[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Colombia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:IPA-es](/wiki/Template:IPA-es)), officially the **Republic of Colombia** ([Template:Audio-es](/wiki/Template:Audio-es)),[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) is a [transcontinental](/wiki/List_of_transcontinental_countries) country largely situated in the northwest of [South America](/wiki/South_America), with territories in [Central America](/wiki/Central_America) (included in some definitions of [North America](/wiki/North_America)). Colombia is bordered to the northwest by [Panama](/wiki/Panama); to the east by [Venezuela](/wiki/Venezuela) and [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil); to the south by [Ecuador](/wiki/Ecuador) and [Peru](/wiki/Peru);[[1]](#cite_note-1) and it shares maritime limits with [Costa Rica](/wiki/Costa_Rica), [Nicaragua](/wiki/Nicaragua), [Honduras](/wiki/Honduras), [Jamaica](/wiki/Jamaica), the [Dominican Republic](/wiki/Dominican_Republic), and [Haiti](/wiki/Haiti).[[2]](#cite_note-2) It is a [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state), constitutional [republic](/wiki/Republic) comprising thirty-two [departments](/wiki/Departments_of_Colombia). The territory of what is now Colombia was originally inhabited by [indigenous peoples](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Colombia) including the [Muisca](/wiki/Muisca_people), [Quimbaya](/wiki/Quimbaya_civilization), and [Tairona](/wiki/Tairona).

The Spanish arrived in 1499 and initiated a period of [conquest and colonization](/wiki/Spanish_conquest_of_the_Chibchan_Nations) ultimately creating the [Viceroyalty of New Granada](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Granada), with its capital at [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá). Independence from [Spain](/wiki/Spain) was won in 1819, but by 1830 the "[Gran Colombia](/wiki/Gran_Colombia)" Federation was dissolved. What is now Colombia and Panama emerged as the [Republic of New Granada](/wiki/Republic_of_New_Granada). The new nation experimented with federalism as the [Granadine Confederation](/wiki/Granadine_Confederation) (1858), and then the [United States of Colombia](/wiki/United_States_of_Colombia) (1863), before the Republic of Colombia was finally declared in 1886. [Panama seceded](/wiki/Separation_of_Panama_from_Colombia) in 1903. Since the 1960s, the country has suffered from an [asymmetric](/wiki/Asymmetric_warfare) [low-intensity](/wiki/Low_intensity_conflict) [armed conflict](/wiki/Colombian_armed_conflict_(1964–present)), which escalated in the 1990s, but then decreased from 2005 onward.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Colombia is one of the most ethnically and [linguistically](/wiki/Languages_of_Colombia) diverse countries in the world giving rise to a rich [cultural heritage](/wiki/Cultural_heritage). This has also been influenced by Colombia's varied [geography](/wiki/Geography_of_Colombia), and the imposing [landscape](/wiki/Landscape) of the country has resulted in the development of very strong regional identities.

The majority of the urban centres are located in the highlands of the [Andes mountains](/wiki/Andes), but Colombian territory also encompasses [Amazon rainforest](/wiki/Amazon_rainforest), [tropical grassland](/wiki/Los_Llanos_(South_America)) and both Caribbean and Pacific coastlines. Ecologically, Colombia is considered one of the world's 17 [megadiverse countries](/wiki/Megadiverse_countries), and of these, the most biodiverse per square kilometer.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Colombia is a [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power) and a [regional actor](/wiki/Regional_power) with the fourth largest economy in Latin America,[[5]](#cite_note-5) is part of the [CIVETS](/wiki/CIVETS_countries) group of six leading [emerging markets](/wiki/Emerging_markets) and is an accessing member to the [OECD](/wiki/OECD).[[6]](#cite_note-6) Colombia has a diversified economy with macroeconomic stability and favorable growth prospects in the long run.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The name "Colombia" is derived from the last name of [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) ([Template:Lang-it](/wiki/Template:Lang-it), [Template:Lang-es](/wiki/Template:Lang-es)). It was conceived by the Venezuelan revolutionary [Francisco de Miranda](/wiki/Francisco_de_Miranda) as a reference to all the New World, but especially to those under the Spanish and Portuguese rule. The name was later adopted by the [Republic of Colombia](/wiki/Greater_Colombia) of 1819, formed out of the territories of the old [Viceroyalty of New Granada](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Granada) (modern-day Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, and northwest Brazil).[[9]](#cite_note-9) When Venezuela, Ecuador and [Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Department_(1820)) came to exist as independent states, the former [Department of Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Province) adopted the name "[Republic of New Granada](/wiki/Republic_of_New_Granada)". In 1858, New Granada officially changed its name to the [Granadine Confederation](/wiki/Granadine_Confederation). In 1863, the name was again changed, this time to [United States of Colombia](/wiki/United_States_of_Colombia), before finally adopting its present name – the Republic of Colombia – in [1886](/wiki/1886).[[9]](#cite_note-9) To refer to this country, the Colombian government uses the terms *Colombia* and *República de Colombia*.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Pre-Columbian<!--This is NOT a typo. Before Christopher Columbus, not before Colombia --> era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Due to its location, the present territory of Colombia was a corridor of early human migration from [Mesoamerica](/wiki/Mesoamerica) and the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean) to the [Andes](/wiki/Andes) and [Amazon](/wiki/Amazonia). The oldest archaeological finds are from the [Pubenza](/wiki/Pubenza_archaeological_site) and [El Totumo](/wiki/El_Totumo_archaeological_site) sites in the Magdalena Valley 100 km southwest of Bogotá.[[10]](#cite_note-10) These sites date from the [Paleoindian](/wiki/Paleoindian) period (18,000–8000 BCE). At [Puerto Hormiga](/wiki/Puerto_Hormiga_archaeological_site) and other sites, traces from the [Archaic Period](/wiki/Archaic_period_in_South_America) (~8000–2000 BCE) have been found. Vestiges indicate that there was also early occupation in the regions of [El Abra](/wiki/El_Abra) and [Tequendama](/wiki/Tequendama_(archaeological_site)) in [Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Department_(1820)). The oldest pottery discovered in the Americas, found at [San Jacinto](/wiki/San_Jacinto_archaeological_site), dates to 5000 – 4000 BCE.[[11]](#cite_note-11) By 10,500 BCE, the territory of what is now Colombia was inhabited by [aboriginal people](/wiki/Aboriginal_people). Nomadic [hunter-gatherer](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) tribes existed near present-day Bogotá (at El Abra and Tequendama sites) which traded with one another and with cultures living in the [Magdalena River](/wiki/Magdalena_River) Valley.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Between 5000 and 1000 BCE, hunter-gatherer tribes transitioned to agrarian societies; fixed settlements were established, and pottery appeared. Beginning in the 1st millennium BCE, groups of [Amerindians](/wiki/Amerindian) including the [Muisca](/wiki/Muisca_people), [Quimbaya](/wiki/Quimbaya_civilization), and [Tairona](/wiki/Tairona) developed the political system of [*cacicazgos*](/wiki/Cacicazgo) with a pyramidal structure of power headed by [caciques](/wiki/Cacique_Nutibara_Bloc). The Muisca inhabited mainly the area of what is now the [Departments](/wiki/Departments_of_Colombia) of [Boyacá](/wiki/Boyacá_Department) and [Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Department) high plateau ([*Altiplano Cundiboyacense*](/wiki/Altiplano_Cundiboyacense)) where they formed the [Muisca Confederation](/wiki/Muisca_Confederation). They farmed maize, potato, quinoa and cotton, and traded gold, emeralds, blankets, ceramic handicrafts, coca and salt with neighboring nations. The Taironas inhabited northern Colombia in the isolated [Andes](/wiki/Andes) mountain range of [Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta](/wiki/Sierra_Nevada_de_Santa_Marta).[[13]](#cite_note-13) The Quimbayas inhabited regions of the [Cauca River](/wiki/Cauca_River) Valley between the [Occidental](/wiki/Cordillera_Occidental,_Colombia) and [Central](/wiki/Cordillera_Central,_Colombia) [cordilleras](/wiki/Cordillera).[[14]](#cite_note-14) The Incas expanded their [empire](/wiki/Inca_Empire) on the southwest part of the country.[[15]](#cite_note-15)

### Spanish rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Muisca_raft_Legend_of_El_Dorado_Offerings_of_gold.jpg)[Muisca raft](/wiki/Muisca_raft). The figure refers to the ceremony of the legend of [El Dorado](/wiki/El_Dorado). The legend and the gold would play a pivotal role in luring Europeans to New Granada during the 16th and 17th centuries. [Alonso de Ojeda](/wiki/Alonso_de_Ojeda) (who had sailed with Columbus) reached the [Guajira Peninsula](/wiki/Guajira_Peninsula) in 1499.[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) Spanish explorers, led by [Rodrigo de Bastidas](/wiki/Rodrigo_de_Bastidas), made the first exploration of the [Caribbean littoral](/wiki/Caribbean_Basin) in 1500.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus) navigated near the Caribbean in 1502.[[19]](#cite_note-19) In 1508, [Vasco Núñez de Balboa](/wiki/Vasco_Núñez_de_Balboa) accompanied an expedition to the territory through the region of [Gulf of Urabá](/wiki/Gulf_of_Urabá) and they founded the town of [Santa María la Antigua del Darién](/wiki/Santa_María_la_Antigua_del_Darién) in 1510, the first stable settlement on the continent. [Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn)[[20]](#cite_note-20) [Santa Marta](/wiki/Santa_Marta) was founded in 1525,[[21]](#cite_note-21) and [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia) in 1533.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Spanish conquistador [Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada](/wiki/Gonzalo_Jiménez_de_Quesada) led an expedition to the interior in April, 1536, and christened the districts through which he passed "[New Kingdom of Granada](/wiki/New_Kingdom_of_Granada)". In August, 1538, he founded provisionally its capital near the Muisca [cacicazgo](/wiki/Cacicazgo) of Bacatá, and named it "Santa Fe". The name soon acquired a suffix and was called Santa Fe de Bogotá.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) Two other notable journeys by early conquistadors to the interior took place in the same period. [Sebastián de Belalcázar](/wiki/Sebastián_de_Belalcázar), conqueror of [Quito](/wiki/Quito), traveled north and founded [Cali](/wiki/Cali), in 1536, and [Popayán](/wiki/Popayán), in 1537;[[25]](#cite_note-25) from 1536–1539, German conquistador [Nikolaus Federmann](/wiki/Nikolaus_Federmann) crossed the [Llanos Orientales](/wiki/Orinoquía_Natural_Region,_Colombia) and went over the [Cordillera Oriental](/wiki/Cordillera_Oriental_(Colombia)) in a search for [El Dorado](/wiki/El_Dorado), the "city of gold".[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27) The legend and the gold would play a pivotal role in luring the Spanish and other Europeans to New Granada during the 16th and 17th centuries.[[28]](#cite_note-28) In 1542, the region of New Granada, along with all other Spanish possessions in South America, became part of the [Viceroyalty of Peru](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_Peru), with its capital at [Lima](/wiki/Lima).[[29]](#cite_note-29) In 1547, New Granada became the [Captaincy-General of New Granada](/wiki/Captaincy-General_of_New_Granada) within the viceroyalty.

In 1549, the [Royal Audiencia](/wiki/Real_Audiencia) was created by a royal decree, and New Granada was ruled by the [Royal Audience of Santa Fe de Bogotá](/wiki/Royal_Audience_of_Santa_Fe_de_Bogotá), which at that time comprised the provinces of Santa Marta, Rio de San Juan, Popayán, Guayana and Cartagena.[[30]](#cite_note-30) But important decisions were taken from the colony to Spain by the [Council of the Indies](/wiki/Council_of_the_Indies).[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32)[thumb|left|150px|](/wiki/File:StPeterClaver.jpg)[Peter Claver](/wiki/Peter_Claver) was a Spanish-born [Jesuit](/wiki/Jesuit) priest who dedicated his life to helping the Africans, calling himself "the slave of slaves forever." Indigenous peoples in New Granada experienced a decline in population due to conquest by the Spanish as well as Eurasian diseases, such as [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox), to which they had no immunity.[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) With the risk that the land was deserted, the Spanish Crown sold properties to the governors, conquerors and their descendants creating large farms and possession of mines.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In the 16th century, Europeans began to bring slaves from Africa.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Also there were heroes who defended human rights and freedom of oppressed peoples.[Template:RefnTemplate:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) To protect and exploit the indigenous peoples, several forms of land ownership and regulation were established: *resguardos*, *encomiendas* and *haciendas*. Repopulation was achieved by allowing colonization by farmers and their families who came from Spain.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38)[thumb|Attack of the British army commanded by Admiral](/wiki/File:Defensa_de_Cartagena_de_Indias_por_la_escuadra_de_D._Blas_de_Lezo,_año_1741.jpg) [Edward Vernon](/wiki/Edward_Vernon) on Cartagena de Indias. [The battle](/wiki/Battle_of_Cartagena_de_Indias) resulted in a major defeat for the British Navy and Army during the [War of Jenkins' Ear](/wiki/War_of_Jenkins'_Ear), 1739–48.[[39]](#cite_note-39) In 1717 the [Viceroyalty of New Granada](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Granada) was originally created, and then it was temporarily removed, to finally be reestablished in 1739. The Viceroyalty had Santa Fé de Bogotá as its capital. This Viceroyalty included some other provinces of northwestern South America which had previously been under the jurisdiction of the [Viceroyalties of New Spain](/wiki/New_Spain) or [Peru](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_Peru) and correspond mainly to today's Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. So, Bogotá became one of the principal administrative centers of the Spanish possessions in the New World, along with [Lima](/wiki/Lima) and [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City), though it remained somewhat backward compared to those two cities in several economic and logistical ways.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) After Great Britain declared war on Spain in 1739, [Cartagena](/wiki/Battle_of_Cartagena_de_Indias) quickly became the British forces’ top target but an upset Spanish victory during the [War of Jenkins’ Ear](/wiki/War_of_Jenkins’_Ear), a war with Great Britain for economic control of the Caribbean cemented Spanish dominance in the [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean) until the [Seven Years’ War](/wiki/Seven_Years’_War).[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[42]](#cite_note-42) The 18th-century priest, botanist and mathematician [José Celestino Mutis](/wiki/José_Celestino_Mutis) was delegated by Viceroy [Antonio Caballero y Góngora](/wiki/Antonio_Caballero_y_Góngora) to conduct an inventory of the nature of the New Granada. Started in 1783, this became known as the [Royal Botanical Expedition to New Granada](/wiki/Royal_Botanical_Expedition_to_New_Granada) which classified plants, wildlife and founded the first astronomical observatory in the city of Santa Fe de Bogotá.[[43]](#cite_note-43) In July 1801 the Prussian scientist [Alexander von Humboldt](/wiki/Alexander_von_Humboldt) reached Santa Fe de Bogotá where he met with Mutis. In addition, historical figures in the process of independence in New Granada emerged from the expedition as the astronomer [Francisco José de Caldas](/wiki/Francisco_José_de_Caldas), the scientist [Francisco Antonio Zea](/wiki/Francisco_Antonio_Zea), the zoologist [Jorge Tadeo Lozano](/wiki/Jorge_Tadeo_Lozano) and the painter [Salvador Rizo](/wiki/Salvador_Rizo).[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)

### Independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Batalla_de_Boyaca_de_Martin_Tovar_y_Tovar.jpg) [Battle of Boyacá](/wiki/Battle_of_Boyacá) was the decisive battle which would ensure the success of the [liberation campaign of New Granada](/wiki/Bolívar's_campaign_to_liberate_New_Granada). Since the beginning of the periods of conquest and colonization, there were several rebel movements against Spanish rule, but most were either crushed or remained too weak to change the overall situation. The last one that sought outright [independence from Spain](/wiki/Colombian_Declaration_of_Independence) sprang up around 1810, following the independence of [St. Domingue](/wiki/St._Domingue) (present-day Haiti) in 1804, which provided some support to the eventual leaders of this rebellion: [Simón Bolívar](/wiki/Simón_Bolívar) and [Francisco de Paula Santander](/wiki/Francisco_de_Paula_Santander).[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) A movement was initiated by [Antonio Nariño](/wiki/Antonio_Nariño), who opposed Spanish centralism and led the opposition against the [viceroyalty](/wiki/Viceroyalty).[[48]](#cite_note-48) [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia) became independent in November 1811.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Took place the formation of two independent governments which fought a civil war – a period known as the [Foolish Fatherland](/wiki/Foolish_Fatherland).[[50]](#cite_note-50) In 1811 the [United Provinces of New Granada](/wiki/United_Provinces_of_New_Granada) were proclaimed, headed by [Camilo Torres Tenorio](/wiki/Camilo_Torres_Tenorio).[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52) Despite the successes of the rebellion, the emergence of two distinct ideological currents among the liberators ([federalism](/wiki/Federalism) and [centralism](/wiki/Centralism)) gave rise to an internal clash which contributed to the reconquest of territory by the Spanish. The viceroyalty was restored under the command of [Juan Sámano](/wiki/Juan_Sámano), whose regime punished those who participated in the uprisings. The retribution stoked renewed rebellion, which, combined with a weakened Spain, made possible a successful rebellion led by the Venezuelan-born [Simón Bolívar](/wiki/Simón_Bolívar), who finally proclaimed independence in [1819](/wiki/1819).[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) The [pro-Spanish resistance](/wiki/Royalist_(Spanish_American_Independence)) was defeated in 1822 in the present territory of Colombia and in 1823 in Venezuela.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) The territory of the Viceroyalty of New Granada became the [Republic of Colombia](/wiki/Gran_Colombia), organized as a [union of the current territories](/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Gran_Colombia) of Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela, parts of Guyana and Brazil and north of [Marañón River](/wiki/Marañón_River).[[58]](#cite_note-58) The [Congress of Cúcuta](/wiki/Congress_of_Cúcuta) in 1821 adopted a [constitution](/wiki/Colombian_Constitution_of_1821) for the new Republic.[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60) Simón Bolívar became the first [President of Colombia](/wiki/President_of_Colombia), and Francisco de Paula Santander was made [Vice President](/wiki/Vice_President_of_Colombia).[[61]](#cite_note-61) However, the new republic was unstable and three countries emerged from the collapse of [Gran Colombia](/wiki/Gran_Colombia) in 1830 (New Granada, Ecuador and Venezuela).[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63)[thumb|Formation of the present Colombia since the](/wiki/File:Cambios_territoriales_de_Colombia.gif) [Viceroyalty of New Granada's](/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Granada) independence from the [Spanish Empire](/wiki/Spanish_Empire). Colombia was the first [constitutional government](/wiki/Constitutional_government) in South America,[[64]](#cite_note-64) and the [Liberal](/wiki/Colombian_Liberal_Party) and [Conservative](/wiki/Colombian_Conservative_Party) parties, founded in 1848 and 1849 respectively, are two of the oldest surviving [political parties](/wiki/Political_parties) in the Americas.[[65]](#cite_note-65) [Slavery](/wiki/Slavery) was abolished in the country in 1851.[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) Internal political and territorial divisions led to the dissolution of [Gran Colombia](/wiki/Gran_Colombia) in 1830.[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) The so-called "[Department of Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Province)" adopted the name "[New Granada](/wiki/Republic_of_the_New_Granada)", which it kept until 1858 when it became the "Confederación Granadina" ([Granadine Confederation](/wiki/Granadine_Confederation)). After a [two-year civil war](/wiki/Colombian_Civil_War_(1860–1862)) in 1863, the "[United States of Colombia](/wiki/United_States_of_Colombia)" was created, lasting until 1886, when the country finally became known as the Republic of Colombia.[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[68]](#cite_note-68) Internal divisions remained between the bipartisan political forces, occasionally igniting very bloody civil wars, the most significant being the [Thousand Days' War](/wiki/Thousand_Days'_War) (1899–1902).[[69]](#cite_note-69)

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

The United States of America's intentions to influence the area (especially the [Panama Canal](/wiki/Panama_Canal) construction and control) led to the [separation of the Department of Panama](/wiki/Separation_of_Panama_from_Colombia) in 1903 and the establishment of it as a nation.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The United States paid Colombia $25,000,000 in 1921, seven years after completion of the canal, for redress of President [Roosevelt's](/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) role in the creation of Panama, and Colombia recognized Panama under the terms of the [Thomson–Urrutia Treaty](/wiki/Thomson–Urrutia_Treaty).[[71]](#cite_note-71) Colombia was engulfed in the [war with Peru](/wiki/Leticia_Incident) over a territorial dispute involving the [Amazonas department](/wiki/Amazonas_department) and its capital [Leticia](/wiki/Leticia,_Amazonas).[[72]](#cite_note-72)[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Bogotazo.jpg) [Bogotazo](/wiki/Bogotazo) in 1948 Soon after, Colombia achieved some degree of political stability, which was interrupted by a bloody conflict that took place between the late 1940s and the early 1950s, a period known as [*La Violencia*](/wiki/La_Violencia) ("The Violence"). Its cause was mainly mounting tensions between the two leading political parties, which subsequently ignited after the assassination of the [Liberal](/wiki/Colombian_Liberal_Party) presidential candidate [Jorge Eliécer Gaitán](/wiki/Jorge_Eliécer_Gaitán) on 9 April 1948.[[73]](#cite_note-73)[[74]](#cite_note-74) The ensuing riots in Bogotá, known as [El Bogotazo](/wiki/El_Bogotazo), spread throughout the country and claimed the lives of at least 180,000 Colombians.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Colombia entered the [Korean War](/wiki/Korean_War) when [Laureano Gómez](/wiki/Laureano_Gómez) was elected as President. It was the only Latin American country to join the war in a direct military role as an ally of the United States. Particularly important was the resistance of the Colombian troops at [Old Baldy](/wiki/Battle_of_Old_Baldy).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[thumb|350px|The defenders of human rights as](/wiki/File:The_defenders_of_human_rights.png) [Javier de Nicoló](/wiki/Javier_de_Nicoló) and [Héctor Abad Gómez](/wiki/Héctor_Abad_Gómez) are considered heroes for their work in peace-building. From 1953 to 1964 the violence between the two political parties decreased first when [Gustavo Rojas](/wiki/Gustavo_Rojas_Pinilla) deposed the President of Colombia in a [coup d'état](/wiki/Coup_d'état) and negotiated with the guerrillas, and then under the [military junta](/wiki/Military_junta) of General [Gabriel París Gordillo](/wiki/Gabriel_París_Gordillo).

After Rojas' deposition, the [Colombian Conservative Party](/wiki/Colombian_Conservative_Party) and [Colombian Liberal Party](/wiki/Colombian_Liberal_Party) agreed to create the "[National Front](/wiki/National_Front_(Colombia))", a coalition which would jointly govern the country. Under the deal, the presidency would alternate between conservatives and liberals every 4 years for 16 years; the two parties would have parity in all other elective offices. The National Front ended "La Violencia", and National Front administrations attempted to institute far-reaching social and economic reforms in cooperation with the [Alliance for Progress](/wiki/Alliance_for_Progress). In the end, the contradictions between each successive Liberal and Conservative administration made the results decidedly mixed. Despite the progress in certain sectors, many social and political problems continued, and guerrilla groups were formally created such as the [FARC](/wiki/FARC), [ELN](/wiki/National_Liberation_Army_(Colombia)), [EPL](/wiki/Popular_Liberation_Army), [MAQL](/wiki/Movimiento_Armado_Quintin_Lame), [PRT](/wiki/Workers_Revolutionary_Party_of_Colombia), CRS and [M-19](/wiki/19th_of_April_Movement) to fight the government and political apparatus.

Since the 1960s, the country has suffered from an [asymmetric](/wiki/Asymmetric_warfare) [low-intensity](/wiki/Low_intensity_conflict) armed conflict between the [government forces](/wiki/Military_Forces_of_Colombia), [left-wing guerrilla groups](/wiki/Guerrilla_movements_in_Colombia) and [right-wing paramilitaries](/wiki/Paramilitarism_in_Colombia).[[77]](#cite_note-77) [The conflict](/wiki/Colombian_armed_conflict_(1964–present)) escalated in the 1990s.[[78]](#cite_note-78) The conflict in Colombia takes place mainly in remote rural areas.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Since the beginning of the armed conflict, [human rights defenders](/wiki/Human_rights_defenders) have staged heroic acts that shows us the importance of standing up against injustice and fight for the respect for [human rights](/wiki/Human_rights), despite staggering opposition.[Template:RefnTemplate:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) Five out of the seven guerrilla groups decided to demobilize after peace negotiations in 1989 –1994.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The United States has been heavily involved in the conflict since its beginnings, when in the early 1960s the [U.S. government](/wiki/U.S._government) encouraged the Colombian military to attack leftist militias in rural Colombia. This was part of the U.S. fight against communism.[[80]](#cite_note-80) On 4 July 1991, a new [Constitution](/wiki/Colombian_Constitution_of_1991) was promulgated. The changes generated by the new constitution are viewed as positive by Colombian society.[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|Demonstration against the violent actions carried out by armed groups such as the](/wiki/File:Marchando_por_la_libertad_en_Colombia.jpg) [FARC](/wiki/FARC) and the [ELN](/wiki/National_Liberation_Army_(Colombia)). The administration of President [Álvaro Uribe](/wiki/Álvaro_Uribe) (2002-10), adopted the [democratic security policy](/wiki/Democratic_security_policy) which included an integrated [counter-terrorism](/wiki/Counter-terrorism) and [counter-insurgency](/wiki/Counter-insurgency) campaign.[[83]](#cite_note-83) The Government economic plan also promoted confidence in investors. [[84]](#cite_note-84) As part of a controversial peace process the [AUC](/wiki/United_Self-Defense_Forces_of_Colombia) (right-wing paramilitaries) as a formal organization had ceased to function.[[85]](#cite_note-85) In February 2008, millions of Colombians demonstrated against FARC and other outlawed groups.[[86]](#cite_note-86) In 2012 the administration of President [Juan Manuel Santos](/wiki/Juan_Manuel_Santos) (2010-present), began a dialogue in Havana, [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba) between the [Government of Colombia](/wiki/Government_of_Colombia) and [guerrilla](/wiki/Guerrilla) of [FARC-EP](/wiki/FARC-EP) with the aim to find a political solution to the [armed conflict](/wiki/Colombian_conflict_(1964–present)). After almost four years of peace negotiations, the Colombian state and the FARC have agreed to a bilateral and “definitive” ceasefire.[[87]](#cite_note-87) The Government also began a process of assistance and reparation for victims of conflict.[[88]](#cite_note-88)[[89]](#cite_note-89) Colombia shows modest progress in the struggle to defend human rights, as expressed by [HRW](/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch).[[90]](#cite_note-90) In terms of international relations, Colombia has moved from a period of tension and animosity with [Venezuela](/wiki/2010_Colombia–Venezuela_diplomatic_crisis), towards a positive outlook and a spirit of cooperation. Colombia has also won a seat on the [Security Council](/wiki/Security_Council) of the UN.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [230px|thumbnail|Relief Map.](/wiki/File:Mapa_de_Colombia_(relieve).svg) [thumb|230px|Colombia map of](/wiki/File:Colombia_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification). The geography of Colombia is characterized by its six main [natural regions](/wiki/Natural_regions_of_Colombia) that present their own unique characteristics, from the [Andes mountain range](/wiki/Andes) region shared with Ecuador and Venezuela; the [Pacific coastal region](/wiki/Pacific_Coast) shared with Panama and Ecuador; the Caribbean coastal region shared with Venezuela and Panama; the [*Llanos*](/wiki/Los_Llanos,_Venezuela) (plains) shared with Venezuela; the [Amazon Rainforest](/wiki/Amazon_Rainforest) region shared with Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador; to the [insular area](/wiki/Insular_Region_(Colombia)), comprising islands in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.[[92]](#cite_note-92) Colombia is bordered to the northwest by [Panama](/wiki/Panama); to the east by [Venezuela](/wiki/Venezuela) and [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil); to the south by [Ecuador](/wiki/Ecuador) and [Peru](/wiki/Peru);[[1]](#cite_note-1) it established its maritime boundaries with neighboring countries through seven agreements on the Caribbean Sea and three on the Pacific Ocean.[[2]](#cite_note-2) It lies between latitudes [12°N](/wiki/12th_parallel_north) and [4°S](/wiki/4th_parallel_south), and longitudes [67°](/wiki/67th_meridian_west) and [79°W](/wiki/79th_meridian_west).

Part of the [Ring of Fire](/wiki/Pacific_Ring_of_Fire), a region of the world subject to earthquakes and [volcanic eruptions](/wiki/Volcano),[[93]](#cite_note-93) Colombia is dominated by the Andes (which contain the majority of the country's urban centres). Beyond the [Colombian Massif](/wiki/Colombian_Massif) (in the south-western departments of [Cauca](/wiki/Cauca_Department) and [Nariño](/wiki/Nariño_Department)) these are divided into three branches known as *cordilleras* (mountain ranges): the [Cordillera Occidental](/wiki/Cordillera_Occidental_(Colombia)), running adjacent to the Pacific coast and including the city of [Cali](/wiki/Santiago_de_Cali); the [Cordillera Central](/wiki/Cordillera_Central_(Colombia)), running between the [Cauca](/wiki/Cauca_River) and [Magdalena River](/wiki/Magdalena_River) valleys (to the west and east respectively) and including the cities of [Medellín](/wiki/Medellín), [Manizales](/wiki/Manizales), [Pereira](/wiki/Pereira,_Colombia) and [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia,_Quindío); and the [Cordillera Oriental](/wiki/Cordillera_Oriental_(Colombia)), extending north east to the [Guajira Peninsula](/wiki/Guajira_Peninsula) and including Bogotá, [Bucaramanga](/wiki/Bucaramanga) and [Cúcuta](/wiki/Cúcuta).[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Peaks in the Cordillera Occidental exceed [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and in the Cordillera Central and Cordillera Oriental they reach [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), Bogotá is the highest city of its size in the world.[[92]](#cite_note-92) East of the Andes lies the [savanna](/wiki/Savanna) of the [*Llanos*](/wiki/Los_Llanos,_Venezuela), part of the [Orinoco River basin](/wiki/Orinoco), and, in the far south east, the [jungle](/wiki/Jungle) of the [Amazon rainforest](/wiki/Amazon_rainforest). Together these lowlands comprise over half Colombia's territory, but they contain less than 6% of the population. To the north the [Caribbean coast](/wiki/Caribbean_Region_of_Colombia), home to 21.9% of the population and the location of the major port cities of [Barranquilla](/wiki/Barranquilla) and [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia), generally consists of low-lying plains, but it also contains the [Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta](/wiki/Sierra_Nevada_de_Santa_Marta) mountain range, which includes the country's tallest peaks ([Pico Cristóbal Colón](/wiki/Pico_Cristóbal_Colón) and [Pico Simón Bolívar](/wiki/Pico_Simón_Bolívar)), and the [La Guajira Desert](/wiki/La_Guajira_Desert). By contrast the narrow and discontinuous [Pacific coastal lowlands](/wiki/Pacific_Region_of_Colombia), backed by the [Serranía de Baudó](/wiki/Baudó_Mountains) mountains, are sparsely populated and covered in dense vegetation. The principal Pacific port is [Buenaventura](/wiki/Buenaventura,_Colombia).[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) The main rivers of Colombia are [Magdalena](/wiki/Magdalena_River), [Cauca](/wiki/Cauca_River), [Guaviare](/wiki/Guaviare_Department), [Atrato](/wiki/Atrato_River), [Meta](/wiki/Meta_River), [Putumayo](/wiki/Putumayo_River) and [Caquetá](/wiki/Caquetá_River). Colombia has four main drainage systems: the Pacific drain, the Caribbean drain, the Orinoco Basin and the Amazon Basin. The [Orinoco](/wiki/Orinoco) and [Amazon](/wiki/Amazon_River) Rivers mark limits with Colombia to Venezuela and Peru respectively.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Protected areas and the "National Park System" cover an area of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and account for 12.77% of the Colombian territory.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Compared to neighboring countries, rates of deforestation in Colombia are still relatively low.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Colombia is the sixth country in the world by magnitude of total renewable freshwater supply, and still has large reserves of freshwater.<ref name=worldwater>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Colombians customarily describe their country in terms of the [climatic zones](/wiki/Climatic_zone). Below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in elevation is the [tierra caliente](/wiki/Tierra_caliente) (hot land), where [temperatures](/wiki/Temperature) are above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). About 82.5% of the country's total area lies in the tierra caliente.[[99]](#cite_note-99) The majority of the population can be found in the [tierra templada](/wiki/Tierra_templada) (temperate land, between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), where temperatures vary between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and the [tierra fría](/wiki/Tierra_fría) (cold land, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)). In the tierra fría mean temperatures range between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Beyond the tierra fría lie the [alpine](/wiki/Alpine_climate) conditions of the forested zone and then the treeless grasslands of the [páramos](/wiki/Páramo). Above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), where temperatures are below freezing, is the [tierra helada](/wiki/Tierra_helada), a zone of permanent snow and ice.[[99]](#cite_note-99)<gallery mode=packed> File:Nevado del Ruiz en Colombia.jpg|[Ice cap climate](/wiki/Ice_cap_climate) in the [Nevado del Ruiz](/wiki/Nevado_del_Ruiz) File:Páramo de Sumapaz.jpg |[Alpine tundra climate](/wiki/Alpine_tundra) in the [Sumapaz Paramo](/wiki/Sumapaz_Paramo) File:Tota Lake 1.JPG|[Oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) in [Tota Lake](/wiki/Tota_Lake) File:Paisaje rural en Tinjacá.jpg|[Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) in [Boyacá Department](/wiki/Boyacá_Department) File:Desierto Frio en Boyacá.jpg|[Cold desert climate](/wiki/Desert_climate) near [Villa de Leyva](/wiki/Villa_de_Leyva) File:Sunset on the Amazon (7613489930).jpg|[Tropical rainforest climate](/wiki/Tropical_rainforest_climate) in the [Amazon Rainforest](/wiki/Amazon_Basin) File:NP Llanos36 lo (5853389005).jpg|[Tropical savanna climate](/wiki/Tropical_savanna_climate) in [Los Llanos](/wiki/Los_Llanos_(South_America)) File:Cabo de La vela.JPG|[Hot desert climate](/wiki/Desert_climate) in the [Guajira Peninsula](/wiki/Guajira_Peninsula) File:Johny Cay.jpg|[Tropical wet and dry climate](/wiki/Tropical_wet_and_dry_climate) in [San Andrés y Providencia](/wiki/San_Andrés_y_Providencia) </gallery>

### Biodiversity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Colombia is one of the [megadiverse countries](/wiki/Megadiverse_countries) in [biodiversity](/wiki/Biodiversity),[[100]](#cite_note-100) ranking first in bird species.[[101]](#cite_note-101) As for plants, the country has between 40,000 and 45,000 plant [species](/wiki/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.[[102]](#cite_note-102) Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, lagging only after Brazil which is approximately 7 times bigger.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[103]](#cite_note-103) Colombia is the country in the planet more characterized by a high biodiversity, with the highest rate of [species](/wiki/Species) by area unit worldwide and it has the largest number of [endemisms](/wiki/Endemism) (species that are not found naturally anywhere else) of any country. About 10% of the species of the [Earth](/wiki/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 [mammals](/wiki/Mammal) species, 14% of the [amphibian](/wiki/Amphibian) species and 18% of the [bird](/wiki/Bird) species of the world.[[104]](#cite_note-104) Colombia has about 2,000 species of [marine fish](/wiki/Marine_fish) and is the second most diverse country in [freshwater fish](/wiki/Freshwater_fish). Colombia is the country with more endemic species of [butterflies](/wiki/Butterflies), number 1 in terms of [orchid](/wiki/Orchid) species and approximately 7,000 species of [beetles](/wiki/Beetle). Colombia is second in the number of amphibian species and is the third most diverse country in [reptiles](/wiki/Reptile) and [palms](/wiki/Arecaceae). There are about 2,900 species of [mollusks](/wiki/Mollusk) and according to estimates there are about 300,000 species of [invertebrates](/wiki/Invertebrates) in the country. In Colombia there are 32 terrestrial [biomes](/wiki/Biomes) and 314 types of [ecosystems](/wiki/Ecosystems).[[105]](#cite_note-105)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Casa_presidencial_de_Bogotá.jpg)[Casa de Nariño](/wiki/Casa_de_Nariño), is the official home and principal workplace of the [President of Colombia](/wiki/President_of_Colombia). The government of Colombia takes place within the framework of a [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [participatory democratic](/wiki/Participatory_democracy) republic as established in the Constitution of 1991.[[82]](#cite_note-82) In accordance with the principle of [separation of powers](/wiki/Separation_of_powers), government is divided into three branches: the executive branch, the legislative branch and the judicial branch.[[106]](#cite_note-106) As the head of the executive branch, the [President of Colombia](/wiki/President_of_Colombia) serves as both [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), followed by the [Vice President](/wiki/Vice_President_of_Colombia) and the [Council of Ministers](/wiki/Council_of_Ministers_of_the_Republic_of_Colombia). The president is elected by popular vote to serve four-year term (In 2015 the Colombia’s Congress approved the repeal of a 2004 constitutional amendment that eliminated the one-term limit for presidents).[[107]](#cite_note-107) At the provincial level executive power is vested in [department governors](/wiki/List_of_Colombian_Department_Governors), [municipal mayors](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Colombia) and local administrators for smaller administrative subdivisions, such as [*corregimientos*](/wiki/Corregimientos_of_Colombia) or *comunas*.[[108]](#cite_note-108) All regional elections are held one year and five months after the presidential election.[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110) The legislative branch of government is represented nationally by the [Congress](/wiki/Congress_of_Colombia), a bicameral institution comprising a 166-seat [Chamber of Representatives](/wiki/Chamber_of_Representatives_of_Colombia) and a 102-seat [Senate](/wiki/Senate_of_Colombia).[[111]](#cite_note-111)[[112]](#cite_note-112) The Senate is elected nationally and the Chamber of Representatives is elected in electoral districts.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Members of both houses are elected to serve four-year terms two months before the president, also by popular vote.[[114]](#cite_note-114)[thumb|Colombia's Palace of Justice.](/wiki/File:Nuevopalaciodejusticia.JPG) The judicial branch is headed by [four high courts](/wiki/Judiciary_of_Colombia),[[115]](#cite_note-115) consisting of the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Justice_of_Colombia) which deals with penal and civil matters, the [Council of State](/wiki/Council_of_State_of_Colombia), which has special responsibility for [administrative law](/wiki/Administrative_law) and also provides legal advice to the executive, the [Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Colombia), responsible for assuring the integrity of the Colombian constitution, and the [Superior Council of Judicature](/wiki/Superior_Council_of_Judicature), responsible for auditing the judicial branch.[[116]](#cite_note-116) Colombia operates a system of [civil law](/wiki/Civil_law_(legal_system)), which since 2005 has been applied through an [adversarial system](/wiki/Adversarial_system).

Despite a number of controversies, the [democratic security policy](/wiki/Democratic_security_policy) has ensured that former President [Uribe](/wiki/Álvaro_Uribe) remained popular among Colombian people, with his approval rating peaking at 76%, according to a poll in 2009.[[117]](#cite_note-117) However, having served two terms, he was constitutionally barred from seeking re-election in 2010.[[118]](#cite_note-118) In the run-off elections on 20 June 2010 the former Minister of defense [Juan Manuel Santos](/wiki/Juan_Manuel_Santos) won with 69% of the vote against the second most popular candidate, [Antanas Mockus](/wiki/Antanas_Mockus). A second round was required since no candidate received over the 50% winning threshold of votes.[[119]](#cite_note-119) Santos won nearly 51% of the vote in second-round elections on 15 June 2014, beating right-wing rival [Óscar Iván Zuluaga](/wiki/Óscar_Iván_Zuluaga), who won 45%. His term as Colombia's president runs for four years beginning 7 August 2014.[[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Foreign affairs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|185px|The VI Summit of the](/wiki/File:VI_Cumbre_de_la_Alianza_del_Pacífico.jpg) [Pacific Alliance](/wiki/Pacific_Alliance): President of Colombia, [Juan Manuel Santos](/wiki/Juan_Manuel_Santos) is second from the left. [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The foreign affairs of Colombia are headed by the President, as head of state, and managed by the [Minister of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Colombia)).[[121]](#cite_note-121) Colombia has diplomatic missions in all continents.[[122]](#cite_note-122) Colombia was one of the 4 founding members of the [Pacific Alliance](/wiki/Pacific_Alliance), which is a political, economic and co-operative integration mechanism that promotes the free circulation of goods, services, capital and persons between the members, as well as a common stock exchange and joint embassies in several countries.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Colombia is also a member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), the [Organization of American States](/wiki/Organization_of_American_States), the [Organization of Ibero-American States](/wiki/Organization_of_Ibero-American_States), the [Union of South American Nations](/wiki/Union_of_South_American_Nations) and the [Andean Community of Nations](/wiki/Andean_Community_of_Nations).

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Colombian_Air_Force_Sikorsky_UH-60L_Arpía_III_(S-70A-41)_Ramírez-1.jpg)[Arpía III](/wiki/Sikorsky_UH-60_Black_Hawk) of the [Colombian Air Force](/wiki/Colombian_Air_Force). [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The executive branch of government is responsible for managing the defense of Colombia, with the President [commander-in-chief](/wiki/Commander-in-chief) of the armed forces. The [Ministry of Defence](/wiki/Ministry_of_National_Defence_(Colombia)) exercises day-to-day control of the [military](/wiki/Military_of_Colombia) and the [Colombian National Police](/wiki/Colombian_National_Police). Colombia has 466,713 active military personnel. And in 2014 3.1% of the country's GDP went towards military expenditure, placing it 18th in the world. Colombia's armed forces are the largest in Latin America, and it is the second largest spender on its military after Brazil.[[124]](#cite_note-124)[[125]](#cite_note-125) The Colombian military is divided into three branches: the [National Army of Colombia](/wiki/National_Army_of_Colombia); the [Colombian Air Force](/wiki/Colombian_Air_Force); and the [Colombian Navy](/wiki/Colombian_Navy). The National Police functions as a [gendarmerie](/wiki/Gendarmerie), operating independently from the military as the law enforcement agency for the entire country. Each of these operates with their own intelligence apparatus separate from the national intelligence agency (ANIC, in Spanish).[[126]](#cite_note-126) The National Army is formed by divisions, brigades, special brigades and special units;[[127]](#cite_note-127) the Colombian Navy by the [Naval Infantry](/wiki/Colombian_Naval_Infantry), the Naval Force of the Caribbean, the Naval Force of the Pacific, the Naval Force of the South, the Naval Force of the East, [Colombia Coast Guards](/wiki/Colombian_Navy), [Naval Aviation](/wiki/Colombian_Navy) and the [Specific Command of San Andres y Providencia](/wiki/Military_Forces_of_Colombia);[[128]](#cite_note-128) and the Air Force by 15 air units.[[129]](#cite_note-129) The National Police has a presence in all municipalities.

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Colombia is divided into 32 [departments](/wiki/Departments_of_Colombia) and one [capital district](/wiki/Bogotá), which is treated as a department (Bogotá also serves as the capital of the [department of Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Department)). Departments are subdivided into [municipalities](/wiki/Municipalities_of_Colombia), each of which is assigned a municipal seat, and municipalities are in turn subdivided into [*corregimientos*](/wiki/Corregimientos_of_Colombia) in rural areas and into [*comunas*](/wiki/Comunas_of_Colombia) in urban areas. Each department has a local government with a governor and assembly directly elected to four-year terms, and each municipality is headed by a mayor and council. There is a popularly elected local administrative board in each of the *corregimientos* or *comunas*.[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132)[[133]](#cite_note-133) In addition to the capital four other cities have been designated [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Colombia) (in effect special municipalities), on the basis of special distinguishing features. These are [Barranquilla](/wiki/Barranquilla), [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia), [Santa Marta](/wiki/Santa_Marta) and [Buenaventura](/wiki/Buenaventura,_Colombia). Some departments have local administrative subdivisions, where towns have a large concentration of population and municipalities are near each other (for example in Antioquia and Cundinamarca). Where departments have a low population (for example Amazonas, Vaupés and Vichada), special administrative divisions are employed, such as "department *corregimientos*", which are a hybrid of a municipality and a *corregimiento*.[[130]](#cite_note-130)[[131]](#cite_note-131) Click on a department on the map below to go to its article. [Template:Colombia map clickable](/wiki/Template:Colombia_map_clickable)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **| Department** | **Capital city** | | 1 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Amazonas](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Amazonas_(Colombia).svg) [Amazonas](/wiki/Amazonas_Department) | [Leticia](/wiki/Leticia,_Colombia) | | 2 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Antioquia](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Antioquia_Department.svg) [Antioquia](/wiki/Antioquia_Department) | [Medellín](/wiki/Medellín) | | 3 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Arauca](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Arauca.svg) [Arauca](/wiki/Arauca_Department) | [Arauca](/wiki/Arauca,_Arauca) | | 4 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Atlántico](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Atlántico.svg) [Atlántico](/wiki/Atlántico_Department) | [Barranquilla](/wiki/Barranquilla) | | 5 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Bolívar](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Bolívar_(Colombia).svg) [Bolívar](/wiki/Bolívar_Department) | [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia) | | 6 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Boyacá](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Boyacá_Department.svg) [Boyacá](/wiki/Boyacá_Department) | [Tunja](/wiki/Tunja) | | 7 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Caldas](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Caldas.svg) [Caldas](/wiki/Caldas_Department) | [Manizales](/wiki/Manizales) | | 8 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Caquetá](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Caquetá.svg) [Caquetá](/wiki/Department_of_Caquetá) | [Florencia](/wiki/Florencia,_Caquetá) | | 9 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Casanare](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Casanare.svg) [Casanare](/wiki/Casanare_Department)[Template:Spaces](/wiki/Template:Spaces) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | | 10 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Cauca](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Cauca.svg) [Cauca](/wiki/Cauca_Department) | [Popayán](/wiki/Popayán) | | 11 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Cesar](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Cesar.svg) [Cesar](/wiki/Cesar_Department) | [Valledupar](/wiki/Valledupar)[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) | | 12 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Chocó](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Chocó.svg) [Chocó](/wiki/Chocó_Department) | [Quibdó](/wiki/Quibdó) | | 13 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Córdoba](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Córdoba.svg) [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba_Department) | [Montería](/wiki/Montería) | | 14 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Cundinamarca](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Cundinamarca.svg) [Cundinamarca](/wiki/Cundinamarca_Department) | [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá) | | 15 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Guainía](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Guainía.svg) [Guainía](/wiki/Guainía_Department) | [Inírida](/wiki/Inírida,_Guainía) | | 16 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Guaviare](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Guaviare.svg) [Guaviare](/wiki/Guaviare_Department) | [San José del Guaviare](/wiki/San_José_del_Guaviare) | | 17 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Huila](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Huila.svg) [Huila](/wiki/Huila_Department) | [Neiva](/wiki/Neiva,_Colombia) | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **| Department** | **Capital city** | | 18 | [border|22x20px|Flag of Nueva Esparta](/wiki/File:Flag_of_La_Guajira.svg) [La Guajira](/wiki/Department_of_La_Guajira)[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | | 19 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Magdalena](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Magdalena.svg) [Magdalena](/wiki/Magdalena_Department) | [Santa Marta](/wiki/Santa_Marta) | | 20 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Meta](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Meta.svg) [Meta](/wiki/Meta_Department) | [Villavicencio](/wiki/Villavicencio) | | 21 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Nariño](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Nariño.svg) [Nariño](/wiki/Nariño_Department) | [Pasto](/wiki/Pasto) | | 22 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Norte de Santander](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Norte_de_Santander.svg) [Norte de Santander](/wiki/Norte_de_Santander_Department) | [Cúcuta](/wiki/Cúcuta) | | 23 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Putumayo](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Putumayo.svg) [Putumayo](/wiki/Putumayo_Department) | [Mocoa](/wiki/Mocoa) | | 24 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Quindío](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Quindío.svg) [Quindío](/wiki/Quindío_Department) | [Armenia](/wiki/Armenia,_Colombia) | | 25 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Risaralda](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Risaralda.svg) [Risaralda](/wiki/Risaralda_Department) | [Pereira](/wiki/Pereira,_Colombia) | | 26 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina](/wiki/File:Flag_of_San_Andrés_y_Providencia.svg) [San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina](/wiki/Archipelago_of_San_Andrés,_Providencia_and_Santa_Catalina) | [San Andrés](/wiki/San_Andrés,_San_Andrés_y_Providencia) | | 27 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Santander](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Santander_(Colombia).svg) [Santander](/wiki/Santander_Department) | [Bucaramanga](/wiki/Bucaramanga) | | 28 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Sucre](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Sucre_(Colombia).svg) [Sucre](/wiki/Sucre_Department) | [Sincelejo](/wiki/Sincelejo) | | 29 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Tolima](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Tolima.svg) [Tolima](/wiki/Department_of_Tolima) | [Ibagué](/wiki/Ibagué) | | 30 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Valle del Cauca](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Valle_del_Cauca.svg) [Valle del Cauca](/wiki/Valle_del_Cauca_Department) | [Cali](/wiki/Santiago_de_Cali) | | 31 | [border|22x20px|Flag of the Department of Vichada](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Vaupés.svg) [Vaupés](/wiki/Vaupés_Department) | [Mitú](/wiki/Mitú) | | 32 | [22x20px|Flag of the Department of Vichada](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Vichada.svg) [Vichada](/wiki/Vichada_Department) | [Puerto Carreño](/wiki/Puerto_Carreño) | | 33 | [22x20px|Flag of Bogotá](/wiki/File:Flag_of_Bogotá.svg) [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá) | [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá) | |

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|400px|Colombia's gross domestic product by sector for the second half of the year 2015.](/wiki/File:Colombia's_gross_domestic_product_by_sector.png) Historically an agrarian economy, Colombia urbanised rapidly in the 20th century, by the end of which just 17% of the workforce were employed in agriculture, generating just 6.1% of GDP; 21% of the workforce were employed in industry and 62% in services, responsible for 37.3% and 56.6% of GDP respectively.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[134]](#cite_note-134)[[135]](#cite_note-135) Colombia's [market economy](/wiki/Market_economy) grew steadily in the latter part of the 20th century, with gross domestic product (GDP) increasing at an average rate of over 4% per year between 1970 and 1998. The country suffered a [recession](/wiki/Recession) in 1999 (the first full year of negative growth since the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression)), and the recovery from that recession was long and painful. However, in recent years growth has been impressive, reaching 6.9% in 2007, one of the [highest rates of growth](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(real)_growth_rate) in Latin America.[[136]](#cite_note-136) According to [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) estimates, in 2012 Colombia's GDP (PPP) was US$500 billion ([28th in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)) and third in South America).

Total [government expenditures](/wiki/Government_expenditures) account for 28.3 percent of the domestic economy. [Public debt](/wiki/Public_debt) equals 32 percent of gross domestic product. A strong fiscal climate was reaffirmed by a boost in [bond ratings](/wiki/Bond_ratings).[[137]](#cite_note-137) Annual [inflation](/wiki/Inflation) closed 2015 at 6.77% YoY (vs. 3.66% YoY in 2014).[[138]](#cite_note-138) The average national [unemployment rate](/wiki/Unemployment_rate) in 2015 was 8.9%,[[139]](#cite_note-139) although the informality is the biggest problem facing the [labour market](/wiki/Labour_market) (the income of formal workers climbed 24.8% in 5 years while labor incomes of informal workers rose only 9%).[[140]](#cite_note-140) Colombia has [Free trade Zone](/wiki/Free_trade_Zone) (FTZ),[[141]](#cite_note-141) such as Zona Franca del Pacifico, located in the Valle del Cauca, one of the most striking areas for foreign investment.[[142]](#cite_note-142)[thumb|170px|The](/wiki/File:BVC_Bogota.jpg) [Colombian Stock Exchange](/wiki/Colombian_Stock_Exchange) is part of the Latin American Integrated Market ([MILA](/wiki/Mercado_Integrado_Latinoamericano)).[[143]](#cite_note-143) Colombia is rich in natural resources, and its main exports include mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, precious stones, forest products, pulp and paper, [coffee](/wiki/Colombian_coffee), meat, cereals and vegetable oils, cotton, oilseed, sugars and sugar confectionery, fruit and other agricultural products, food processing, processed fish products, beverages, machinery, electronics, military products, aircraft, ships, motor vehicles, metal products, [ferro-alloys](/wiki/Ferroalloy), home and office material, chemicals and health related products, petrochemicals, agrochemicals, inorganic salts and acids, perfumery and cosmetics, medicaments, plastics, animal fibers, textile and fabrics, clothing and footwear, leather, construction equipment and materials, cement, software, among others.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Colombia is also known as an important global source of [emeralds](/wiki/Emerald),[[145]](#cite_note-145) while over 70% of [cut flowers](/wiki/Floriculture) imported by the United States are Colombian.[[146]](#cite_note-146) Non-traditional exports have boosted the growth of Colombian foreign sales as well as the diversification of destinations of export thanks to new free trade agreements.[[147]](#cite_note-147) Principal trading partners are the United States, China, the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and some Latin American countries.[[148]](#cite_note-148)[[149]](#cite_note-149) The electricity production in Colombia comes mainly from [renewable energy sources](/wiki/Renewable_energy). 70.35% is obtained from the [hydroelectric generation](/wiki/Hydroelectricity).[[150]](#cite_note-150) Colombia's commitment to renewable energy was recognized in the 2014 *Global Green Economy Index (GGEI)*, ranking among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of greening efficiency sectors.<ref name=ggei>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [financial sector](/wiki/Financial_sector) has grown favorably due to good liquidity in the economy, the growth of credit and in general to the positive performance of the Colombian economy.[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[151]](#cite_note-151)[[152]](#cite_note-152) The [Colombian Stock Exchange](/wiki/Colombian_Stock_Exchange) through the Latin American Integrated Market ([MILA](/wiki/Mercado_Integrado_Latinoamericano)) offers a regional market to trade equities.[[153]](#cite_note-153)[[154]](#cite_note-154) Colombia is now one of only three economies with a perfect score on the strength of legal rights index, according to the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank).[[155]](#cite_note-155) In 2015, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) reported that 27.8% of the population were living below the poverty line, of which 7.9% in "extreme poverty". 171,000 people have been lifted out of poverty.[[156]](#cite_note-156) The Government has also been developing a process of [financial inclusion](/wiki/Financial_inclusion) within the country's most vulnerable population.[[157]](#cite_note-157) Recent economic growth has led to a considerable increase of new millionaires, including the new entrepreneurs, Colombians with a net worth exceeding US $1 billion.[[158]](#cite_note-158)[[159]](#cite_note-159) [Tourism in Colombia](/wiki/Tourism_in_Colombia) is an important sector in the country's economy. Foreign tourist visits were predicted to have risen from 0.6 million in 2007 to 2.5 million in 2014.[[160]](#cite_note-160)[[161]](#cite_note-161)

### Science and technology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Colciencias_271215.JPG)[COLCIENCIAS](/wiki/COLCIENCIAS) is a Colombian Government agency that supports fundamental and applied research. Colombia has more than 3,950 research groups in science and technology.[[162]](#cite_note-162) iNNpulsa, a government body that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in the country, provides grants to startups, in addition to other services it and institutions like Apps.co provide. Co-working spaces have arisen to serve as communities for startups large and small.[[163]](#cite_note-163)[[164]](#cite_note-164) Organizations such as the Corporation for biological research for the support of young people interested in scientific work has been successfully developed in Colombia.[[165]](#cite_note-165) The International Center for Tropical Agriculture based in Colombia investigates the increasing challenge of [global warming](/wiki/Global_warming) and [food security](/wiki/Food_security).[[166]](#cite_note-166) Important inventions related to the [medicine](/wiki/Medicine) have been made in Colombia, such as the first [external artificial pacemaker with internal electrodes](/wiki/Artificial_cardiac_pacemaker), invented by the electronics engineer [Jorge Reynolds Pombo](/wiki/Jorge_Reynolds_Pombo), invention of great importance for those who suffer from [heart failure](/wiki/Heart_failure). Also invented in Colombia were the [microkeratome](/wiki/Microkeratome) and keratomileusis technique, which form the fundamental basis of what now is known as [LASIK](/wiki/LASIK) (one of the most important techniques for the correction of [refractive errors](/wiki/Refractive_error) of vision) and the [Hakim valve](/wiki/Salomón_Hakim#The_Invention_of_the_valve) for the treatment of [Hydrocephalus](/wiki/Hydrocephalus), among others.[[167]](#cite_note-167) Colombia has begun to innovate in military technology for its [army](/wiki/Army) and other armies of the world; especially in the design and creation of personal ballistic protection products, military hardware, [military robots](/wiki/Military_robot), [bombs](/wiki/Bomb), simulators and radar.[[168]](#cite_note-168)[[169]](#cite_note-169)[[170]](#cite_note-170)[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172)[[173]](#cite_note-173)[[174]](#cite_note-174)[[175]](#cite_note-175) Some leading Colombian scientists are Joseph M. Tohme, researcher recognized for his work on the [genetic diversity](/wiki/Genetic_diversity) of food, Manuel Elkin Patarroyo who is known for his groundbreaking work on [synthetic vaccines](/wiki/Synthetic_vaccine) for [malaria](/wiki/Malaria), Francisco Lopera who discovered the "Paisa Mutation" or a type of [early-onset Alzheimer's](/wiki/Early-onset_Alzheimer's_disease),<ref name="the "Paisa Mutation"">[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Rodolfo Llinás](/wiki/Rodolfo_Llinás) known for his study of the intrinsic [neurons](/wiki/Neuron) properties and the theory of a syndrome that had changed the way of understanding the functioning of the [brain](/wiki/Brain), Jairo Quiroga Puello recognized for his studies on the characterization of [synthetic substances](/wiki/Synthetic_substance) which can be used to fight [fungus](/wiki/Fungus), [tumors](/wiki/Tumor), [tuberculosis](/wiki/Tuberculosis) and even some [viruses](/wiki/Virus) and Ángela Restrepo who established accurate [diagnoses](/wiki/Medical_diagnosis) and treatments to combat the effects of a [disease](/wiki/Disease) caused by the [*Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*](/wiki/Paracoccidioides_brasiliensis), among other [scientists](/wiki/Scientist).[[176]](#cite_note-176)[[177]](#cite_note-177)[[178]](#cite_note-178)

### Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|190px|Port of](/wiki/File:Cartagena2011-Skyline-Habour.jpg) [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena_de_Indias). Transportation in Colombia is regulated within the functions of the [Ministry of Transport](/wiki/Ministry_of_Transport_(Colombia)) [[179]](#cite_note-179) and entities such as the National Roads Institute ([INVÍAS](/wiki/INVÍAS)) responsible for the [Highways in Colombia](/wiki/Highways_in_Colombia) (13,000 km),[[180]](#cite_note-180) the [Aerocivil](/wiki/Aerocivil), responsible for civil aviation and airports,[[181]](#cite_note-181) the [National Infrastructure Agency](/wiki/National_Infrastructure_Agency_(Colombia)), in charge of [concessions](/wiki/Concession_(contract)) through [public–private partnerships](/wiki/Public–private_partnership), for the design, construction, maintenance, operation, and administration of the transport infrastructure,[[182]](#cite_note-182) the General Maritime Directorate (Dimar) has the responsibility of coordinating maritime traffic control along with the Colombian Navy,[[183]](#cite_note-183) among others and under the supervision of the [Superintendency of Ports and Transport](/wiki/Superintendency_of_Ports_and_Transport_(Colombia)).[[184]](#cite_note-184) The target of Colombia’s government is to build 7,000 km of roads for the 2016–2020 period and reduce travel times by 30 per cent and transport costs by 20 per cent. A toll road concession programme will comprise 40 projects, and is part of a larger strategic goal to invest nearly $50bn in transport infrastructure, including: railway systems; making the [Magdalena river](/wiki/Magdalena_river) navigable again; improving port facilities; as well as an expansion of [Bogotá’s airport](/wiki/El_Dorado_International_Airport).[[185]](#cite_note-185)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|250px|Population density of Colombia.](/wiki/File:Densidad_pop_col_only_Colombia.png) With an estimated 48 million people in 2015, Colombia is the [third-most populous country](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population) in Latin America, after Brazil and Mexico.[[186]](#cite_note-186) It is also home to the third-largest number of [Spanish speakers](/wiki/Hispanophone) in the world after Mexico and the United States.[[187]](#cite_note-187) At the beginning of the 20th century, Colombia's population was approximately 4 million.[[188]](#cite_note-188) The birth rate remained at high levels until the early 1970s, but since then, Colombia has experienced steady declines in its fertility, mortality, and population growth rates.[[189]](#cite_note-189) Colombia is projected to have a population of 50.2 million by 2020 and 55.3 million by 2050.[[190]](#cite_note-190) These trends are reflected in the country's age profile. In 2005 over 30% of the population was under 15 years old, compared to just 6.3% aged 65 and over.[[191]](#cite_note-191) The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) was 1.9 births per woman in 2014.[[192]](#cite_note-192) The population is concentrated in the [Andean highlands](/wiki/Andean_Region_of_Colombia) and along the [Caribbean coast](/wiki/Caribbean_Region_of_Colombia), also the population densities are generally higher in the Andean region. The nine eastern lowland departments, comprising about 54% of Colombia's area, have less than 6% of the population.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Traditionally a rural society, [movement to urban areas](/wiki/Urbanization) was very heavy in the mid-20th century, and Colombia is now one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America. The urban population increased from 31% of the total in 1938 to nearly 60% in 1973, and by 2014 the figure stood at 76%.[[193]](#cite_note-193)[[194]](#cite_note-194) The population of [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá) alone has increased from just over 300,000 in 1938 to approximately 8 million today.[[195]](#cite_note-195) In total seventy-two cities now have populations of 100,000 or more (2015).[[196]](#cite_note-196) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) Colombia has the world's largest populations of [internally displaced persons](/wiki/Internally_displaced_person) (IDPs), estimated to be up to 4.9 million people.[[197]](#cite_note-197) The life expectancy is 74.8 years in 2015 and infant mortality is 13.6 per thousand in 2015.[[198]](#cite_note-198)[[199]](#cite_note-199) In 2013, 93.6% of adults and 98.2% of youth are literate and the government spends about 4.9% of its GDP in education.[[200]](#cite_note-200) Colombia is ranked third in the world in the [Happy Planet Index](/wiki/Happy_Planet_Index).

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) More than 99.2% of Colombians speak [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language), also called Castilian; 65 [Amerindian languages](/wiki/Amerindian_languages), two [Creole languages](/wiki/Creole_languages), the [Romani language](/wiki/Romani_language) and [Colombian Sign Language](/wiki/Colombian_Sign_Language) are also spoken in the country. [English](/wiki/English_language) has official status in the [archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina](/wiki/Archipelago_of_San_Andrés,_Providencia_and_Santa_Catalina).[[201]](#cite_note-201)[[202]](#cite_note-202)[[203]](#cite_note-203)[[204]](#cite_note-204) Including Spanish, a total of 101 languages are listed for Colombia in the [Ethnologue](/wiki/Ethnologue) database. The specific number of spoken languages varies slightly since some authors consider as different languages what others consider are varieties or dialects of the same language. The best estimates recorded that 71 languages are spoken in the country today. Most of these belong to the [Chibchan](/wiki/Chibchan_languages), [Tucanoan](/wiki/Tucanoan_languages), [Bora–Witoto](/wiki/Bora–Witoto_languages), [Guajiboan](/wiki/Guajiboan_languages), [Arawakan](/wiki/Arawakan_languages), [Cariban](/wiki/Cariban_languages), [Barbacoan](/wiki/Barbacoan_languages), and [Saliban](/wiki/Piaroa–Saliban_languages) language families. There are currently about 850,000 speakers of native languages.[[205]](#cite_note-205)[[206]](#cite_note-206)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Colombia is ethnically diverse, its people descending from the original [native](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Colombia) inhabitants, [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_people) colonists, [Africans](/wiki/African_Colombian) originally brought to the country as slaves, and 20th-century [immigrants from Europe](/wiki/European_diaspora) and the [Middle East](/wiki/Arab_diaspora_in_Colombia), all contributing to a diverse cultural heritage.[[207]](#cite_note-207) The demographic distribution reflects a pattern that is influenced by colonial history.[[208]](#cite_note-208) Whites tend to live mainly in urban centers, like [Bogotá](/wiki/Bogotá), [Medellín](/wiki/Medellín) or [Cali](/wiki/Cali), and the burgeoning highland cities. The populations of the major cities also include mestizos. [Mestizo](/wiki/Mestizo_Colombian) *campesinos* (people living in rural areas) also live in the Andean highlands where some Spanish conquerors mixed with the women of Amerindian [chiefdoms](/wiki/Chiefdoms). Mestizos include artisans and small tradesmen that have played a major part in the urban expansion of recent decades.[[209]](#cite_note-209)[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) The 2005 census reported that the "non-ethnic population", consisting of [whites](/wiki/White_Colombian) and [mestizos](/wiki/Mestizo_Colombian) (those of mixed white European and Amerindian ancestry), constituted 86% of the national population. 10.6% is of [African](/wiki/Afro-Colombian) ancestry. [Indigenous Amerindians](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Colombia) comprise 3.4% of the population. 0.01% of the population are [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people). An extraofficial estimate considers that the 49% of the Colombian population is [Mestizo](/wiki/Mestizo_Colombian) or of mixed European and Amerindian ancestry, and that approximately 37% is [White](/wiki/White_Colombian), mainly of [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_immigration_to_Colombia) lineage, but there is also a large population of [Middle East](/wiki/Arab_diaspora_in_Colombia) descent; among the upper class there is a considerable input of [Italian](/wiki/Italian_Colombian) and [German](/wiki/German_Colombian) ancestry.[[210]](#cite_note-210) Many of the [Indigenous peoples](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Colombia) experienced a reduction in population during the Spanish rule [[211]](#cite_note-211) and many others were absorbed into the mestizo population, but the remainder currently represents over eighty distinct cultures. Reserves (*resguardos*) established for indigenous peoples occupy [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (27% of the country's total) and are inhabited by more than 800,000 people.[[212]](#cite_note-212) Some of the largest indigenous groups are the [Wayuu](/wiki/Wayuu),[[213]](#cite_note-213) the [Paez](/wiki/Paez_people), the [Pastos](/wiki/Pastos_people), the [Emberá](/wiki/Emberá_people) and the [Zenú](/wiki/Zenú).[[214]](#cite_note-214) The departments of [La Guajira](/wiki/Department_of_La_Guajira), [Cauca](/wiki/Cauca_Department), [Nariño](/wiki/Nariño_Department), [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba_Department) and [Sucre](/wiki/Sucre_Department) have the largest indigenous populations.[[215]](#cite_note-215)[thumb|left|Colombians with](/wiki/File:Arabes_en_colombia.jpg) [Arab ancestry](/wiki/Arab_diaspora_in_Colombia). The [Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia](/wiki/National_Indigenous_Organization_of_Colombia) (ONIC), founded at the first National Indigenous Congress in 1982, is an organization representing the indigenous peoples of Colombia. In 1991, Colombia signed and ratified the current international law concerning indigenous peoples, [Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989](/wiki/Indigenous_and_Tribal_Peoples_Convention,_1989).[[216]](#cite_note-216) [Black Africans](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_of_Africa) were brought as [slaves](/wiki/Slavery), mostly to the coastal lowlands, beginning early in the 16th century and continuing into the 19th century. Large Afro-Colombian communities are found today on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. The population of the [department of Chocó](/wiki/Chocó_Department), running along the northern portion of Colombia's Pacific coast, is over 80% black.[[217]](#cite_note-217) [British](/wiki/British_people) and [Jamaicans](/wiki/Jamaican_people) migrated mainly to the islands of San Andres and Providencia. A number of other Europeans and North Americans migrated to the country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including people from the former [USSR](/wiki/USSR) during and after the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War).[[218]](#cite_note-218)[[219]](#cite_note-219) Many immigrant communities have settled on the Caribbean coast, in particular recent immigrants from the Middle East. Barranquilla (the largest city of the Colombian Caribbean) and other Caribbean cities have the largest populations of [Lebanese](/wiki/Lebanese_Colombian), [Palestinian](/wiki/Palestinian_people), and other [Arabs](/wiki/Arab_diaspora_in_Colombia).[[220]](#cite_note-220) There are also important communities of [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_people), [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_Colombian), [Romanis](/wiki/Romani_people) and [Jews](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Colombia).[[207]](#cite_note-207) There is a major migration trend of [Venezuelans](/wiki/Venezuelan_people), due to the political and economic situation in Venezuela.[[221]](#cite_note-221)[[222]](#cite_note-222)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|190px|](/wiki/File:Altar_catedral_de_sal.JPG)[Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá](/wiki/Salt_Cathedral_of_Zipaquirá) The [National Administrative Department of Statistics](/wiki/National_Administrative_Department_of_Statistics) (DANE) does not collect religious statistics, and accurate reports are difficult to obtain. However, based on various studies and a survey, about 90% of the population adheres to [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity), the majority of which (70.9%) are [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic), while a significant minority (16.7%) adhere to [Protestantism](/wiki/Protestantism) (primarily [Evangelicalism](/wiki/Evangelicalism)). Some 4.7% of the population is [atheist](/wiki/Atheist) or [agnostic](/wiki/Agnostic), while 3.5% claim to believe in God but do not follow a specific religion. 1.8% of Colombians adhere to [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses) and [Adventism](/wiki/Adventism) and less than 1% adhere to other religions, such as [Islam](/wiki/Islam), [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Mormonism](/wiki/Mormonism), [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), [Indigenous religions](/wiki/Animism), [Hare Krishna movement](/wiki/Hare_Krishna_movement), [Rastafari movement](/wiki/Rastafari_movement), [Orthodox Catholic Church](/wiki/Orthodox_Catholic_Church), and spiritual studies. The remaining people either did not respond or replied that they did not know. In addition to the above statistics, 35.9% of Colombians reported that they did not practice their faith actively.[[223]](#cite_note-223)[[224]](#cite_note-224)[[225]](#cite_note-225) While Colombia remains a mostly Roman Catholic country by [baptism](/wiki/Baptism) numbers, the 1991 Colombian constitution guarantees freedom and equality of religion.[[226]](#cite_note-226)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Largest cities of Colombia](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Colombia)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Colombia lies at the crossroads of [Latin America](/wiki/Latin_American_culture) and the broader American continent, and as such has been hit by a wide range of cultural influences. [Native American](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas), [Spanish](/wiki/Culture_of_Spain) and other [European](/wiki/Culture_of_Europe), [African](/wiki/Culture_of_Africa), [American](/wiki/Culture_of_the_United_States), [Caribbean](/wiki/Culture_of_the_Caribbean), and [Middle Eastern](/wiki/Arab_culture) influences, as well as other Latin American cultural influences, are all present in Colombia's modern culture. Urban migration, industrialization, globalization, and other political, social and economic changes have also left an impression.

Many [national symbols](/wiki/National_symbols_of_Colombia), both objects and themes, have arisen from Colombia's diverse cultural traditions and aim to represent what Colombia, and the Colombian people, have in common. Cultural expressions in Colombia are promoted by the government through the [Ministry of Culture](/wiki/Ministry_of_Culture_(Colombia)).

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Gabriel_Garcia_Marquez,_2009.jpg) [Nobel literature](/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates_in_Literature) prize winner, [Gabriel García Márquez](/wiki/Gabriel_García_Márquez). [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Fi_322_Isaacs,_Jorge.jpg)[Jorge Isaacs](/wiki/Jorge_Isaacs) was one of the greatest exponents of Colombian literature in the nineteenth century. Colombian literature dates back to pre-Columbian era; a notable example of the period is the epic poem known as the *Legend of Yurupary*.[[227]](#cite_note-227) In Spanish colonial times notable writers include Hernando Domínguez Camargo and his epic poem to San Ignacio de Loyola, Juan Rodríguez Freyle ([*The Sheep*](/wiki/El_Carnero)) [[228]](#cite_note-228) and the nun [Francisca Josefa de Castillo](/wiki/Francisca_Josefa_de_la_Concepción), representative of [mysticism](/wiki/Mysticism).

Post-independence literature linked to Romanticism highlighted [Antonio Nariño](/wiki/Antonio_Nariño), [José Fernández Madrid](/wiki/José_Fernández_Madrid), [Camilo Torres Tenorio](/wiki/Camilo_Torres_Tenorio) and [Francisco Antonio Zea](/wiki/Francisco_Antonio_Zea).[[229]](#cite_note-229) In the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century the literary genre known as [*costumbrismo*](/wiki/Costumbrismo) became popular; great writers of this period were [Tomás Carrasquilla](/wiki/Tomás_Carrasquilla), [Jorge Isaacs](/wiki/Jorge_Isaacs) and [Rafael Pombo](/wiki/Rafael_Pombo) (the latter of whom wrote notable works of children's literature). Within that period, authors such as [José Asunción Silva](/wiki/José_Asunción_Silva), [José Eustasio Rivera](/wiki/José_Eustasio_Rivera), [León de Greiff](/wiki/León_de_Greiff), [Porfirio Barba-Jacob](/wiki/Porfirio_Barba-Jacob) and [José María Vargas Vila](/wiki/José_María_Vargas_Vila) developed the [modernist](/wiki/Modernismo) movement.[[230]](#cite_note-230)[[231]](#cite_note-231) In 1872, Colombia established the [Colombian Academy of Language](/wiki/Colombian_Academy_of_Language), the first Spanish language academy in the Americas.[[232]](#cite_note-232) Candelario Obeso wrote the groundbreaking *Cantos Populares de mi Tierra* (1877), the first book of poetry by an Afro-Colombian author.[[233]](#cite_note-233)[[234]](#cite_note-234) Between 1939 and 1940 seven books of poetry were published under the name *Stone and Sky* in the city of Bogotá that significantly impacted the country; they were edited by the poet Jorge Rojas.[[235]](#cite_note-235) In the following decade, [Gonzalo Arango](/wiki/Gonzalo_Arango) founded the movement of "nothingness" in response to the violence of the time;[[236]](#cite_note-236) he was influenced by [nihilism](/wiki/Nihilism), [existentialism](/wiki/Existentialism), and the thought of another great Colombian writer: [Fernando González Ochoa](/wiki/Fernando_González_(writer)). During the [boom in Latin American literature](/wiki/Latin_American_Boom), successful writers emerged, led by [Nobel laureate](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature) [Gabriel García Márquez](/wiki/Gabriel_García_Márquez) and his magnum opus, [*One Hundred Years of Solitude*](/wiki/One_Hundred_Years_of_Solitude), [Eduardo Caballero Calderón](/wiki/Eduardo_Caballero_Calderón), [Manuel Mejía Vallejo](/wiki/Manuel_Mejía_Vallejo), and [Álvaro Mutis](/wiki/Álvaro_Mutis), a writer who was awarded the [Cervantes Prize](/wiki/Miguel_de_Cervantes_Prize) and the [Prince of Asturias Award for Letters](/wiki/Prince_of_Asturias_Award_for_Letters). Other leading contemporary authors are [Fernando Vallejo](/wiki/Fernando_Vallejo) (Rómulo Gallegos Prize) and [Germán Castro Caycedo](/wiki/Germán_Castro_Caycedo), the best-selling writer in Colombia after García Márquez.[[237]](#cite_note-237)

### Visual arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Monumento_pantano_de_vargas,_completo._2006.JPG)[Vargas Swamp Lancers](/wiki/Vargas_Swamp_Lancers). Artwork [Rodrigo Arenas Betancourt](/wiki/Rodrigo_Arenas_Betancourt). [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) Colombian art has over 3,000 years of history. Colombian artists have captured the country's changing political and cultural backdrop using a range of styles and mediums. There is archeological evidence of ceramics being produced earlier in Colombia than anywhere else in the Americas, dating as early as 3,000 BCE.[[238]](#cite_note-238)[[239]](#cite_note-239) The earliest examples of gold craftsmanship have been attributed to the Tumaco people [[240]](#cite_note-240) of the Pacific coast and date to around 325 BCE. Roughly between 200 BCE and 800 CE, the [San Agustín culture](/wiki/San_Agustín,_Huila), masters of [stonecutting](/wiki/Stonemasonry), entered its “classical period". They erected raised [ceremonial](/wiki/Ceremony) centres, [sarcophagi](/wiki/Sarcophagi), and large stone [monoliths](/wiki/Monolith) depicting [anthropomorphic](/wiki/Anthropomorphic) and [zoomorphhic](/wiki/Zoomorphism) forms out of [stone](/wiki/Rock_(geology)).[[239]](#cite_note-239)[[241]](#cite_note-241) Colombian art has followed the trends of the time, so during the 16th to 18th centuries, [Spanish Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Spain) had a huge influence on Colombian art, and the popular [baroque](/wiki/Baroque) style was replaced with [rococo](/wiki/Rococo) when the Bourbons ascended to the [Spanish crown](/wiki/Monarchy_of_Spain).[[242]](#cite_note-242)[[243]](#cite_note-243) More recently, Colombian artists [Pedro Nel Gómez](/wiki/Pedro_Nel_Gómez) and [Santiago Martínez Delgado](/wiki/Santiago_Martínez) started the Colombian Murial Movement in the 1940s, featuring the [neoclassical](/wiki/Neoclassicism) features of [Art Deco](/wiki/Art_Deco).[[238]](#cite_note-238)[[239]](#cite_note-239)[[244]](#cite_note-244)[[245]](#cite_note-245) Since the 1950s, the Colombian art started to have a distinctive point of view, reinventing traditional elements under the concepts of the 20th century. Examples of this are the Greiff [portraits](/wiki/Portrait) by [Ignacio Gómez Jaramillo](/wiki/Ignacio_Gómez_Jaramillo), showing what the Colombian art could do with the new techniques applied to typical Colombian themes. Carlos Correa, with his [paradigmatic](/wiki/Paradigm) “Naturaleza muerta en silencio” (silent dead nature), combines geometrical [abstraction](/wiki/Abstraction_(art)) and [cubism](/wiki/Cubism). [Alejandro Obregón](/wiki/Alejandro_Obregón) is often considered as the father of modern Colombian painting, and one of the most influential artist in this period, due to his originality, the painting of Colombian landscapes with [symbolic](/wiki/Symbolism_(arts)) and [expressionist](/wiki/Expressionism) use of animals, (specially the [Andean condor](/wiki/Andean_condor)).[[239]](#cite_note-239)[[246]](#cite_note-246)[[247]](#cite_note-247) [Fernando Botero](/wiki/Fernando_Botero), [Omar Rayo](/wiki/Omar_Rayo) and [Oscar Murillo](/wiki/Oscar_Murillo_(artist)) are probably the most widely known Colombian artists in the international scene.[[238]](#cite_note-238)[[248]](#cite_note-248)[[249]](#cite_note-249)[[250]](#cite_note-250) The Colombian sculpture from the sixteenth to 18th centuries was mostly devoted to [religious depictions](/wiki/Religious_art) of ecclesiastic art, strongly influenced by the Spanish schools of [sacred](/wiki/Sacred) sculpture. During the early period of the Colombian republic, the national artists were focused in the production of sculptural portraits of politicians and public figures, in a plain [neoclassicist](/wiki/Neoclassicist) trend.[[251]](#cite_note-251) During the 20th century, the Colombian sculpture began to develop a bold and innovative work with the aim of reaching a better understanding of national sensitivity.[[239]](#cite_note-239)[[252]](#cite_note-252) Photography in Colombia began with the arrival in the country of the [Daguerreotype](/wiki/Daguerreotype) that was brought by the [Baron Gros](/wiki/Jean-Baptiste_Louis_Gros) in 1841. The Piloto public library has Latin America’s largest archive of negatives, containing 1.7 million antique photographs covering Colombia 1848 until 2005.[[253]](#cite_note-253)[[254]](#cite_note-254) The Colombian press has promoted the work of the [cartoonists](/wiki/Cartoonist). In recent decades, [fanzines](/wiki/Fanzine), internet and [independent publishers](/wiki/Independent_publisher) have been fundamental to the growth of the [comic](/wiki/Comic) in Colombia.[[255]](#cite_note-255)[[256]](#cite_note-256)[[257]](#cite_note-257)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Throughout the times, there have been a variety of [architectural styles](/wiki/List_of_architectural_styles), from those of indigenous peoples to contemporary ones, passing through colonial (military and religious), Republican, transition and modern styles.[[258]](#cite_note-258) Ancient habitation areas, longhouses, [crop terraces](/wiki/Terrace_(agriculture)), pathways, cemeteries, [hypogeums](/wiki/Hypogeum) and [necropolises](/wiki/Necropolis) are all part of the [architectural heritage of indigenous peoples](/wiki/Indigenous_architecture).[[259]](#cite_note-259) Some prominent indigenous structures are the [preceramic](/wiki/Andean_preceramic) and [ceramic](/wiki/Ceramic) archaeological site of [Tequendama](/wiki/Tequendama),[[260]](#cite_note-260) [Tierradentro](/wiki/Tierradentro) (a park that contains the largest concentration of [pre-Columbian](/wiki/List_of_pre-Columbian_cultures) monumental [shaft tombs](/wiki/Shaft_tomb) with side chambers),[[261]](#cite_note-261) the largest collection of religious [monuments](/wiki/Monument) and [megalithic](/wiki/Megalithic) sculptures in South America, located in [San Agustín, Huila](/wiki/San_Agustín_Archaeological_Park).[[241]](#cite_note-241)[[262]](#cite_note-262) [Lost city](/wiki/Ciudad_Perdida) (an archaeological site with a series of terraces carved into the mountainside, a net of tiled roads and several circular plazas) and also stand out the large villages mainly built with [stone](/wiki/Stone), wood, cane and mud.[[263]](#cite_note-263)[thumb|250px|left|Architecture with colonial and neo-Spanish elements.](/wiki/File:Guatavita_-_Coliseo.JPG) Architecture during the period of conquest and colonization is mainly derived of adapting [European styles](/wiki/European_architecture) to local conditions, and [Spanish influence](/wiki/Spanish_architecture), especially [Andalusian](/wiki/Andalusia) and [Extremaduran](/wiki/Extremadura), can be easily seen.[[264]](#cite_note-264) When Europeans founded cities two things were making simultaneously: the dimensioning of geometrical space ([town square](/wiki/Town_square), [street](/wiki/Street)), and the location of a tangible point of [orientation](/wiki/Map_orientation).[[265]](#cite_note-265) The construction of [forts](/wiki/Fort) was common throughout the Caribbean and in some cities of the interior, because of the dangers that represented the hostile indigenous groups and the [pirates](/wiki/Pirate) who roamed the seas.[[266]](#cite_note-266) Churches, chapels, schools, and hospitals belonging to [religious orders](/wiki/Catholic_religious_order) cause a great urban impact.[[267]](#cite_note-267) [Baroque architecture](/wiki/Baroque_architecture) is used in military buildings and public spaces.[[268]](#cite_note-268) Marcelino Arroyo, [Francisco José de Caldas](/wiki/Francisco_José_de_Caldas) and Domingo de Petrés were great representatives of [neo-classical architecture](/wiki/Neo-classical_architecture).[[267]](#cite_note-267) The [National Capitol](/wiki/Capitolio_Nacional) building is a great representative of romanticism.[[269]](#cite_note-269) The [wood](/wiki/Wood) is extensively used in doors, windows, railings and ceilings during the colonization of [Antioquia](/wiki/Antioquia_Department). The [Caribbean](/wiki/Caribbean_region_of_Colombia) architecture acquires a strong [Arabic influence](/wiki/Arabic_architecture).[[270]](#cite_note-270) The [Teatro Colón](/wiki/Teatro_de_Cristóbal_Colón) in Bogotá is a lavish example of architecture from the 19th century.[[271]](#cite_note-271) The quintas houses with innovations in the [volumetric](/wiki/Volumetric) conception are some of the best examples of the Republican architecture; the Republican action in the city focused on the [design](/wiki/Design) of three types of [spaces](/wiki/Spatial_analysis): parks with [forests](/wiki/Forests), small [urban parks](/wiki/Urban_park) and [avenues](/wiki/Avenue_(landscape)) and the [Gothic style](/wiki/Gothic_architecture) was most commonly used for the design of [churches](/wiki/Church_(building)).[[272]](#cite_note-272) Deco style, [modern neoclassicism](/wiki/Rationalism_(architecture)), [eclecticism](/wiki/Eclecticism_in_architecture) [folklorist](/wiki/Folklorist) and [art deco](/wiki/Art_deco) [ornamental](/wiki/Ornament_(art)) resources significantly influenced the architecture of Colombia, especially during the transition period.[[273]](#cite_note-273) [Modernism](/wiki/International_Style_(architecture)) contributed with new construction technologies and new [materials](/wiki/Building_material) ([steel](/wiki/Steel), [reinforced concrete](/wiki/Reinforced_concrete), [glass](/wiki/Glass) and synthetic materials) and the [topology](/wiki/Topology) architecture and [lightened slabs system](/wiki/Concrete_slab) also have a great influence.[[274]](#cite_note-274) The most influential architects of the modern movement were [Rogelio Salmona](/wiki/Rogelio_Salmona) and Fernando Martínez Sanabria.[[275]](#cite_note-275) The [contemporary architecture](/wiki/Contemporary_architecture) of Colombia is designed to give greater importance to the [materials](/wiki/Building_material), this architecture takes into account the specific [natural and artificial geographies](/wiki/Geographical_feature) and is also an architecture that appeals to the [senses](/wiki/Sense).[[276]](#cite_note-276) The [conservation of the architectural and urban heritage](/wiki/Architectural_conservation) of Colombia has been promoted in recent years.[[277]](#cite_note-277)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

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Colombian music blends European-influenced [guitar](/wiki/Guitar) and song structure with large gaita [flutes](/wiki/Flute) and [percussion instruments](/wiki/Percussion_instrument) from the indigenous population, while its percussion structure and [dance](/wiki/Dance) forms come from Africa. Colombia has a diverse and dynamic musical environment.[[278]](#cite_note-278) Many musicians, composers and singers Colombians are recognized internationally such as [Shakira](/wiki/Shakira), [Juanes](/wiki/Juanes) or [Carlos Vives](/wiki/Carlos_Vives).[[279]](#cite_note-279) Caribbean music has many vibrant rhythms, such as [cumbia](/wiki/Cumbia) (it is played by the maracas, the drums, the gaitas and [guacharaca](/wiki/Guacharaca)), [porro](/wiki/Porro) (it is a monotonous but joyful rhythm), [mapalé](/wiki/Mapalé) (with its fast rhythm and constant clapping) and the "[vallenato](/wiki/Vallenato)", which originated in the northern part of the Caribbean coast (the rhythm is mainly played by the caja, the guacharaca, and [accordion](/wiki/Accordion)).[[280]](#cite_note-280)[[281]](#cite_note-281)[[282]](#cite_note-282)[[283]](#cite_note-283)[[284]](#cite_note-284) The music from the Pacific coast, such as the [currulao](/wiki/Currulao_(music_genre)) is characterized by its strong use of [drums](/wiki/Drum) (instruments such as the native [marimba](/wiki/Marimba), the conunos, the [bass drum](/wiki/Bass_drum), the [side drum](/wiki/Side_drum) and the cuatro guasas or tubular rattle). An important rhythm of the south region of the Pacific coast is the [contradanza](/wiki/Contradanza) (it is used in dance shows, as a result of the striking colours of the costumes).[[280]](#cite_note-280)[[285]](#cite_note-285)[[286]](#cite_note-286) Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from the Colombia South Pacific region are on [UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists).[[287]](#cite_note-287)[[288]](#cite_note-288)[[289]](#cite_note-289) Important musical rhythms of the Andean Region are the danza (dance of Andean folklore arising from the transformation of the European contredance), the [bambuco](/wiki/Bambuco) (it is played with guitar, [tiple](/wiki/Colombian_tiple)[[290]](#cite_note-290) and [mandolin](/wiki/Mandolin), the rhythm is danced by couples), the [pasillo](/wiki/Pasillo) (a rhythm inspired by the Austrian [waltz](/wiki/Waltz) and the Colombian "danza", the lyrics have been composed by well-known poets), the rajaleña (it is performed by people that play the queco flute, the tiple, the [carangano](/wiki/Carangano) and the drum), the [sanjuanero](/wiki/Sanjuanero) (it originated in Tolima and Huila Departments, the rhythm is joyful and fast).[[291]](#cite_note-291)[[292]](#cite_note-292)[[293]](#cite_note-293)[[294]](#cite_note-294)[[295]](#cite_note-295) Apart from these traditional rhythms, [salsa music](/wiki/Salsa_music) has spread throughout the country, and the city of [Cali](/wiki/Cali) is considered by many salsa singers to be 'The New Salsa Capital of the World'.[[280]](#cite_note-280)[[296]](#cite_note-296)[[297]](#cite_note-297) The instruments that distinguish the music of the [Eastern Plains](/wiki/Orinoquía_natural_region) are the [harp](/wiki/Harp), the [cuatro](/wiki/Cuatro_(instrument)) (a type of four-stringed guitar) and maracas. Important rhythms of this region are the [joropo](/wiki/Joropo) (a fast rhythm and there is also tapping as a result of its [flamenco](/wiki/Flamenco) ancestry) and the [galeron](/wiki/Galeron) (it is heard a lot while cowboys are working).[[280]](#cite_note-280)[[298]](#cite_note-298)[[299]](#cite_note-299)[[300]](#cite_note-300) The music of the Amazon region is strongly influenced by the indigenous religious practices. Some of the musical instruments used are the manguaré (a musical instrument of [ceremonial](/wiki/Ceremonial) type, consisting of a pair of large cylindrical drums), the [quena](/wiki/Quena) (melodic instrument), the [rondador](/wiki/Rondador), the [congas](/wiki/Conga), [bells](/wiki/Bell), and different types of flutes.[[301]](#cite_note-301)[[302]](#cite_note-302)[[303]](#cite_note-303) The music of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina is usually accompanied by a mandolin, a [tub-bass](/wiki/Washtub_bass), a jawbone, a guitar and [maracas](/wiki/Maraca). Some popular archipelago rhythms are the [Schottische](/wiki/Schottische), the [Calypso](/wiki/Calypso_music), the Polka and the [Mento](/wiki/Mento).[[304]](#cite_note-304)[[305]](#cite_note-305)

### Popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|180px|left|The Ibero-American Theater Festival of Bogotá is one of the biggest theater festivals in the world.](/wiki/File:Interior_Teatro_Colon_Bogota.jpg)[[306]](#cite_note-306) Theater was introduced in Colombia during the [Spanish colonization](/wiki/Spanish_colonization_of_the_Americas) in 1550 through [zarzuela](/wiki/Zarzuela) companies. Colombian theater is supported by the Ministry of Culture and a number of private and state owned organizations. The [Ibero-American Theater Festival of Bogotá](/wiki/Theater_of_Colombia) is the cultural event of the highest importance in Colombia and one of the biggest theater festivals in the world.[[306]](#cite_note-306) Other important theater events are: The Festival of Puppet The Fanfare (Medellín), The Manizales Theater Festival, The Caribbean Theatre Festival (Santa Marta) and The Art Festival of Popular Culture "Cultural Invasion" (Bogotá).[[307]](#cite_note-307)[[308]](#cite_note-308)[[309]](#cite_note-309)[thumb|180px|The](/wiki/File:Festival01.jpg) [Cartagena Film Festival](/wiki/Cartagena_Film_Festival) is the oldest cinema event in Latin America. The central focus is on films from Ibero-America.[[310]](#cite_note-310) Although the [Colombian cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_Colombia) is young as an industry, more recently the film industry was growing with support from the Film Act passed in 2003.[[311]](#cite_note-311) Many film festivals take place in Colombia, but the two most important are the [Cartagena Film Festival](/wiki/Cartagena_Film_Festival), which is the oldest film festival in Latin America, and the [Bogotá Film Festival](/wiki/Bogotá_Film_Festival).[[310]](#cite_note-310)[[312]](#cite_note-312)[[313]](#cite_note-313) Some important national circulation newspapers are [*El Tiempo*](/wiki/El_Tiempo_(Colombia)) and [*El Espectador*](/wiki/El_Espectador). [Television in Colombia](/wiki/Television_in_Colombia) has two privately owned TV networks and three state-owned TV networks with national coverage, as well as six regional TV networks and dozens of local TV stations. Private channels, [RCN](/wiki/RCN_TV) and [Caracol](/wiki/Caracol_Televisión) are the highest-rated. The regional channels and regional newspapers cover a department or more and its content is made in these particular areas.[[314]](#cite_note-314)[[315]](#cite_note-315)[[316]](#cite_note-316) Colombia has three major national [radio networks](/wiki/Radio_in_Colombia): [Radiodifusora Nacional de Colombia](/wiki/Radiodifusora_Nacional_de_Colombia), a state-run national radio; [Caracol Radio](/wiki/Caracol_Radio) and [RCN Radio](/wiki/RCN_Radio), privately owned networks with hundreds of affiliates. There are other national networks, including [Cadena Super](/wiki/Cadena_Super), [Todelar](/wiki/Todelar), and Colmundo. Many hundreds of radio stations are registered with the [Ministry of Information Technology and Communications](/wiki/Ministry_of_Information_Technologies_and_Communications_(Colombia)).[[317]](#cite_note-317)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Arepas_con_chorizo.jpg) [arepa](/wiki/Arepa) with [chorizo](/wiki/Chorizo) is a fast food in Colombia Colombia's varied cuisine is influenced by its diverse fauna and flora as well as the cultural traditions of the ethnic groups. Colombian dishes and ingredients vary widely by region. Some of the most common ingredients are: cereals such as rice and [maize](/wiki/Maize); tubers such as potato and [cassava](/wiki/Cassava); assorted [legumes](/wiki/Legume); meats, including beef, chicken, pork and goat; fish; and seafood. Colombia cuisine also features a variety of tropical fruits such as [cape gooseberry](/wiki/Physalis_peruviana), [feijoa](/wiki/Acca_sellowiana), [arazá](/wiki/Eugenia_stipitata), [dragon fruit](/wiki/Pitaya), [mangostino](/wiki/Purple_mangosteen), [granadilla](/wiki/Passiflora_ligularis), [papaya](/wiki/Papaya), [guava](/wiki/Guava), mora ([blackberry](/wiki/Blackberry)), [lulo](/wiki/Solanum_quitoense), [soursop](/wiki/Annona_muricata) and [passionfruit](/wiki/Passionfruit).[[318]](#cite_note-318)[[319]](#cite_note-319) Among the most representative appetizers and soups are [patacones](/wiki/Tostones) (fried green plantains), [sancocho](/wiki/Sancocho) de gallina (chicken soup with root vegetables) and [ajiaco](/wiki/Ajiaco) (potato and corn soup). Representative snacks and breads are [pandebono](/wiki/Pandebono), [arepas](/wiki/Arepa) (corn cakes), [aborrajados](/wiki/Aborrajado) (fried sweet plantains with cheese), [torta](/wiki/Torta) de [choclo](/wiki/Choclo), [empanadas](/wiki/Empanada) and [almojábanas](/wiki/Almojábana). Representative main courses are [bandeja paisa](/wiki/Bandeja_paisa), [lechona tolimense](/wiki/Lechona_tolimense), [mamona](/wiki/Ternera_a_la_llanera), [tamales](/wiki/Tamales) and fish dishes (such as [arroz de lisa](/wiki/Arroz_de_lisa)), especially in coastal regions where [suero](/wiki/Suero), [costeño cheese](/wiki/Costeño_cheese) and [carimañolas](/wiki/Carimañola) are also eaten. Representative side dishes are papas criollas al horno (roasted Andean potatoes), papas chorreadas (potatoes with cheese) and [arroz con coco](/wiki/Coconut_rice) (coconut rice). [Organic food](/wiki/Organic_food) is a current trend in big cities, although in general across the country the fruits and veggies are very natural and fresh.[[320]](#cite_note-320) Representative desserts are [buñuelos](/wiki/Buñuelo), [natillas](/wiki/Natilla), [Maria Luisa cake](/wiki/Maria_Luisa_cake), bocadillo made of guayaba ([guava jelly](/wiki/Guava_jelly)), [cocadas](/wiki/Cocadas) (coconut balls), casquitos de guayaba (candied guava peels), [torta de natas](/wiki/Torta_de_nata), [obleas](/wiki/Oblea), [flan](/wiki/Flan) de [arequipe](/wiki/Arequipe), [roscón](/wiki/Roscón), [milhoja](/wiki/Milhoja), and the [tres leches cake](/wiki/Tres_leches_cake) (a [sponge cake](/wiki/Sponge_cake) soaked in milk, covered in [whipped cream](/wiki/Whipped_cream), then served with condensed milk). Typical sauces (salsas) are [hogao](/wiki/Hogao) (tomato and onion sauce) and Colombian-style [ají](/wiki/Ají_(sauce)).[[321]](#cite_note-321) Some representative beverages are coffee ([Tinto](/wiki/Coffee_production_in_Colombia)), [champús](/wiki/Champús), [cholado](/wiki/Cholado), [lulada](/wiki/Lulada), [avena](/wiki/Avena_(beverage)) colombiana, [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane) juice, [aguapanela](/wiki/Aguapanela), [aguardiente](/wiki/Aguardiente), [hot chocolate](/wiki/Hot_chocolate) and fresh fruit juices (often made with sugar and water or milk).[[322]](#cite_note-322)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Nairo_Quintana,_Paris-Nice_2013.JPG)[Nairo Quintana](/wiki/Nairo_Quintana): Colombian Champion of the [Giro d'Italia](/wiki/Giro_d'Italia) [thumb|245px|Colombia is a perennial powerhouse at the](/wiki/File:Mundial_Italia_2012.jpg) [World Roller Speed Skating Championships](/wiki/Inline_speed_skating). [Tejo](/wiki/Tejo_(sport)) is Colombia’s national sport and is a team sport that involves launching projectiles to hit a target.[[323]](#cite_note-323) But of all sports in Colombia, [football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular. [Colombia](/wiki/Colombia_national_football_team) was the champion of the [2001 Copa América](/wiki/2001_Copa_América), in which they set a new record of being undefeated, conceding no goals and winning each match. Interestingly, Colombia has been awarded “[mover of the year](/wiki/FIFA_World_Rankings#Best_Mover_of_the_Year)” twice.[[324]](#cite_note-324) Colombia is a mecca for [roller skaters](/wiki/Inline_speed_skating). The national team is a perennial powerhouse at the World Roller Speed Skating Championships.[[325]](#cite_note-325) Colombia has traditionally been very good in [cycling](/wiki/Cycle_sport) and a large number of Colombian cyclists have triumphed in major competitions of cycling.[[326]](#cite_note-326) In baseball, another sport rooted in the Caribbean Coast, Colombia was [world amateur champion](/wiki/Baseball_World_Cup) in 1947 and 1965. Baseball is popular in the Caribbean, mainly in the cities [Cartagena](/wiki/Cartagena,_Colombia), [Barranquilla](/wiki/Barranquilla) and [Santa Marta](/wiki/Santa_Marta). Of those cities have come good players like: [Orlando Cabrera](/wiki/Orlando_Cabrera), [Edgar Rentería](/wiki/Edgar_Rentería)[[327]](#cite_note-327) who was champion of the [World Series](/wiki/World_Series) in [1997](/wiki/1997_World_Series) and [2010](/wiki/2010_World_Series), and others who have played in [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball).[[328]](#cite_note-328) [Boxing](/wiki/Boxing) is one of the sports that more world champions has produced for Colombia.[[329]](#cite_note-329)[[330]](#cite_note-330)[Motorsports](/wiki/Motorsport) also occupies an important place in the sporting preferences of Colombians; [Juan Pablo Montoya](/wiki/Juan_Pablo_Montoya) is a race car driver known for winning 7 Formula One events. Colombia also has excelled in sports such as [BMX](/wiki/BMX), [judo](/wiki/Judo), [shooting sport](/wiki/Shooting_sport), [taekwondo](/wiki/Taekwondo), [wrestling](/wiki/Wrestling), [high diving](/wiki/High_diving) and [athletics](/wiki/Sport_of_athletics), also has a long tradition in [weightlifting](/wiki/Olympic_weightlifting) and [bowling](/wiki/Bowling).[[331]](#cite_note-331)[[332]](#cite_note-332)[[333]](#cite_note-333)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image) [Life expectancy at birth](/wiki/Life_expectancy) in 2000 was 70.99 years; the life expectancy increased to 74.8 years by 2015.[[198]](#cite_note-198) Health standards in Colombia have improved very much since the 1980s, healthcare reforms have led to the massive improvements in the healthcare systems of the country. Although this new system has widened population coverage by the social and health security system from 21% (pre-1993) to 96% in 2012,[[334]](#cite_note-334) health disparities persist, with the poor continuing to suffer less attention in their medical procedures.

Through [health tourism](/wiki/Medical_tourism), many people from over the world travel from their places of residence to other countries in search of medical treatment and the attractions in the countries visited. Colombia is projected as one of Latin America’s main destinations in terms of health tourism due to the quality of its [health care professionals](/wiki/Health_care_professional), a good number of institutions devoted to health, and an immense inventory of natural and architectural sites. Cities such as Bogotá, Cali, Medellín and Bucaramanga are the most visited in [cardiology](/wiki/Cardiology) procedures, [neurology](/wiki/Neurology), [dental treatments](/wiki/Dental_treatment), [stem cell therapy](/wiki/Stem_cell_therapy), [ENT](/wiki/Otorhinolaryngology), [ophthalmology](/wiki/Ophthalmology) and [joint replacements](/wiki/Joint_replacement) among others for the medical services of high quality.[[335]](#cite_note-335) A study conducted by [*América Economía*](/wiki/América_Economía) magazine ranked 22 Colombian [health care institutions](/wiki/Health_facility) among the top 43 in Latin America, amounting to 51 percent of the total.[[336]](#cite_note-336)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|200px|Mario Laserna building of the](/wiki/File:Universidad_de_los_Andes_(3326108271).jpg) [University of Los Andes](/wiki/University_of_Los_Andes_(Colombia)) [thumb|200px|M5 building at Faculty of Minas, designed by](/wiki/File:UNAL-Bloque_M5-Facultad_de_Minas-Medellin2.JPG) [Pedro Nel Gómez](/wiki/Pedro_Nel_Gómez) The educational experience of many Colombian children begins with attendance at a [preschool](/wiki/Preschool) academy until age five (*Educación preescolar*). Basic education (*Educación básica*) is compulsory by law.[[337]](#cite_note-337) It has two stages: Primary basic education (*Educación básica primaria*) which goes from first to fifth grade – children from six to ten years old, and Secondary basic education (*Educación básica secundaria*), which goes from sixth to ninth grade. Basic education is followed by Middle vocational education (*Educación media vocacional*) that comprises the tenth and eleventh grades. It may have different vocational training modalities or specialties (academic, technical, business, and so on.) according to the curriculum adopted by each [school](/wiki/School).[[338]](#cite_note-338) After the successful completion of all the basic and middle education years, a [high-school diploma](/wiki/High-school_diploma) is awarded. The high-school graduate is known as a *bachiller*, because secondary basic school and middle education are traditionally considered together as a unit called *bachillerato* (sixth to eleventh grade). Students in their final year of middle education take the [ICFES test](/wiki/ICFES_Examination) (now renamed Saber 11) in order to gain access to higher education (*Educación superior*). This [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education) includes undergraduate professional studies, technical, technological and intermediate professional education, and post-graduate studies. Technical professional institutions of Higher Education are also opened to students holder of a qualification in Arts and Business. This qualification is usually awarded by the [SENA](/wiki/National_Service_of_Learning_(Colombia)) after a two years [curriculum](/wiki/Curriculum).[[339]](#cite_note-339) *Bachilleres* (high-school graduates) may enter into a professional undergraduate career program offered by a university; these programs last up to five years (or less for technical, technological and intermediate professional education, and post-graduate studies), even as much to six to seven years for some careers, such as [medicine](/wiki/Medicine). In Colombia, there is not an institution such as college; students go directly into a career program at a [university](/wiki/University) or any other educational institution to obtain a professional, technical or technological title. Once graduated from the university, people are granted a (professional, technical or technological) diploma and licensed (if required) to practice the career they have chosen. For some professional career programs, [students](/wiki/Student) are required to take the Saber-Pro test, in their final year of undergraduate academic education.[[338]](#cite_note-338) Public spending on education as a proportion of gross domestic product in 2013 was 4.9%. This represented 16.9% of total government expenditure. The [primary and secondary gross enrolment ratios](/wiki/Gross_enrolment_ratio) stood at 114.9% and 93% respectively. [School-life expectancy](/wiki/School-life_expectancy) was 13.5 years. A total of 93.6% of the population aged 15 and older were recorded as literate, including 98.2% of those aged 15–24.[[200]](#cite_note-200)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* [Index of Colombia-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Colombia-related_articles)
* [International rankings of Colombia](/wiki/International_rankings_of_Colombia)
* [List of Colombians](/wiki/List_of_Colombians)
* [National Library of Colombia](/wiki/National_Library_of_Colombia)
* [Outline of Colombia](/wiki/Outline_of_Colombia)
* [Water supply and sanitation in Colombia](/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Colombia)

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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

General information

* [Colombia](http://www.britannica.com/nations/Colombia) at [Encyclopædia Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica)
* [Colombia](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/colombia.htm) at *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Colombia](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=CO) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [Official investment portal](http://www.investincolombia.com.co/)
* [Official Colombia Tourism Website](http://www.colombia.travel/)
* [Study Spanish In Colombia](http://www.spanishincolombia.gov.co/)
* [National Administrative Department of Statistics](http://www.dane.gov.co/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)

Government

* [Colombia Online Government web site](https://www.sivirtual.gov.co/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)

Culture

* [Ministry of Culture](http://www.mincultura.gov.co/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)

Geography

* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [National parks of Colombia](http://www.parquesnacionales.gov.co/) [Template:Es icon](/wiki/Template:Es_icon)

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