

WELCOME TO
MEDELLÍN!

WEL- COME!

We are delighted to welcome you to Medellín, Colombia. The following welcome pack is intended to help you learn more about the city of Medellín, colombian culture and what to expect from your time on the program. All information will be complemented with a full welcome upon your arrival to Medellín!

MEDELLÍN

Known as the city of eternal spring, Medellín is a dynamic metropolis that has undergone a cultural and socio-economic transformation in recent years.

This 340-year-old capital of Antioquia Department, located 1,538 meters above sea level and boasting a year round temperate climate that ranges from between 18 to 28 degrees Celsius (64 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit), is Colombia's second city both economically and in terms of number of inhabitants.

The Medellín metropolitan area, which comprises 10 municipalities located in the Aburrá Valley, is currently home to roughly 3,800,000 inhabitants.

This urban conglomerate in northwestern Colombia (nestled amid the Andes' Cordillera Central range), hosts world-class events such as the Flower Festival, the International Poetry Festival, the Medellín Book and Culture Festival, Colombia Moda and Colombiatex. We recommend you to have a look at this local guide designed by the local government. It is very complete.

<https://www.guiaturisticademedellin.com/?lang=en>



Dress

In Medellin you can wear almost anything because the weather is so good. Jeans, trousers, polo shirts, collared long sleeve shirts and t-shirts are standard attire. For the ladies jeans, pants, dresses, casual tops and comfortable shoes are generally worn.

Trainers/sneakers are quite common. You will not see a lot of people wearing shorts or walking in sandals/flip flops, unless it is a Sunday!.

Due to the weather, people never use coats or jackets, just be sure to bring some jumpers or hoodies to keep you warm in the rainy days. To get in to clubs you generally must dress nicely (it depends on the club) but jeans, shirt and some nice though not too elegant shoes would be best.



Personal Identification

You are NOT required to carry your actual passport with you at all times while you are in Colombia. You MUST, however, carry some sort of identification at ALL TIMES. A copy of your passport is best but a driver license is acceptable as well.



Tap water in Medellin is completely safe to drink.

Taxis & Transport

There are plenty of taxis in Medellin and they are cheap. During the morning it's very easy to take a taxi, however from 5 to 7 PM it is difficult to get a cab on a good day and nearly impossible if it is raining. The minimum ride in a taxi costs \$3 dollars plus \$0,40 cents for every 79 meters. It is best to call for a taxi rather than just picking one at random on the street. Just dial from your phone (034)3111111 or (034)4444444.

There are much cheaper ways or transportation like buses and metro. There are plenty of different buses which have different routes covering all Medellin metropolitan area. Buses are \$0.80 cents and you pay directly to the driver.



The fastest way is by Metro, Medellin has a fantastic metro that runs from one end of the city to the other (Crossing the city from north to south). They also have a cable car that goes up into the mountains. The metro costs \$1 dollar each way and you buy the tickets in any station.

In general, moving around Medellín is cheap. And you won't be going very long distances during your normal week activities. In order to get around safely and easily, you will have a card with your address on it.

**Metro hours: mon-sat 4:30 am - 11:00 pm,
sun 5:00 am - 10 pm**



Money Matters

Currency: Local currency is the Colombian peso (COP), available in bills in the following denominations: 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, and 50,000, with 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000-pesos coins. The USD-COP conversion is approximately 1900COP for 1 USD. Credit cards are widely accepted, though not so, traveler's checks.



Please [click this link](#) to see a real time exchange rate between the Colombian peso & US Dollar.

An average taxi costs \$5USD for a 20 minute ride. A regular meal during lunch time could be \$5USD. A nice dinner in a fancy place could be \$8 - \$15USD. A beer costs \$2USD in a liquor store and \$4USD in a club.

A pack of Marlboro is around \$2USD. Cinema is more or less \$7USD depending on the day.

Generally a club ticket could go all the way up to 15 USD.

Obviously you can spend more depending on what you want to buy. Clothes and trainers are good value here as in Medellin many brands are made under licence such as Levis, Diesel, Fiorucci, Americanino, Naf Naf, Esprit, Chevignon and Girbaud.

- Banks: Monday through Friday 8 AM to 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Some bank branches and branches at shopping malls and chain stores offer extended hours.
- Shopping: Monday through Saturday 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, usually extended to 9:00 PM at shopping malls. Sundays to 7:00 PM.
- Restaurants, bars, and cafes: Monday through Saturday 11:00 AM to 1:00 AM.
- Businesses: Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 12 noon and 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Arrival & Contact Information

When you arrive in Colombia you will need to show the immigration authorities your passport and the immigration letter we will send you. Upon arrival you show this immigration letter at the counter and they will stamp you a TEMPORAL VISITANTE Visa.

This will give you permission to stay in the country for 90 days, if your program is longer than 90 days, you will be required to renew your visa for an extra 90 days. **Note:** you cannot stay for more than 180 day in a calendar year.

It is a very simple process and you will have our full supporting this process, we'll

go to the immigration offices with another letter stating that you wish to extend your internship and they will stamp you another permit for up to 90 days.

When asked your address in Medellin by the immigration authorities please say our company address:

Calle 8 #43A-49. B. Astorga, El poblado.

Airport pickup

You will be picked up by our driver on arrival in Medellin. Do not worry if your flights are delayed – we are in constant contact with the airport so this will be taken into account.

You will be greeted with your name on a board and driven to your accommodation.



Location

Medellín is not a big city like London, NYC, etc, therefore your accommodation is located 20 – 40 minutes from your workplace. There are some companies very close from our accommodations and will take you 10 minutes walking to get there. If you wish to study Spanish, our partnered university is located in el Poblado within a walking distance from our accommodation. Our principal consideration is your security, so we place you in the safest residential neighbourhood.

Housemates

It is your responsibility to talk any problems over with house mates and to try and have a nice, harmonic cohabitation. If you have problems with internet connection, hot water, and stuff related you can contact us and we will speak to the owner of the place to make sure this situations is solved ASAP.



Punctuality & Society

Poor punctuality is common throughout the entire country and should be expected in both social and even business occasions. Do not be surprised if your work colleagues are impunctual. Also, do not be surprised by different standards of political correctness. It is recommended to adjust your standards of what you might normally be offended by. Colombians are generally warm, lovely and friendly people but culturally can be quite open to jokes, which while innocent to them, can be interpreted as hurtful so do bear this in mind.

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Security

While you will be living in a safe, local area pick-pockets and thieves are common in Buenos Aires and often venture into even the nicest areas of the city.

Blend in, dress normally and do not act ostentatiously or draw unwanted attention to yourself.

Interns are recommended to keep their valuables and important documents in hotel safety deposit boxes. Follow common sense rules, and keep to well-referenced tourist areas recommended. Avoid walking down the street with fancy watches or jewelry, especially at night. Try not to text or talk by phone while walking in the streets. Do not carry your expensive camera hanged of your shoulders, if you want to take a picture just take out the camera of your backpack and then save it again. **KEEP A LOW PROFILE** and everything will be fine.

Cultural Activities

Medellin has various cultural activities: theaters, concerts, films, lectures, art exhibits, museums, libraries, among others.

City theaters:

Teatro Metropolitano, Teatro Pablo Tobon Uribe, Teatro Porfirio Barbal, Teatro al aire libre Carlos Vico, Auditorio Fundadores EAFIT, Teatro Universidad de Medellín, among others.

City museums:

Museo de Antioquia, where you can appreciate the art collection of Fernando Botero, Casa Museo Pedro Nel Gómez, Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Museo el Castillo, Museo Etnográfico Miguel Ángel Builes, Museo Antropológico de la Universidad de Antioquia, Museo Etnográfico de la Madre Laura, Museo Filatélico del Banco de la República, among others.

Malls:

the most visited are: Santafé, Oviedo, El Tesoro, Premium Plaza and San Diego. All shopping malls have cinemas.

Libraries::

Biblioteca España, Biblioteca Pública Piloto, Biblioteca Luis Echavarría Villegas de la Universidad EAFIT, among others.

Festivals and Annual Events

- Feria Taurina de la Candelaria: February.
- Feria Exposición Internacional de la Orquídeas y Pascua Florida: April.
- Festival internacional de Poesía: June.
- Feria de las flores: August. Among the events we have: desfile de silleteros, festival de la trova, desfile de autos antiguos and many others.
- Feria Exposición Nacional Equina: August.
- Desfile de Danzas, Mitos y Leyendas de Antioquia: December.



Facts

- Colombia does not have seasons; because it is near the equator, it has sunlight throughout the year.
- Colombia hosts the second largest carnival in the world (Carnaval de Barranquilla)
- Experts believe that 3000 out of the 14000 species of butterflies are found in Colombia.
- Colombia produces 60% of the world's most expensive Emeralds.
- Colombia is the home country for many famous people such as Shakira and the famous writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
- Colombia is the only country in South America that has access to both the Pacific and Caribbean ocean.
- The highest peak in Colombia is the Pico Cristobal Colon at 5797 meters.
- The official language is Spanish, but there is other 64 Native tongues still in use.
- Colombia is the second largest fresh cut flower exporter in the world.

Other information of interest

- Electric power: 110 volts, American-type wall fixtures.
- Single number emergency reporting by dialing a single number, 123, anyone can get in touch.
- with police and traffic police, fire department military, and health services to report any and all emergencies.
- You must be at least 18 years old to drink alcohol and buy cigarettes.
- Medellín's local time is (UTC-05:00) Bogotá, Lima, Quito time zone.



Hello – Hola!

Here are some useful phrases to use at customs:

- **A baggage cart** — Un carrito para maletas
- **Do you speak english?** — ¿Habla usted inglés?
- **Good morning** — Buenos días
- **Here is my passport** — Aquí tiene mi pasaporte
- **How much does it cost?** — ¿Cuánto cuesta?
- **How long will it be delayed?** — ¿Cuánto tiempo habrá de retraso?
- **Here is the invitation letter** — Aquí tiene la carta de invitación
- **I am visiting Colombia for the 1st time** — Estoy visitando Colombia por primera vez
- **I am here to study Spanish** — Estoy acá para estudiar español
- **I am here to do an internship** — Estoy aquí para realizar una pasantía.
- **I am missing a suitcase** — Me falta una maleta
- **I do not have anything to declare** — No tengo nada que declarar
- **I am American/Spanish/British** — Soy norteamericano/español/británico
- **I am staying six weeks** — Me quedaré aquí seis semanas
- **I don't understand Spanish** — No entiendo Español
- **I need to make a call please** — Necesito hacer una llamada por favor.
- **My address is...** — Mi dirección es...
- **My documents** — Mis documentos
- **My name is** — Mi nombre is...
- **These are my suitcases** — Estas son mis maletas
- **Where is the bathrooms?** — ¿Dónde están los baños?
- **Where can I claim my luggage** — ¿Dónde puedo reclamar mi equipaje?
- **Where is the duty-free shop?** — ¿Dónde está la tienda libre de impuestos?
- **What is the purpose of your visit?** — ¿Cual es el propósito de su visita?

Support

A sta member will be on-hand 24/7 - if you need advice, help or emergency support at any point during your stay.

+573205667368

- **Company adress:**

Calle 8 #43A-49. B. Astorga, El Poblado.

Phone: 3003549354 or (4) 4481322

Arrival Induction & Welcome Pack

In case you arrive to Medellín after 11pm Colombian time your induction will be given to you the next day. You will be picked up by our driver at the airport as normal and let into your accommodation by the other people who live there. They will be expecting your arrival. You will get so much more out of your time in Medellín if you make an effort and try to speak Spanish at all times. We thoroughly recommend taking Spanish classes, especially before but also during your internship. Once you have basic Spanish, you will find your work colleagues far more willing to speak with you in the Spanish language. As with everything, be proactive and search for every opportunity to improve your Spanish!

The Intern
Group



Realize your potential