



Expatriate Guide 2022-2023

Moving to Colombia in a different way.

Welcome to Colombia!



Somewhere in the world, located in the northwestern corner of South America, crossed by the Andes mountain range and the Amazon plain, lies **Colombia**. A colorful country with a priceless legacy and full of cultural diversity that makes its visitors feel at home.

Formerly known as the **"Tibet of South America"** for its limited international openness, today it is emerging with a renewed image, open to the world, recognized for its cultural legacy and economic development.

Our history, full of passion and emotions, has been kept alive over time, passing from generation to generation, making us a unique country, where the countryside is our main pride, our festivities our greatest glory and our landscapes are the perfect mosaic that make us one of the most biodiverse nations.

So, we want you to be part of this journey that starts in the Guajira desert, where the yellow butterflies of our Literature Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez "Gabo", will take us to magical places like Mompox, to cross the mountains in Santander by bicycle, to appreciate the countryside in Boyacá and to see the beautiful flowers of Medellín, always enjoying the best national coffee. Visit the capital of Bogota in the middle of its night lights, take a tour through the plains of Meta to end up in the fascinating Amazon jungle.

Thank you for being here and welcome to Colombia!

Colombia is a dream country, where magical realism comes to life in the smiles of millions of Colombians, in the songs of our farmers who wake up full of passion to work the land, in the best coffee in the world, in the fantasy of its flowers and the splendor of its seas, in its economic growth, business diversity, innovation and culture.

Colombia is an adventure, a world to discover, to enjoy, to travel; from the Guajira with its golden beaches and the canyons of San Felipe de Barajas Castle in Cartagena, to the magnificent jungle of the Amazon; from the Pacific with its fishermen and the songs of the whales, to the Santanderes and Llanos Orientales with its river of seven colors. The whole Colombia means music, carnivals and an unparalleled cuisine, therefore the idea of this guide is to open the doors to this trip, to let you know the splendor of our country, to share with you a little of its dialect, customs and joy. Yet, this information is only a sneak peek, since the real journey is about to begin. Thank you for trusting EY and making us part of this new era. We look forward to being part of a great experience in Colombia.

Carlos Mario Sandoval

People Advisory Services (PAS) Leader
EY Colombia and Mexico



Content

- | Overview of Colombia
- | Fairs and festivals
- | Emergency telephone numbers | Telephone and Internet services
- | Embassies, Consulates and Binational Chambers of Commerce
- | Banks and exchange offices
- | Mobile Apps
- | Health care in Colombia
- | Driver's licenses in Colombia
- | Education
 - General map of the public transportation system, Bogotá
 - Outdoor activities
 - Indoor activities
 - Academic institutions
- | Popular slang
- | Creative Team
- | Contact us

Click to go to the previous page

Click to go to the next page

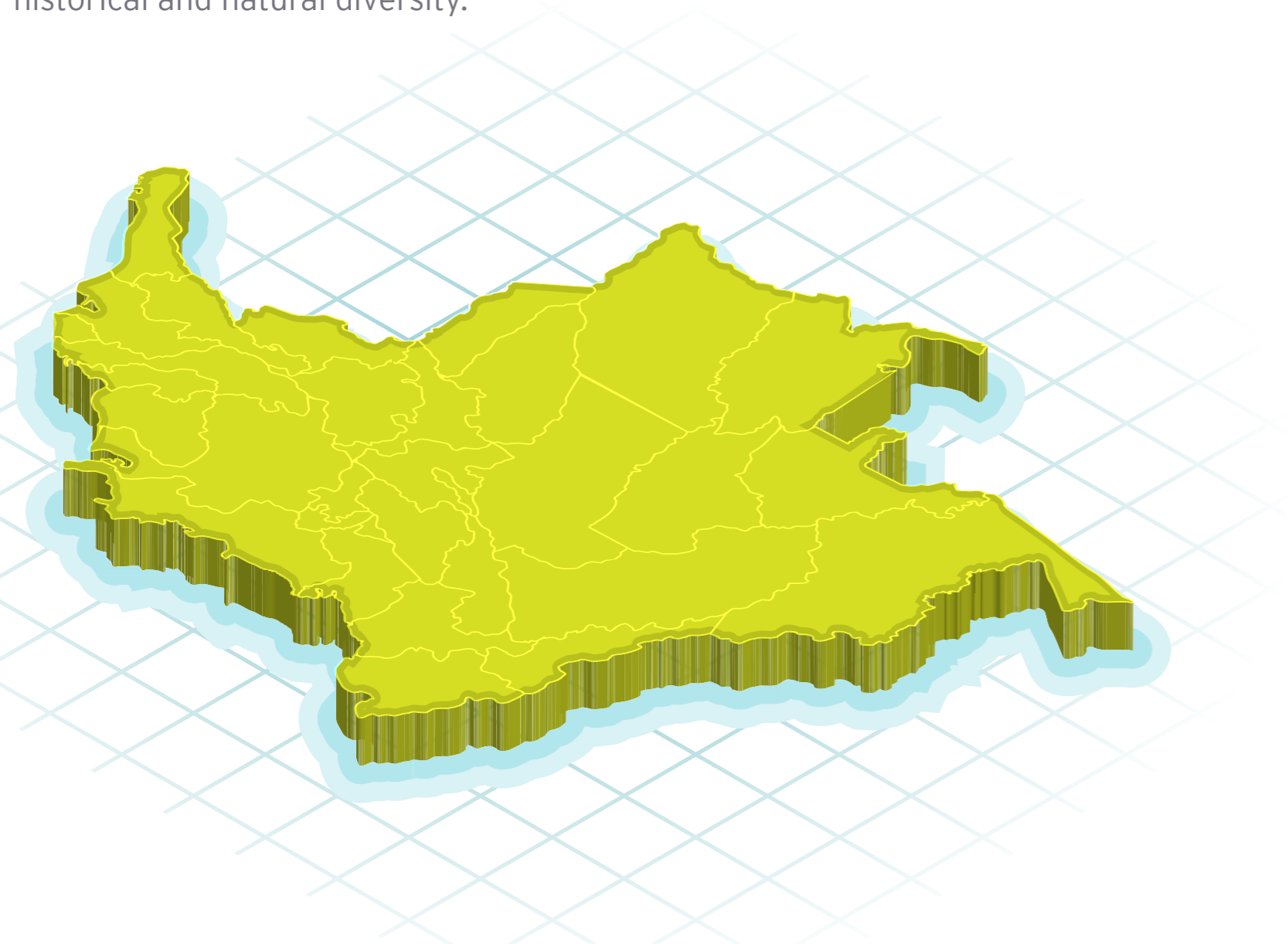
Click to return to the Content section





Overview of Colombia

Colombia has a total surface of 2.070.408 km², of which 1.141.748 km² correspond to its continental surface and the remaining 928.660 km² to its marine extension. Each of its regions has unique characteristics that highlight the country's cultural, historical and natural diversity.



Regions

Insular

Location: North and West
Population: 74.620 inhabitants
Climate: tropical
Typical dishes: rondón, crab soup
Tourist sites:

- San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina Islands

Pacific

Location: West
Population: 1,500,753 inhabitants
Climate: rain forest tropical humid
Typical dishes: crab soup, fish cod, pusandao, pipián tamales, atollado, rice
Tourist sites:

- Solano Bay
- Nuquí
- Gorgona National Natural Park
- Ensenada de Utría National Natural Park
- Malpelo Island Flora and Fauna Sanctuary

Andean

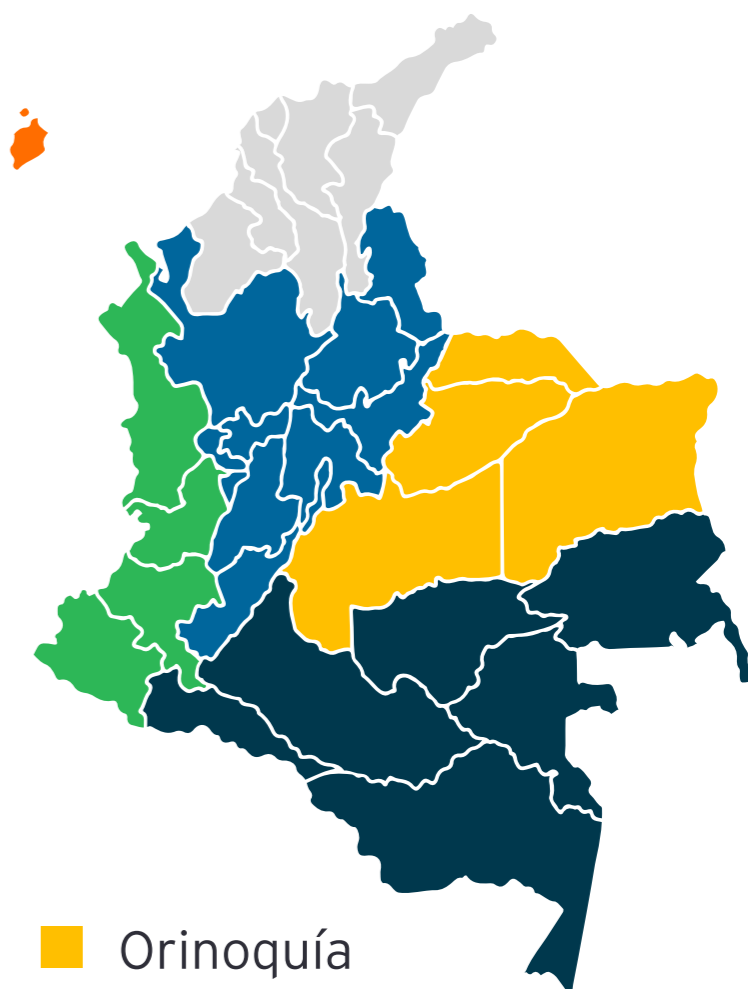
Location: Center
Population: 37,068,593 inhabitants
Climate: warm
Typical dishes: ajiaco, paisa platter, lechona, rib broth
Tourist sites:

- Salt Cathedral
- Barichara
- San Agustín Archaeological Museum
- Monserrate Hill
- La Tatacoa Desert
- Coffee Route

Amazon

Location: South
Population: 1,143,631 inhabitants
Climate: tropical warm and humid
Typical dishes: patarasca, mojoyoy, casabe arepas
Tourist sites:

- Leticia
- Nariño Port
- Amacayú National Park
- Micos Island
- Tanimboca Natural Reserve



Orinoquía

Location: East
Population: 1,840,922 inhabitants
Climate: tropical dry
Typical dishes: changua llanera, pabellón llanero, roasted chigüiro
Tourist sites:

- Tuparro National Park
- Caño Cristales
- Tinigua Route
- Chingaza Park

Caribbean

Location: East
Population: 10,301,982 inhabitants
Climate: tropical
Typical dishes: rice with coconut, cheese mote, egg arepa, fish sancocho
Tourist sites:

- Cartagena de Indias
- Mompox, Bolívar
- Ciudad perdida, Tayrona Park
- Punta Gallinas, Guajira



Fairs and festivals

January

Carnaval de Negros y Blancos (Pasto, Nariño)

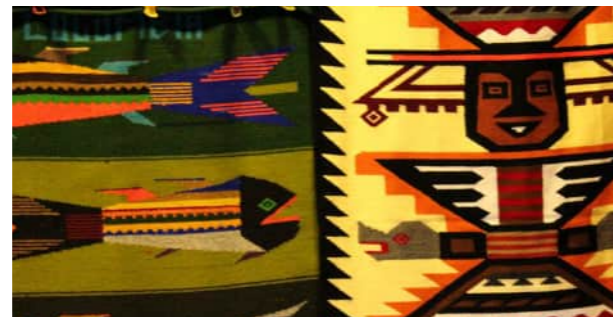
Held at the beginning of the year and where more than 10,000 artists, about 2,000 musicians and dancers participate. It is characterized by the colorful, original carriages and costumes that are displayed along seven kilometers of the so-called Carnival Path, where participants parade to the rhythm of the Guaneña, the Trompo Sarandengue, Chambú and other regional tunes.

International Music Festival (Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar)

It gathers those who share a taste for the classical style and wish to take a moment to enjoy the tunes rendered by the best notes of winds, strings and voices. A select group of around 250 national and international musicians come to the "Heroica", who consolidate every year the identity of classical music, the traditional music of Europe and Latin America.

Fair of Manizales (Manizales, Caldas)

Considered the best fair in America, it is inspired by the April Fair of Seville with more than 200 events that take place during the first weekend of January. In this fair there is room for everything and everyone, multiple parades, concerts with national and international artists, craft shows, trova contest and the unique coffee festival.



March

International Film Festival (Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar)

Since 1960, the "Big Screen" shines every year to host the film event that showcases the best films of Latin America to the world. This cultural event, which has broadcast more than 5,000 films, has promoted the work of producers, directors, actors and members of the Latin American industry worldwide.

Barranquilla Carnival (Barranquilla, Atlántico)

A display of joy, colors and, above all, folklore. One of the most important festivals in Colombia, recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, it consists of four days of festivities where cumbiamba, mapalé, Marimonda, Monocuco and Negrita Puloy take over the streets of the city in a celebration that seems to have no break.

April

Easter (Popayán, Cauca)

At this time of year, it would be a good idea to reserve a balcony to watch and participate in the five-night processions in Popayán, considered one of the most emblematic colonial cities in Colombia. Hundreds of people gather in the streets of the historic center, the stage for these processions, declared by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Vallenata Legend Festival (Valledupar, Cesar)

The last week of April, for more than five decades, Valledupar hosts a celebration. A crowd of nationals and foreigners arrive at this time to enjoy the four rhythms that are presented at the Festival: paseo, son, puya and merengue. Along with the presentations of the greatest vallenato musicians, the piloneros and piloneras parade takes place.





Fairs and festivals

June

Folkloric Festival and National Reign of Bambuco (Neiva, Huila)

It gathers hundreds of national and foreign tourists, who are part of this great event that highlights the folklore of Huila with music, dances, comparsas and native cuisine that have developed a national identity.

July

Colombiamoda (Medellín, Colombia)

The Colombian Fashion Week is the commercial showcase of finished product brands from all the Fashion System, accompanied by different platforms to learn about designers' proposals, and a space dedicated to conferences led by different world experts.

Festival of the Sea (Santa Marta, Magdalena)

In this month, the city of Santa Marta embellishes and celebrates the festival of the Colombian seas. Five days of celebration where everything revolves around the sea; food, music, sports, fishing, the queen and a parade. It is the party where locals and visitors from all over the country and abroad gather in the "Naturally Magical" to celebrate the city.

August

Flower Fair (Medellin, Antioquia)

The Flower Fair, held in early August, is an opportunity for the city to show the world the "paisa" culture. The main attractions are the flowers, which are exhibited in the now famous silletas that weigh up to 70 kilos with spectacular designs. At the same time, concerts are held on different stages with renowned artists, the trova festival, and events to integrate the families of Antioquia and visitors.

December

Cali Fair (Cali, Valle del Cauca)

The last of Colombia's fairs and festivals. It has become a showcase for its importance and the large number of foreign tourists it receives year after year. Its main attraction, the Salsodromo, is the right place to admire dancers of the best salsa schools. In addition to dance and music, during these days there is space for antique cars, crafts, gastronomy and much more.

November

Salsa World Championship (Cali, Valle del Cauca)

Cali dresses up and celebrates the contest with the most diverse artistic and cultural groups of the city to expose the culture that exists around the salsa. A display of energy and flavor that is breathed in the streets of the city that invites locals and foreigners to live the whole Cali experience.





Emergency telephone numbers

As of September 2021, Colombia adopted a new telephone dialing system as follows:

- I. For calls from landlines to other long-distance landlines: 60 + City code + 7-digit fixed telephone number.
- II. For calls from cellular phones to landlines: 60 + City code + 7-digit landline number.
- III. For calls from landlines to mobiles: Direct to 10-digit mobile number.

Central Emergency Number

123

Firefighters

119

National Police

112

Civil Defense

144

Key	Department
601	Cundinamarca y Bogotá D.C.
602	Cauca, Nariño y Valle del Cauca.
604	Antioquia, Córdoba y Chocó.
605	Atlántico, Bolívar, César, La Guajira, Magdalena y Sucre.
606	Caldas, Quindío y Risaralda.
607	Arauca, Norte de Santander y Santander.
608	Amazonas, Boyacá, Casanare, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía, Huila, Meta, Tolima, Putumayo, San Andrés, Vaupés y Vichada.



Telephone and Internet services

The main operators in Colombia of mobile telephone services are:


Operator	Services
1. Claro	Data, messaging and voice.
2. Movistar	
3. Tigo	
4. Virgin Mobile	
5. Móvil Éxito	
6. Avantel	
7. ETB	
8. Uff Móvil	
9. WOM	

In Colombia there are two ways of accessing the service:

- Prepaid** | In this option no contract with the operator is signed, instead users have to recharge their chip with the amount of money they wish to use for mobile data, messaging and voice services.
- Postpaid** | In this option a contract is signed with the service operator through which a monthly fee is set for mobile data, messaging and voice services.

The main providers of land lines, cable TV and Internet services are:

- a. ETB (optic fiber - cable - land lines)
- b. Claro (Internet - cable - land lines)
- c. Movistar (Internet - cable - land lines)
- d. DirecTV Colombia (only cable)
- e. Tigo-UNE (Internet - cable - land lines)





Embassies, Consulates and Binational Chambers of Commerce

North America

Embassy of the United States: Carrera 45 No. 24B - 27
Phone No.: 57 (1) 275-2000

Embassy of Canada: Carrera 7 No. 114 - 33
Phone No.: 57 (1) 657-9800

Latin America

Embassy of Mexico: Teleport Building Calle 113 No. 7 - 21, Mezzanine
Phone No.: 57 (1) 747-7160

Embassy of Argentina: Carrera 11 B No. 97 - 56 piso 4
Phone No.: 57 (1) 288-0900

Embassy of Brazil: Calle 93 No. 14 - 20, Piso 8
Phone No.: 57 (1) 635-1694

Embassy of Chile: Calle 100 No. 11B - 46
Phone No.: 57 (1) 742-7875

Embassy of Ecuador: Calle 89 No. 13 - 07
Phone No.: 57 (1) 212-6512

Embassy of Perú: Calle 80 A #6-50
Phone No.: 57 (601) 746 2360
Peruvian Consulate

Embassy of Bolivia: Carrera 9B No. 113-37, 57
Phone No.: (601) 612 6700

Europe

Embassy of the United Kingdom: Carrera 9 No. 76 - 49, Piso 8 "
Phone No.: 57 (1) 326-8300

Embassy of France: Carrera 11 No. 93 - 12
Phone No.: 57 (1) 638-1400

Embassy of Spain: Calle 92 No. 12 - 68
Phone No.: 57 (1) 622-0090

Embassy of Germany: Calle 110 No. 9 - 25, piso 11
Torre Empresarial Pacific building, P.H.
Phone No.: 57 (1) 423-2600

Embassy of Russia: Carrera 4 #75-02
Phone No.: 57 (601) 212 1881

Embassy of Denmark: Carrera 13 #93 - 40, 57
Phone No.: (601) 746 8016

Asia and Australia

Embassy of Japan: Carrera 7 No. 71 - 21
Phone No.: 57 (1) 317-5001

Embassy of South Korea: Calle 94 No. 9 - 39
Phone No.: 57 (1) 616-7200

Embassy of India: Calle 116 No. 7 - 15
Phone No.: 57 (1) 637-3259

Embassy of Australia: Avenida Carrera 9 No. 115 - 06
Phone No.: 57 (1) 657-7800

Embassy of the People's Republic of China: Carrera 16 No.98-30
Phone No.: 57 (601) 622 3126

Embassy of Indonesia: Calle 76 #10-02
Phone No.: 57 (601) 755 0334

Did you know that in Bogota you can find Binational Chambers of Commerce?

These include:

Colombian-Peruvian Chamber
Colombian-Indian Chamber
Colombian-Venezuelan Chamber
Colombian- German Chamber
Colombian-Russian Chamber
Colombian-American Chamber
Colombian-French chamber



Banks and exchange offices

In Colombia the regular banking hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and some banks provide services at extended hours and on weekends. Some of the main banks in Colombia are:

Bancolombia



Citibank



Pichincha Bank



Itaú



Scotiabank Colpatria



Davivienda



BBVA



Banco Falabella



Aval Group



Nubank



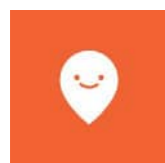
We recommend that you carry out your transactions in authorized exchange offices, hotels or banks; never in the street. Exchange offices are located in different parts of the city:

Name of the Exchange office	Address:	Hours of operation
Aerocambios Exchange office	El Dorado International Airport	24 hours 7 days a week
Atlas Exchange office	Avenida 15 No. 124 - 17 local 120 In front of Unicentro	Monday to Friday 9:00 - 18:30 - Saturdays 9 a.m.-12
Alliance Trade S.A.S	Carrera 10 No. 26 - 71 local 110	Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
EuroDolar Exchange office	Carrera 7 No. 115 - 60 Local C 237 Zona Moderna. C.C Hacienda Santa Bárbara	Monday to Friday 9:00 - 18:30 - Saturday 9:00 - 12:00
New York Money CC Exchange office Avenida Chile	Calle 72 No. 10 - 34 Local 320	Monday to Friday 9:00 - 14:30 - 15:30 - 18:00 - Saturdays 10:30 - 19:30
Express Cambios Ltda	Carrera 15 No. 93 - 60 Local 208	Monday to Friday 9:00 - 17:30



Mobile Apps

Transportation



Moovit: is a global urban mobility application that offers transportation solutions, with navigable maps for all types of vehicles and real-time schedules for accessing public transportation.



TransmiApp: is the official application of Bogotá's integrated public transportation system, Transmilenio S.A., which is used to plan your trip, find routes and stops and check the balance of your TuLlave card.



Tappsi has teamed up with Easy Taxi App to unify the service of both companies. Thus, when requesting a cab, there will be a greater availability for users.



Didi: is the most recent transportation platform in Colombia, which makes it possible to move around the city in an economical way.



Waze is the navigation platform that provides different route options for drivers of all types of vehicles. It also provides information about traffic, accidents and police checkpoints.



Ride the city is the worldwide known application for bicycle users. It is characterized for providing users with extensive knowledge of Bogotá's bicycle routes, indicating the fastest and safest way to reach their destination.



Uber is the most globally recognized platform to call a shared ride and is active in Colombia. Its main advantage is the safety of the platform.

Food



Rappi is currently the most widely used application for home delivery in Colombia. Within its services you can buy products from restaurants, franchises, pharmacies, supermarkets.

One of the benefits of being a user is the option of a credit card, through which you can get discounts on purchases made through the platform.

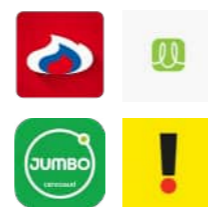


Ifood Colombia is one of the most recent Apps in the Colombian market that includes a large number of restaurants.



Merqueo was created as a website or App. It works as a virtual supermarket, which offers consumers a wide variety of items such as food, toiletries, school supplies, beauty and household items.

Large supermarkets



In Colombia, large **supermarkets** can be found. The Olímpica, Carulla, Jumbo and Éxito stores are four (4) of the most renowned ones and offer home delivery service through their mobile applications.



Cabify has teamed up with Tappsi App to unify the service of both companies, so when you can request a cab or a private car, there will be more options for users.



Google Maps is Google's application to offer satellite images and an image of the streets and roads of the world. It seeks to facilitate the mobility of users by providing them with route options to reach a destination, by public transportation or private vehicle.

Low-cost markets



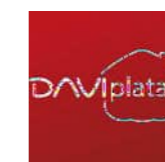
There are also supermarkets such as Ara and D1 whose business model offers lower product prices and a larger number of stores distributed throughout the city.



Other



Nequi as its slogan highlights, is "a free savings account on your cell phone to manage your money at your own pace". It is an innovative application for personal finances that allows you to manage your money virtually without having to pay management fees, wait in line or pay commissions.



Daviplata Davivienda bank's application that allows "easily, quickly and securely" to transfer money from cell phone to cell phone without any additional cost. It is possible to create an account from the APP without having to be a direct member of the bank.



Health care in Colombia

“Every person will be guaranteed initial emergency care. The provision of this service is mandatory and does not require a contract or prior order”. Article 168 of Law 100 of 1993, in accordance with article 67 of Law 715 of 2001 and Law 1751 of 2015.

The Health Social Security System (SGSSS) is an insurance that covers the medical expenses of national and foreign residents of the country, through affiliation to the Health Promoting Entity (EPS) of their choice.

Contributory Regime (mandatory)

All employees, self-employed workers and retirees with income over one (1) legal monthly minimum wage in force are required to contribute to the Contributory Regime. The responsibility for this affiliation is shared between the employer and the worker.

Insured individuals and their families will be entitled to receive all the health services included in the Mandatory Health Plan (POS), which offers a set of services that all EPSs must provide through Health Provider Institutions (IPS).

Prepaid health plan service (private)

In addition to the affiliation to the contributory system, you may voluntarily enroll in the Prepaid Health Plan Service offered by some insurance companies, which will provide you with greater benefits such as personalized attention, reduced attention times, better health specialists, and a broad spectrum of medicines.

Among the companies that provide this service are	
Medplus Medicina Prepagada	Colpatria Medicina Prepagada
Compañía Suramericana de Servicios de Salud (SURA)	Allianz Medicina Prepagada
Colsanitas Medicina Prepagada	

Occupational risks

In case of an accident at the workplace, please note that the company you work for is required to affiliate you to the Occupational Risk Management Company (ARL). Below are the main insurance companies in Colombia:

- ▶ ARL SURA
- ▶ Positiva - ARL
- ▶ Axa Colpatria - ARL
- ▶ Liberty Seguros - ARL

Pharmacies

In Colombia you can find self-service drugstore chains, specialized in medicines, that may offer home delivery service.

These pharmacies include:

- ▶ Farmatodo
- ▶ Locatel
- ▶ Cruz Verde

The following are some of the medical centers certified by the Colombian Institute of Technical Standards and Certification (Icontec Internacional):

City	Hospital's name	Type of care	Type of institution	Address:	Hours of operation	Phone
Bogotá D.C.	Clínica del Occidente S.A.	ER - general medicine	Private	Av. Américas No. 71C-29	24 Hours	(60) (1) 4254620
Bogotá D.C.	Hospital Universitario Santa Fe Foundation	ER - general medicine	Private	Calle 119 No. 7-75	24 Hours	(60) (1) 6030303
Bogotá D.C.	Child Cardio Foundation- Institute of Cardiology	ER - general medicine	Private	Calle 163 A No. 13B-60	24 Hours	60) (1) 6672727
Bogotá D.C.	Reina Sofia Clinic	General and specialized medicine	Private	Carrera 21 No. 127-03	24 Hours	(60) (1) 7436767
Bogotá D.C.	Clínica del Country	General and specialized medicine	Private	Carrera 16 No. 82-57	24 Hours	(60) (1) 5300470
Bogotá D.C.	Shaio Clinic Foundation	ER - general medicine	Private	Diagonal 115 A No. 70 C - 75	24 Hours	(60) (1) 5938210
Bogotá D.C.	Universidad de la Sabana Clinic	ER - general medicine	Private	Av. 19 No 102-53	24 Hours	(60) (1) 6221120



Health care in Colombia

List of certified labs in the Capital District for COVID-19 testing

State
CAJA DE COMPENSACIÓN FAMILIAR COMPENSAR SEDE CLL 26
INSTITUTO DE DIAGNOSTICO MEDICA - IDIME
COLSANITAS MEDICINA PREPAGADA
HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO FUNDACION SANTAFÉ DE BOGOTÁ
CLINICA UNIVERSITARIA COLOMBIA
AYUDAS DIAGNOSTICAS SURA CENTRAL DE PROCESAMIENTO
CAJA DE COMPENSACIÓN FAMILIAR COMPENSAR SEDE CLL 63
CENTRO MEDICO OFTALMOLOGICO Y LABORATORIO CLINICO ANDRADE NARVAEZ COLCAN
HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO SAN IGNACIO
LABORATORIO CLINICO E INMUNOLOGICO LORENA VEJARANO IPS BOGOTA
ESTABLECIMIENTO DE SANIDAD POLICIAL DE MEDIANA COMPLEJIDAD ESPAM BG. EDGAR YESID DUARTE VALERO TORRE B
DIRECCION SANIDAD EJERCITO - LABORATORIO DE REFERENCIA E INVESTIGACIÓN DISAN
SYNLAB COLOMBIA S.A.S.
HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO CLINICA SAN RAFAEL
BIOTECGEN LABORATORIO CLINICO
SINERGIA GLOBAL EN SALUD SAS
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CANCEROLOGIA
FUNDACION CARDIO INFANTIL INSTITUTO DE CARDIOLOGIA
UHMES SANTA CLARA
LABORATORIO INVESTIGACIÓN HORMONAL LIH
SERVICIOS MEDICOS YUNIS TURBAY
GENCELL PHARMA S.A.S.
LABORATORIO MEDICO ECHAVARRIA S.A.S
CLINICA LOS NOGALES
LOS COBOS MEDICAL CENTER S.A.S
FUNDACION ABOOD SHAIQ
UNIDAD DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD SIMÓN BOLÍVAR
CLINICA INFANTIL COLSUBSIDIO
ALIFE HEALTH S.A.S
LABORATORIO CLINICO CAFAM, CENTRAL DE PROCESAMIENTO
SALUDPASS S.A.S
LABORATORIO CENTRAL DE REFERENCIA COLSANITAS
HOSPITAL MILITAR CENTRAL
VIVA 1A IPS SA



For more information, [click here](#).



Driver's licenses in Colombia

Foreigners will have the possibility to use the driver's license of their country of origin in Colombia for 6 months. Once this period has elapsed, they will have to apply for a Colombian driver's license, complying with the same requirements that Colombian citizens have to meet in order to apply for a driver's license:

1. Register in the RUNT.
2. Take a driving course (theoretical and practical hours).
3. Take the final exam of the driving course.
4. Make the payment of the Colombian driver's license.

Validation of licenses

Citizens of Spain, Republic of Peru and Republic of Korea may request the Ministry of Transportation to recognize the driver's license issued in their country of origin, pursuant to Resolution 1244 of April 3, 2019, without the need to comply with the requirements that Colombians and other foreigners have to fulfill in order to request their Colombian driver's license.

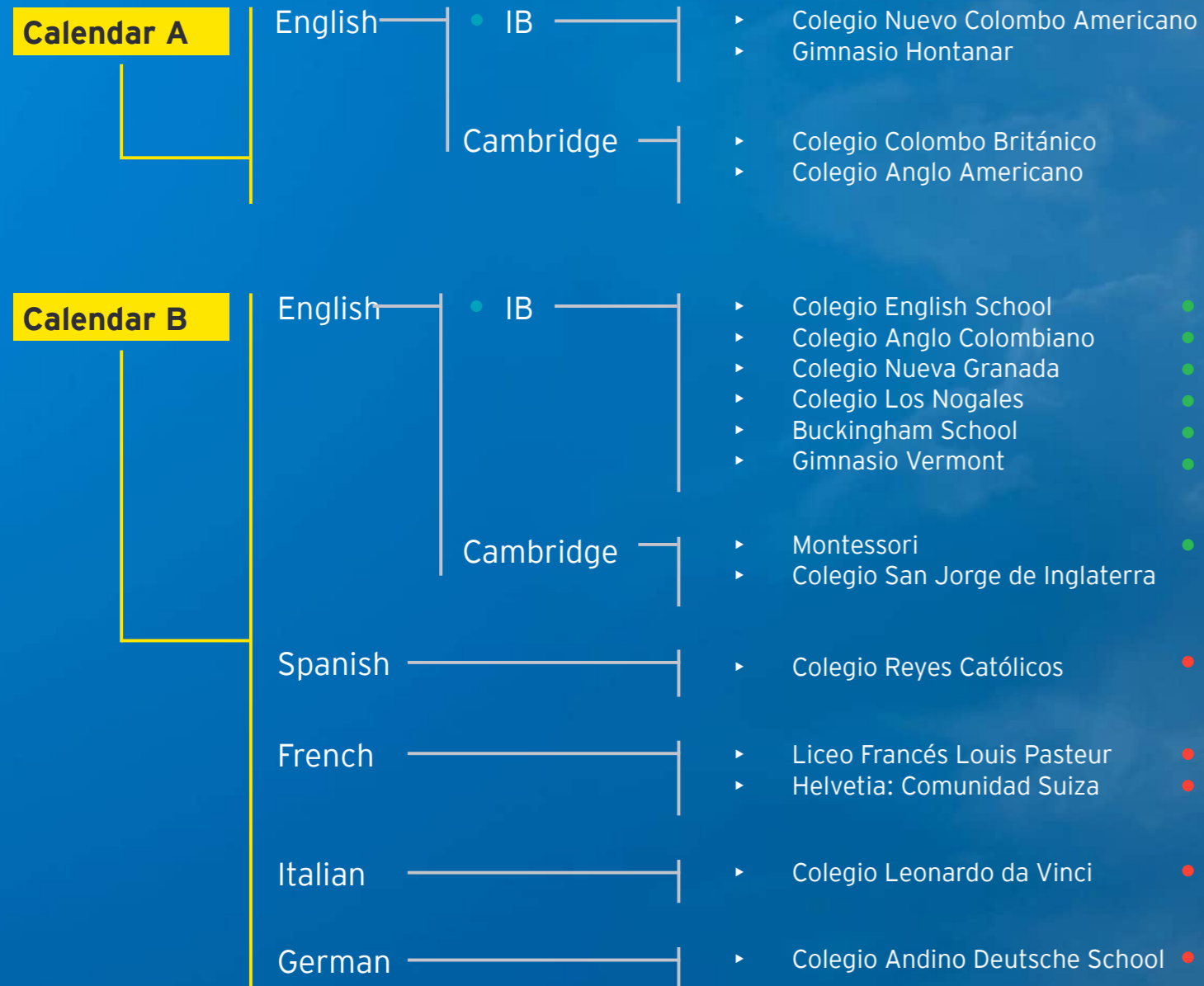




Education

In our country there are two school calendars: A and B -Calendar A runs from January to November, with a break from June to July. On the other hand, Calendar B runs from August to June, with a break from December to January.

Some schools
Recommended by the ICFES¹



¹ICFES: National survey by the Department of Education to assess the quality of education in schools.

International English certificates. ●
Students learn a second language in addition to English. ●
Students learn English as a second language. ●



Overview of Bogotá

Bogota has a population of more than eight million inhabitants, making it the largest metropolitan area in the country. Founded on August 6, 1538, Bogota has been growing exponentially, becoming the political, academic, economic, financial and cultural center of Colombia.

Click on the map to get detailed information about Bogotá's location.



Surface: 1.775 km²

Altitude: 2,640 meters above sea level, in the eastern Andes mountain range, in the center of the country.

Tipping: Tipping is voluntary; however, it is customary to leave 10% of the total bill. In the case of restaurants, this 10% is usually included in the bill (if you authorize it).

Use of electronic devices: The voltage used in Colombia is 120V with a frequency of 60Hz, the same as the United States or Canada. The plugs have the same standard shape; in these countries, the vast majority of devices use two flat pins.

Means of transportation



Transmilenio

These can be articulated or bi-articulated and red and they transport users between trunk lines and portals.



SITP

Blue buses. These buses travel on the main roads of the city, where there are no Transmilenio trunk lines.



Private vehicles

Vehicular restriction Pico y Placa schedule: Monday to Friday 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Payment methods, fares and Apps:

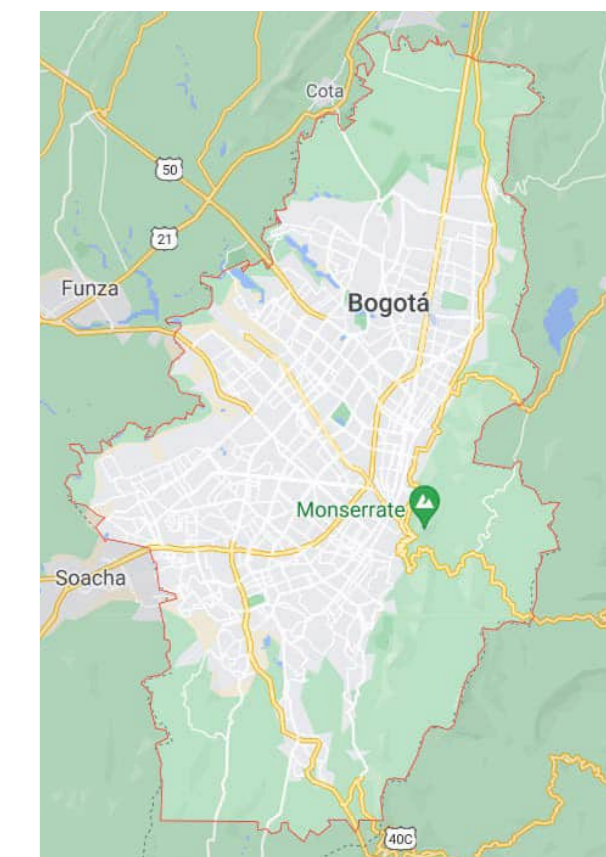
To use the entire Integrated Public Transport System (SITP), it is necessary to purchase a TuLLave card. It is available on all stations of Transmilenio and its cost is \$6,000 COP, equivalent to approximately \$1.47 USD.

	Fare in COP	Fare in USD
Tarjeta Tu Llave	\$5.000	\$1.60
Pasaje Transmilenio	\$2.500	\$0.76
Zonal*	\$2.300	\$0.63
Transbordo	\$400	\$0.12
Transbordo tarjeta personalizada	\$0	\$0

These fares are subject to changes.

***These fares include Urban, Feeder, Supplementary and Special Service buses.**

Google Maps offers a more detailed visualization of the city. [Click here](#)





General map of the public transportation system, Bogotá

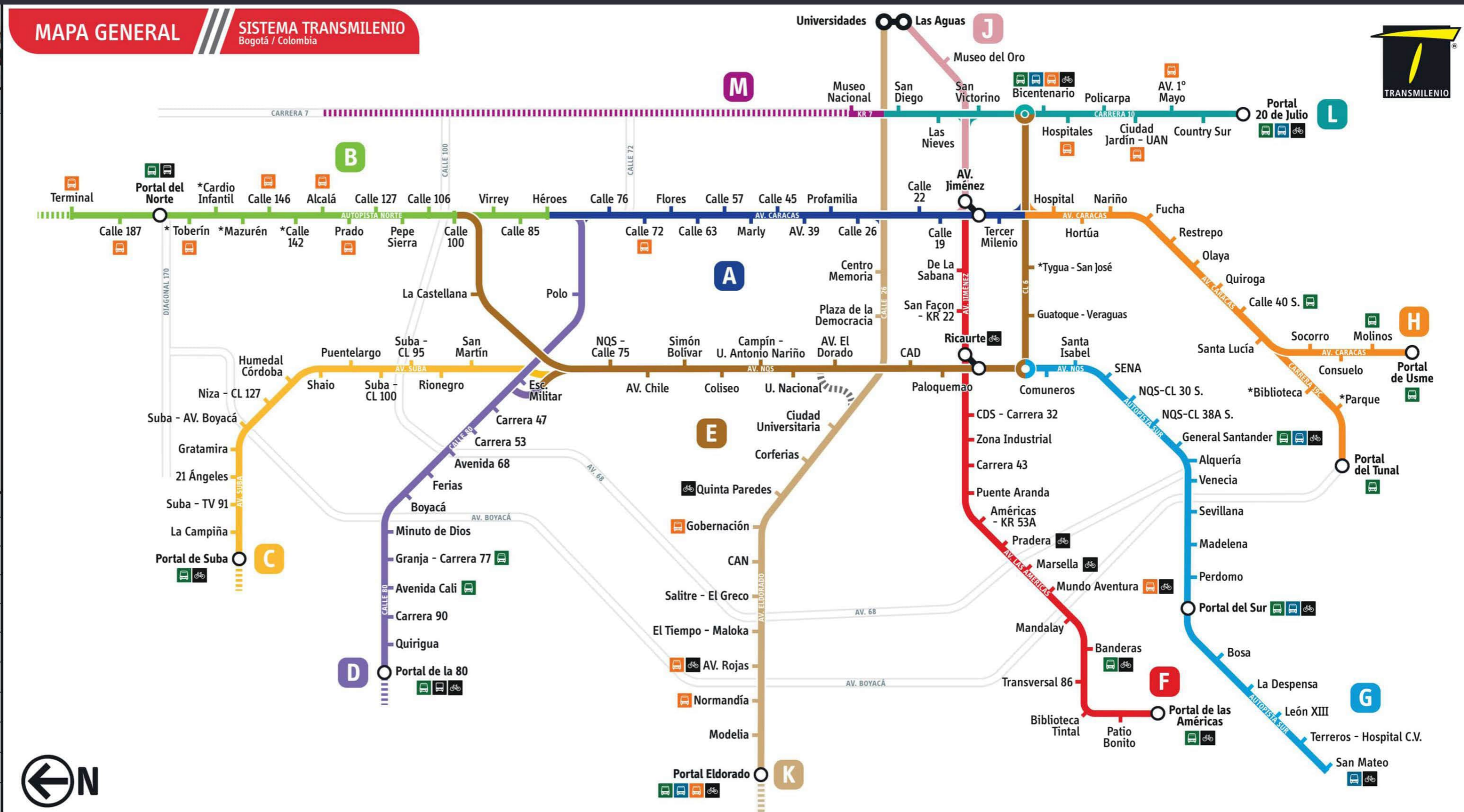


Zonas:

A	Caracas
B	Norte
C	Suba
D	CL 80
E	NQS Central
F	Américas
G	NQS Sur
H	Caracas Sur
J	Eje Ambiental
K	CL 26
L	KR 10
M	KR 7

Convenciones:

	Servicio Alimentador
	Servicio Complementario
	Servicio Urbano
	Bus Intermunicipal
	Corredor Bus dual KR 7
	Corredor Bus dual CL 26
	Corredor Bus dual AV. Suba
	Conexión troncal por tráfico mixto
	Estación de intercambio troncal
	Estación sin intercambio





Outdoor activities

Chingaza National Natural Park 🌿

Located one hour away from Bogotá in the eastern Andes mountain range, this natural park stands out for its paramo ecosystem, its predominant mountains, streams and lagoons. Activities such as hiking, camping and wildlife observation are available for nature lovers.

Santa Ana La Aguadora Trail 🌿

Located in the northeast of Bogota, in the Santa Barbara neighborhood, it takes approximately 3 hours and 20 minutes to complete it. All visitors can enter free of charge.

Chorro de Quevedo 🌿

It is a square where the military garrison of Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada was established. In this place it is surrounded by cafes, restaurants, and craft shops.

Monserate 🌿

The Monserrate hill is the best known of the Eastern hills of Bogotá. In this place is the basilica of the Lord of Monserrate, which has been a place of religious pilgrimage since colonial times and is a natural, religious, gastronomic attraction of the city.

La vieja Creek Trail 🌿

Trail located in the Rosales neighborhood in the city of Bogota, and known by the community as a place for physical activity in an environment far away from the noise of the capital.

There is no access fee but a previous registration is required. Recommended for people who enjoy mornings, since the trail is open from 5:00 am to 9:00 am on weekdays and from 6:00 am to 11:00 am on weekends.

La Chorrera Adventure Park 🌿

Located in the municipality of Choachí, 45 minutes away from Bogotá. It offers ecotourism, agrotourism and adventure sports. It has two predominant waterfalls, one of them known as the highest waterfall in Colombia.

Parque del Chicó 🌿

Park and museum located in the north of the city, declared a district cultural place.





Indoor activities

Super Karts

For those who like speed, Super Karts is an option to enjoy with friends and family. It is located in the Hayuelos and Santa Fe shopping centers in Bogotá, in the west and north parts of the city, respectively.

Summit Adventure Park

Indoor park located on Calle 80, west of Bogota. It includes various games for both children and adults, such as springboards, climbing walls with harnesses, and a soccer field.

La futbolera

A place where you can find synthetic soccer fields and bowling area to share an afternoon with friends and family, located in El Rosario neighborhood near the El Campin Stadium.

Maloka

It is an interactive museum that fosters a passion for learning based on the links between science, technology, innovation and society. Recommended for children.

Museo Botero

It is a museum that has one of the most important art collections designed by Fernando Botero that can be found in Latin America.

Bogotá Planetarium

Cultural center located in downtown Bogota where activities related to astronomy are held. It is also known to be a museum and library.

Gold Museum

A museum recognized for having the largest collection of pre-Hispanic goldsmiths in the world. I was designated by National Geographic magazine in 2018 as one of the best museums in the world.

Museo Nacional

It is a museum created in 1823 and is one of the oldest in America. It offers its visitors seventeen permanent exhibition halls, in which around 2,500 works and objects are exhibited, symbols of history and national heritage.

Plaza de mercado de La Perseverancia

Typical market square of the city of fruits, vegetables, and representative foods of the country.






Academic institutions


Language Centers

Below are some of the language and culture centers available in Bogotá:


English

[British Council](#) 

French

[Alianza Francesa](#) 

Portuguese

[Brazil-Colombia Cultural Institute - IBRACO](#) 

Korean

[Asia - Iberoamerica Cultural Foundation - Sejona Institute](#) 



POPULAR SLANG



Aguardiente - Guaro

Baby - Guagua - Pelao

Bag - Talego - Chuspa

Beer - Pola - Birra - Chela

Boredom - Jartera - Mamera Booze - Guaro

Clever - Avispado - Pilo

Concert - Toque

Cry - Chillar - Berrear

Damn - ¡Paila!

Dark coffee - Tinto

Do a favor - Hacer un catorce

Don't expose yourself - No des papaya

Drunk person - Jincho - Ebrio

Faked - Solapado

Formal you - Sumercé - Mijo

Friend - Parce - Pana - Bacán - Parcerero - Hermano

Funny - Charro - Gracioso

Popcorn - Maíz Pira - Palomitas

Good - Chévere - Súper

Greeting - Quiubo - Qué más - Qué más pues

Guapa - Churra

Hangover - Guayabo

Heartbreak - Tusa

In love - Tragado

Latte - Perico - Pintado

Man - Tipo - Man

Miser - Tacaño - Chichipato - Líchico

Money - Plata - Lucas

Schedule - Cuadrar

Shame - Boleta - Oso

Spoil - Embarrar

Stiff when dancing - Tieso - Tronco

Stomach - Barriga - Panza

Swimsuits - Chinge

Thing - Vaina

To party - Rumbear - Parrandear

To work - Camellar

Woman - Chica - Vieja

Gentilic

Antioquia: antioqueño - paisa

Bogotá: bogotano - rolo - cachaco

Boyacá: boyacense

Caldas: caldenses

Chocó: chocoano

Costa caribe: costeño

Cundinamarca: cundinamarqués

Huila: huilense - opita

La Guajira: guajiro

Nariño: nariñense - pastuso

Norte de Santander: norsantandereano

Quindío: quindiano - paisa

Risaralda: risaraldense - paisa

San Andrés y Providencia: sanandresano

Santander: santandereano

Tolima: tolimense - pijao

Valle del cauca: vallecaucano - caleño

POPULAR SLANG



Creative Team

We are pleased to bring you this guide thanks to the work and research of the EY Colombia team:



Carlos Mario Sandoval
People Advisory Services
(PAS) Leader
EY Colombia and Mexico



Jonathan Valencia
Senior Manager
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



María Ramón
Manager
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Juan Mercado
Senior
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Angie Infante
Senior
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Natalia Pedraza
Senior
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



María Alejandra Bravo
Senior
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Carlos Doval
Staff
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Stefannie Acero
Staff
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Andrés Medina
Staff
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Sofía Alvis Valderrama
Intern
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Juan David Echeverry
Intern
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



Yuly Gómez
Administrative Entry
People Advisory Services
EY Colombia



César Sánchez
Senior Marketing Planner
Brand, Marketing &
Communications
EY Colombia



EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws.

For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

© 2022-2023 EYGM Limited.
All Rights Reserved.

Contact us

Carlos Mario Sandoval 
People Advisory Services (PAS) Leader
EY Colombia and Mexico
Phone No.: +57 1 484 7397
carlos.sandoval@co.ey.com

Jonathan Valencia 
People Advisory Services (PAS) Senior Manager
EY Colombia
Phone No.: +57 1 484 7103
jonathan.valencia@co.ey.com

María Ramón 
People Advisory Services (PAS) Senior Manager
EY Colombia
maria.ramon@co.ey.com



Building a better
working world