

# Colombia

## Discover the true essence

### B2/B2+

#### 1. Introduction. Let's talk.

#### Personal Experience

1. Have you ever traveled to a country that surprised you with its culture or beauty?
2. What do you think makes a destination worth visiting?
3. How important is it for travelers to learn about local customs and etiquette before visiting a new place?
4. Can you share an experience where trying local food enhanced your travel experience?
5. What types of activities do you enjoy when exploring a new city or country?
6. How do you usually prepare for a trip to ensure you have a great time?
7. Have you ever visited a place that had a significant transformation over the years? What was it like?
8. In your opinion, what role does nature play in attracting tourists to a destination?
9. How do you feel about traveling to places that are less popular or off the beaten path?
10. What advice would you give someone who is planning their first trip abroad?

#### Latin America

1. What excites you most about the idea of exploring Latin America?
2. Have you heard about the beautiful landscapes in Latin America, like Patagonia or the Amazon? Would you want to see them in person?
3. Have you ever thought about experiencing the vibrant local festivals, like Mexico's Day of the Dead or Brazil's Carnival?
4. Do you know any of authentic Latin American food, like Argentinian steak, Peruvian ceviche, or Colombian arepas? What are they?
5. Would you enjoy learning more about ancient civilizations like the Incas or Mayans by visiting iconic sites like Machu Picchu or Tikal?
6. Do you like the idea of exploring unique wildlife? How about seeing animals like sloths, toucans, or pink river dolphins in their natural habitats? Why?
7. What cities of Latin America would you like to visit, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, or Mexico City?
8. What would be your top reason for visiting Latin America — history, nature, adventure, or culture?

**2. Categorize.** Look at the ideas below. Decide if they are connected with Colombia or not.

Gabriel García Márquez Machu Picchu Coffee Triangle Arepas Shakira Cumbia Tango Medellín Emeralds  
Sushi Caño Cristales Bandeja Paisa Tejo Taj Mahal Cartagena Samba Juan Valdez Mount Kilimanjaro

WHAT IS CONNECTED WITH COLOMBIA

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WHAT IS NOT CONNECTED WITH COLOMBIA

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**3. Reading.** Read the following statements before you read the article and decide if they are **true** or **false**.

1. Bogotá is known for its colonial architecture and Caribbean vibes.
2. The Amazon rainforest in Colombia is a popular destination for nature lovers.
3. Medellín is famous for its annual Coffee Festival.
4. Travelers are advised to pack a raincoat for visiting the Amazon rainforest.
5. Intercity buses in Colombia are not recommended for travelers.
6. Colombian cuisine includes dishes like arepas and empanadas.
7. Learning a few Spanish phrases can help travelers connect with locals.
8. The Coffee Triangle is renowned for its breathtaking views and coffee farms.
9. Travelers are advised to pack only light clothing for their trip to Colombia.
10. The text suggests that Colombia's transportation options include both domestic flights and intercity buses.
11. The author recommends trying street food in Colombia without any precautions.

**4. Vocabulary.** Look at the words and their synonyms or definitions. Match

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. to tantalize  | a. easy to go into  |
| ___ 2. to enhance    | b. very exciting  |
| ___ 3. range         | c. beautiful, picturesque   |
| ___ 4. lush          | d. spread out irregularly   |
| ___ 5. captivating   | e. to walk around slowly in a relaxed way or without any clear purpose or direction |
| ___ 6. to wander     | f. to improve   |
| ___ 7. destination   | g. to attract, to tempt   |
| ___ 8 thrilling      | h. variety  |
| ___ 9. unique        | i. luxurious, elaborate, rich   |
| ___ 10. to highlight | j. the place to which something or someone is going                                 |
| ___ 11. to display   | k. fascinating  |
| ___ 12. offering     | l. one of a kind  |
| ___ 13. vibrant      | m. variety  |
| ___ 14. cautious     | n. extremely beautiful  |
| ___ 15. sprawling    | o. full of life   |
| ___ 16. pristine     | p. to emphasize, to underline   |
| ___ 17. scenic       | q. careful  |
| ___ 18. to purchase  | r. a thing offered, especially as a gift  |
| ___ 19. accessible   | s. fresh and clean; uncorrupted   |
| ___ 20. stunning     | t. to buy   |
| ___ 21. diversity    | u. to show  |

**Quizlet link:**

<https://quizlet.com/pl/955746956/colombia-discover-its-true-essence-b2b2-ingenious-articles-flash-cards/>

# Colombia

## Discover the true essence

1. Colombia is quickly becoming a must-visit destination for travelers seeking adventure, culture, and stunning landscapes. With its unique mix of urban energy and natural beauty, Colombia offers an incredible range of experiences. One of the first stops for most travelers is the vibrant city of Bogotá. Nestled high in the Andes, Bogotá is rich with museums, galleries, and a lively culinary scene that tantalizes food enthusiasts with traditional and modern flavors.

2. As you travel beyond the capital, the diversity of Colombia truly comes alive. Cartagena, with its charming colonial architecture and Caribbean vibes, is perfect for those who love history and sunshine. Wandering the colorful streets of its walled city is like stepping back in time. For nature lovers, the lush Amazon rainforest and the sprawling national parks are captivating. In places like Tayrona National Park, you can explore tropical jungles that lead to pristine beaches, offering an ideal blend of relaxation and exploration.

3. Adventure seekers find their thrill in Colombia's varied landscapes. The Coffee Triangle offers breathtaking views and the chance to visit authentic coffee farms, learning about the process from bean to cup. In Medellín, once known for its troubled past, the transformation is inspiring, with innovative transportation systems and vibrant art scenes to explore. The city's annual Flower

Festival is a thrilling spectacle of color and culture.

4. So, is Colombia worth it? Absolutely. Beyond its stereotypes, the country's warmth, rich traditions, and diverse offerings make it a rewarding destination for any traveler looking for authentic and unforgettable experiences.

5. Traveling around Colombia can be an incredible experience filled with vibrant culture, stunning landscapes, and warm people. To make the most of your journey, here are some essential tips and suggestions.

6. First, consider the diverse climate zones. Pack light clothes for hot coastal areas like Cartagena and Santa Marta, but don't forget a jacket for the cooler climates in Bogotá and the Andes. Also, a raincoat is handy for the Amazon rainforest area.

7. Transportation is generally accessible and varied. For longer distances, domestic flights are quick and often affordable. Companies like Avianca and LATAM service major cities. If you're more adventurous, intercity buses offer a scenic way to travel. Try bus companies like Expreso Brasilia or Bolivariano for comfort and reliability.

8. Staying connected and safe is essential. Purchase a local SIM card from providers like Claro or Movistar for mobile data and calls. Use apps like WhatsApp to stay in touch. Safety is a concern in some areas, so

stay updated on local advice, avoid displaying wealth, and use only registered taxis or ride apps like Uber.

9. Food is a highlight of Colombian culture.

Don't miss trying typical dishes like arepas, bandeja paisa, and empanadas. Be cautious with street food; ensure it's fresh and cooked thoroughly to avoid any food-related illnesses.

10. Pay attention to cultural etiquette.

Colombians are friendly and may greet you with a hug or cheek kiss. Learning a few Spanish phrases can go a long way in connecting with locals and enhancing your travel experience. Simply saying "Hola," "Gracias," and "¿Cómo estás?" can make interactions warmer and more personal.

11. Lastly, don't hesitate to explore off-the-beaten-path destinations. While cities like Bogotá and Medellín are popular, small towns like Guatapé or Salento hold unique charm and breathtaking views. Enjoy your adventure in this beautiful country!

## More questions

1. What are some highlights of the city of Bogotá mentioned in the text?
2. How does Cartagena differ from Bogotá in terms of architecture and atmosphere?
3. What type of experiences can nature lovers enjoy in Colombia, according to the text?
4. In what ways has Medellín transformed itself, as described in the text?
5. What annual event is highlighted in the text as a colorful and cultural spectacle in Medellín?
6. What essential tips are provided for travelers visiting Colombia in terms of climate zones and packing?
7. How can travelers stay connected and safe while exploring Colombia, based on the information in the text?

## 4. Let's talk. Did you know?

1. Colombia has more species of birds than any other country in the world.
2. The country's coffee is renowned, winning global awards for its quality.
3. Cartagena's historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage site with beautiful architecture.
4. Colombia has the largest concentration of butterflies, with over 3,500 species.
5. The famous Amazon rainforest covers over one-third of Colombia's territory.
6. Colombia produces 70% of the world's emeralds, making it a gem hotspot.
7. Bogotá, the capital, sits at an altitude of 8,661 feet above sea level.
8. Medellín has a unique cable car system connecting hilly neighborhoods to the city.
9. The country boasts 59 national parks, showcasing diverse ecosystems and wildlife.
10. Colombia celebrates around 18 public holidays each year, promoting culture and traditions.

**4. More text practice:** Read the text and put the missing words in.

### Explore the world

Wandering    lush    unique    sprawling    cautious    thrilling    tantalizes    offerings  
 stunning    purchase    diversity    vibrant    captivating    pristine

Are you looking for a travel experience that 1. \_\_\_\_\_ your senses and leaves you with unforgettable memories? Look no further than the 2. \_\_\_\_\_ journey through the scenic landscapes and cultural delights of the Pacific Northwest. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ through this region, you'll encounter a range of natural beauty and 4. \_\_\_\_\_ communities, making it a must-visit destination.

The Pacific Northwest is famed for its 5. \_\_\_\_\_ forests and 6. \_\_\_\_\_ coastlines. Wandering through the evergreen paths of Olympic National Park is truly 7. \_\_\_\_\_. Here, you'll find yourself enveloped by towering trees and serenaded by birdsong, enhancing the serenity and peace one can easily find in nature. It's a 8. \_\_\_\_\_ escape that's both rejuvenating and grounding.

From Portland to Seattle, the cities of the Pacific Northwest bring their own charm, each offering a vibrant blend of cultures and culinary delights. In Portland, you can 9. \_\_\_\_\_ treasures from local artists in the 10. \_\_\_\_\_ arts district or sample the eclectic cafe offerings that define the city's gastronomical scene. Whether you're drawn to Seattle's iconic Space Needle or the stunning views of Puget Sound, there's something here to highlight and enrich your trip.

For those who are more 11. \_\_\_\_\_ about getting lost in nature but still yearning for adventure, the Columbia River Gorge provides an accessible yet breathtaking area to explore. With its 12. \_\_\_\_\_ of hikes and waterfalls, this area is particularly thrilling for photography enthusiasts, as each turn can reveal new, stunning vistas worth capturing. As you explore, the Pacific Northwest's unique blend of scenic beauty and cultural richness will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression. Whether you're wandering through its pristine wilderness or absorbing the cultural 13. \_\_\_\_\_ of its cities, the region always remains open, displaying its wonders for those eager to experience them.

In conclusion, the Pacific Northwest is a place where both nature and culture come alive in an exhilarating way, offering endless opportunities to create memories that are as vibrant as the region itself. Embrace this captivating corner of the world and allow it to tantalize you back time and again with its 14. \_\_\_\_\_ beauty and diversity of experiences.

**Extra vocabulary practice.** Look at the sentences and think of the words to complement the sentence.

1. They finally chose Paris as their travel \_\_\_\_\_ for the summer vacation.
2. The view from the top of the mountain is simply \_\_\_\_\_ and breathtaking.
3. Each piece of art in the gallery has a \_\_\_\_\_ style that catches my eye. Each and every one of them is special.
4. The store has a wide \_\_\_\_\_ of shoes available for all occasions and sizes.
5. The city's nightlife is \_\_\_\_\_ and filled with exciting activities every weekend.
6. This dessert \_\_\_\_\_ your taste buds with its rich flavors and sweet aroma. You just can't resist.
7. The festival celebrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of cultures found in our community every year. You wouldn't believe how different we are.
8. I enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ through the park, discovering new flowers and hidden paths.
9. The garden was \_\_\_\_\_, filled with green plants and colorful flowers everywhere.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ city stretches for miles, offering something interesting at every corner.
11. The story was so \_\_\_\_\_ that I could not stop reading until it ended.
12. He loves to visit the \_\_\_\_\_ beaches where the sand is soft and white.
13. The roller coaster ride at the amusement park was both \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoyable.
14. The restaurant's menu features many delicious \_\_\_\_\_ that everyone can enjoy.
15. The library is easily \_\_\_\_\_, making it convenient for students to study there.
16. We took a \_\_\_\_\_ drive along the coast and enjoyed the beautiful ocean views.
17. After much consideration, I decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the new phone I wanted.
18. The gallery \_\_\_\_\_ many beautiful paintings by local artists this month.
19. It's important to be \_\_\_\_\_ when crossing the street, especially during rush hour.
20. The new software update is designed to \_\_\_\_\_ the performance of your computer.
21. The teacher used a colorful pen to \_\_\_\_\_ the important points in the text.



**Video practice.** Watch the video and put the missing words in <https://youtu.be/8D4CP2RcItY>

### Top 10 places to visit in Colombia

Colombia is a diverse country with different \_\_\_\_\_ (1),  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2) and, \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

Tourists used to avoid Colombia, but now it is a top destination in  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4).

10. Barachara is a colonial town with \_\_\_\_\_ (5) buildings and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (6) streets.

9. San Andres and Providencia are two Colombian islands with (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

8. San Gil is known as the adventure capital of Colombia with activities like  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Villa de Leyva is a beautiful colonial town with beautiful houses dating back  
to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ centuries.

6. Cocora Valley is a national park in Colombia's coffee triangle with the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (10).

5. Bogota is a bustling city with (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Cuisine in Colombia is influenced by (12) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ communities.

4. Guatapé is known for (13) \_\_\_\_\_ houses, \_\_\_\_\_ streets, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ tourists. La Piedra del Peñol is a \_\_\_\_\_ (14) which is  
open to the public. Tourists can climb \_\_\_\_\_ (15) to admire the  
views.

3. Tayrona National Park near Santa Marta has (16) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Medellin was once \_\_\_\_\_ (17), now it is a popular tourist  
destination with rich history.

1. Cartagena is a party and tourist hotspot with a mix of (18)  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Old town in Cartagena is protected by a (19) \_\_\_\_\_ built in (20)  
\_\_\_\_\_ to keep them away from \_\_\_\_\_ (21).

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