



## About Cartagena

“... it was enough for me to take a step inside the wall to see it in all its grandeur in the mauve light of six in the evening, and I could not repress the feeling of having been born again.” (García Márquez, Gabriel. *Living to Tell the Tale*. Vintage International, a division of Random House, Inc. New York. Translated from Spanish by Edith Grossman. Page 336). Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Cartagena de Indias stands as testimony of the colonial splendor of the New World, the jewel of the southern Caribbean. Keeping the memory alive, Cartagena is a city of diversity in architecture and light, quaint streets, friendly people and special cuisine. Visitors will discover endless hues in the marvelous pastel-colored sky, in the blue of the deep, crystal clear waters shinning under the burning golden sun, in the green gardens and in the contagious smiles of its people.



### Contact Information

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### Convention Bureau Services

- Site inspections
- Spouse program suggestions
- Pre- and post-convention tours
- Incentives program recommendations
- Hotel and convention center proposals
- Special event and venue coordination
- VIP services and welcome program
- Expertise tour operators
- Bilingual tour guides

### Arriving in Cartagena de Indias

Cartagena's international airport, called Rafael Núñez Airport, is located within the limits of Cartagena de Indias, just 10 minutes from the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center and 15 minutes from the hotel zone, receives more than 220 direct national flights every week, which means that in Cartagena land more than 700 international flights with connection in other Colombian cities. Cartagena has direct flights from Panama City, Miami and Ft Lauderdale. Also the city can connect through Bogota's airport and we have around 20 direct flights between the cities. The transportation between the airport and the hotel zone can be done in taxis, buses, hotel shuttles or private services.

By Air From	Hrs
Miami	3.00
Lima	3.00
Caracas	1.20
Ciudad de Mexico	3.00
Santiago	5.00
New York	5.35
Sao Pablo	5.45
Buenos Aires	6.15

## Public Transportation

### General Information

This is a great city for meetings. Small or large they always end the same way: with people wanting to stay. Our scenery for meetings is unparalleled, spectacular city squares, colonial buildings, fortresses, theaters and state-of-the-art technology come together to create unforgettable experiences. The city's infrastructure includes a convention center located in the heart of the historic city and modern facilities in several of Cartagena's leading hotels. These facilities, combined with the company of experienced professionals, made Cartagena the number one city in Colombia for congresses and conventions according to ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association).

### Taxis

Cartagena has taxis in the airport and around the city that can transport travelers and locals from one place to another. The rates inside the city are from 4 USD to 20 USD max depending in the distances. Also in all of the hotels of the city you will find taxis for more comfort.

### Buses

Cartagena is working in a transportation system called Transcaribe that are articulated buses that will connect the city from the historic city to the southern area.

## General Information

### Arts/Theater

Teatro Heredia Adolfo Mejía: This is the main exhibition stage of the city which was built in 1911, events such as Cartagena International Music Festival, Hay Festival (literature) and International Movie Festival every year take place.

### Architecture and Museums

Military structures, such as the walls, bastions and fortresses, stand next to a well preserved colonial and republican city. Cartagena is home to many churches located in the Historic Center and Cerro de la Popa. A visit to the Fort of San Felipe de Barajas, The Gold Museum, Museum of Modern Arts, and the Museum of History and Inquisition are some of the places not to be missed.

### Leisure

Just 30 minutes away from Cartagena is a chain of lovely islands, where visitors can enjoy the warm and sparkling turquoise-colored water. Scuba diving and snorkeling are one of the best ways to get better acquainted with one of the most important natural parks in Colombia.

### Shopping

One such place full of gift items and souvenirs is the famous Bóvedas, antique stores inside the walled city have unique items that tell secrets of Cartagena's past. Also you can find Colombian emeralds of the highest purity or visit shops owned and operated by famous Colombian fashion designers.

### Gastronomy and Nightlife

Our food is a combination of Arab, Spanish, Caribbean, African and indigenous. The streets of Cartagena are alive with the aromas of foods brought here by the Spanish, the natives and the Africans, which blend together to produce an extraordinary fusion of scents and tastes. The typical cuisine is prepared with fresh ingredients that blend fruits like the coconut, plantain, mango and corozo, as well as seafood and fish. Enjoy the bars at the Historic Center: Places like Dónde Fidel, Habana, Bazurto Social Club and Queibra Canto showcase the Caribbean experience and the arsenal Street.

### Events

The city is host to numerous cultural events that please just about every taste. Musical concerts come in various styles. Other lively and thrilling celebrations include Independence Day festivities and the gastronomic festivals featuring desserts and fritters competitions. Visitors and natives alike enjoy films under the stars and the heated literary debates during the Mapfre Hay Festival.

## Venues For Group Events

**Aduana Square** *Capacity 2,000/theater style* It is the largest square in the city where the Customs House was located and where all the trade was controlled. Currently, the building adjacent to the plaza houses is the District Municipality.

**San Ignacio and San Francisco Bulwarks** *Capacity 1,000/theater style* Built around 1630, their mission was to discourage any attempt against the dock and to cooperate with the defense of Bocagrande.

**Proclamación Square** *Capacity 500/theater style* It was given the name of Proclamation Plaza on November 11th, 1811 when the city congregated on the plaza to support the signing of the Independence Act.

**San Felipe de Barajas Castle** *Capacity 2,000/theater style* San Felipe Castle, built between 1939 and 1957, is the largest colonial Spanish forte in Colombia and an outstanding example of military engineering from the Colonial Period.

**Bolívar Square** *Seating 1,000 persons theater style* This park is recognized for its one hundred year old trees that provide shade for visitors who come to see the statue of South America's Liberator, Simon Bolivar, on his horse, and the beautiful fountain. The Palace of the Inquisition is a large manor house dating back to the 18th century and is considered a jewel of the urban architecture of the time.



## Places Of Interest

**Historic City Walking Tour** The magic of Cartagena de Indias comes from its historic legacy, which has become a spectacle for the senses. Getting to know the historic center walking or in a traditional horse-drawn coach, will take visitors to the colonial era, discovering different scenarios that represent the city's history and culture.

**Panoramic Tour** Travelers can visit the monuments: San Felipe de Barajas Castle, the Convent de La Popa, the Cathedral, the Palace of the Inquisition, the handicrafts for sale at the old vaults and the Clock Tower. Also walk through sections of the 13 km/8 miles of walls that surround the city's historic center.

**García Márquez Cartagena Tour** Visit imaginary places invented by Gabriel García Márquez and the actual scenarios of novels like "Love in the Time of Cholera", since it is now possible in our city.

**Rosario Islands** The archipelago of the Islands of Rosario is a sanctuary for flora and fauna that covers 23 islands of white beaches and crystal clear water, just 45 minutes away from Cartagena de Indias. These islands are the perfect scenario for practicing water sports as scuba diving, snorkeling, wind surfing or kayaking, or simply to relax.

**Horse Carriage Tour** The horse-drawn carriage is the traditional way to discover the old city, its walls and numerous plazas. The old city includes 13 km/8 miles of walls, 27 bulwarks and 7 fortresses of military Spanish architecture.

**Cartagena's Squares** Santo Domingo Square offering a variety of restaurants, bars and entertainment places, Bolívar Square, where the statue of Liberator Simon Bolivar and the Portal de los Escribanos is located, Aduana Square, where the founder of Cartagena de Indias Pedro Heredia lived, Los Coches Plaza where the border treaty between Ecuador and Colombia was signed, San Diego Square, a place where restaurants and nightlife come together. San Pedro Square, in front of the San Pedro's church has a great restaurant for lunch and dinner.

**Bay Cruise** Embark buccaneer boats where barrels and trunks, welcome visitors to take a cruise by the Cartagena bay and take them back to pirate's times. The trip will take place with the expressive folklore of an orchestra, with traditional music and dances, and will finish with a lovely dinner.