

CARTAGENA

Known as the Heroic, Cartagena de Indias is a city full of history in its streets and dwellers. Founded in 1533 by the Spaniard Don Pedro de Heredia, it was once the most important port of the Americas.

Its excellent location and military fort made a safe haven for treasures and wealth of the Spanish Crown. A majestic fence of walls and forts was built around it to defend it from constant pirate attacks, and now frames the history of a colonial city.

Its historic downtown, known as Corralito de Piedras, is filled with houses and balconies displaying the architecture of a Spanish villa in Colonial times.

UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Center because it is a city full of history.

Cartagena de Indias was the first province to become independent from the Spanish Crown on November 11, 1811. This date is remembered and celebrated as Independence day.



AIRPORT

Cartagena de Indias' International Airport Rafael Nuñez is located only 15 minutes away from the touristic/hotel area and 10 minutes from the walled city. It receives direct flights from Madrid, Spain, Miami, Florida, Bogotá, Medellín and many other international destinations.

It has a runway of 2600 meters at sea level with sufficient capacity for modern transatlantic airplanes to operate without problems.

It has parking capacity for 11 airplanes in platform as well as an open sky policy for charter flights.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Transcaribe, (Integrated Transportation System of the District of Cartagena de Indias) is currently under construction and shall change the city's urban landscape drastically. It is based on a Bus Rapid Transit system where mid-size buses transport users to transfer terminals, where main routes consisting of large articulated buses circulate through bus/preferential lanes, bringing users to their final destinations.



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY CONDITIONS

Temperature ranges between 20 to 37 degrees centigrade.

Tropical Humid (+90%)

Winter:

May to November

Summer:

December to April

Windy Season:

December to March



CONGRESS SITE

The Congress will be held at Centro Internacional de Convenciones y Exposiciones Las Américas. This convention center has ample and comfortable installations with cutting edge technology, and all facilities and services for participants and to feel comfortable during their whole stay in Cartagena.



SHOPPING

While enjoying a stroll through the walled city, or the Bocagrande and Laguito area, you can buy famous Colombian emeralds, coffee, handcrafts, antiques, designer clothes, typical sweets and endless souvenirs that enable taking Cartagena with you wherever you go.

Likewise, the city has plenty of chain stores and modern shopping centers where one can acquire famous brands, or simply have a good time nearby.



CONGRESS LANGUAGE

The congress' official language is Spanish.



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE No

The telephone number for emergency or for the national police in the city of Cartagena is 123.



CURRENCY AND TAXES

The currency used in Colombia is the Colombian Peso. The country charges an added value tax, IVA, which can be reclaimed to visitors at the airport.



RESTAURANTS

Cartagena de Indias, because of its international nature, has several restaurants specialized in Arab, Chinese, Italian and French cuisine among others.

Among local dishes are empanadas con huevo, butifarras, carimañolas, mote de queso, arroz con coco, meat or fish sancochos, etc.

At Portal de Los Dulces, located downtown, you can taste traditional sweets made from coconut, milk, tamarind and native fruits.

[Meets](#)

[Local Cuisine](#)

[Spanish Cuisine](#)

[International Cuisine](#)



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[Fast Food](#)
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TAXIS

Telephone No. for taxi service in Cartagena de Indias: +57 (5) 674-2400

HEALTH SERVICES



Ambulances

Red Cross: 132 - 6625311
I.S.S.: 133 - 6675244
Hospital information: 111
Health services: 125
Toxicology: 136
Hospital Universitario: 6697308
Hospital Naval de Cartagena: 6653987

Transit and Transportation

Department Transit: 126
District Transit: 127
Road Police: 6617197



Police

National Police: 112
D.A.S.: 153
CASI: 156
Emergency: 119

Public Services

Electricity: 172 - 6619875

Aguas de Cartagena: 116

Surtigás: 164

Other

Airport: 6666610

Touristic Information: 6654243

Lifesaver station in Cartagena: 6550316

Links of Interest



Currency converter: www.conversordivisas.org