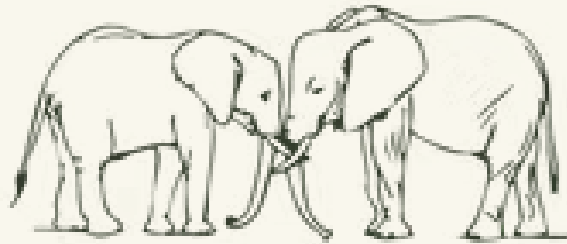


MANUELA & STEFAN

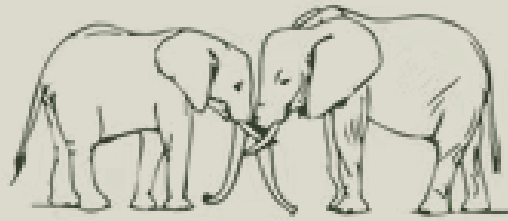
December 12th, 2026



BOGOTÁ & COLOMBIA

TRAVEL GUIDE

Helpful tips from your hosts



WELCOME TO COLOMBIA

Our "*tierrita*" is a country of contrasts: mountains, lush nature, and a vibrant culture. More than a destination, it is an **experience.**

For many of you, this will be your first time here and that makes it even more special.

These small tips are meant to help you move around with ease, better understand the context, and fully enjoy.

MONEY & CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The local currency is the Colombian peso (COP).

As a general reference:

1 USD \approx 3,800 - 4,200 COP

(this may vary slightly)

While cards are widely accepted, Colombia is still a country where cash plays an important role in everyday life.

A few useful tips:

- Avoid exchanging money at the airport or in hotels, as rates are usually less favorable
- Prefer ATMs located inside banks or shopping centers
- Always carry some cash, especially for short rides or small places

A practical detail:

larger bills can sometimes be difficult to break, so having smaller denominations is helpful.

GETTING AROUND IN BOGOTÁ

Bogotá is a large and dynamic city.

The most comfortable and reliable way to get around is through apps like **Uber** or **Cabify**. They work well, are easy to use, and help avoid any confusion with fares.

Taking taxis directly from the street is not the most recommended option, especially at night.

One important thing to keep in mind: **traffic** can be heavy. A short distance does not always mean a short ride, so it is worth planning with extra time.

RENTING A CAR

If you are planning to explore Colombia beyond the city, renting a car can be a wonderful option.

However, within Bogotá and other big cities, it is usually unnecessary and often not the most practical choice. Traffic, driving dynamics, and unfamiliarity with the city can make it more stressful than helpful.

If you do decide to drive outside the city: mountain roads, while beautiful, require attention and care.

SAFETY

Like in any major city in the world, it is more about awareness than concern.

A very Colombian expression is:
"no dar papaya."

What does it mean?

Simply put, it means not putting yourself in an unnecessarily vulnerable situation.

Simple examples:

- Avoid using your phone distractedly in the street
 - Do not leave valuables visible
 - Keep your belongings close
-

BOGOTÁ'S ALTITUDE

Bogotá sits at approximately **2,600 meters above sea level.**

It is completely normal to feel it at first.

A few recommendations:

- Stay well hydrated
- Take it easy on your first day
- Avoid excessive alcohol at the beginning

RESTAURANTS & TIPPING

In many restaurants, a 10% service charge is already included in the bill. If it is not, it is customary to add it voluntarily.

HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

For travelers coming from Europe or the U.S., there are no mandatory vaccinations to enter Colombia.

However, according to official recommendations (such as the German Foreign Office and the WHO), it is advisable to:

- Be up to date with **standard vaccinations** (tetanus, diphtheria, measles)
- Consider the yellow fever vaccine if traveling to tropical or jungle regions

For Bogotá and most urban itineraries, this is generally not required, but **consulting your doctor before traveling is always recommended.**

PRACTICAL DETAILS

1. **Having mobile data makes everything easier:** transportation, maps, communication.

The easiest way to stay connected is through an **international eSIM**, with well-reviewed providers such as **Airalo** or **Holafly**, allowing you to activate your plan before arrival and connect immediately upon landing.

For those who prefer a more local option, **prepaid SIM** cards are also available upon arrival, with providers like **Claro, Movistar, or Tigo**, found in shopping centers, airports, or official stores.

2. **Download offline maps**

3. **Carry a copy of your passport** and keep the original in a safe place

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY:

COLOMBIA

IS NOT JUST VISITED...

IT IS FELT.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT.

