

COLOMBIA & COPA AIRLINE



COLOMBIA	"Colombia is Magical realism" Colombia is bursting onto the Tourism scene with its rich heritage, undiscovered Caribbean coastline and perfect weather way south of the hurricane belt. Colombia has many different facets with many different regions and attractions: CULTURE: Cartagena, Bogota and Medellin offer the best in museums, history, dining, and more. The Coffee Cultural Landscape offers you the opportunity to live the culture of coffee that is so engrained in Colombia's history. And Cali is the world capital of salsa music and dancing.
	SUN AND BEACH: Colombia has coasts on two oceans, both with stunning beaches. ADVENTURE AND NATURE: There are many adventure hubs in
	Colombia with activities from rafting to mountain climbing.
	The magnificent destination of Cartagena in Colombia is a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and Cartagena promises an extraordinary vacation. The colonial city within stone fortifications offers historical treasures. And there are modern, luxurious hotels, beautiful beaches, diverse restaurants, exciting excursions and a vibrant nightlife. The city was one of the first sanctuaries of freed African slaves in the Americas and is currently populated by an ethnic mix representative of Colombia's own variety. Cartagena is located on Colombia's northern coast, facing the Caribbean Sea. Nearby coral reefs, powdery beaches, impressive mangroves, and waterways complement the historic and urban beauty.
	The Colombian Island of San Andres is a miniature paradise in the southernmost Caribbean. Perfect beaches, warm waters that are home to many fish and coral, excellent water-sports, diving and ecotourism await you by day - and music and dancing by night.
Location	Colombia is situated in South America, and bordered to the north by the Caribbean Sea; Panamá and the Pacific Ocean are to the west, Brazil and Venezuela to the east, and Peru and Ecuador to the south.
Geography	Colombia has five natural regions, each virtually a country unto itself:
	The Caribbean This region extends for 1.600 km along the Caribbean coast. It comprises desert on the peninsula of La Guajira; mountains covered by rainforest and perennial snow that form the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the highest coastal mountain in the world (5.770 meters above sea level); cienagas (swamps) and plains in the departments of



Magdalena, Cesar and Sucre; bays with white sandy beaches such as the Gulf of Morrosquillo; jungles in the Gulf of Uraba, and a dazzling view of the Caribbean.

Near Cartagena lie the archipelagos of Rosario and San Bernardo, coral paradises with islets of mangrove. Some 700 km from the coast, the archipelago of San Andres and Old Providence forms an oasis of life amid the sea, with islands, keys and reefs spread over 500 km.

The Andes

The longest mountain range in the world, the Andes enters Colombia in the Nudo de los Pastos in the south of the country, where it divides into two. In the Colombian Massif, the country's main hydrographic star, it separates into three mountain chains that cross Colombia from south to north and create a rugged terrain, with peaks higher than 5.300 meters above sea level, expansive highland plains, deep canyons and broad valleys.

These three mountain chains, crowned by perennial snow, boggy paramos, Andean rainforests, deserts and marshes, produce terrain that varies with altitude and whose fertile soils support an immense variety of crops. They are also where the majority of the country's population live.

The Pacific Coast

Stretching for 1.300 km, the Pacific coast is one of the wettest regions on Earth, with a rainfall of over 10.000 mm3 per year. The northern part, where the hills of Baudó sink into the ocean forming bays and sounds, is a jungle region of great biodiversity. The flatter south is bordered by cliffs and beaches lined with mangrove and crossed by wide rivers. Located 56 km. from the coast, the islands of Gorgona and Gorgonilla — one of the country's national parks — are sanctuaries of flora and fauna. Their waters are visited by enormous humpbacked whales arriving from the South Pacific, while more than 300 km. from the coast, the island rock of Malpelo emerges from the depths of the ocean, surrounded by remarkable underwater life.

The Orinoquia

This vast region, which extends as far as the river Orinoco on the border with Venezuela, is a plain that spreads out eastwards, its savannas spotted with scrub and riverain forests. Crossed by broad rivers, the Orinoquia covers over 230.000 km2, representing 20% of the country. The Serrania de La Macarena rises in the southwest, a formation independent of the Andes and endowed with an immense biodiversity, in which natural elements of the Andes, the Amazon and the Orinoquia merge.



Name Population	The Amazon Of the 6.8 million km2 of jungle that make up the Amazon basin, 400.000 km2 belong to Colombia. This immense region, considered the lung of the Earth and one of the largest genetic banks of animal and vegetable species, is inhabited by numerous Indian communities who continue to preserve their ancestral way of life. The country name "Colombia" comes from Christopher Columbus. 48 million Colombia has the third largest population in South America - 60% Mestizo, 20% of European descent, 5% Afro-Colombian, 14% mixed African and Indian blood and 1% pure Indian. The diversity of races has produced not only cultural riches but also an intelligent, hard-working people, cheerful and hospitable, who enjoy one of the highest educational levels in South America and a literacy rate of over 92%.
Language	Spanish, although much English is spoken in the resort areas.
Currency	The Colombian peso (COL\$) is the official currency. Money is denominated in notes of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, and 50,000, and coins of 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 pesos. Currently, the exchange rate is COL\$1,940 to \$1 as at 1 st Dec 2014 Unlike in other Latin-American countries, the U.S. dollar is not widely accepted in Colombia, except in a few super-high-end establishments. You can convert your currency in upscale hotels, at casas de cambio (money-exchange houses), at most banks, and at the airport. Credit cards , particularly Visa and MasterCard, are generally accepted in midrange and upscale shops, as well as at upscale restaurants and hotels around the country. In rural areas and small towns, you are unlikely to find establishments that accept credit cards. In midrange and expensive restaurants, there is usually a 10% tip included in the bill. It's not common to tip in budget restaurants or in
Cavanamant	taxis, so there's no need to do so unless you're feeling generous.
Government Documentation	Presidential republic. Currently a Passport but no visa is required for Canadians – but always
Documentation	check with your travel agent ahead of travel.
Time zone	EST: Colombia is on the same time zone as Ontario and Quebec, being almost directly due south.
Health	There are good health facilities in Cartagena. As South America is a more exotic destination, I recommend that travellers consult with their family doctor with regard to the possible need for inoculations such as yellow fever or anti-malarial pills, though no vaccines are required to enter Colombia.
Safety tips	There's no doubt that Colombia has had safety issues in the past – however, this has really applied to other parts of this large country and anyway the security issues have been largely dealt with by the present



government. No place of course is entirely free of crime, so you should
always take sensible precautions.

CLIMATE	
General climate	Cartagena has a pleasantly warm climate, temperature average 28°C to
	30°C throughout most of the year.
Today's weather	Today, December 1 st 2014, the temperature is 31C with a sun and
_	showers mix in Cartagena.
Best time to visit	Winter is the best time for Canadians to visit to feel the sub-tropical
	warmth in the middle of our chilling winter!

GETTING AROUND	
Getting There	Copa Airlines – see separate section below
Cities	Colombia has many cities worthy of exploring:
	The capital, Santafé de Bogotá , is a unique, modern and thoroughly charming city. Everywhere you look different panoramas unfold within its colourful, mountainous setting.
	One of the oldest cities in Colombia, Santa Marta , lies in the midst of a singular landscape, facing a heavenly bay on the Caribbean coast. This congenial little city can easily be toured on foot, and its main centres of interest adjoin the beach.
	Nicknamed the "city of eternal spring," Medellín is the birthplace of world-renowned painter Fernando Botero. It is also Colombia's principal cultural centre, where art galleries can be found in all the big hotels.
	Middle-class and a bit straight-laced, Pereira stands out for its monuments, murals, parks, and streets. The public scribes on the sidewalk with their typewriters also add a quaint touch to the city. For only a few pesos, they will pen love letters or formal requests, as the case may be.
	Santiago de Cali, stretches languorously between the wide-open arms of the two cordilleras, and basks in an enviably sunny climate. It is nicknamed the "city of women" because of its many beautiful women. This city features enchanting colonial buildings, long shady avenues and patios overflowing with flowers.
	With its charming atmosphere, Popayán is one of the country's older cities that is most typically Colombian. The downtown area is a veritable history book; all its buildings are like works of art in an outdoor exhibition. The churches, hotels and residences are lovingly polished



	gems. San Agustín, located 110 km from Popayán, is undoubtedly the
	most fascinating archeological site in South America.
Distances	Cartagena is 473km NW of Medellín and 658km NW of Bogotá,
	Colombia's capital city.
Ferries	There are boats for the offshore islands and for trips along the coast
	near Cartagena. There's even a hovercraft service to Isla Baru which is
	exciting if a little expensive at \$60.
Trains	There is no passenger train service operating here.
Car Rental	Budget, Hertz and National are represented in the cities, but car rental
	is not recommended for any but the bravest visitors!
Buses	As there are almost no passenger-train services in Colombia, buses are
	the main means of travel. The system is well developed and extensive,
	reaching even small villages. All intercity buses depart from and arrive
	at a terminal de pasajeros (bus terminal). Every city has such a
	terminal, usually outside the city center, but always linked to it by local
	transport. Bogotá is the most important bus transport hub in Colombia,
	handling buses to just about every area of the country.
	On the main roads buses run frequently, so there is no need to buy
	tickets in advance - just go to the terminal, find which company has the
	next bus due to depart, buy your ticket and board.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	There is every accommodation option under the sun available in Colombia from deluxe city centre hotels to inexpensive hostels and
	eco-friendly lodges.

LIFESTYLES	
Kids	Colombians love children and you will find that having a young child with you on your trip to Colombia will open many doors. For kids there are so many options to make this a vacation to remember. The gorgeous beaches are of course a good place to start. But the activities available in the beach resorts, in the cities and in the mountain and jungle destinations are all magical for youngsters.
Teens	Active teens will love this destination. From watersports at the beach resorts to the hiking and white water rafting in the mountains to the natural world in the Amazonia region – this is a good choice!
Romance	Cartagena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the Venice of Colombia and the country's most romantic city, with one of the most impressive old towns in the Western Hemisphere. With just the right mix of sun, sand, and colonial charm, it's likely to be the highlight of your trip.
Honeymoons & Weddings	Cartagena is Colombia's top honeymoon destination and is full of romance, five-star hotels, and excellent dining options. For a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, ask as a hotel or at a carriage-station - there are several in the historic centre. The service is



	available by day or night inside and outside the old city.
Zoomers	Seniors will relish the upscale resorts that are comfortable bases from which to explore some of the most fascinating cities on the continent. There are plenty of excursions available that make seeing the sights a breeze.
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UNIQUES	About 16 km north of Cartagena is the Volcán del Totumo, a 15m high mud volcano. You can enter the crater and take a mud bath, which is enormous fun and highly recommended. The nearby laguna then
	serves as a natural bath for washing off the mud.
Surprising	Colombia is the only South American country to have coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean.
History	Archeology and History
	Colombia has a long history going back before the Spanish Conquest, and there are several sites that bear testimony to its fascinating Indian past. In San Augustín, in the southern part of the Colombian Andes, monoliths of volcanic stone representing gods and warriors are preserved, and nearby, in the area of Tierradentro, the visitor can enter a complex of underground burial chambers.
	From one of the bays of Tayrona National Park, on the Caribbean coast, you can ascend the foothills of the Sierra, following a path of stone slabs that leads to the ruins of Pueblito, a settlement built by the Tayrona people, one of the most advanced cultures of pre-Hispanic America, which left an invaluable inheritance of objects fashioned in gold that can be admired, together with a wealth of articles from different cultures, in the different branches of the Gold Museum and other museums in different towns around the country.
	Colombia has a valuable past in colonial architecture and culture that is preserved in many towns and villages Pre-hispanic Colombia
	Over twelve cultures inhabited Colombian territory before the Spanish Conquest and left vestiges of the surprising level of development they had attained. Towns and stone paths, enigmatic statues, burial urns and impressive gold and pottery objects, constitute part of an inheritance that allows us to learn about their beliefs and way of life.
	The Muisca Indians were farmers on the highland plains that they inhabited. They were excellent goldsmiths and potters who left invaluable treasures. The myth of El Dorado that inspired the Conquest of the continent, had its origin in the investiture of the new Cacique, who



covered in gold dust, went out on a raft towards the center of the lake of Guatavita accompanied by his priests.

Pottery and gold working was also notable among the Quimbaya, Sinu, Tayrona and Calima tribes. Their work can be admired in Bogota at the Gold Museum of the Banco de la Republica, the Archeological Museum Casa del Marqués de San Jorge and the National Museum; at the Museum of Quimbaya Culture in Armenia; at the Museum of the Tayrona Culture in Santa Marta and at the Museum of Sinú Culture in Cartagena. You can buy perfect reproductions in specialized stores made with the very same techniques employed by the cultures that created them.

Colonial Colombia

Towards the third decade of the 16th century, the founding of the main towns commenced. Land was distributed among the conquerors, the exploitation of the salt, gold and emerald mines was organized and Christianity was established. Coexistence between the Spanish colonizers and their African slaves gave rise to a process of mestizaje.

Santa Cruz de Mompox is just a few hours away from Cartagena de Indias, a port on the Magdalena River whose privileged location made it an important trading post and one of the stateliest towns of the period. This is evident in its constructions, especially religious buildings such as the church of Santa Barbara or non-religious ones such as the Pinillos School, whose architecture reflects the European conventions of the time, little understood perhaps by local craftsmen but which produced enchanting and harmonious lines.

The capital of the Spanish Viceroyalty was established in Bogota, home of the government and ecclesiastic hierarchy. In the barrio of La Candelaria and adjacent areas, old mansions and churches are preserved that house their treasures. Many have been turned into museums and churches where you can admire the artistic and cultural expressions of our forebears.

Popayan and Tunja preserve a colonial sector full of charm: their churches are adorned with baroque reredoses clad in gilt while the cities' narrow streets, quiet squares and stately houses give one the sensation that time has not passed.

Colombia has a rich architectural and cultural history that is still preserved in many cities and towns around the country.



	For its strategic position and for being the principal marketplace for slaves in the New World, Cartagena de Indias was coveted by English corsairs who regularly tried to take it. Fortresses were constructed that made it the best-protected port in South America. The historical center is preserved within the walled sector, with important civil and religious buildings, treasures for which it was declared a World Heritage Site.
	Honda was important as a stopover for people and goods in their ascent to Bogota in Colonial times and until the 19th century, and still preserves its lovely and architecture and its steep and narrow streets.
	Throughout Colombia there are towns and villages recall their importance of their founding during the colonial period, such as Pamplona in Norte de Santander, Giron and Barichara in Santander, Villa de Leyva in Boyaca and Santa Fe de Antioquia near Medellin. At sites where decisive events occurred in the nation's emancipation from Spain, relics commemorating the wars of Independence are displayed.
	The mixture of races has enriched Colombia with valuable cultural expressions in music, art and literature, as the work of writers and artists attest, which can be admired in the country's museums, art galleries, libraries and public spaces.
Books	Frommer's South America covers the territory well The South American Handbook edited by Ben Box is a hugely detailed and very practical source book for all south American countries Andes – Michael Jacobs: a new travelogue which includes a passage on Cartagena and is reviewed at http://www.pinterest.com/pin/228768856041917440/
1000 Places to See	Cartagena: the Ciudad Vieja, or Old Town, which is described as "an
Before You Die	open-air living museum".
	Gold Museum in Bogota: the world's greatest gold museum
Must Sees	Colombia has six UNESCO World Heritage sites: 1. Cartagena; fortifications from the 16 th century and colonial city 2. Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary off the Pacific coast 3. Historical Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox: Spanish colonial city from 1540 AD
	 4. National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro: pre-Hispanic underground tombs 5. Los Katios National Park: mountains and floodplains of incredible biological diversity 6. San Agustin Archaeological Park: megalithic statuary of gods, warriors and beasts



SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	The exclusive golf course Karibana has one of the best 18-hole golf courses in the country and is situated close to the major resorts in Cartagena.
Fishing	Fishing is available from numerous operators and is excellent, both in the Caribbean and in the swamps along the coast.
Horse riding	Horseback riding is available in many regions, especially in the Andean mountain region.
Hiking	Most of the great hiking opportunities – and there are many in this country – are based in the mountains. The Andes are a mighty range of peaks and trails are available from a few hours to a few weeks.
Cycling	Colombia has a strong biking community and bike rentals are possible from several locations. Colombians have often starred in the Tour de France.
Diving	This is an excellent location at which to learn to dive or if you are already qualified, to enjoy spectacular dives off both the Caribbean and the Pacific coasts.

CULTURE	
Arts	A diversity of cultures inhabited Colombian territory before the arrival of the Spanish, some as advanced and sophisticated as those that produced the statues of San Agustín, in the Department of Huila, the subterranean tombs of Tierradentro, in the Department of Cauca, or the "Lost City" (Buritaca 2000), in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The Spanish arrived with the Conquest and colonization and brought slaves with them from Africa. For this reason Colombia is a multi-ethnic and pluri-cultural nation, where each region has its own characteristics that distinguish it from the others. So you can talk of an Andean culture that strongly feels its European ancestry; of a Caribbean culture that is an amalgam of Indian and African inheritance; a Pacific culture with African roots, and of the culture of the Orinoquia and the Amazon that is basically Indian. This complex process of mestizaje is not only expressed in the country's traditions, handicrafts and cuisine, but also in its arts, from architecture, painting and sculpture to literature, film and photography, and including music, dance and theatre. Such is Colombia's ethnic, linguistic and cultural wealth that it has over 87 Indian ethnic groups that represent 1.5% of the country's total population and speak 64 native tongues that belong to 22 linguistic families; several million Afro-Colombians who represent nearly 16% of the population; over 30 million mestizo inhabitants with an immense variety of cultural expressions; nearly 12.000 gypsies who descend from Colonial times, and several immigrant groups in different regions of



	the country. In the archipelago of San Andrés and Providence, the population is principally of African origin and whose language is English.
Music	The cumbia is the traditional Colombian musical genre best known in the world. Its origins date back to Guinean dances. It emerged from musical and cultural syncretism between Indians, Africans and Europeans in the Magdalena delta region. Cumbia combines their contributions. It is performed in groups by couples who dance in a circle to the beat of the drums and gaita music and hold a lit candle in their hands. Nowadays, vallenato and national pop music are the stars of the world's musical scene. Colombian music is an always-reinventing melting pot of tendencies and rhythms.
	Cartagena International Music Festival. World-renowned musicians and orchestras flock to crumbling, colonial Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean coast for the Cartagena International Music Festival each January. The Adolfo Mejía Theatre, Plaza San Pedro Claver and Plaza de la Trinidad are just some of the concert venues. Organised by the Victor Salvi Foundation, run by the harpist Victor Salvi and his Colombian wife, the festival has filled some of Cartagena's most
Eilas a	historic venues since it began in 2007.
Films	Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival Feb – March Catch films from Colombia, Latin America and across the world at the annual Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival. Heredia Theatre and the Naval Museum are among the venues and open-air screenings take place in the old city too.
	Gabriel García Marquez's novel Love in the Time of Cholera although set in an unnamed city, is obviously in Cartagena. The 2007 film movie of the novel was filmed in Cartagena.
Museums	Bogota – The Gold Museum Simply entering the Museum is enough notice its magical character. Part of legacy of mysterious cultures of which we only have fragmentary visions is right there in plain sight of visitors. The little that remained after all the barbarity and looting is exhibited - a treasure many pirates would have dreamt about. Hundreds, millions of pieces that survived the fog of many days and the rust of time lead us to think that these people, our ancestors, should have been named "People of Gold".
	The Bogota Gold Museum contains close to 34,000 gold pieces, plus 20,000 bone, stone, ceramic, and textile articles belonging to 13 Pre-Hispanic societies: Tumaco, Nariño, Cauca, Calima, San Agustín,



	Tierradentro, Tolima, Quimbaya, Muisca, Urabá and Chocó, Malagana,
	Zenú, and Tairona.
Festivals	Villa de Leyva – Lights Festival
restivais	This is one of the festivals a foreign visitor cannot miss; Villa de Leyva is a tourist attraction throughout the year with great gastronomic offer, horseback riding, caves, fun events like the Kite Festival in August, and attractions such as the Fossil Museum, Archaeological Park of Moniquira or the "Yacimiento Rupestre of Sachica" (cave painting of Pre-Columbian origin), the Blue Wells or the Gondava Thematic Park, which are the most outstanding places to visit in the town. On December 7th, visitors gather in Villa de Leyva's Central Square to witness the majestic fireworks. Villa de Leyva transforms into the ideal setting to officially welcome the Christmas season with lit streets, balconies, and colonial houses. The festival also offers different activities such as the Lantern Contest. The streetlights are then exhibited in the middle of the religious procession of the Immaculate Conception, public presentations of Christmas Choirs and Musical Groups are featured in the main square.
	The Cali Fair From December 25th of each year, Cali residents welcome tourists from different cities of Colombia and countries of the entire world, in a week in which the city transforms into one huge dance festival. For 6 days, the visitors will be able to enjoy the famous cabalgatas (horse riding parades), the bullfighting season, and the best Salsa music orchestras of the whole continent, multiple concerts, dancing, and the best gastronomy of the region. The beginning of this fair is marked by the horse ridden parades where the best Paso Fino horses of the country walk through the streets. The celebrations are then complemented with different popular parties around the towns of the city. The rest of the week is acclimated by the parties and concerts that are organized in diverse zones of the city. In addition to the exhibition of the best bullfighters of South America and Spain that performed in the Cañaveralejo Bullring. Each year, thousands of citizens let the liveliness of the fair lead the way of happiness surrounded by music, party, and all the uniqueness of the Cali flare.

ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	If you don't have time to head to Las Islas del Rosario, visit Cartagena's
	main beaches: Bocagrande, El Laguito, and Castillo Grande, in the
	south, and, in the north, La Boquilla and Marbella.
	Playa Blanca is widely regarded as the best beach of Cartagena, but is



	not that apply to reach. With its white send and anyotal aleast water it is
	not that easy to reach. With its white sand and crystal clear water it is
Dorke	probably one of the best beaches in Colombia.
Parks	Colombia is one of the megadiverse countries in biodiversity, ranking
	first in bird species. As for plants, the country has between 40,000 and
	45,000 plant species, equivalent to 10 or 20% of total global species,
	this is even more remarkable given that Colombia is considered a
	country of intermediate size. Colombia is the second most biodiverse
	country in the world, lagging only after Brazil which is approximately 7 times bigger.
	Colombia is the country in the planet more characterized by a high
	biodiversity, with the highest rate of species by area unit worldwide and
	it has the largest number of endemic species that are not found
	naturally anywhere else, of any country. About 10% of the species of
	the Earth live in Colombia, including over 1,900 species of bird, more
	than in Europe and North America combined, Colombia has 10% of the
	world's mammal species, 14% of the amphibian species and 18% of the
	bird species of the world.
	Colombia has about 2,000 species of marine fish and is the second
	most diverse country in freshwater fish. Colombia is the country with
	more endemic species of butterflies, number 1 in terms of orchid
	species and approximately 7,000 species of beetles. Colombia is
	second in the number of amphibian species and is the third most
	diverse country in reptiles and palms. There are about 2,900 species of
	mollusks and according to estimates there are about 300,000 species of
	invertebrates in the country. In Colombia there are 32 terrestrial biomes
	and 314 types of ecosystems.
Gardens	Botanical gardens Jardin Botanico de Guillermo Piñeres,
	Cartagena
	A pleasant escape from the city rush, 18 km out of Cartagena close to
	"Turbaco", a small town 20 km from the centre of Cartagena. Take a
	bus to the bus terminal and get off at "la Bomba de Amparo", a big
	gasolin station 25 minutes out of the centre. Together with your entry
	ticket you get leaflet which lists about 250 plants identified in the
	gardens, including some varieties of coca plants.
Historical Sites	Cartagena
	Enter the city through the historic Torre del Reloj , one of Cartagena's
	most recognized architectural sites. From there, you'll find yourself in
	the Plaza de los Coches, where you can buy traditional Colombian and
	Cartagenian candy and sweets at the Portal de Los Dulces. Next head
	down Calle de la Amargura, past La Plaza de La Aduana (stop here if
	you're looking for tourist information), to La Plaza de San Pedro, where
	you can visit the Iglesia/Claustro/Museo San Pedro Claver, constructed
	in 1580, as well as the Museo de Arte Moderno , a decent modern-art
	museum right off the square. Walk down Calle San Juan de Dios to the



Cartagena Naval Museum, where you can take in antique naval instruments and objects. Walk past La Plaza de Santa Teresa, up Calle de A. Ricaurte (which becomes Calle Santa Teresa) to Plaza de Bolívar, where you can visit the free Museo del Oro as well as the Palacio de La Inquisición and La Biblioteca Bartolomé Calvo, once Cartagena's most important libraries. Be sure not to miss Cartagena's much photographed Catedral, built in 1586, destroyed by English pirate Francis Drake, and recently remodeled and opened to the public. Now walk up Calle Nuestra Señora del Carmen before arriving at the Plaza de Santo Domingo, one of Cartagena's most popular and vibrant plazas. Be sure to visit the Iglesia/Claustro Santo Domingo, a lovely 450-year-old church. Take a break at Plaza Santo Domingo for a light lunch or snack at one of the plaza's many outdoor cafes, where you can enjoy the colonial atmosphere.

With your energy restored, head north on Calle de la Iglesia (which becomes Calle de Don Sancocho), past El Teatro de Heredia and La Plaza del Merced, and turn right on Calle de la Merced (which becomes Calle Del Estanco del Aguardiente and Calle del Sargento Mayor). Next turn left on Calle Chochera del Hobo, where you'll find La Plaza de San Diego, with its many stores, restaurants, and the famous Hotel Santa Clara. A short walk up the Calle de las Bóvedas will take you to Las Bóvedas, a former jail, used during the independence period that has been converted into 23 souvenir shops

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	Emeralds are of course Colombia's most famous buy - and are available for sale all over Cartagena, including polished and uncut loose emeralds and beautiful jewelry. The prices are extremely reasonable and the variety available is extensive in the old walled city. The stores that sell emeralds and emerald jewelry use various names such as "Taller y Fabrica de Joyas" (workshop and manufactuer of jewelry), "Museo de Artesanias y Esmeraldas" (museum of crafts and emeralds) or simply "Joyeria" (jewelry).
Markets	Bazurto Market in Cartagena is a fun place to lose yourself among the colours and scents of this bustling local market full of produce from the surrounding tropical farms.
Nightlife	Half the reason Cartagena is Colombia's top tourist destination is because of its vibrant nightlife. Cartagena's party scene is well developed with something for everyone - whether you want to sip cocktails on the beach, salsa dance Caribbean-style, or jam to '80s rock. Much of the nightlife is centred on Calle del Arsenal, in the Getsemaní neighbourhood, though there are also several party options in the inner walled city. Mr. Babilla, Calle Arsenal no. 9B-137, plays crossover music and is by



far Cartagena's most famous nightclub. The eclectic decorations, tasty cocktails, and party-hard atmosphere bring in Colombia's cream of the crop and a large foreign clientele. **La Carbonera**, Av. del Arsenal no. 9A-47, another popular nightclub in the Getsemaní neighborhood, plays a little bit of everything.

Café Havana, Calle Media Luna and Calle del Guerrero, in the Getsemaní neighborhood, is dedicated to Cuban music. This place also offers decent sandwiches and light fare, and it's one of the more atmospheric places in town. There is often live music and the clientele tends to be foreigners.

CUISINE	
Food	The kitchens of the Colombian Caribbean blend many intense flavours from the wide variety of produce in the fertile soils of the region, in combination with poultry, red meat and river-fresh and salt-water fish and seafood. Cartagena's cooks naturally start by using local techniques of fried dishes with rice, soups and dressings; but they also adopt things from other climes around the world, such as meat cooked over a low fire, with vegetables, all with delicious and distinctive sauces and strong flavours. One of the best traditions of Cartagena's cooking is arroz con carne en tabaquito . It is made from diced salted meta with a dressing, mixed in with rice to form a delightful savory dish with a distinctive aroma. You will find almost everything in the Colombia Caribbean kitchen, with every shade of taste and flavour.
Drink	Coffee is of course the most famous drink produced in the country. Until you have tasted Colombian coffee made fresh in Colombia, you have not truly tasted coffee at all. It is one of the highlights of any visit to the country. On a personal note, I did not like and therefore did not drink coffee at all at the time of my first visit to Colombia. I have drunk coffee ever sincein part trying to recapture that wonderful aroma and taste of true Colombian coffee!
	You must try the local juices which are made from tropical fruit, such as the mamón and the corozo, when in season. Other flavors include water-melon, mango, tamarind, carambolo, peaches and plums.
Restaurants	La Cocina de Pepina is a typical Colombian-Caribbean restaurant in the Getsemaní district of Cartagena. It is an attempt to recreate the tastes of a region known as "Bolívar Grande", now the Departments of Córdoba, Sucre and Bolívar. Plantain, yucca, yams and marrows come from the smallholdings that supply the restaurant. The dishes of "Pepina" evoke the age-old customs of the lands around the Caribbean, some drawn from the times when foods were preserved by sun and salt, such as the salazones.



They also serve dishes based on beef, pork or chicken, placed in the
sun with salt and spices. Then they are cooked with steamed
vegetables and served with yucca, yams or plantains. And since they
are not served with soups or rice, they are called "viudas" ("widows").

MORE INFO	
Websites	Website: http://www.colombia.travel/en/
	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Colombia.travel
	Twitter: https://twitter.com/colombiatravele
	YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/Colombiatravel

SPECIAL FEATURE: SAN ANDRES ISLAND

Vacation in the "sea of seven colours"

San Andres is 700 km from the Colombian mainland, a miniature paradise with influences from England and Spain, pirates and corsairs, blended into a rich culture which moves to the beat of reggae. Perfect beaches, excellent water-sports, diving and ecotourism.

Your first glimpse of San Andres island is the sea of seven colours, home to many-hued fish and coral, working their magic on the visitor. After an afternoon on the beach or shopping duty-free, night falls and the air is alive with music and dancing.

No-one knows exactly when the Dutch settlers arrived to set up their faros, but they were soon followed by the English and the Irish; and then came the fight with the Spaniards to keep possession of the island. But despite the comings and goings of the pirate Sir Henry Morgan between here and Jamaica, something of the Dutch culture remained in San Andres.

Then the African slaves, European settlers and Spanish colonists passed through, each leaving behind a few seeds of their wisdom, not to mention aromatic plants and some traces of their favorite foods, which have now come together to form part of one of Colombia's richest culture: the native or **raizal tradition.**

It's another language, another very special way of looking at life, something that has the most profound effect on the visitor – something really different. The people there speak to each other in creole, a mixture of 17th century English, Spanish and African dialects. They also speak modern English and Spanish – very useful for the visitors! This blend of cultures had a very special effect on their music, which happily combines reggae, reggaeton, raga, soca, calypso, merengue, vallenato



	and salsa. All kinds of music, for all kinds of dance.
	As part of their dedication to the island culture, some ecotourism parks have been created, such as Granja de Job Saas and West View, where the guides will tell you not only about the natural features to be seen there but also about the values and customs they preserve. This is also where you can buy craftwork made from coconut wood and totumo, which are typical of the island.
Geography	San Andrés is the largest of the island group in the Department of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina – a part of Colombia. San Andrés is located in the Caribbean Sea, about 230 km from the coast of Nicaragua and north-eastern Costa Rica, and 750 km northwest of the coast of Colombia. The island is 12.5 km in length and 3 km in width. It has an area of 26 km2 within the total area of the group of islands of 45 square kilometres making it the largest island in the archipelago. San Andrés is crossed from south to north by a small mountain range whose highest peak is Cerro La Loma, also known as El Cliff. San Andrés' soils indicate that their formation is due to the eruption of a volcano which threw rocks older than the seafloor to the surface, creating the islands. Despite this, there is fertile soil and the soil is mostly red clay. It is easy to find small deposits of quartz on the island, especially in the neighborhood of Loma Cove. Aside from the main settlements, the island is almost entirely covered in grass, trees and other vegetation, as well as sand along the coastline rather than rocks. The central area is marked by a chain of hills (Flowers, Orange, Shingle and Lion's Hill). The island has only small, ephemeral streams draining the land area, but no major rivers. On the southwest coast of the island are some features, namely (from north to south) Bobby Rock, Boobie Rock, Fisher Rock and Tyler Rock. A feature named Rock Point is located on the southeastern coast. Suky Bay lies in the central western part of the island near Cove Sea Side.
Attractions	island has no beaches. Activities include a visit to San Luis, a small stretch of white sand; a tour of the island; the aquarium; Johnny Cay; the Blowing Hole; and Big Pond, a lake at the top of the island. At La Loma, visit the oldest Baptist Church in America. Enjoy partying to the rhythms of Caribbean music and savoring a typical dish at Fisherman's Place.
Johnny Cay	A quarter of an hour by launch from San Andres is the tiny island famous for its beaches and Coco Locos: Johnny Cay. White sand embraces the green shade of the palms. Fried mojarra fish with plantains Delicious cocktails.



Johnny Cay is a destination of sun, sand; and for being caught up by the beat of the island music. The beach is perfect for walking too – you can go all round the island. In some places there are exotic coral formations with pools that reflect and merge with the deep, blue of the sky. The soundtrack to all this is reggae and the colours are those of the Rastafarians. Johnny Cay is an invitation to join in the beat with the islanders who attend to their visitors with a smile on their faces and a joke on their lips. And the palm leaves provide more than shade: before your eyes the local people the make them into hats, baskets and any number of woven objects. The beaches of San Andres are bathed by a seven-colour sea made **Beaches** placid and safe by coral barriers. The following are worth mentioning: Bahía Sardina (Spratt Bight) located in the northern part of the island, near the main hotel and tourist sector. It is a city beach with white sand shaded by palms and a nice view of the Johnny Cay Island. San Luis Beach is located only ten minutes by car or bus from downtown San Andres. This is an option for resting on a beach with a more isolated and tranquil atmosphere. **Coconut Handicrafts** In the year 1853, following several social and economic upheavals, the cultivation of coconut palms displaced the cultivation of cotton in the Archipelago of San Andrés. From then on, the islands began to smell and taste of coconut. Not only did coconuts become the main characters in the gastronomy of the islands; they also became the basic material for the handicrafts of the region. The shell of the coconut is the part most used for handicrafts. These are primarily bowls, sauceboats, spoons, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, barrettes, card holders, belts, dishes, coasters, cups, sugar bowls, and But for the shell to become a product, some preparation is necessary. The shells must be soaked in water for ten to fifteen minutes or until they have absorbed the maximum amount of water. Then, the outside of the shell is scraped and cleaned with a knife or a spoon. Later, the shell is sanded until its surface becomes absolutely smooth and shiny. When the shell is ready, the desired shapes, previously cut out from cardboard, are outlined on it. Finally, the shell is cut and the assembly of the handicraft begins. The inhabitants of San Andrés are so skillful they seem to make use of magic use in manufacturing their products. Not only do they surprise everyone with new designs every day; they also combine coconuts with other natural materials like wood, leather, ceramics, seeds, tagua, and silver.



Divine	Diversity and the condition of the condi
Diving	Dive in coral reefs and the aquarium accompanied by fish in many colours, butterfly, sergeant, bishop, and globe, among them. You may see seahorses around the gorgonias, rays, and, perhaps, barracudas. Visibility is between 15 and 30 m, the currents are few, and there are over 40 dive sites such as La Caleta de José, La Calera, Las Piedras de la Langosta, Trampa Tortuga, Nirvana, Bowle View, Wild Life, La Rocosa, El Avión, and others.
Flora and Fauna	The island has rich floral diversity in its vast mangrove swamps, the largest mangrove forest on the island being the Old Mangrove Point Regional Park. There are 12 mangrove forests in red, black and white colours, rich with many species of flora and fauna revitalizing the ecosystem. There are also coconut palm trees, breadfruit trees, tall growth of local trees, green and lush pastoral lands and farm lands. The bird species named San Andres Vireo or St. Andrew Vireo (Vireo caribaeus), occurs exclusively on the island, favors mangrove and scrub bush habitat. It is a small, innocuous, but delicate bird, green in colour, in the Aves class of Passeriforms of the Vireonidae family. It is about 5 inches (130 mm) in length, weighs about 16–20 g, found in clutch size of 2, and feeds on insects and fruits. IUCN has listed this bird species under the Critically endangered list. Its habitat has been threatened due to large-scale expansion of the island lands for development of the capital city in the last few decades. It is reported that habitat of these birds is now confined to about 18 km2 area in the southern part of the island. Another bird found in abundance on the island is the White-winged Dove (Zenaida asiatica). The aqua faunal species found here are oysters and crabs. The coral species found in the island's shores are: Cuerno de Venado, Cuervo de Arce, Coral Columna, Brain coral, Coral Látigo, star coral, fan coral, finger coral and Coral Pluma.
Shopping	San Andres is a tax free zone - so prices are often cheaper than on the Colombian mainland. There are lots of shops in the town centre, many of which specialize in perfumes. You can purchase alcoholic beverages at very competitive prices; bargain as much as possible, you may cross the street and find the same object cheaper. Clothing is very cheap too and you can find famous brands as well as good quality local clothing. Beware of counterfeit merchandise - shop only in reputable stores and boutiques.
Language	The island population of around 75,000 speaks Spanish but most of them also have enough English to make communication no problem for Canadians.



COPA AIRLINES

Copa Airlines, the **leading airline in Latin America**, connects through Panama and unites the major cities of Colombia.

Copa Airlines is the only airline to operate regularly scheduled nonstop flights between Panama and Toronto. Fly to Panama City every **Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday** departing Toronto at 8.40 a.m. arriving in Panama at 2:12 p.m. Return flights depart from Panama on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at 6.18 p.m. arriving in Toronto at 11.41 p.m.

Copa now also fly from Montreal to Panama four times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday departing Montreal at 8.33 a.m. and arriving in Panama at 2.27 p.m.

Copa Airlines gives Canadians convenient access to 64 business and leisure destinations in 29 countries throughout Central, South America and the Caribbean. In fact, from the Hub of the Americas, Copa Airlines offers flights to more international destinations than any other airline from any other hub in the Latin American region.

The **Hub of the Americas** has also been recently renovated and the Copa Club VIP Lounge (jointly operated by Copa Airlines and United Airlines) has been expanded. Business Class passengers and those with Copa Club memberships can enjoy the lounge facilities.

The procedure for onward connection is easy and painless. In-transit passengers can connect to destinations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, without going through customs or immigration and with a **1 hour average connection time.**

Copa operate **Boeing 737-800 Next Generation** aircraft on the Toronto flight, with seating for 16 passengers in Business Class and 144 in the main cabin. With 57 Boeing Next Generation 737s and 26 Embraer-190s – Copa has one of the youngest fleets in the Americas with an average age of only 5 years. Copa Airlines maintains an on-time performance above 90% - putting them among the best airlines worldwide.

On-board, passengers will experience excellent customer service from bilingual flight attendants. Receive complimentary meals and beverages, including wines and spirits, a 12-channel audio-visual entertainment system in Spanish, English and Portuguese, new movies monthly and complimentary headsets.

If you are making a connection, taking your family or simply want to visit



two or more countries in the same trip, COPA fares allow you **a free stop-over in Panama.** This is a fantastic advantage – many airlines charge you extra if you break your journey in another country rather than fly straight on to your final destination. And did you know - the Panama Tourism Board offers you Free Medical Insurance for the first 30 days of your stay.

Every time you fly with Copa you'll earn rewards through the **MileagePlus** frequent-flyer program shared with their alliance partner United. Copa Airlines has joined Star Alliance, the world's largest airline global alliance, offering passengers the possibility of travel to 1,350 destinations in 193 countries with more than 21,500 daily flights and access to 900 VIP lounges. In addition there are advantages such as faster and more convenient transfers, the ability to earn and redeem miles, awards and receive upgrades.

Discover **irresistible fares** and purchase tickets in Canadian dollars at www.copa.com. Copa also offers web check-in and a special mobile site m.copaair.com which provides passengers with access to electronic boarding passes that can be accessed from smart phones or other portable electronic devices. Copa is the first airline to offer this service in Latin America.

History of Copa

Copa Airlines was founded in 1947 as the national airline of Panama. It began operations with domestic flights to three cities in Panama on Douglas DC-3/C47 planes.

By 1966, the airline boasted three weekly flights to San Jose, Costa Rica, which was its first international destination. In 1969, the first AVRO 748 was introduced for flights to Kingston in Jamaica, Managua in Nicaragua and Barranquilla in Colombia.

In the 1970s, Medellin, Cartagena, San Salvador and Guatemala became part of the expanding network of destination cities.

In 1980, the airline withdrew from the domestic market to focus on its international reach. This year a Boeing 737-100 was added to the fleet. During this decade, the airline expanded its network of destinations to include Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, San Juan in Puerto Rico and Miami in the U.S.

In 1992, it began operating from the first Panamanian headquarters for flights connecting within Latin America, creating the Hub of the Americas in the Tocumen International Airport. Flights were added to Caracas in Venezuela, Mexico City, Santiago in Chile, Cali and Bogota



in Colombia, Quito and Guayaquil in Ecuador, Lima in Peru, Buenos Aires in Argentina and Havana in Cuba.

In 1998, a strategic alliance was formed with Continental Airlines and in 1999, the airline launched its new brand as Copa Airlines and adopted the OnePass frequent flyer program. At the same time, it began to upgrade its fleet with Boeing 737 Next Generation planes.

The strategy from 2000 onward was to focus on expansion within the region. For the year 2005, the airline incorporated flights to Cancun in Mexico, Sao Paulo in Brazil, San Andres in Colombia, Tegucigalpa in Honduras, and Orlando, Los Angeles and New York in the United States.

In 2005, Copa Airlines, a subsidiary of Copa Holdings S.A., began trading on the New York Stock Exchange, becoming the third Latin American airline to be listed on this important exchange.

In 2006, it added the destinations: Cordoba in Argentina, Guadalajara in Mexico, Washington, D.C., in the United States, and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. It simultaneously increased the frequency of its flights to seven destinations.

In 2008, it began operating flights to Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago, and Belo Horizonte in Brazil, while announcing new destinations such as Santa Cruz in Bolivia, Valencia in Venezuela and Aruba. Copa Airlines continues adding destinations and upgrading its modern fleet with Boeing 737-700 and 737-800 planes, and Embraer 190 planes.

In 2010, Copa Airlines started flying to the island of St. Maarten and announced that Aero República will operate under the Copa Airlines Colombia brand name. In addition, Copa Airlines began the process of joining the Star Alliance. Copa Airlines and Boeing announce the acquisition of 32 Next Generation 737-800 aircraft, including 10 purchase options, for a total of approximately US \$2.6 billion dollars; the largest request for new aircraft in the history of Copa Airlines.

In 2012 Copa announced the new MileagePlus Frequent Flyer Program along with United Airlines and in June, formally joining the airlines' global network, Star Alliance. It also began flight operations to Las Vegas, Recife, Curacao, Guanacaste, and Iquitos.

2013: Begins service to Boston and Tampa; receives the SkyTrax



	awards for the Best Airline in Central America and the Caribbean and
	the Airline with the Best Cabin Crew and Airport Staff in Central America
Awarda	and the Caribbean; and ends the year with a fleet of 90 airplanes.
Awards	Among many other awards, Copa Airlines was rewarded at the World
BA'LL COLD DIVI	Travel Awards as the "Leader Airline in Mexico and Central America".
MileagePlus	Copa Airlines has a new frequent-flyer program, MileagePlus, with
	enhanced member benefits.
	Copa Airlines' OnePass members automatically will be enrolled in
	MileagePlus without change to their member number.
	With more than 90 million members worldwide, MileagePlus has won
	the award for best frequent-flyer program for eight consecutive years.
Hub of the Americas	Panama City's Tocumen International Airport is known as The Hub of
	the Americas and offers convenient flight schedules designed for very
	quick connections and seamless end-to-end service. Bags are checked
	directly to the passenger's final destination and there is no need to clear
	customs or immigration when connecting. The airport also has a wide
	number and variety of duty-free shops. The Hub of the Americas also
	has recently renovated and expanded the Copa Club which is jointly
	operated by Copa Airlines and United Airlines. Business Class
	passengers and those with Copa Club memberships can enjoy these
	facilities.
	Panama's geographic location and favorable climate conditions allows
	the airport to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year There are fast
	connections without the need to clear immigration and customs, plus
	two state of the art runways to ensure traffic is moving smoothly in and
	out. And sea level operations allow aircraft to extend their range
Luggage	Luggage is checked directly to the passenger's final destination and
	Copa Airlines offers you a generous baggage allowance – two no
	charge pieces of luggage of 23 kilos (or 50 pounds) each in the main
	cabin and the allowance to Brazil is 32 kilos (70 pounds) each. In
	Business Class, you are allowed two pieces of 32 kilos (70 pounds)
	each.
Copa's Colombian	Bogota
Destinations	Medellin
	Barranquilla
	Cartagena
	Pereira
	Cali
	San Andres
Copa's North	Cancun, Mexico
American	Chicago, USA
Destinations	Guadalajara, Mexico
	Las Vegas, USA
	Las vogas, our



Los Angeles, USA
Mexico DF, Mexico
Miami, USA
Monterrey, Mexico
New York, USA
Orlando, USA
Toronto, Canada
Washington, USA
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Liberia, Costa Rica
Managua, Nicaragua
Panama City, Panama
San Jose, Costa Rica
San Pedro Sula, Honduras
San Salvador, El Salvador
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Asuncion, Paraguay
Barranquilla, Colombia
Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Bogota, Colombia
Brasilia, Brazil
Bucaramanga, Colombia
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cali, Colombia
Caracas, Venezuela
Cartagena, Colombia
Cordoba, Argentina
Cucuta, Colombia
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Iquitos, Peru
Leticia, Colombia
Lima, Peru
Manaos, Brazil
Maracaibo, Venezuela
Medellin, Colombia
Montevideo, Uruguay
Pereira, Colombia
Porto Alegre, Brazil
Quito, Ecuador
Recife, Brazil
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
San Andres, Colombia
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Santa Marta, Colombia



	Santiago, Chile
	Sao Paulo, Brazil
	Valencia, Venezuela
Copa's Caribbean	Curação, Netherlands Antilles
Destinations	Havana, Cuba
	Kingston, Jamaica
	Montego Bay, Jamaica
	Nassau, Bahamas
	Oranjestad, Aruba
	Port au Prince, Haiti
	Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
	San Juan, Puerto Rico
	Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic
	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
	St Maarten, Netherlands Antilles
Corporate Social	Copa Airlines' corporate social responsibility is an integral part of their
Responsibility	effort to achieve the corporate vision of being the leading airline in Latin
	American aviation. Sustainable development is not only the
	responsibility of governments and non-governmental organizations. It is
	everyone's task. For this reason, Copa strives to be responsible in all
	aspects of their business, channeling efforts towards their pillars of
	youth, education, and the environment.
	Thanks to the program "Take Off" ("Despega"), Copa Airlines and its
	great staff of volunteers continuously launch initiatives with tangible
	results that positively affect employees, as well as the communities
	where Copa operates, achieving successful results with the
	implementation of social and educational initiatives, which to date have
	been of benefit to more than 25,000 children and teenagers in Panama
	and in 17 other countries.
	In the same way, Copa is implementing the 3 R's (Reduce, Recycle,
	and Reuse) program and carrying out the preservation and care of the
	environment, investing in cutting edge technology and other initiatives
	that allow them to reduce the impact of CO2 emissions, as well as the
	noise, generated through their operation.
Contact Info	Reservations: 1 800 FLY COPA (359 2672)
	Website: www.copa.com
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