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# Lonely Planet Colombia (Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

#1 best-selling guide to Colombia\* Lonely Planet Colombia is your passport to all the most relevant and up-to-date advice on what to see, what to skip, and what hidden discoveries await you. Step into the pages of a novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, watch the sunrise in El Cocuy, or pick your own coffee beans in Zona Cafetera; all with your trusted travel companion. Get to the heart of Colombia and begin your journey now! Inside Lonely Planet Colombia Travel Guide: Color maps and images throughout Highlights and itineraries help you tailor your trip to your personal needs and interests Insider tips save you time and money and help you get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots Essential info at your fingertips - including hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, and prices Honest reviews for all budgets - eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, going out, shopping, hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Cultural insights give you a richer and more rewarding travel experience - including customs, culture, history, art, literature, music, sports, politics, landscapes, and wildlife Over 50 local maps Covers of Bogota, Zona Cafetera, Cartagena, Medellin, El Cocuy, San Agustin, Mompox, San Andres, Providencia, Cali, the Basin, the Pacific Coast, the Caribbean Coast, Boyaca, Santander, and more The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Colombia, our most comprehensive guide to Colombia, is perfect for those planning to both explore the top sights and take the road less travelled. Looking for more extensive coverage? Check out Lonely Planet's South America on a Shoestring guide for a comprehensive look at all the continent has to offer. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet. About Lonely Planet: Since 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel media company with guidebooks to every destination, an award-winning website, mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet covers must-see spots but also enables curious travellers to get off beaten paths to understand more of the culture of the places in which they find themselves. \*Bestselling guide to Colombia Source: Nielsen BookScan. Australia, UK and USA, May 2011 to April 2012.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book, which is my third Lonely Planet Colombia travel guide hoping to see an improvement over previous editions but this poor attempt demonstrates that Lonely Planet can't get Colombia right and the company can't publish a good travel guide about Colombia after three attempts. This new guidebook is full of inaccuracies and is missing many of the best places in the Colombia. I have traveled extensively to Colombia over the past 10 years and have lived in Colombia for nearly five years and this book was a complete disappointment. I was hoping for an improvement over the previous Lonely Planet guidebooks about Colombia that were pretty poor and this latest guidebook is no improvement and in fact is worse in many ways with much information that is out-of-date considering this book was published in September 2015. As a previous reviewer pointed out, there is only one paragraph in this book about the fourth largest city in the country, Barranquilla, where the second largest Carnival in the world is held each year. This new Lonely Planet guidebook includes no maps, no hotel info and no restaurant information for Barranquilla. Previous editions of this guide covered Barranquilla with several pages of information. There are so many errors and omissions in this book beyond this Barranquilla oversight, I don't know where to start, here are a few examples:- This guidebook that was published on September 1, 2015 and uses an exchange rate of 1,838 pesos (COP) to the USD, which is completely out-of-date. The exchange rate table used in this new Colombia guidebook is the exact same as was in Lonely Planet's previous Colombia guidebook I have that was published in August 2012. This is a good indicator that the information in this latest Lonely Planet Colombia guidebook is out-of-date.- In Medellin the book only includes one mall - Monterrey, which is an older, smaller mall that only has a bunch of small technology stores. The book completely missed the newer and much larger Western-style malls in the city popular with foreigners including Santafé, Oviedo and El Tesoro.- In Bogotá the book only includes a few malls and is missing some of the largest Western-style malls in the city including Unicentro, Santafé, Gran Estación and Titán Plaza.- In Cartagena the book completely missed the largest mall in the city, Caribe

Plaza, which opened in 2008.- In Cartagena the book missed most of the best restaurants in the city including Carmen, Restaurante 1621 and Dino's Steakhouse. It's the same in other cities; many of the best restaurants are missing and any newer restaurants that opened in Colombia over the past few years are completely missing from the book.- Hotel recommendations throughout the book in most of the cities in Colombia are generally poor; you will find much better recommendations on TripAdvisor.- The book calls Bogota's El Dorado airport a shiny new airport in Bogot . But this airport actually opened its newest international terminal in 2012 which is an example of how dated the information is in this guidebook.- Taxi prices are inaccurate in many cases in the guidebook for example the guidebook says it will cost 35,000 to 37,000 pesos from the Bogot  airport to Zona Rosa but I was just in Bogot  and stayed in Zona Rosa and my cost to/from the airport was less than 30,000 pesos. This is just a small sample of the countless issues in Lonely Planet's new Colombia Guidebook. The bottom line is you will find more accurate restaurant, hotel and things to do recommendations on TripAdvisor than in this book. Don't waste your money on this book. I have eight different travel guidebooks about Colombia and unfortunately there isn't one I can recommend.

This guide was a huge disappointment for our trip to Cartagena and our travel along the Caribbean Coast, and was full of glaring flaws and omissions. For instance, it fails to mention that Playa Blanca has NO RUNNING WATER. It recommends spending a few days there, and we did, and got violently ill for nearly a week from unsanitary conditions. It gives a VERY poor description of major destinations, such as Tayrona National Park---it doesn't mention the extensive and confusing admission process, the fact that they cap visitors at 2000 people, and you often can't get in after 9 AM. It poorly describes the eating facilities at the beaches, as well. It recommends restaurants that are closed (such as Crepe Express in Cartagena), and deems Cartagena's Inquisition Museum as a "must see", but when we went we found it had NO artifacts, MANY empty rooms, a few posters with weak historical facts and a fake guillotine, and was hardly worth the time. It doesn't give a good sense of the atmosphere at all, and feels like the writers didn't actually visit half the places they recommended. There were a few useful bits of information, but not enough to warrant purchasing this guide.

Very disappointed to say the least. The older issues of Lonely Planet - Colombia were outstanding. This new one is terrible. Only one paragraph about the Port of Entry city Barranquilla. And that was talking about its annual carnival. No maps, no hotel info, no places to eat info. Very piss poor

attempt my the writers. When I find the time I will send Lonely Planet a note explaining my displeasure with this poor attempt of a guide book.

LP what were you thinking when you decided not to include a single page on Barranquilla?! As someone who owns at least 6 or 7 guidebooks on Colombia travel (I travel to Colombia often for business and pleasure and I also lead study abroad and university excursions to different regions in Colombia) I like LP the best overall and I own all three recent editions from 2008 and forward. BUT I will say I was disappointed in the 2015 edition because Barranquilla was excluded.

HOW/WHAT/WHY???? It may not be a very popular tourist destination, but it such a major city for business and it's not lacking in "guidebookworthy" mentionables. It's carnaval is THE MOST important folkloric tradition in Colombia, and its the second most important Carnaval in the world..... the kind of thing that a guidebook should not overlook.

I think next time I order a travel guide, I will get hard copy rather than the Kindle version. While the Kindle version does not take up any luggage space, it might be easier to locate information in the hard copy.

As there is currently not many other travel books about Colombia, the ones i usually use, i had to go with Lonely Planet's latest edition. The brand geared mostly towards a budget traveller or pack-packer, and would not list Four Seasons and fancier restaurants, for example. But it does its job, so search online for better hotels and more restaurants on the side.

I have used both Lonely Planet and Moon travel books for my travels in 15 plus countries now and I have to say that lonely planet has always come out as the best. I purchased the moon version of this travel book several months ago in anticipation of a trip in November, although I like moon books (especially their "living in..." series!!) but there is always something about the formatting in their travel books that doesn't add up to lonely planet for me. When I saw this this book finally came out I immediately bought it and have not put it down, I will definitely be taking this one on my trip with me, it is set up in a way that makes sense to me and answers questions I have encountered many times clearly and where I can find them if I am hurriedly skimming before getting off the bus in a new location on what to look for and what to avoid etc. I am looking forward to using this book to find my way around new places :)

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