

Colombia

Continent: South America

Languages Spoken: Spanish

Population: 51,265,844

Currency: Colombian Peso (COP)

Area: 1,141,748

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Ciudad Perdida', 'writeup': 'An ancient archaeological site in the Sierra Nevada, believed to be older than Machu Picchu.'}
- {'name': 'Cartagena's Walled City', 'writeup': 'A historic colonial city known for its preserved fortifications and vibrant culture.'}
- {'name': 'Tayrona National Natural Park', 'writeup': 'A coastal park with diverse ecosystems, including beaches, rainforest, and archaeological sites.'}
- {'name': 'Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá', 'writeup': 'An underground Roman Catholic church built within the tunnels of a salt mine.'}
- {'name': 'Monserrate', 'writeup': 'A mountain overlooking Bogotá, featuring a church and panoramic city views.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Gustavo Petro

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Carnaval de Barranquilla', 'writeup': 'One of the biggest carnivals in Colombia, showcasing traditional music, dance, and colorful parades.'}
- {'name': 'Festival Vallenato', 'writeup': 'A festival celebrating vallenato music, a traditional Colombian genre originating from the Caribbean region.'}
- {'name': 'Feria de las Flores', 'writeup': 'An annual flower festival in Medellín featuring parades, concerts, and cultural exhibitions.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Colombian cuisine is diverse, featuring dishes like arepas, bandeja paisa, empanadas, and a variety of tropical fruits, reflecting its regional diversity and indigenous, Spanish, and African influences.

Brief History:

Colombia was inhabited by indigenous peoples before Spanish colonization in the 16th century. It gained independence in 1819. The country has a history of political conflict but has made significant progress in peace and economic development in recent decades.

Important People:

- Gabriel García Márquez - Nobel Prize-winning author
- Simón Bolívar - Military and political leader instrumental in independence
- Shakira - Internationally renowned singer and performer

- Fernando Botero - Famous painter and sculptor
- Juan Manuel Santos - Former president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Current Conflicts:

Colombia continues to face challenges related to armed groups, drug trafficking, and social inequality, despite ongoing peace efforts and negotiations.

Youtube Links:

- Colombia Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Colombia
- The History of Colombia Explained
- Colombian Culture and Traditions
- Exploring Colombia's Natural Wonders
- Colombian Food Tour - Must Try Dishes