

# Know before you go **Colombia**



**Population:** 51.7 Million | **Currency:** Colombian Peso \$ (COP) | **Capital City:** Bogotá



### Official language

Spanish and Spanish Creole for the island region but according to the constitution, there is a predisposition to learn English



### Greeting

“Buenos dias” (good day),  
“Buenas tardes” (good afternoon)  
or “Buenas noches” (good evening/night)  
depending on the time of day



**Most popular city for expats and tourists**  
Medellín  
Bogotá



### Tipping

There is a 10% voluntary tip (propina voluntaria) included in most restaurant bills. While you are not required to pay it, nearly everybody does.



**National animal**  
Andean Condor

### National Flower

Cattleya trianae orchid



**Famous national food**  
Arepas, Bandeja Paisa, Ajiaco, Empanadas

## Cost of living & travel in Bogotá



- **Standard city one-way bus ticket:** 2,500 COP
- **Taxi fare:** 5,000 COP (initial charge); 6,500 COP (per km)



- **Standard pint of beer:** 5,000 COP
- **3-course meal for 2 people:** 80,000 COP



- **Typical hotel for 2 adults:** 152,000 – 224,000 COP (per night)
- **Average rent for 2-bedroom apartment:** 1,200,000 – 1,900,000 COP (per month)



- **Doctor's visit:** 84,000 COP

Costs are based on average in Bogotá, Colombia in December 2021; costs will vary from region to region.

## Celebrating Colombian culture



### National holiday

Colombia is among the countries with the most official holidays in the world – 18 per year. Semana Santa or Holy Week, (the week leading up to Easter Sunday) is an especially important celebration



### Notable landmarks

Monserate, Cocora Valley, Lost City, Tayrona Park

**National sport**  
Tejo

