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Cartagena



Colombia

Welcome to Cartagena City, once known as Cartagena de Indias, it continues to be a majestic shining gem among the other jewels of the Caribbean coast

Cartagena- Standard Room
Cartagena- Private Room

 All meals included	Yes ⁽¹⁾	Yes ⁽¹⁾
 Free beverages	Yes ⁽²⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾
 Persons per room	1 - 4	1- 4
 Wifi in public areas	Yes	Yes
 Laundry facilities	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽³⁾
 Safety box	No	No
 Lockable rooms	No	No
 Hot shower	Yes	Yes
 Private bathroom	No	No
 Western toilet	Yes	Yes
 Bed linen	Yes	Yes
 Towels	No	No
 Mosquito protection	No	No
 Fan	Yes	Yes
 Air conditioning	No	No
 Heating	No	No

(1) 3 meals on weekdays, 2 on weekends

(2) Tea, Coffee, drinking water

(3) For a small fee



Location

Welcome to Cartagena City, once known as Cartagena de Indias, it continues to be a majestic shining gem among the other jewels of the Caribbean coast. As the town grew in importance because of the trade riches passing through its' port, the town erected a barricade of stone walls. Originally used for protection, the walls engulfing the old city add to its distinctive character and old-world charm.

Known for its striking architecture, Cartagena is a city full of life and vibrancy. When you stroll through its streets you feel as though you are moving through a painting, where the sights and sounds of the city have come to life.

Being able to speak some Spanish is definitely a plus, but even if you are a novice to the language, a few gestures and a sense of adventure with attempting what you have learned, will be helpful as you communicate with locals. Don't forget that smiles are universal and they will likely help get you whatever you need.

Accommodation & Food

About the Accommodation

You will be enjoying your stay in one of the vibrant neighborhoods around Cartagena Colombia, from where you can access numerous sites and attractions, as well as your program very easily via public transport or local taxi.

All participants are expected to be environmentally aware and to use all resources with restraint, especially water, paper and electricity. You will be expected to clean up after yourself, and to play your part to keep the accommodation neat and organized.

The accommodation location can be changed and/or amended depending on local conditions and unforeseen circumstances, but the same standard will be maintained.

Food Arrangements

The food will be typically Colombian meaning lots of corn, beans, rice, chili peppers, potatoes and other grain, all very vegetarian friendly. Keep in mind that some local dishes may be spicy!

Facilities

Shops

There are many local coffee shops and restaurants in the main township within walking distance of our centre. Restaurants & Cafes, the beach, mini-marts, fitness gyms, the supermarket, and shopping mall are all close by.

Internet use

There is Wi-Fi in common areas at your accommodation, but there are also many internet cafes in the main township where you can access online information.

Money

There are numerous shops and ATMs throughout the town.

Mandatory Orientation Day

On the Monday of your first week at this location, you will join our orientation day, to familiarize you with the surroundings as well as local culture. Your program will continue as usual from Tuesday onward throughout the rest of the week.

Schedule

- Introduction meeting, House rules, Setting Expectations, Health and Safety Advice and handling of documents.
- Colombian Do's and Don'ts, Colombian Culture Lessons and Spanish Language Lessons.
- Tour around the compound and local area; where to find local shops, and arrange a sim-card if necessary
- Lunch
- Hop-on Hop-off bus tour around some of Cartagena's main points of interest.

Activities & Events

Cooking Lessons

One to two evenings per week

Join your cooks as they prepare meals for you and other participants. Take notes, learn new recipes, traditional food preservation techniques and more! Try not to spoil your dinner as you learn!

Sights & Surroundings

In Cartagena

Bicycle day tours

For a change of pace, an exciting way to experience Cartagena and the vicinity, is by hopping on a bicycle or joining an organized group bike tour around the city.

Horse and Carriage tours

Explore walled city of Cartagena via horse and carriage. Travel through narrow cobblestone streets as you venture to historical locations throughout the city, from the quaint comfort of a horse driven carriage.

Chivas tours

Once used as local transportation, the Chivas of today are the new colorful life for old wooden buses. They come packed with people, music and good vibes, as they bustle down the streets of Cartagena! Jump on one if you see it coming your way and let the good times roll!

Aerobics

Make your way to La Plaza de La Trinidad in Getsemani for free classes which are offered to the public every weekend.

Centro Cultural

The place to be for a variety of live music and dance is the Centro Cultural Ciudad Movil. All types of music ranging from Folk to Cumbia, Rock to Funk, and Champeta to Jazz are performed here live. There are even nights where the DJ is the one pumping up the volume for the crowd. This place is not to be missed when you come to Cartagena!

Around Cartagena

Islas del Rosario

If you love the sea and all things related to it, then you will love Islas del Rosario. Located about a 100 kilometers away from Cartagena, this archipelago off the coast of Colombia is one of the national parks that is not to be missed. You can take tours, visit the aquarium and open-sea oceanarium or explore the coral reefs while swimming and snorkeling.

Baru, Aviarío Baru and Playa Blanca (15 km or 1 hr away)

Playa Blanca offers one of the best beach experiences in the region. You can visit for the day or even stay overnight at one of the hostels or hotels in the area. You can get there by motor boat from the port or take one of the direct buses on Sunday mornings.

A bit further down the way is the Isla Baru which is located in the bay of Cholon. There are tours and packages available which will give you access to kayaks, water sports, boat tours, restaurants and even a private beach.

Parque Nacional Tayrona (Camping trips)

Imagine a clear dark night and a sky that make just about every twinkling star visible. This is more than a wish it is a near nightly occurrence at the Parque Nacional Tayrona. Here you can go camping in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Enjoy mountain views, mangroves, clear water and sandy beaches all in one place. You can partake in any number of outdoor activities here including swimming, snorkeling and hiking. You'll never be at a loss for things to do in this wonder of nature.

Santuario de Fauna y flora Los colorados

This area of northern Colombia is a small but well kept sanctuary, with a huge ecological significance because of its endemic forest.

Jardín Botánico of Cartagena (Turbaco) (12km, less than 1 hr. Away)

Cartagena's Botanical Garden is outside of the city limits and located in the municipality of Turbaco. It is home to a rare resource of a virgin native forest and hosts more than 300 different uniquely beautiful species of plants from the Caribbean and other tropical zones throughout the world.