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1. Geographical location

Situated at 993m above sea level, Bucaramanga is the capital of Santander Department of Colombia. Surrounded by the eastern highlands of the Andes, the city is located on a plateau. The metropolitan area includes the municipalities of: Piedecuesta, Floridablanca and Girón. The city enjoys tropical climate throughout the year.



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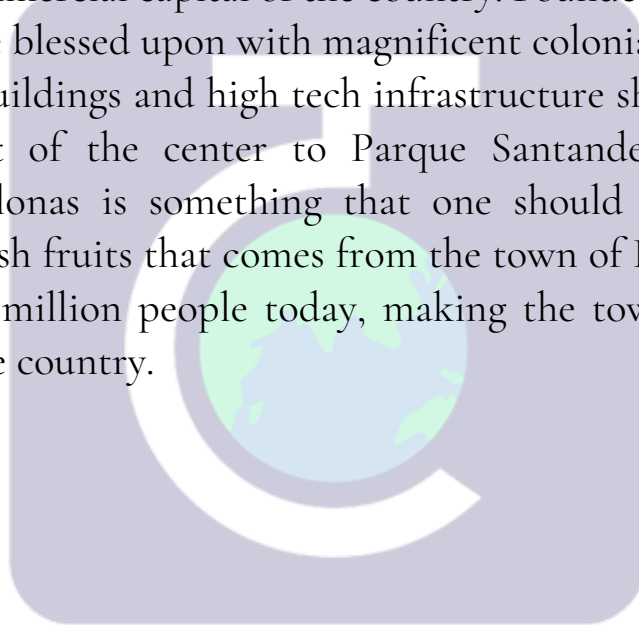
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Neighbouring Towns To This City Are Floridablanca At Around 8Kms, Los Santos At 17.7Kms, The City Of Barrancabermeja Is About 81Kms Away Followed By Bogota At 208Kms And Anserma At 356Kms. The Nearest Countries To Colombia Are Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Panama And Venezuela.



3. Significance

‘The city of Parks’ or ‘The Beautiful city’ as it is called, Bucaramanga stays true to its given title, while offering a perfect getaway for those who want to surround themselves by the lush green parks that extend their hands for awesome picnic destinations. Sit under the shaded trees and let your children roll on the floor or stare at the magnificent skyscrapers making the capital of Santander one of the largest cities and commercial capital of the country. Founded in the year 1622, the town which was once blessed upon with magnificent colonial architecture is now surrounded by tall buildings and high tech infrastructure shifting Parque García Rovira as the heart of the center to Parque Santander, today. The city’s traditional food Culonas is something that one should definitely hog onto, complimented by fresh fruits that comes from the town of Lebrija. Bucaramanga stands with about 1 million people today, making the town one of the fastest growing region in the country.



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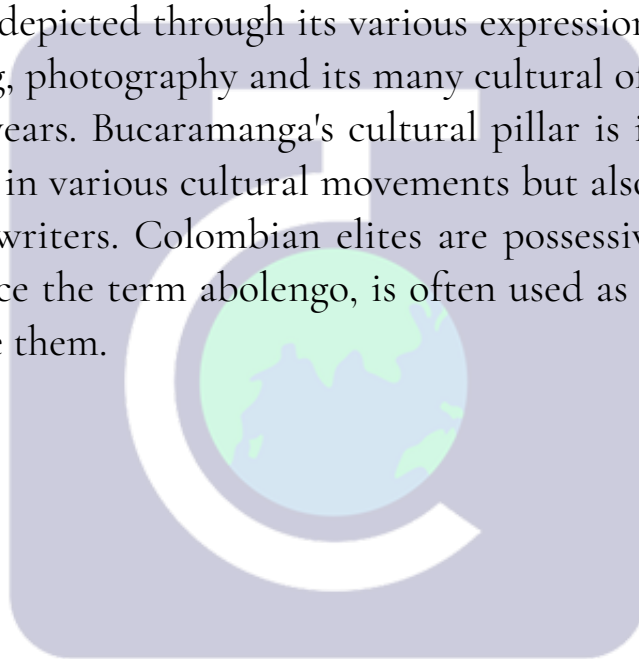
4. History

The city that was founded in the year 1622 wasn't as popular until the 19th century, due to the population and economic significance of Giron. Bucaramanga initially didn't attract a lot of settlers due to its under development, however it wasn't until the 1860s and 1870s that the German merchants and adventures found this city to be appealing. The city towards the end of the 18th century saw a lot of tension between the new settlers and the existing inhabitants, due to the event - 'The snake of gold beak', which came to eruption in the year 1879. The politics of the city was re-arranged and reorganized in the year 1886, which further led to Bucaramanga replacing Socorro as the prime capital of the state. Bucaramanga faced a lot of troubles and went through a lot of hurdles before becoming what it is today, the region was destroyed due the civil war, however the city remained intact, but it did affect the city. The Thousand Days war became the motivational factor behind the growth of the city in the first half of the 20th century. Ever since then the city has been prospering in the various sectors and is on the path to development.

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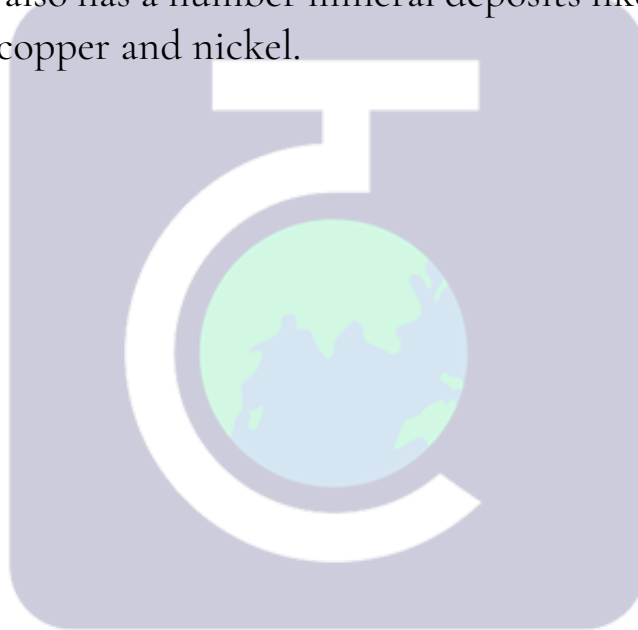
5. Cultural identity

The people of Colombia are as vibrant as its countless landscapes. The country's descendants range majorly come from three major ethnic groups – Africans who were brought to Colombia as slaves, Indians and European settlers. The rich culture of Colombia is as unique and as varied as these ethnic groups, whose traditional art, cuisines and ceremonies are quite distinctive from each other. The culture of the city is depicted through its various expressions and art forms such as sculpture, painting, photography and its many cultural offerings that has been serving the city for years. Bucaramanga's cultural pillar is its literature that has not been responsible in various cultural movements but also has given this city a number of brilliant writers. Colombian elites are possessive about their family pride and name, hence the term *abolengo*, is often used as collective in order to traditionally describe them.



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The municipality Bucaramanga is home to Parque Nacional de Chicamocha, popularly known as Chicamocha National Park, which is located 50Kms away from the city. The park is known for its striking landscapes and various outdoor activities like bushwalking, paragliding, camping, spelunking, rafting, fishing, mountain climbing and kayaking. Apart from the large coal and natural gas deposits, the country also has a number mineral deposits like gold, platinum, iron ore, emeralds, silver, copper and nickel.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)**7.1. Paid****7.1.1. Parque Nacional del Chicamocha**

Located at a distance of about 50 kilometers from the city along the Chichamocha Canyon, The Chicamocha National Park, most commonly known as Panachi, is a majestic urban space that is in perfect harmony with nature. Situated at an altitude of about 1450 meters above sea level, do not miss the aerial tram, which is one of the longest cable rides in the world that runs along a canyon. It also houses an Ostrich Park and Parque de las Cabras where you can interact with the animals and feed them. This park is for all the adventure-seekers as it offers a variety of activities for friends, families, couples including camping, buggy rides, cable flight, mountain climbing, kayaking and fishing. Wear your hiking boots and climb to the top to see some magnificent views of the city. Various activities have different prices starting from COP \$2000.

Address : Km 54 Via Bucaramanga-Bogota Canon Del Chicamocha | 682058 Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia

Zipcode : 682058

Location : 6.7912881, -73.00339020000001

Contact : +57 321 2050097

Website : <http://parquenacionaldelchicamocha.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Admission to the Park- Adult- COP \$25,000, Children & Senior Citizen- COP \$15,000. Combo Panachi (Admission to the park, Aquaparque and cable car)- Adults: COP\$ 70,000, Children & Senior Citizen: COP \$50,000.

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Friday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturdays & Sundays 09:00hrs-19:00hrs, Closed on Monday and Tuesday

Time Required : 10

Expected Wait Time : 15-30 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Acuaparque panachi

A water park located inside the Chicamocha National Park, Acuaparque offers

various adventurous and heart-thumping water rides for all age groups. Beat the heat and take your kids to this park for a nice day trip.

Address : Aratoca, 682058 Santander Department, Colombia

Zipcode : 682058

Location : 6.7889914, -73.00184669999999

Contact : +57 7656 9006

Website : <http://acua.parquenacionaldelchicamocha.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults- COP \$34,000, Children & Senior Citizens- COP \$29,000

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Friday 11:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturday and Sunday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs, Closed on Monday & Tuesday

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. Ecoparque Cerro del Santísimo

A tourist destination that is home to the sculpture of Jesus of Nazareth that stands 33 meters high and is a place of pilgrimage at Easter. Climb the two panoramic elevators and witness the stunning view of the city, and grab a quick bite from the food kiosks.

Address : Floridablanca, 680002 Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680002

Location : 7.0828857, -73.06814559999998

Contact : +57 7 6394444

Website : <http://cerrodelantisimo.com/cerro/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adult- COP \$20,000, Children & Senior Citizens - COP \$10,000

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Thursday & Sunday 11:00hrs-20:00hrs, Friday & Saturday 11:00hrs-21:00hrs, Monday closed.

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.4. Museo Casa de Bolívar

Museo Casa de Bolívar is a historical museum that houses various archaeological and historic exhibits and artefacts including documents, weapons, mummies and paintings of the Guane people who were the former inhabitants of the town. The museum is housed in an old mansion and is named after Bolivar who stayed here for 2 months.

Address : Calle 37 No 12-15, Bucaramanga, 680002 Santander Department Colombia

Zipcode : 680002

Location : 7.117055100000002, -73.12859860000003

Contact : +57 1 800 0121717

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : COP \$2000

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs & 14:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs, Sunday Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No



7.1.5. Jardín Botánico Eloy Valenzuela

Founded in 1982, Jardín Botánico Eloy Valenzuela or Eloy Valenzuela botanical garden is home to 400 species of living plant species and focuses on research, study and conservation of the Flora of the Eastern Colombia. A natural classroom for the little ones, this urban oasis displays a collection of exotic plant life including palms, ferns, flowering shrubs, peasant orchards, ornamental plants and more living in harmony with animals like squirrels, iguanas, butterflies and more.

Address : Av. Bucarica, 681003 Floridablanca, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 681003

Location : 7.0683677, -73.08990460000001

Contact : +57 7 6480729

Website : <https://m.facebook.com/jbeloyvalenzuela/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not

Recommended)

Entry Fee : Adults: COP \$5000, Children (Over 8years): COP \$2000

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15-20 Minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Cigarras Park

One of the most beautiful parks in the town offering recreational activities mainly for children, Cigarras Park is your place to leisurely walk around in an urban setting. Not only will you encounter various animals at this Park, but also beautiful shaded trees that will want you to open that picnic mat and play some soothing music.

Address : Bucaros, 680005 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680005

Location : 7.103680600000001, -73.12147099999999

Contact : +57 315 5208749

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 3

Expected Wait Time : 10-15minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Iglesia de San Pedro Claver

The stunning architecture, of the Iglesia de San Pedro Claver with its distinctive red color sets it apart from all the other churches of the town. The interiors are decorated with crystal windows and religious art add a unique charm to this church.

Address : Cra. 28 #476, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680003

Location : 7.117882199999999, -73.11413499999998

Contact : +57 7 6972727

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 07:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. El Teatro Corfescu

A cultural center in the city where all the art forms come alive, Teatro Corfescu has enormous space and is one of the hubs for entertainment in the town. One should definitely pay a visit to this theatre and watch a musical or a folklore performance to know more about the erstwhile culture of the town. Don't miss the aromatic coffee before the show!

Address : Cl. 34 #26 - 46, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680003

Location : 7.122627699999999, -73.117708699999998

Contact : +57 7 6344016

Website : <http://www.elteatrocorfescu.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs, 14:00hrs-18:00hrs, Saturday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Catedral de la Sagrada Familia

A 19th-century building featuring two beautiful white towers, complemented by green/yellow dome that represents the city's flag colors, Catedral de la Sagrada Familia is surely one of the most beautiful architectures of the town. The interiors are made from Carrara marble, paintings by Alberta Acuna and stained glass panels, which makes the inside of this Catedral look spectacular.

Address : Calle 36 # 19-56, 680006 Bucaramanga, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.1192635, -73.122691199999996

Contact : +57 7 6427708

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. La Casa del Libro Total

A library that sits inside a well-maintained home from the 1950s, today, serves as the cultural hub of the city. La Casa del Libro Total is for all the bibliophiles who will fall in love with the vintage bookshelves of the library. Sip that hot coffee and read an old book that will take you into another world with its tales. Join the cultural discussions in the library and get to the roots of everything with the locals.

Address : Cl. 35 #9-81, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.1171966, -73.13069999999999

Contact : +57 7 6343558

Website : <http://www.ellibrototal.com/ltotal/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-21:00hrs, Saturday 08:00hrs-18:00hrs, Sunday Closed

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Parque del Agua

A park that is purely dedicated to water, Parque del Agua teaches its visitors about the conservation and uses of this resource. It is an educational park with many attractions like fountains, canals and waterfalls, which are complimented by light shows in the night. Home to many fishes, you can even buy fish food at the entrance of the park or just enjoy the sight!

Address : Diagonal 32 #30A-51, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680002

Location : 7.1305213, -73.10969620000003

Contact : +57 7 6322000

Website : <http://www.amb.com.co/frmInformacion.aspx?inf=72>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs & 14:00hrs-18:00hrs,

Saturday-Sunday 08:00hrs-18:00hrs, Closed on Monday and Tuesday

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Barrio Plazuela Real

A perfect place to spot a number of goats, birds and cows in this Park, Barrio Plazuela Real offers a tranquil atmosphere perfect for relaxation. Stroll around Camino Real and watch the cows grazing on the land. Don't forget to take your camera out to capture the panoramic views of the city.

Address : #1 a, Tv. Metropolitana #5297,680005 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680005

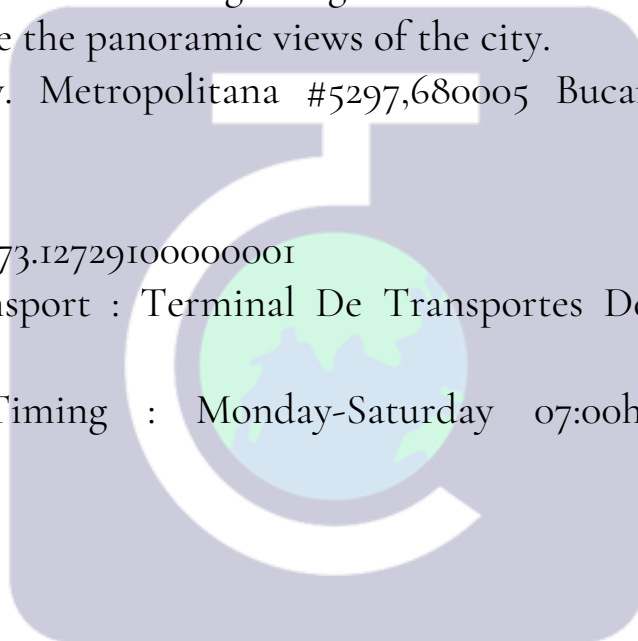
Location : 7.095376, -73.12729100000001

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 07:00hrs-22:00hrs, Sunday 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.8. Parroquia Divino Niño

One of the most traditional churches of the town, Parroquia Divino Nino is appreciated for its serene spiritual experience and its cosy environment. Interiors are complemented by stained glass and high relief paintings while the exteriors lie upon the busy streets of the town.

Address : Cl. 63 #32-20, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680003

Location : 7.107211100000001, -73.11058309999999

Contact : +57 7 6474058

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Museo de Arte Moderno de Bucaramanga

Opened in 1989, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bucaramanga is home to 2 rooms featuring over 200 modern artefacts. The museum has a terrace that hosts various workshops and houses an antique patio.

Address : Cl. 37 #26-16, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680002

Location : 7.120139099999999, -73.1168424

Contact : +57 7 6450483

Website : <http://www.museodeartemodernodebucaramanga.blogspot.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs and 14:00hrs-18:00hrs, Closed on Saturday and Sunday

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 5-10 Minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Parque Garcia Rovira

Preserving the memory of General Custodio García Rovira, the hero of Independence, Parque Garcia Rovira is an open park located in the city center. It is surrounded by important landmarks like the building of the Governor of Santander, the Chapel of Sorrows, the Civic Plaza Luis Carlos Galan, Mayor of Bucaramanga and The Parroquia San Laureano.

Address : Carrera 11 Calle 35, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.1169482, -73.13007379999999

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 12:00hrs-23:59hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Parque Santander

The largest park in the city, Santander Park is located in the city center and is surrounded by bulging buildings like the International Center Triad. You will not only find many modern restaurants and cafés around the park but also the Cathedral of the Sagrada Familia which was built in the year 1887.

Address : a 19-109, Cl. 36 #191, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.119642499999999, -73.12285989999998

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Casa de la Cultura

Standing opposite Museo Casa de Bolívar, Casa de la Cultura is a historic museum that features a collection of paintings donated by the local artists. The architecture of this historic building stands out, making Casa de la Culture one of the oldest surviving buildings in the town.

Address : Cl. 37 #12-46, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.116675899999999, -73.12833669999998

Contact : +57 7 6420163

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs & 14:00hrs-18:00hrs,
Closed Saturday-Sunday

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Capilla de los Dolores

Located in Parque García Rovira, Capilla de los Dolores proudly stands as the oldest church of Bucaramanga. The architectural style of the church is like other

matrices churches. It was established between the years 1748 to 1750, but no longer serves as a church.

Address : Cra. 10, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.116894599999999, -73.13057930000002

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Parque Las Palmas

Listed under one of the most traditional parks of the city, Park Las Palmas is surrounded by some of the best restaurants and cafés in the city and also acts as the social hub or the gathering place for the Bumanguesa community. Take a stroll around the park and interact with the community to learn more about their culture and history.

Address : Cra. 30 #44-14, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680002

Location : 7.119417, -73.11253299999998

Contact : +57 317 2613155

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Palacio De Justicia

Located in the main square of the city, Palacio De Justicia is home to beautiful sculptures and is deeply-rooted in the books of history. The architecture of the building, especially the courthouse is what attracts tourists to visit this place.

Address : Cl. 35 #11-12, 680006 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680006

Location : 7.1179799999999998, -73.12957

Contact : +57 7 6334533

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. La Quinta

A central mall, La Quinta is a popular one among the locals and one-stop-shop for everything, that includes a cinema, café's, restaurants and numerous branded and local traditional shops.

Address : Cra. 36 #49-45, Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680001

Location : 7.115242299999999, -73.10822080000003

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Centro Comercial Cañaveral

This is yet another shopping center that offers everything under the sun. Though it is relatively small as compared to other malls of the town, it is home to some of the best local brands of the city.

Address : Cl. 30 #25-71, Cañaveral, Floridablanca, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 681004

Location : 7.070832999999999, -73.10674499999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.18. Florida

Located in Floridablanca, this is a shopping center in town where local artists display the best of their handicraft items accompanied by some of the major brands of the world.

Address : Cl. 31 #26A-19, Cañaveral, Floridablanca, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 68001

Location : 7.070376599999999, -73.1053622

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.19. Megamall Centro Comercial

Zipcode : 0

Location : 7.1307000000000001, -73.11260200000004

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.20. Centro Comercial Cacique

Zipcode : 0

Location : 7.0996603, -73.10736409999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.21. Centro Comercial Cabecera III Etapa

Location : 7.1145656, -73.10923689999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.22. Centro Comercial Cabecera II Etapa

Zipcode : 0

Location : 7.1148500000000001, -73.11043000000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.23. Chicamocha Canyon

This magnificent natural wonder of Colombia is the second largest canyon in the world. Located just around 50 kilometers from the capital city of Santander department, Chicamocha Canyon spreads over more than 108,000 hectares of land and is about 2,000 meters in depth. Nominated to be one of the new 7

wonders of nature, this imposing canyon takes its name from the river that begins from the foothills of Sierra Nevada del Cocuy and merges with Suarez River and Sogamoso River. You will also spot many native wildlife species like iguanas, tinajos, tigrillos and armadillos along with birds and plant species. Home to the Chicamocha National Park, it offers various options like paragliding, canoeing and more for all the thrill-seekers. Take a challenging hike through the canyon and reach the colonial village of Barichara or take the 6 kilometer-long ariel cableway and enjoy the spellbinding landscapes the canyon offers.

Address : Km 54 Via Bucaramanga-Bogota Canon Del Chicamocha | 682058 Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia

Zipcode : 682058

Location : 6.815869, -72.989705399999

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 6

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.24. Saint Pío Park

One of the most significant urban spaces in Bucaramanga, the Saint Pío Park boasts of handsome trees that provide shade to make a perfect setting for picnic lovers. Take a walk through the park to appreciate the beauty of nature and stumble upon the “Mujer de pie, desnuda” statue, a famous Botero sculpture in the city. Surrounded by concrete buildings, church, souvenir shops and restaurants, this green park is an ideal retreat for nature as well as art lovers.

Address : Cra. 33 #45, Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Zipcode : 680011

Location : 7.1185493, -73.110712299999

Contact : +57 318 6545122

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal de Transportes de Bucaramanga Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

The city isn't home to many adventure sports, however it is recognized for its Paragliding, which is widely acknowledged, and is internationally qualified with the most qualified and best guides in the country. Besides Paragliding do pay a visit to Parque Nacional de Chicamocha as the park offers various activities like, fishing, camping, kayaking, and mountain climbing.

- **Paragliding -**

Address : Carrera 2 Este, 681002 Floridablanca, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.042607699999999,-73.0918545

Contact No : +57 312 4326266

Website : <http://colombiaparagliding.com/tandem.php>

Nearest Public Transport : Terminal De Transportes De Bucaramanga
(Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Tours starting from COP \$80000

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2.00

Wait Time : 20-30minutes

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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Since Colombia is home to football as the dominant sport, it goes without saying that this festival reaches to every corner of the country. Followed by Basketball as the second most popular sport in the city. Bucaramanga is home to the basketball team - Búcaros Santander.

- **Estadio Alfonso López:**

Address : 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander Department, Colombia

Location : 7.1367484,-73.11649690000002

Contact No : +57 318 3707670

Website : <http://www.medisand.com.co/>

Open/Close time : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-12:00hrs, 14:00hrs-18:00hrs



10. Spas and relaxation

The city is bustling with Spa Centers that are perfect for you to relax and pamper yourself. They are sure to give you an unforgettable experience. Some of the best ones include –

- **Vital Center Day Spa:**

Address : Cl. 54 #28-42, 680001 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.111606999999999,-73.114069999999997

Contact No : +57 7 6473900

Website : <http://www.vitalcenterdayspa.com/>

- **Natural Imagen Centro de Medicina Estética y Spa:**

Address : Cl. 45 #35-15, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1191567,-73.1096748

Contact No : +57 7 6471199

Website : <http://www.naturalimagen.com/>

- **Maria Magreth Spa:**

Address : Cl. 46 #35A-16, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.118309999999999,-73.109387099999999

Contact No : +57 7 6437252

Website : <http://www.mariamagreth-spa.com/>

- **AQUA SPA Center:**

Address : Cl. 36 #34-73, El Prado, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander,

Colombia

Location : 7.1242991,-73.11091799999997

Contact No : +57 7 6345026

- **Beauty Body Spa:**

Address : Cl. 51 #31-80, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.114001000000001,-73.11165260000001

Contact No : +57 7 6925547

Website : <http://www.bgsbarranquilla.com/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

New Year's Day

This day is celebrated with much enthusiasm in the country and in its every part. People are out partying and drinking to start the new chapter of their lives.

Whirlwind Festival and the fife

An annual festival held in the municipality, which features traditional dances and musical duels where people from all over the country participate.

Luis Maria Carvajal Festival

The traditional music festival of the city is celebrated with much enthusiasm and musicians from all over the region come and takes part.

St Joseph's Day

Celebrated all over the country, this is one of the important National holidays of the country where people feast to glory in honor of St. Joseph.

Agrocomercial in Bucaramanga Fair

As the name suggests the fair is strictly related to agricultural sector where one will see new technologies and innovations in the agro-based industry.
Independence Day

Celebrated on July 20, this day is followed by parades and patriotic events in honor of past lives and to celebrate the freedom.

National tiple Week

Taking place towards the end of the month, this festival features various performers, duets, solo artists and trios who are grouped at National level.

Battle of Boyacá Day

A very important day for the country people, when Colombia officially gained independence from the Spanish Monarchy after fighting for years.

Words festival

The festival takes place by the end of September or the beginning of October. Words Festival is a ten day festival that features performances, dances and story-telling from all over the country in the different theatres

**and halls of the city.
International Piano Festival**

An event of the Industrial University of Santander, the festival features a series of pianists who not only play the piano but also educates one about piano and its deep history, complimented by videos and movies.

Luis A. Calvo Festival

**Another music festival held in the city between the months of October and November, Luis A. Calvo Festival is characterized by various interpreters of Colombian Andean music.
Columbus day**

An important National holiday celebrated in the honor of Christopher Colombus's arrival in and discovery of the American continent.

All Saints' Day

The festival is celebrated all over the country in the honor of all the saints whether known or unknown. An annual festival celebrated in honor of the dead and living. Locals around

**celebrate this holidays with
events, music and dancing.
Christmas**

**Christmas is celebrated with very
high spirits, the city is decorated
with beautiful lights which attract
the tourist to the city especially
during the time of Christmas.**



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12. Key local guides and tours

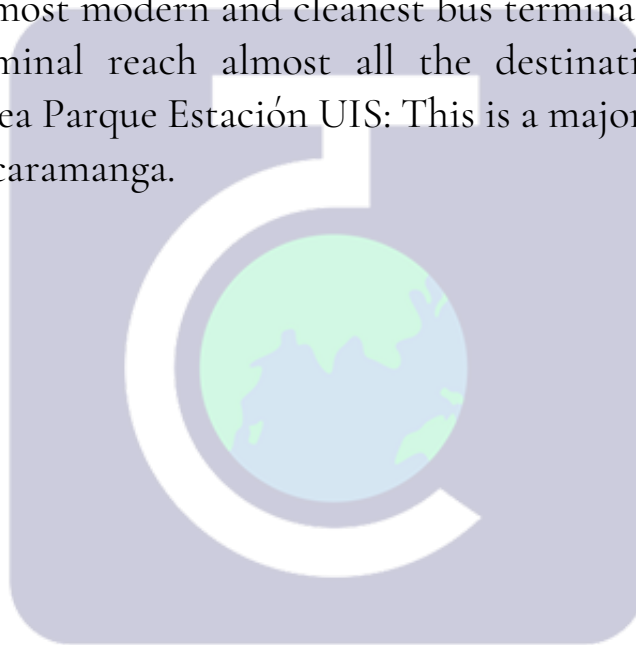
The city doesn't have much to offer when it comes to the cultural and historical roots; hence one will not find many tour guides around. However, there are travel agencies around the city for Paragliding lessons. One can also take a walking tour of this charming city and fall in love with the unforgettable experience.



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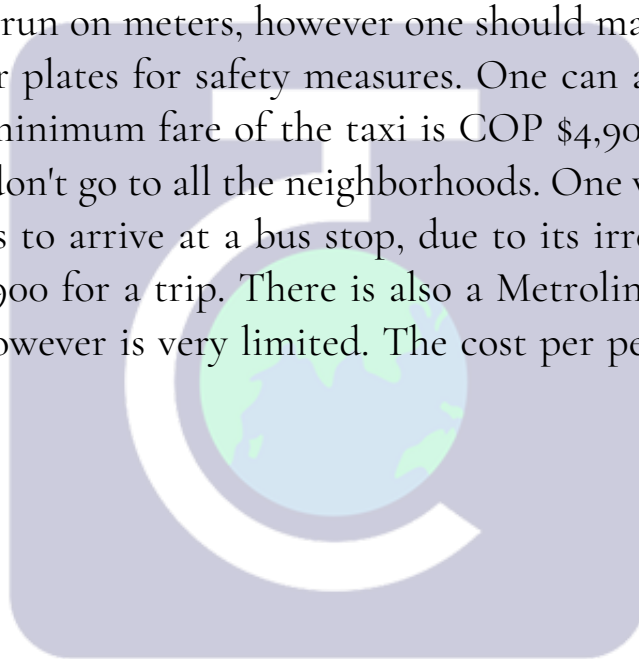
13. Transportation hubs

Airport: Palonegro International Airport - Located 30Kms West to Bucaramanga, in the town of Lebrija, Palonegro International Airport provides access to National and International flights. The airport receives flights from all the major cities in the Country and Panama City, making the airport 8th largest in Colombia. **Bus Station:** La Terminal de Transportes de Bucaramanga – This bus station is one of the most modern and cleanest bus terminals in the country. The buses from the terminal reach almost all the destinations in the country. **Metrolinea:** Metrolínea Parque Estación UIS: This is a major station for rapid bus transportation in Bucaramanga.



14. Transportation cost

One can commute through buses and taxis in the city. Buses are the most economic option in the city, however come at irregular intervals and do not go to all the neighborhoods of the city. If one wants to travel comfortably on their own, then taxis are the best option as they are hovering around the city and run on meters. The cost of the following transport is – Taxi – One will find a lot of taxis in the city. The taxis run on meters, however one should make sure to take down a note of the number plates for safety measures. One can also request for a cab just by calling. The minimum fare of the taxi is COP \$4,900 Bus – The buses in the city are few and don't go to all the neighborhoods. One will have to wait for a long time for the bus to arrive at a bus stop, due to its irregularity. The tickets cost around COP \$1900 for a trip. There is also a Metrolinea bus system that is faster and cleaner, however is very limited. The cost per person for the ticket is COP \$1400.



Index**15. Baggage allowance**

It is not suggested to carry heavy amount of luggage in the buses or Metrolinea since it can cause inconvenience to the travelers and people around them. One can travel with a small and light bag while commuting within, although carrying expensive items should be avoided. However if travelling by taxis, relatively heavy amount of luggage can be carried around.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

Bucaramanga is home to some of the best traditional cuisines in the country. Fill up that stomach with Santanderean meals and get lost into the world of scrumptious meals that the city has to offer – Some of the cultural meals to hog on, include – Mute: As weird as the name sounds, Mute is a thick soup made with, corn, garbanzos, beans, potatoes and various meats (including pork loin chops, beef spareribs and fresh pig feet,). Fritanga: If you are into greasy and fried food, you should definitely try fritanga, which consists of an assortment of various kinds of yucca, corn, potatoes, sausages and such other ingredients. All of them are deeply fried, hence for all the health conscious people out there, think twice! One can find a traditional Fritanga in the town of Giron, which is 5 minutes away from Bucaramanga. Culonas: Only found in the municipality of Bucaramanga, Culonas have been originated from Hormigas Culonas, which translates to ‘big ass ants’. Culonas are leaf cutter ants, which are bigger than the usual ants, and is one of the traditional dishes of the town. Caldo: A very light and healthy soup that contains potatoes, tostados (traditional toasted bread) and cilantro. If want to extra taste one can always add rib meat or eggs in the soup, which is further complimented by Santanderean Arepa. Bucaramanga is also widely known for its fresh fruits and vegetables, so if you are planning a healthy breakfast, just pick up some fruits from the supermarkets and season it according to your own taste, complimented by some great drinks.

17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Bucaramanga is buzzing with fine dining restaurants, café's, and bars, which can be spotted anywhere in the town, as you walk down the streets. The city is buzzing with late night bars and clubs, so don't even think of going to sleep early. Get out and chill with the locals, grab a beer or two and lose yourself in this beautiful city. Some of the best ones in the city are at Carrera28-37.

Food -

Bucaramanga is buzzing with fine dining restaurants, café's, and bars, which can be spotted anywhere in the town, as you walk down the streets. The city is buzzing with late night bars and clubs, so don't even think of going to sleep early. Get out and chill with the locals, grab a beer or two and lose yourself in this beautiful city. Some of the best ones in the city are at Carrera28-37.

- **Mercagan:**

Address : Cra. 34 #44-84, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1190440000,-73.11082299

Contact No : +57 7 6435630

Website : <http://www.mercaganparrilla.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-23:00hrs

- **Restaurante El Viejo Chiflas:**

Address : Cra. 33 #34-10, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1252879000,-73.11272250

Contact No : +57 7 6320640

Website : <http://www.elviejochiflasrestaurante.inf.travel/cms/templates/preview/166/21/index>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 06:00hrs-00:00hrs, Saturday-

Sunday: Open 24 Hours

- **La Cevicheria:**

Address : Carrera 37 # 52-17, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1133852,-73.10755180000001

Contact No : +57 7 6474739

Website : <http://lacevicheria.co/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Friday-Saturday 12:00hrs-23:00hrs, Sunday 18:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **La Puerta del Sol Restaurante:**

Address : Cra. 30 #65-08, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1044313,-73.11191580000002

Contact No : +57 7 6435077

Website : <http://www.lapuertadelsol.com.co/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 12:00hrs-16:00hrs, 18:00hrs-22:00hrs, Saturday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs, Sunday 12:00hrs-16:40hrs

- **Restaurante Mar Azul:**

Address : Cra. 33a #30-13, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1293736,-73.1122729

Contact No : +57 7 6450263

Website : <http://www.restaurantemarazul.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 11:45hrs-15:00hrs and 18:00hrs-22:00hrs, Saturday 11:45hrs-22:00hrs, Sunday 11:45hrs-16:30hrs

- **Cure Cuisine:**

Address : Cra. 37 #41-8, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.12209,-73.109190000000001

Contact No : +57 7 6450044

Website : <http://www.curecuisine.com.co/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-21:30hrs

- **Sazonart:**

Address : Cl. 48 #27a-08, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.116469899999999,-73.114079300000001

Contact No : +57 7 6436545

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 07:00hrs-15:00hrs, Sunday 11:00hrs-15:00hrs

- **Restaurante La Carreta:**

Address : Cra. 27 #42-27, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.118547,-73.115419999999997

Contact No : +57 7 6437212

Website : <http://lacarreta.com.co/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 12:00hrs-16:00hrs and 18:00hrs-01:00hrs, Saturday 12:00hrs-16:00hrs and 18:00hrs-03:00hrs, Sunday 12:00hrs-16:00hrs

- **Radha Govinda's:**

Address : Cr. 30 16-17 #k20, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.120349,-73.122467000000003

Contact No : +57 7 6304154

Website : <http://bucaramanga.govindas.co/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 11:30hrs-14:30hrs

- **La Nona Disco Bar:**

Address : Cl. 33 #32-14, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1260474,-73.11366229999999

Open / Close Time : Daily 18:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **Vintrash Bar:**

Address : Cl. 49 #35A-33, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.1155024,-73.10876050000002

Contact No : +57 7 6959776

Website : <https://m.facebook.com/vintrash.medallo>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Wednesday 16:00hrs-23:00hrs, Thursday 16:00hrs-00:00hrs, Friday-Saturday 16:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **La Birrería:**

Address : Cra. 36 #43-46, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.120399000000001,-73.10947199999998

Contact No : +57 7 6577675

Website : <http://labirreria1516.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-02:30hrs

- **Sky Bar:**

Address : Cl. 93, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.099339299999999,-73.10686759999999

Contact No : +57 7 6917300

Website : <http://holidaybga.com/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday-Thursday 08:00hrs-23:30hrs, Friday-Saturday 08:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Mi Pais:**

Address : Cra. 34 #52-7, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.11307,-73.10955000000001

Contact No : +57 7 6478021

- **El Abuelo Pachanguero:**

Address : 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander Department, Colombia

Location : 7.12262,-73.11187000000001

Contact No : +57 315 3593141

Open / Close Time : Monday-Wednesday 06:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **Saxo Pub Gourmet:**

Address : Cra. 27 #42-53, 680003 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.118174,-73.1153779

Contact No : +57 7 6472876

Website : <http://www.saxopub.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 16:00hrs-02:00hrs

- **Santa Locura Bar Rock Café:**

Address : Cra. 31 #3373, 680002 Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia

Location : 7.125093,-73.114128

Contact No : +57 319 5575344

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:30hrs-02:00hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

Economical Meal: COP \$7000 - \$8000 Mid – Segment Restaurant: COP \$10000-\$18000 Luxury Dining: COP \$30000-\$40000 Domestic Beer: COP \$3000 Imported Beer: COP \$5000



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19. Shopping

There are a lot of shopping centers in the city. The town is home to small malls and large malls & is famous for its leather and shoe production. So if you are a shoe lover, you will get a variety of options in shoes at a cheaper rate. One will also spot some branded shops around the streets. Some of the shopping centers include – La Quinta – A central mall and one stop for everything. Cinema, Café's, Restaurants, Branded and Local Traditional shops, La Quinta is a popular one among the locals. Canaveral – Another shopping centers that has everything to offer, however this one is relatively small compared to other restaurants of the town, but is home to some of the best local brands of the city. Florida – Located in Floridablanca, this is another shopping centers in town where local artists display the best of their handicrafts accompanied by some of the major brands of the world. Megamall Centro Comercial – Although a small shopping center, Megamall Centro Comercial is home to all kinds of shop, which are further complimented by variety of cafes and a supermarket. Other shopping centers include - El Cacique shopping center, Centro Comercial Cabecera III Etapa, and Centro Comercial Cabecera II Etapa. Since the town is a hub for trade and commerce, one is likely to find people selling handicrafts and art objects in some of the areas or parks.

Index**20. Tourist benefits**

The Value Added Tax (VAT) in Colombia is charged at 16%, although there are a few options when it comes to duty free shops within in the city. The most convenient option for travellers is to get their refund back is at the airport, although one is limited with the choices, since the refund is available only on luxury goods, electronics and jewellery etc. Note: The refund will be given only if the purchase has been made from credit cards.



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21. Essential local apps

If willing to download some applications before your travel to the beautiful city, then one can download the following apps – Radios de Colombia- Tired and bored of listening to the same playlist again and again, then download this application for live radio and listen to not only traditional music but also International hits. Domicilios.com – Hungry and Lazy to go out and eat? Then Download this application and order from a wide variety of restaurants that will delivery food right at your doorstep.



22. Driving

Driving in the town is hassle free, however at peak hours one may find themselves stuck in the traffic. One can drive around the town and to the nearby towns for a daytrip. As far as the official documents are concerned for driving in the town, one just needs a proper US/UK driving license and an International Driving permit to drive around the town. However make sure that you have your passport all the time, since sometimes the cops pull you over to check the required documents.



Index**23. Travel essentials**

When travelling abroad, it is a must to check certain things off your list in order to have a pleasant stay. Hence make sure to carry the following things – a. Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in Colombia is 110 V, followed by the standard frequency, which is 60 Hz. The adapters/plugs used in the country are of type A/B. b. Sun screen and mosquitio repellents are highly recommended. c. One can also carry a money belt in order to avoid theft, or carrying a big bag.



Index**24. Essential clothes**

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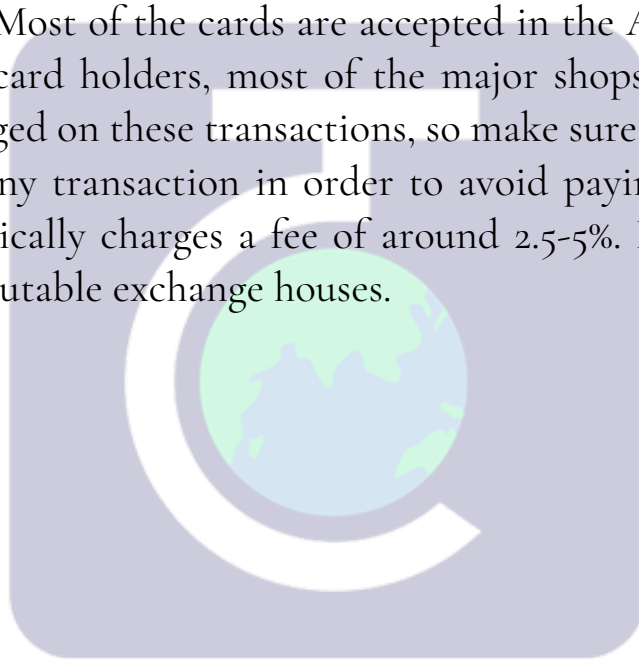
25. Local currency

Colombia's national currency is PESO, where in 1 USD = 2916.00 COP.



Index**26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

Bucaramanga is a relatively a small town; hence there are not a lot of ATMs located in the town. Make sure you exchange the money pre hand, since higher charges are likely to apply in the country or upon arrival at the airport. Most banks are likely to charge you with a foreign transaction fee whether in an ATM or in a shop, hence make sure to confirm with your bank about the fee charges prior to your travel. Most of the cards are accepted in the ATMs; hence it is not an issue. For credit card holders, most of the major shops accept credit cards, however a fee is charged on these transactions, so make sure to contact your bank before committing any transaction in order to avoid paying a lot. A reputable exchange vendor typically charges a fee of around 2.5-5%. It is advised that the travelers only use reputable exchange houses.



Index**27. Staying connected**

The three major networks in Colombia are Claro, Tigo and Movistar. Being connected through your smartphone in Colombia is rather inexpensive than most of the cities or countries in the world for the travelers. One can get a SIM from the airport or a supermarket located in the town. The most popular carrier in Colombia is Tigo as it offers cheap data plans compared to the other networks. One is likely to find good WiFi connectivity in the hotels and restaurants.



28. Time Zone

Colombia time zone: COT (UTC -5), which is 5 hours behind the coordinated Universal time.



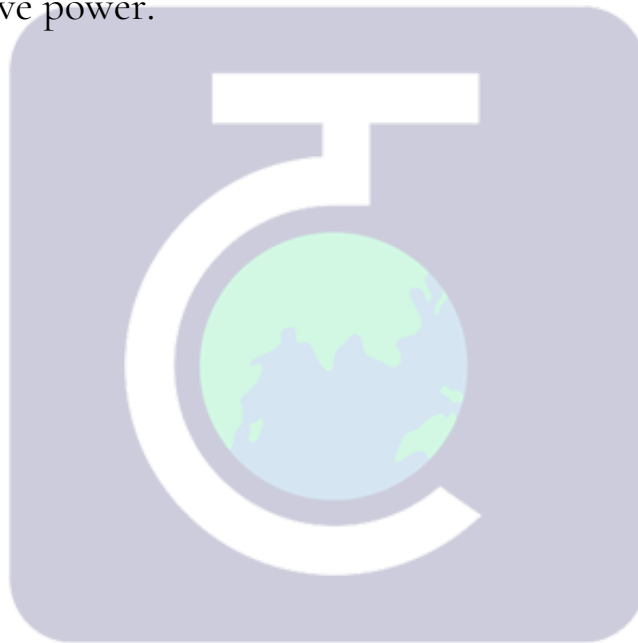
Index**29. Languages**

More than 98% of the city communicates in Spanish, however Colombian Spanish differs from the traditional Spanish-originated countries. Within the country there are a number of regional dialects, which makes this spoken language a little distinctive from one area to another. The speech of Colombia is famous for its Spanish slang speeches, which is often used by the people of the city.”



Index**30. Political Scenario**

The framework of Colombia is of a presidential representative democratic republic, where the President is both the head of the government and the head of state. The branches are divided into three – Executive power which is exercised by the government. Legislative power which is exercised by the two chambers of congress and the government The Judiciary is free from any boundations by Executive & Legislative power.



31. Economic Scenario

Bucaramanga is highly influenced by the Industrial activity and has been national recognized for the same. Footwear being the biggest industry has been dominating for many years and has set its foot in Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Canada, some Caribbean islands that includes Mexico, Peru and US etc. The town is also home to a clothing industry and has been commercially developing every year.



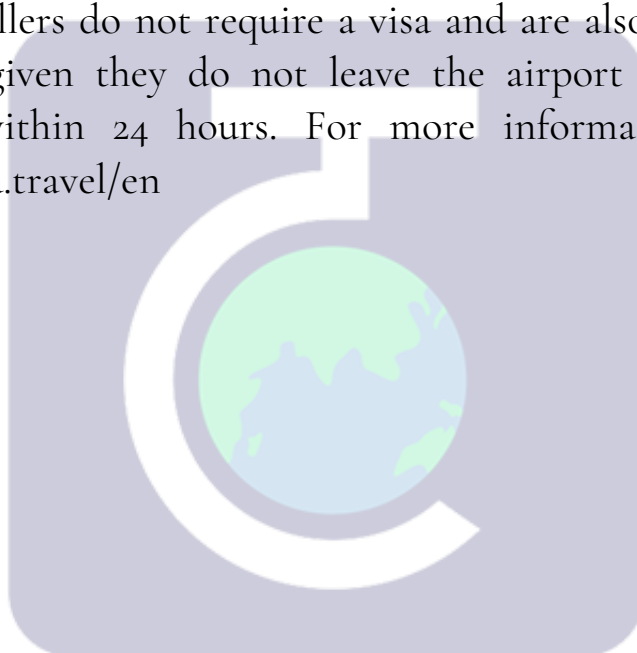
Index**32. Religious belief**

Catholicism is followed by most of the population in Colombia, followed by protestantism. Other part of the population adheres to different religions like Islam, Buddhism, Mormonism, Judaism and other Indigenous religions.



Index**33. Visa requirements**

United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada and Other European countries do not require a visa to travel to Colombia, however they just need a passport with a minimum six- month validity. Residents of the other countries do require a visa to visit Colombia; if the validity of the visa is more than three months then one has to register with Migración Colombia within 15 days of the arrival. Transit travellers do not require a visa and are also not required to pay the departure tax, given they do not leave the airport and make it to the connecting flight within 24 hours. For more information, one can visit: <http://www.colombia.travel/en>



Index**34. Essential vaccination**

It is suggested that prior to your travel to another country, get a routine checkup done for yourself from your general Doctor, however some of the most basic vaccinations that are suggested include – • Hepatitis A • Tetanus • Hepatitis B



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

The town is relatively safe, however it is recommended not to travel alone on the stranded neighborhoods at nights since there are chances of getting robbed by the locals. It is also suggested that one does not carry heavy amount of cash with them, as pick pocketing is a common crime that can occur in the buses or parks etc.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Below is the link that provides the list of Embassies and Consulates in Colombia
– <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/colombia>



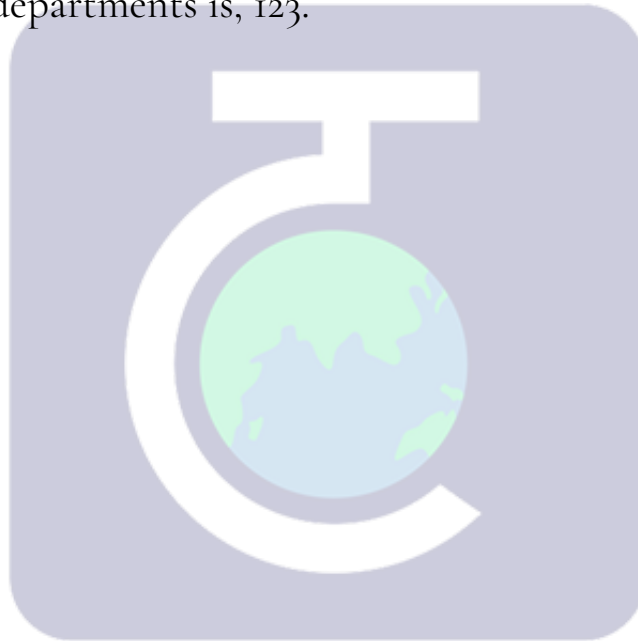
37. Accessibility

In terms of accessibility for the disables, the town is a disappointment. Travellers with reduced mobility will have a lot of trouble since only a few International and National hotels offer services for the disables. However there are some attractions where one will find discounted rates for senior citizens, disables etc.



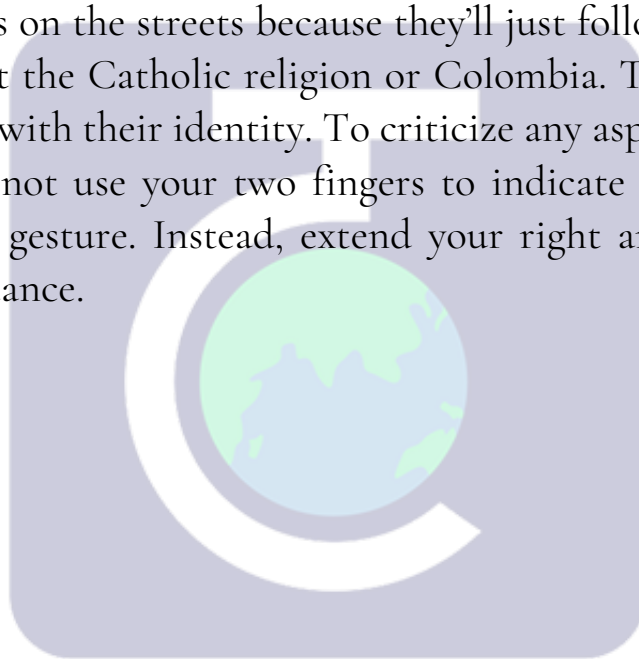
Index**38. Emergencies**

In case of any emergencies one can visit the following hospitals – ESE Hospital Psiquiátrico San Camilo Address: # 07, Cl. 45 #02, Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia Phone: +57 7 6302222 Website Directions Hospital Universitario de Santander Address: Cra. 30 #34-54, Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia Phone: +57 313 8800437 Emergency numbers –The emergency numbers for Police, Ambulance and fire departments is, 123.



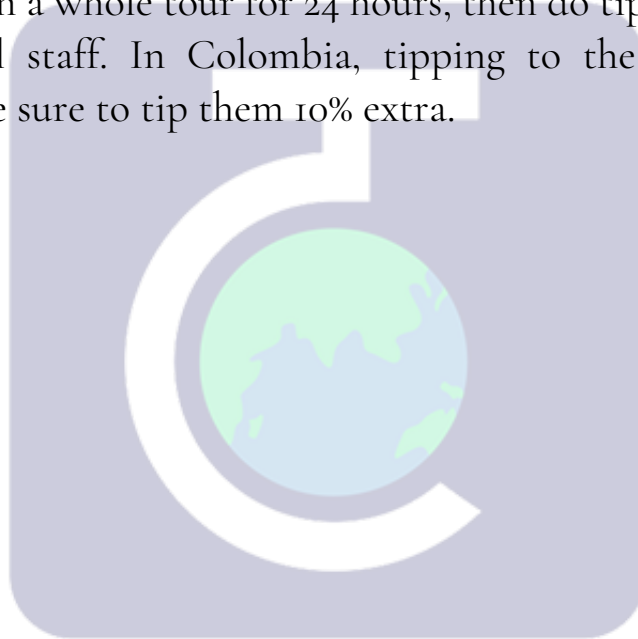
Index**39. Do's and Don'ts**

Do's • Do try and talk at least a little bit of Spanish. Speaking the local lingo, even if it's just a few words, will make people open up to you a lot more. • Do carry small change. Many smaller vendors and public transportation options will be unable to change notes. • Do pay a visit to all the Parks in the city as every park has something different to offer. Don'ts • Do not show any interest in any of the hawkers selling goods on the streets because they'll just follow you. • Do not ever say a bad word about the Catholic religion or Colombia. The most Colombians are closely bound up with their identity. To criticize any aspect of Colombia is to criticize them. • Do not use your two fingers to indicate length of something, which is an obscene gesture. Instead, extend your right arm and use your left hand to mark off distance.



40.Tipping basics

It is not compulsory to tip, since a service charge of 10% is normally charged in the bill, but if you are happy with the services at a restaurant, you can tip how much ever you want and further the tip is shared by the staff members. A more exquisite restaurant is likely to charge you with a 15% service tax, hence it is suggested that you double check and pay the bill. Tips to taxi drivers are not at all necessary, but if taken a whole tour for 24 hours, then do tip the drivers. One can always tip the hotel staff. In Colombia, tipping to the hairdressers is very common; hence make sure to tip them 10% extra.



Index**41.Pet info**

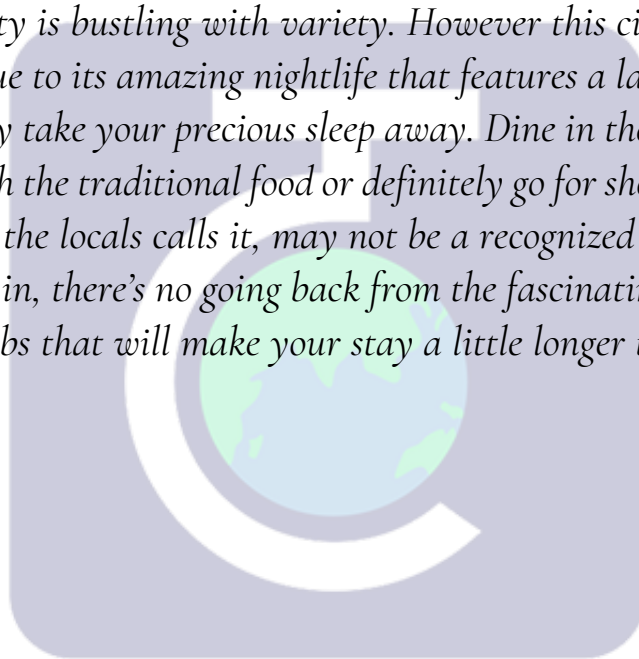
If one is willing to travel with their pets to Colombia, one must make sure that their pets have been properly vaccinated against leptospirosis, hepatitis, distemper, rabies and parvovirus. A licensed certificate provided by the vet's assuring the proper health of the pet is mandatory. However when travelling it is suggested that one leaves their pets at home.



Index

Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Colombia's one of the strongest economies 'Bucaramanga' is on a rollercoaster that is only going up and there's no stopping it. With high standard living rate, the city has become a commercial hub and what remained as a historical destination now stands as one of the metropolitan regions of the country. Often referred as the city of parks, the town is home to over 160 parks which are unique in their own way, from water parks, adventure parks to the quiet ones, the city is bustling with variety. However this city is for the lively ones, for the party hunters due to its amazing nightlife that features a large number of bars and clubs that will definitely take your precious sleep away. Dine in the many restaurants and fill up that stomach with the traditional food or definitely go for shoe shopping in this shoe-centered town. Buca as the locals calls it, may not be a recognized tourist destination, but once you step your foot in, there's no going back from the fascinating skyscrapers, spacious parks and the lively clubs that will make your stay a little longer than already planned!



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