

Colombia

Information for applicants

Colombia

Located in South America's northwest, Colombia has access to both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The Andes run through Colombia from south to north in three mountain ranges before finally falling off into the plains at the Caribbean coast. Colombia's coastline is 2,900 km long, some 1,600 km of which are on the Atlantic Coast (Caribbean) and 1,300 along the Pacific Ocean.

Measuring 1,141,714 km² in size, Colombia has a population of around 48 million, some 8 million of whom live in the capital city Bogotá.

Climate and sights

Colombia is divided into six natural geographical regions: the Andean region, the Caribbean region, the Pacific region, the Orinoco region (with vast savannas), the rain forests of the Amazon Basin, and an island region which includes the famous islands of San Andrés and Providencia in the Caribbean and Gorgona Island in the Pacific. The regions each have a wide variety of climatic zones, ranging from the coast and tropical humid rain forest through the temperate zone, e. g. Medellín, and colder regions around the capital city of Bogotá up to the snow-covered mountains with their 5,000-metre-high peaks. There are usually two dry and two rainy periods in Colombia. The months from December through March and July and August are drier. Rain mainly falls from April to June and in October and November.

Owing to its high altitude, it can get quite cold in Bogotá at night (around 4°C). Daytime temperatures average 22°C.

Medical care

As a rule, medical services in the larger cities are comparable with those in Europe. In rural areas however they can be challenging, both technically and hygienically but also with respect to equipment. Bogotá has some very good doctors and private hospitals.

Accommodation and quality of life

Like everywhere else, rent in Bogotá also depends on location, size and furnishings. Suitable accommodation costs between EUR 800 and EUR 2,200 to rent. From a security point of view, it is perhaps best to go for an apartment rather than a detached house.

Shopping and services

Living standards are comparable with European cities, although the cost of living is usually a little cheaper than in most European countries. Bogotá boasts a wide selection of very good restaurants with international cuisine. But the typical Colombian food sold in the suburban small eateries is also very good. There are a lot of supermarket chains and shopping centres that are open during the week and also on Sunday.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners accredited via the German Embassy together with the field-staff member can get a work permit, as they are covered by Germany and Colombia's bilateral agreement of 14 February 2015 concerning gainful employment.

The Deutsche Schule in Bogotá (German International School) – *Colegio Andino* – has a nursery for children as of age 4, a primary school (up to year 4), an intermediate level (up to year 8) and a secondary level (up to year 12). The Colegio Andino is the only school in Colombia that offers a direct route to the German *Abitur*, and thus entitlement to study at a German (or any other affiliated) university.

Good to know

The bigger cities offer a wide range of leisure activities that guarantee an exciting weekend. During the *ciclovía*, it is even possible to spend a car-free Sunday or holiday right in the centre of town on a bike or rollerblades. On such occasions, the main transport arteries are regularly closed to cars.

Find out more

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/397.html>

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/kolumbien-node>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices in
Bonn and Eschborn

Street address:
Post code, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Eschborn 2017

Responsible/editor etc.:
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

URL links:
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content. GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.