowers and a library are found in the garden along with an information desk.



### *Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá*

Located in Bogota, Colombia, Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá is a cathedral that is completely carved from rock, 180 metres below the ground. The cathedral is situated within the tunnels of an old salt mine.

## Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
6 Jul	Scheduled		La Nubia Airport [MZL]		Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]			

## Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
6 Jul		Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones	La Nubia Airport [MZL]		Transfer
6 Jul		Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]	Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel		Transfer

### Overnight: Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel

Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel is located in Bogota, in one of the most exclusive shopping and dining areas of the capital, with beautiful views to the mountain. Accommodation consists of guest suites, each featuring a balcony, an LCD TV, a safety deposit box and hairdryer. Guests can enjoy dining at the on-site restaurant. Other amenities offered are internet access, a Jacuzzi on the terrace, a bar and a fitness centre.




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## Day 9: Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel, Bogota (Tue, July 7)

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### Day Itinerary

Day 9: Saturday, January 25

After a leisurely breakfast, we will visit the to the historic section of Bogota to for a stop at Iglesia de San Francisco, the oldest surviving church in Bogota built in 1556, a stop at the Botero Museum and then head to the world- famous Gold Museum for an extensive guided tour. The Museum is situated within the UNESCO old city where there are great shops and cafes to try empanadas and other local treats. Then our adventure continues with another surprise before having dinner to watch the sunset and transformation to the twinkling lights of Bogota.

Overnight is at Estelar Windsor House Hotel. (B, D)

### Activities

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#### *Botero Museum*

The Botero Museum is housed in a restored colonial house in the La Candelaria neighbourhood in Bogota, the capital city of Colombia. The Colombian artist, Fernando Botero, donated a collection of 123 of his personal works along with 85 pieces from his private collection of paintings and sculptures by internationally renowned artists including Salvador Dali, Joan Miro, Pablo Picasso, Renoir, Claude Monet, and Henri Matisse towards the founding of the museum, placing it among the five most important public international art collections in Latin America. The collection can be viewed at no charge every day, except Tuesdays, and a variety of activities including lectures, conferences, workshops, and guided tours are offered.

### Gold Museum

Located in Bogota, Colombia, Gold Museum is a fascinating tourist destination within the city. The Gold Museum houses over 50000 pieces of gold. All the pieces are displayed in a way that tells a story through the different eras from which they originate. Descriptions of the collections are provided in English and Spanish.

## Day 10: End of Itinerary (Wed, July 8)

### Day Itinerary

Day 9: Sunday, January 26

Early departure to catch your flight back to Ft. Lauderdale (FLL)

### Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
8 Jul	Scheduled		Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]		Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport [FLL]			

### Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
8 Jul		Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel	Bogota El Dorado International Airport [BOG]		Transfer

### Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Tree Institute International	866-355-8733	treeinstitutetravel@gmail.com	TREE Team

### Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Bio Habitat Hotel		+57 300 5258040	Km3 vía Armenia - Circasia leftside. Quindío, PCC. Colombia.
Estelar Recinto Del Pensamiento Hotel & Centro de Convenciones		+57 6 8897072	Kilometro 11 Vía Al Magdalena Columbia
Estelar Windsor House All Suites Hotel		+57 1 6343630	Calle 95 No. 9- 97 Bogota, Colombia

## Travel Information



A land of diverse landscapes, cultures and attractions, the South American nation of Colombia is every bit a tourist's dream. The only country in the region with two ocean coasts, Colombia offers visitors the opportunity to explore Caribbean beaches, tropical jungles and snow-capped mountain peaks. In addition to its impressive terrains, the country is also home to age-old archaeological sites, historic towns, and vibrant cities where a diverse mix of Spanish, African, European and Middle-Eastern influences are reflected the food, architecture and fascinating ethnic traditions.

### *Entry Requirements*

A valid passport, good for 6 months past your travel dates, is required for U.S. citizens to enter Colombia. Leisure and business travelers are allowed to stay a maximum of 90 days in Colombia without a visa.

### *Banking and Currency*

#### **Currency**

Colombian Peso (COP; symbol Col\$) = 100 centavos. Notes are in denominations of Col\$50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 2,000 and 1,000. Coins are in denominations of Col\$500, 200, 100, 50 and 20. US Dollars are sometimes accepted, but be aware that you may be viewed as a rich tourist if you try to pay with dollars and you might find that the prices go up. Also be aware that there are a large amount of counterfeit US dollars in Colombia, so if you need change, get it in Colombian Pesos.

The import and export of local and foreign currencies is unlimited, but amounts exceeding the equivalent of US\$10,000 must be declared.

Currency should be exchanged at hotels, banks and bureaux de change only, though most places charge commission. Travellers are advised against changing money on the street. The US Dollar is the easiest currency to exchange. When crossing borders, in particular in Ipiales, be very careful with the money changers, and make sure you do the calculations on your own.

#### **Banking**

Banking hours are from Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. On the last business day of every month, banks close at 1200.

Visa and MasterCard credit cards are widely accepted, American Express and Diners Club less so. There are ATMs throughout the main cities; some will allow cash withdrawals using Visa, MasterCard or Cirrus. Ensure you know the number to call to cancel your card quickly if it is stolen, and inform your bank beforehand that you will be travelling to Colombia in case your accounts are frozen upon use.

There are ATMs throughout the main cities; some will allow cash withdrawals using Visa, MasterCard or Cirrus. While the prevalence of ATMs is increasing throughout the country, in smaller, rural towns and villages you should ensure you have enough cash to last until you get back to a bigger city. ATMs can be temperamental, run out of money and not work for you when they worked perfectly well the day before. Try to use ATMs in the daytime rather than after dark, and within banks with security guards, if possible.

The most commonly accepted traveller's cheques are those issued by American Express and Citicorp. Traveller's cheques can be exchanged at banks, hotels or bureaux de change. They are generally not accepted as a form of payment, other than at major hotels. While safe, generally traveller's cheques should be avoided in case you can find yourself somewhere where they are not accepted; ATMs are a much more efficient way of handling your money. If you do choose to bring traveller's cheques, make sure you take them in US Dollars.

### *Travel, Transport and Getting Around*

There is an excellent internal air network connecting major cities, including those in the Caribbean coastal area. There are also local helicopter flights. Flights between the mainland and the islands of San Andrés and Providencia operate from most major Colombian cities. The main domestic carriers are Avianca (AV) ([www.avianca.com](http://www.avianca.com)), Lan Colombia (4C) ([www.lan.com](http://www.lan.com)), Copa Airlines (CM) ([www.copaair.com](http://www.copaair.com)) and Satena (9R) ([www.satena.com](http://www.satena.com)).

Some areas have no road access, such as the Amazon River border town of Leticia, which must be accessed by air. Other areas have road routes but a flight will be far more expedient and not too expensive; for example, Bogotá to Cartagena is a flight of 1 hour 25 minutes, but the bus journey takes 20 hours. Flights are cheaper when bought well in advance, but are still reasonably priced at short notice.

When booking domestic flights, it is often easiest to go into a travel company office – some domestic airlines don't accept international credit cards online.

Departure tax for internal flights varies depending on your airline. Some include it in the ticket, others charge separately up to about US\$10, but be aware that this situation is ever-changing.

### *Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*

All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated outside major cities. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should be boiled or otherwise sterilised. Bottled water is widely available throughout the country however, including in rural towns, so you can always make sure you have some. Milk may be unpasteurised in places and should be boiled.

Only eat well cooked meat and fish. When buying food from stalls or markets, try to ensure that the food has not been sitting there for a while, and is kept hot enough to kill germs. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit should be peeled. There is an abundance of fruit available throughout Colombia, which includes pre-cut fruit put into bags and sold on beaches or from stalls in tourist areas. Buying whole fruit from the markets is both cheaper and more hygienic, and will help avoid contamination.

### *Climate and Weather*

The climate is very warm and tropical on the coast and in the north, with a rainy season from May to November. Though the temperature varies little throughout the year due to Colombia's proximity to the equator, it does vary according to altitude. It is cooler in the upland areas and cold in the mountains, and in the cooler times of the year, the nights can be freezing. Bogotá is always spring-like, with cool days and crisp nights, though when the sun is shining the days can get

quite hot. The Amazon region generally stays warm and wet year-round. The best time of year to visit is at either of the drier times: December to March or July and August.

### *Clothing and Dress Recommendations*

Generally, Colombia requires light clothing suitable for warm to hot weather. However, Bogotá and other places of high altitude get cold at night and even in the shade during the day, particularly in the cooler times of year. You'll definitely need, at least, a warm sweater and trousers for this, preferably a jacket.

If you are hiking, you'll need good boots in the colder mountainous regions and good walking sandals for the Zona Cafetera to let your feet air, but still give support. Very light clothing for the Amazon Basin is required, but having long sleeves and trousers for the evenings to prevent mosquito bites is a good idea. For the rainy season, have something waterproof, such as a light jacket to fend off the downpours.

### *Electricity and Plug Standards*

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Colombia are very similar to the electrical outlets found in the United States and Canada, and if your appliance has a North American plug, it's possible that you won't need any adapter at all in order to plug in there. However, there are two potentially very important physical differences that may need to be addressed with an adapter: grounding and/or polarization. If your plug has one or both, and the socket doesn't, then the plug may not physically be able to fit into the socket without an adapter.

In the case of a North American appliance plug, grounding is accomplished by the third, round pin beneath and below the two vertical blades on the plug. Polarization is accomplished by the left vertical blade being taller than the right, so that the plug can't be inserted upside down. U.S. and Canadian sockets are required to be both grounded and polarized. But in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Japan and other areas which use U.S. style sockets, grounding and polarization often are not required, and in fact, the majority of sockets in many of these areas do not accept the taller blade and/or the third grounding pin. This will prevent a North American appliance plug from being able to plug into these sockets, if the plug is either grounded or polarized.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Colombia usually supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts AC. If you're plugging in a U.S. or Canadian 120 volt appliance, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 110-120 volts the socket is supplying. If your appliance is from another part of the world, and it is built only for 220-240 volt electricity, or a Japanese appliance built for 100 volts, then a travel plug adapter by itself won't be sufficient. The voltage will have to be changed from 110-120 volts at the socket, to whatever voltage your appliance requires. This is accomplished with a voltage transformer.

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