

SANTA MARTA

NATURALLY MAGICAL

TOURISM GUIDE

TORNUS
Agencia Creativa de Turismo

*Santa
Marta*
1858-2018


INSTITUTO DE
TURISMO
DE SANTA MARTA


ALCALDÍA DE SANTA MARTA
Servicio Turístico, Cultural y Histórico



SANTA MARTA

NATURALLY MAGICAL

TOURISM GUIDE



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Editorial

In the north of Colombia, you will find Santa Marta, known as the "Pearl of America," a place celebrated for its exceptional natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant culture. The city has established itself as a hub for various activities, particularly excelling in bird watching. This is attributed to its favorable environmental conditions and the abundance of fruit-bearing trees, attracting bird watching enthusiasts from around the world.

Santa Marta is also an ideal destination for diving, with the Tayrona National Natural Park offering clear-water beaches and abundant marine life. The local gastronomy, focusing on seafood and traditional foods such as plantains, yuca, rice, and bananas, provides a unique culinary experience for visitors.

Moreover, the city is a melting pot of cultures, home to indigenous communities, and hosting rich biodiversity. Both visitors and locals can enjoy hikes to Ciudad Perdida

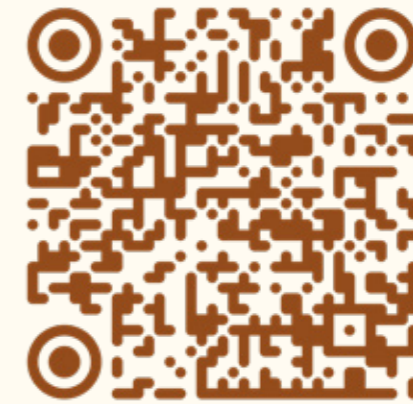
or explore the trails of Minca in search of stunning waterfalls. Santa Marta, combining beaches, history, and nature, offers a comprehensive and diverse experience.

This guide, a result of the shared commitment with the Mayor's Office of Santa Marta, Mayor Virna Johnson, and the Santa Marta Tourism Institute (Indetur) through its Directors, Marcelino K'david and Yunia Palacios (a), aims to promote high-value and impactful tourist experiences. Through this collaboration, both the main attractions and lesser-explored gems are highlighted, providing travelers with a complete view of the beauty and diversity of Santa Marta.

TORNUS
CREATIVE TOURISM AGENCY



EMBARK ON "SANTA MARTA, NATURALLY MAGICAL" AND DISCOVER THE OTHER GUIDES THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO SAVOR THE CUISINE OF "THE LAND OF FLAVORS," EXPLORE "A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD," AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE FASCINATING WORLD OF THE "BIRDS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA."



A fascinating experience that will connect you with the heart of the world!

WELCOME TO SANTA MARTA!

IN THE NORTH OF COLOMBIA LIES THE ALSO CALLED "PEARL OF AMERICA," AND, JUST AS ITS NICKNAME SUGGESTS, IT IS A PROTECTED TREASURE. IT IS A HAVEN OF NATURAL BEAUTY, RICH HISTORY, AND VIBRANT CULTURE, ONE OF THE MOST CAPTIVATING DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND THE CONTINENT DUE TO ITS PRIVILEGED LOCATION, WHERE YOU CAN FIND EVERYTHING FROM BEAUTIFUL WHITE SANDY BEACHES TO MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS AND MOORLANDS.



1 SIERRA NEVADA

GUARDIAN OF TRADITIONS

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, more than just a mountain range, is a refuge of ancestral wisdom and biodiversity. Hosting the world's highest coastal mountains, including the peaks of Bolívar and Colón, at the foot of these mountains, indigenous communities preserve and share traditions and respect for nature.



TEN THINGS THAT MAKE SANTA MARTA UNIQUE

Santa Marta captivates those who visit it with its singularity. The city astonishingly intertwines the past with the present, offering an unparalleled destination for thorough exploration.

As the oldest city in Colombia and the second oldest in South America, its historical and architectural legacy fascinates both locals and visitors. Every corner tells a story, and every landscape is an invitation to adventure.

3 ENDEMIC BIRDS PARADISE

With up to 400 bird species, some endemic, Santa Marta is a paradise for ornithologists. The diverse ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada offer a colorful and melodic spectacle, accessible even for beginners with specialized guides.



4 YOGA — & WELLNESS HUB

Santa Marta has become a wellness epicenter in Latin America, with retreat centers and yoga studios offering a mix of relaxation, meditation, and connection with nature for practitioners of all levels.



2 CIUDAD PERDIDA

› HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF THE SIERRA NEVADA IS THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK TEYUNA, BETTER KNOWN AS THE "CIUDAD PERDIDA."

The heart of the Sierra Nevada houses the Teyuna Archaeological Park, "Ciudad Perdida" which translated to the "Lost City." This ancient settlement, dating back to around the year 700, is a testament to the Tayrona civilization, with its stone structures and stairs amidst the jungle.



5 EL MORRO GUARDIAN OF THE BAY

The iconic rocky outcrop of El Morro, more than just a landmark, has witnessed the city's turbulent history, including pirate attacks and its use as a prison during Colombia's independence. At sunset, it provides a spectacular backdrop to enjoy the evenings.

› AT SUNSET, IT PROVIDES A SPECTACULAR SETTING TO ENJOY THE SUNSETS.



9 THE OLDEST CITY IN SOUTH AMERICA

Founded in 1525, Santa Marta blends its colonial architecture with modern dynamics. Sites such as the Basilica Cathedral of Santa Marta and the Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino, along with the Tairona Gold Museum, provide insight into the cultural heritage of the region.

› SANTA MARTA HOLDS THE TITLE OF BEING THE OLDEST CITY IN COLOMBIA AND THE SECOND OLDEST IN SOUTH AMERICA, A DESTINATION THAT COMBINES HISTORICAL CHARM, NATURAL BEAUTY, AND A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE.



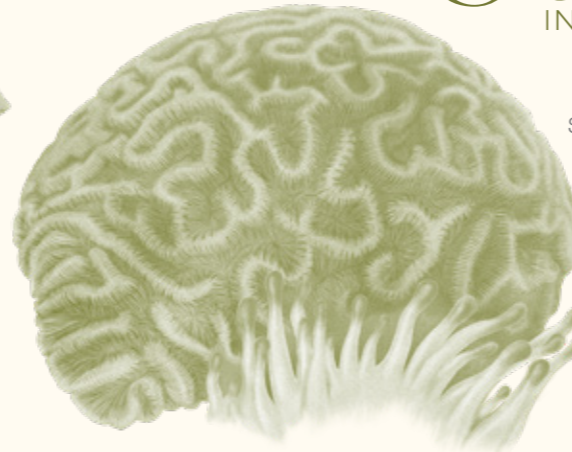
6 COFFEE FROM THE SIERRA

The Minca region, at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, is known for its organic coffee plantations. Coffee tours allow visitors to learn about the production process and taste fresh varieties directly from the farms.



8 LARGEST BRAIN CORALS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Santa Marta is a key diving spot in Colombia, home to the largest Brain Corals in the Caribbean. Diving schools in the city facilitate the exploration of these corals.



7 THE BEST BEACHES

Recognized among the best in Colombia, Santa Marta's beaches attract with their unique appeal. In the Tayrona National Natural Park, Cabo San Juan, along with Playa Cristal, is ideal for snorkeling. Outside the park, El Rodadero and Taganga offer active and relaxed environments, while Bahía Concha is perfect for tranquility.



10 TAYRONA PARK

The Tayrona National Natural Park is one of the most visited in Colombia, combining tropical jungles with coastal beaches and offering trails, beaches, and a connection with nature.

GENERAL INFORMATION

› OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED AS THE TOURISTIC, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL DISTRICT OF SANTA MARTA.

› LOCATED IN NORTHERN COLOMBIA, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MAGDALENA, 992 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM BOGOTÁ.

› THE CITY BORDERS THE CARIBBEAN SEA TO THE NORTH AND WEST, AND TO THE SOUTH, IT IS ADJACENT TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CIÉNAGA AND ARACATACA. TO THE EAST, IT SHARES BOUNDARIES WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF LA GUAJIRA AND CESAR.



A glance at its history

/ 1525

› FOUNDATION OF SANTA MARTA

Rodrigo de Bastidas founded Santa Marta, making it the oldest standing city in Colombia.



/ SIGLO XX

› PROSPERITY OF THE REGION

The region's prosperity was driven by banana cultivation.

/ 1530

› PIRATE PLUNDER

The city experienced numerous pirate attacks, resulting in looting.

/ 1810

› INDEPENDENCE OF COLOMBIA

Santa Marta participated in the independence movement of Colombia. In 1813, the city was taken by independent forces, leading to its partial destruction.

/ 1830

› SIMÓN BOLÍVAR PASSES AWAY

Simón Bolívar passed away at the Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino.

/ 1964

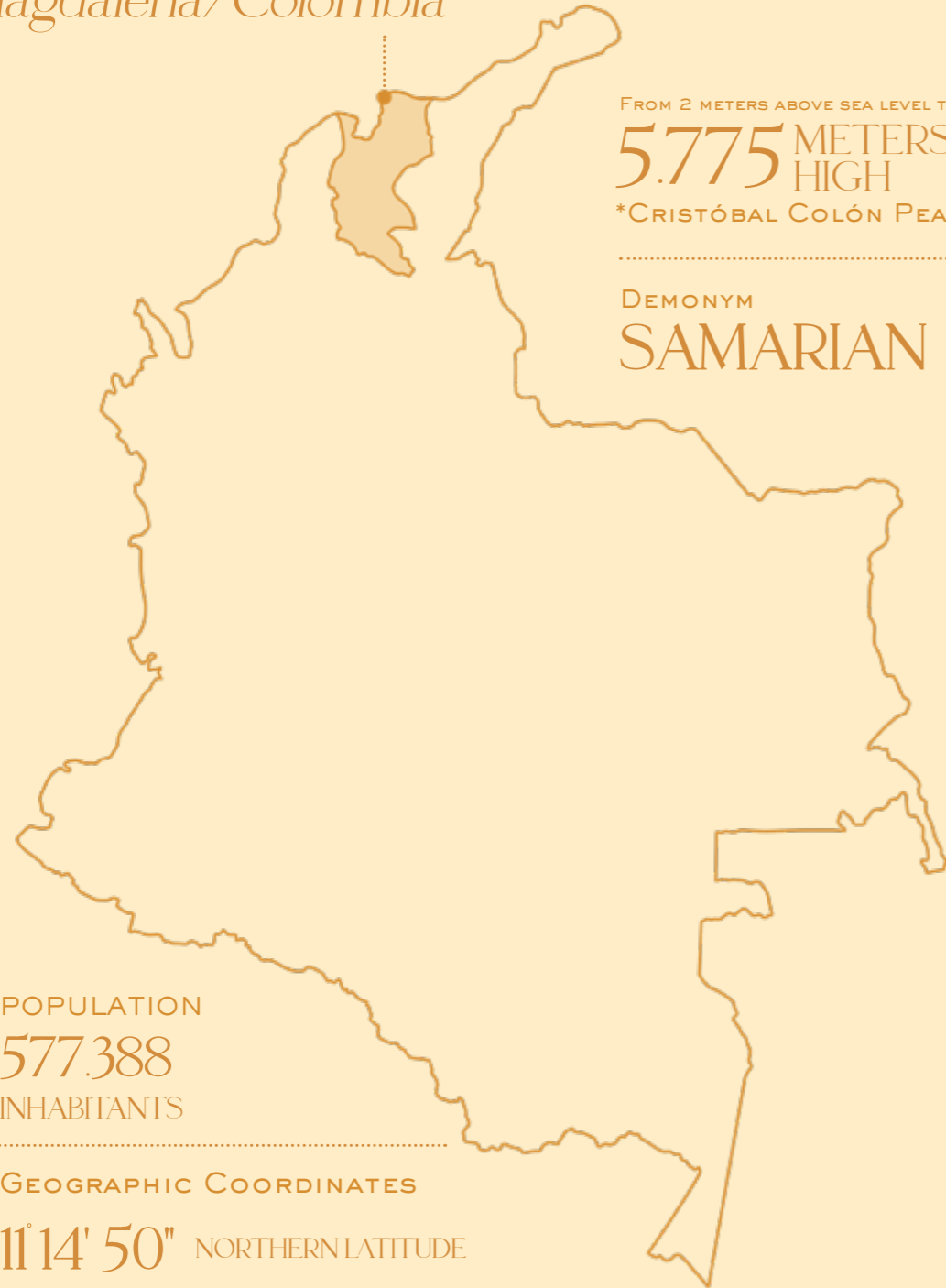
› SIERRA NEVADA: NATIONAL PARK

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta was declared a National Natural Park of Colombia and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1979.



SANTA MARTA

Magdalena/Colombia



FROM 2 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL TO

5.775 METERS
HIGH

*CRISTÓBAL COLÓN PEAK

DEMONYM

SAMARIAN

POPULATION

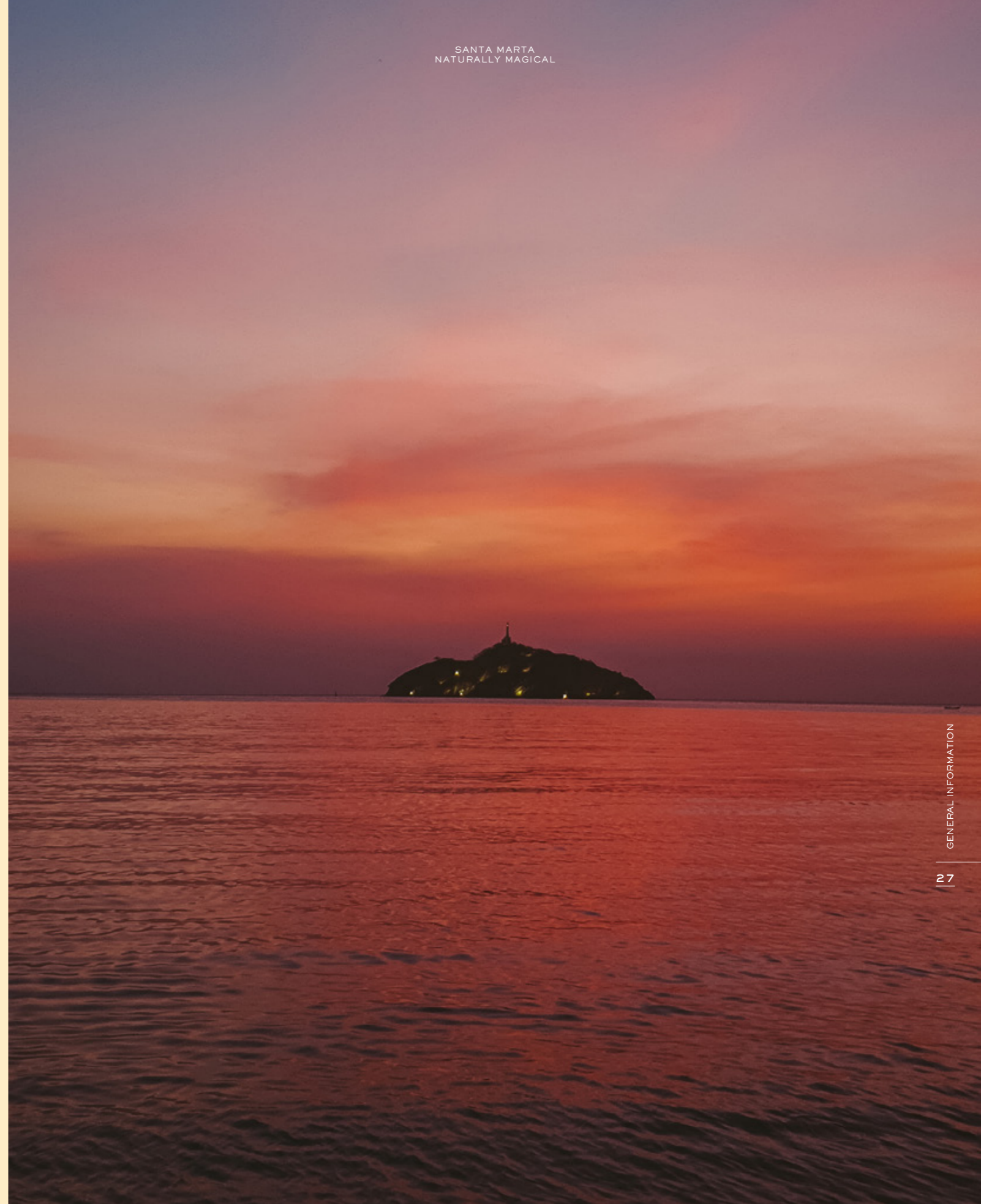
577.388

INHABITANTS

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

11° 14' 50" NORTHERN LATITUDE

74° 12' 06" WESTERN LATITUDE



HOTTO GETTHERE

SANTA MARTA IS ACCESSIBLE BY AIR,
LAND, AND SEA.

AIR

The Simón Bolívar International Airport, located on the outskirts, receives domestic and international flights.

LAND

Roads connect the city to other destinations in Colombia, facilitating travel by bus or private vehicle.

SEA

The port of Santa Marta, used for cruises, offers another arrival option.

CLIMATE

27 - 30°C

Santa Marta's warm tropical climate persists throughout the year, with average temperatures ranging from 27 to 30°C. Due to its diverse geography, the city experiences a variety of microclimates. In the mountainous areas of the Sierra Nevada, temperatures decrease with altitude. The rainy season extends from April to November.

PEOPLE

The population of Santa Marta is known for its warmth and hospitality. The city has a cultural diversity that includes descendants of indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and European communities. Music, dance, and cuisine are fundamental aspects of daily life and also take center stage in festivals and a lively nightlife.





TRADITIONS

Santa Marta is a city that resonates with echoes of multiple cultures, accents, and beliefs, which over time have woven a rich mosaic of traditions and practices. Among these, musical traditions are not just artistic expressions but also testimonies of the confluence of indigenous, African, and European cultures in the region. Through its festivals, dances, and melodies, Santa Marta tells stories of ancient travelers, passions, and the daily life of a people who have successfully blended their heritage to create something genuinely unique.

Music in Santa Marta is a reflection of the confluence of cultures:

› VALLENATO

Native to the Caribbean Coast, vallenato is a highly cherished musical genre in Colombia. The farmers of this region adopted musical customs from Spanish colonists and the African diaspora, merging their songs and melodies. Over time, native instruments such as the gaita, guacharaca, and drums were integrated with the European accordion, creating a distinctive sound. The Samarian artist Carlos Vives has revitalized this genre by combining it with modern rhythms.



› PLAYLIST

› CUMBIA

It is a dance and musical genre born as a form of communication and seduction among slaves, using gaitas, drums, maracas, and trumpets. It represents one of Colombia's most emblematic musical expressions.



› PLAYLIST

› LA PUYA

An energetic dance originating from Magdalena, characterized by the freedom and energy of couples while dancing.



LA FIESTA DEL — MAR

› THIS ANNUAL EVENT,
CELEBRATED AT THE END OF JULY,
COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF SANTA MARTA.

› NAUTICAL GAMES

Sports competitions known as the National Nautical Games, featuring nautical events such as swimming, skiing, and kayaking.

› NATIONAL SEA QUEEN PAGEANT

A prominent event where national participants compete, showcasing beauty and skills in water sports.

ARTISANAL FISHING EVENT

Part of La Fiesta del Mart celebrations, includes fishing competitions such as the capture of the lionfish, races with fiberglass canoes, and the adult challenge, highlighting the fishing tradition of the region and the skills of those practicing this ancestral craft.

CELEBRATION OF THE VIRGEN OF CARMEN

Held on July 16 and the preceding days, primarily in Taganga, a fishing village. The celebrations include boat processions adorned to pay homage to the Virgin of Carmen.

SIERRA NEVADA de — SANTA MARTA

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, located in the heart of Colombia, is a mountain range that combines natural majesty with deep ancestral roots. Recognized as the world's highest coastal mountain, its imposing summits, the Bolívar and Colón peaks, rise to 5,775 meters above sea level. This mountain has witnessed civilizations since 200 B.C., serving as the home of the Tayrona and their predecessors. Today, it is home to four different indigenous populations: Kággaba (Kogui), Ijka (Arhuaco), Wiwa (Arzarios), and Kankuamo. These communities continue to preserve and live according to their rich traditions and spiritual connections with the land.



Picos Bolívar y Colón
5.775 msnm



The towns of the Sierra Nevada are living examples of resilience, ancestral knowledge, defense of nature, and deep spirituality. These indigenous groups are closely dependent on the ecosystems of the Sierra, not only for their livelihoods and economy but also as a reflection of their cosmogony and relationship with the universe.



UNESCO recognized the global importance of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in 1979, declaring it a Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. Within this mountainous framework, the Archaeological Park Teyuna "Ciudad Perdida" stands out as a space of scenic beauty and profound cultural significance. This environment, both in its nature and its culture, invites visitors to understand and respect the Law of Origin, a sacred mandate that guides the life of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra and reflects their ancestral wisdom.

ACTIVITIES — in the SIERRA NEVADA

› HIKING 23 KM IN 5 DAYS AND DISCOVERING "CIUDAD PERDIDA".

› TREKKING ROUTES IN MINCA, SAN LORENZO, EL CAMPANO, CERRO KENNEDY, AND MORE.

› BIRD WATCHING: HOME TO 35.45% OF COLOMBIA'S BIRD SPECIES.

› FLORA AND FAUNA: HOME TO 44 ENDEMIC SPECIES INCLUDING THE JAGUAR, PARAMO DEER, AND TAPIR.



FROM THE CARIBBEAN SEA TO THE PEAKS COLÓN Y BOLÍVAR

YOU WILL FIND EVERYTHING
FROM LUSH TROPICAL
FORESTS TO LANDSCAPES
DOTTED WITH FRAILEJONES
AND GRASSY AREAS.

IT IS THE MOST
IRREPLACEABLE
ECOSYSTEM ON THE
PLANET IN TERMS OF
ITS CONTRIBUTION
TO THE SURVIVAL OF
THREATENED SPECIES.

- INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF
NATURE (2013)

42 km
LINEAR DISTANCE

WARM ZONES AND
PERPETUAL SNOW

21.158 km²
TOTAL AREA

11° NORTH
LATITUDE

73° 45'
EAST LONGITUDE

30 RIVERS

74° 20'
WEST LONGITUDE



GEOGRAPHY OF THE SIERRA NEVADA de SANTA MARTA

› THE SIERRA STANDS OUT FOR ITS CLIMATIC AND MICROCLIMATIC PECULIARITIES, CREATING AN ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY REPRESENTED IN 8 DIFFERENT BIOMES...

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain massif separated from the Andes, is located in northern Colombia at the northwestern tip of South America. This imposing mountain rises to an altitude of 5,775 meters above sea level, covering an area of 12,230 km². Its triangular base borders La Guajira to the northeast, Magdalena to the northwest, and the Cesar River Valley to the southwest. The snow-capped peaks, with perpetual snow, are about 60 km in a straight line from the Caribbean Sea.

The Sierra Nevada is a vital water source, with numerous glacial lakes that give rise to rivers belonging to three major watersheds, divided into 30 main basins. It stands out for its climatic and microclimatic singularities, generating ecological diversity represented in 8 different biomes. This diversity, along with the bimodal rainfall regime, explains its lush beauty, with two dry periods (April-May and July-August) and two rainy periods (September-December and May-June).

The foothills of the Sierra, or the hot zone, present varied rainfall patterns due to local climatic factors. These climatic variations, for example, give rise to the Equatorial Wet Zone biome, which extends from sea level to 900 meters in altitude. At higher altitudes, there is a change in vegetation and forest composition, transitioning from tropical dry forest in the first 1,000 meters to cloud forest and then to shrubland and woody shrub vegetation up to 3,200 meters. Above this altitude, there are the subparamo, paramo, and super paramo ecosystems.

RESIDENT BIRDLIFE

LOWER ALTITUDE, GREATER RICHNESS | HIGHER ALTITUDE, LOWER RICHNESS

PERIGLACIAL-GLACIAL
4.800 - 5.775
MAMSL

- › CRYPTOGAMS
- › SPARSE HERBS
- › LOWER RICHNESS OF SPECIES

MOORLAND
3.200 - 4.800
MAMSL

- › SUBPARAMO
- › PÁRAMO
- › SUPERPARAMO

JUNGLE
2.400 - 3.200
MAMSL

- › TREE-LIKE CHARACTER
- › SHRUB VEGETATION
- › WOODY SHRUBLAND

CLOUDY JUNGLE
1.000 - 2.400
MAMSL

- › PERMANENT CLOUDS
- › EVERGREEN VEGETATION

TROPICAL DRY FOREST
0 - 1.000
MAMSL

SEA LEVEL

- › HIGH RICHNESS OF SPECIES

Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

4 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



5.775 METERS
HIGH
BOLÍVAR & COLÓN PEAKS

REPRESENTS
MOTHER
NATURE

EVERYTHING IS INTEGRATED
AND INTERCONNECTED



THE HEART OF
THE WORLD

ENERGETIC CENTER
OF THE PLANET

KANKUAMO



WIWA



ARHUACO



KOGUI



MILLENNARY MISSION

TO MAINTAIN
THE BALANCE
AND HARMONY
OF THIS SYSTEM



THE MOUNTAIN

FUNDAMENTAL IN THE CONCEPTION
OF TIME AND SPACE, TRADITIONS,
AND CEREMONIES

THE FOUR KIN COMMUNITIES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA *de* SANTA MARTA

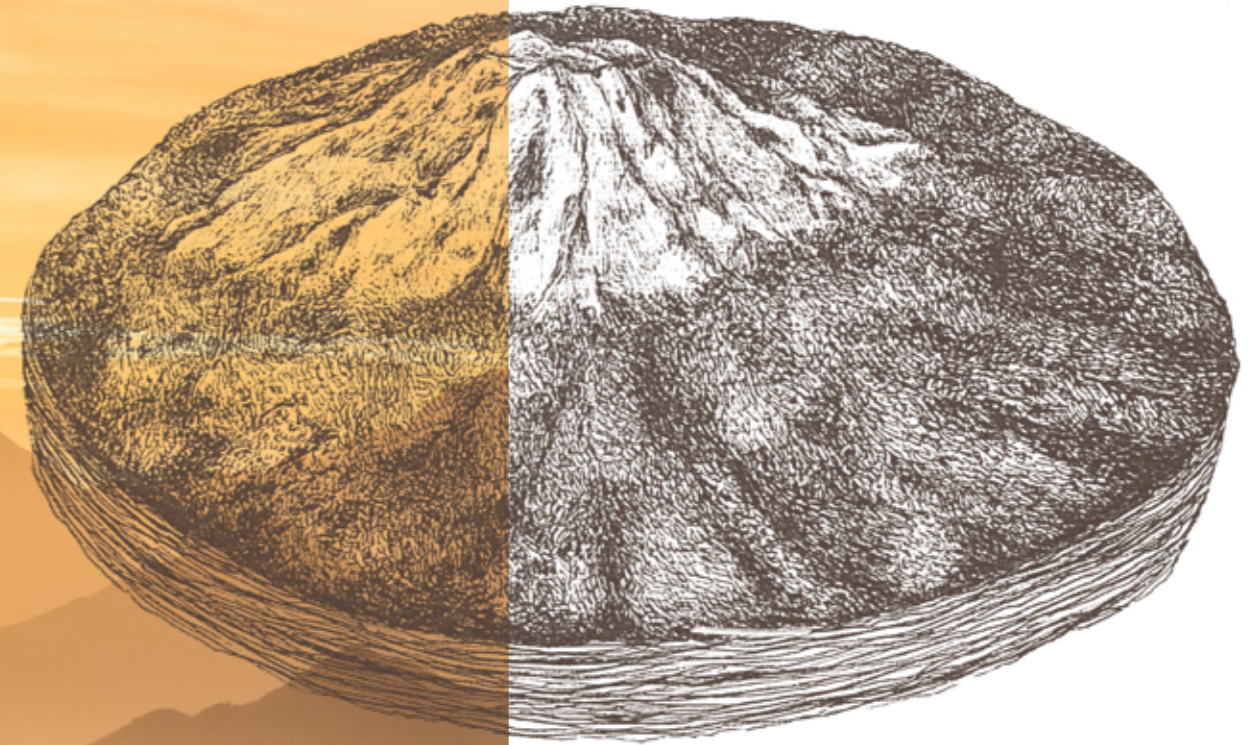
In the mountainous embrace of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, four guardian souls, those of the indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada - Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo - weave a protective mantle over Mother Earth. United by an ancestral mandate, the peoples of the Sierra Nevada share common principles that seek the conservation of nature and the protection of their cultural heritage.

However, each one shines with its own light, and their customs gleam, turning a journey to each community into a valuable and unique story.

In their shared wisdom, these peoples venerate the Origin of Mother Earth, respect their sacred sites, and through the spiritual knowledge of the Mamos, keep their traditions alive in special traditional houses (Nujué, Kunkurwa), the use of the coca leaf (hayú, Júa, hañu), the Poporo (Jo'buru, sugí Dumburru), and their relationship with Mother Nature.

In this land, they consider themselves as the elder siblings, the guardians of the Heart of the World, while "the younger siblings" are those unfamiliar with this understanding, those who, blinded by desire and ambition, strip nature of its resources, accumulating more than necessary, without care for it and others. Here lies the origin of conflicts. The indigenous peoples seek to avoid these conflicts by living in peace among themselves and their surroundings.

These guardians cultivate the land, nourishing themselves from its fruits and respecting its limits.



The Mamos, spiritual leaders, guide these communities, sustaining them like the wind supports the leaves of a tree. Although their languages dance to different rhythms, and their garments shine with different colors, deep within their souls, all revere the essence of the Law of Origin. There is no community superior to another, nor does one possess more wisdom.

They are like the four fingers of a hand resting on the same palm, representing the ancestral territory or the four cardinal points that orient the cultural world with the universe. This vision reveals that, essentially, they are four historical and inseparable cultural realities.

The coexistence of these four communities in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta illustrates the diversity and cultural richness of the region. This amalgamation of cultures constitutes an invaluable heritage deserving recognition and protection.

› **THE ARHUACO OR IKA IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE ARHUACO PEOPLE.** IT IS A COMPLEX LANGUAGE THAT REFLECTS THEIR PROFOUND SPIRITUALITY AND CONNECTION WITH NATURE.

› ON THE OTHER HAND, **THE KOGUI** SPEAK A RELATED BUT DISTINCTIVE LANGUAGE KNOWN AS **KÁGGABA.** IT IS A VITAL TOOL FOR CONVEYING THEIR RESPECT FOR "THE GREAT MOTHER," OR THE FORCE BEHIND NATURE.

› **THE WIWA, ALSO KNOWN AS DAMANA,** IS SPOKEN BY THE WIWA PEOPLE AND, LIKE THE LANGUAGES OF THE OTHER GROUPS, HAS ROOTS IN THE CHIBCHAN LANGUAGE FAMILY.



KOGUI



HAT:
NAMANTO

ATTIRE:
TRADITIONAL
WHITE

POPORO:
SUGI

MOCHILA:
SUGAME
FIQUE
COTTON

REGIONS

- › MAGDALENA
- › LA GUAJIRA
- › CESAR

RESERVATION

- › KOGUI-
MALAYO-
ARHUACO

WORLDVIEW
LAW OF ORIGIN / SE

SACRED PLACE
EZUAMAS

COCA
JAÑIU

LANGUAGE
KAGGABA

ARHUACO

HAT:
TUTUZOMA

REGIONS

- › MAGDALENA
- › LA GUAJIRA
- › CESAR

RESERVATION

- › KOGUI-
MALAYO-
ARHUACO
- › ARHUACO

ATTIRE:
TRADITIONAL
WHITE

POPORO:
JO'BURU

MOCHILA:
TUTU WOOL
FIQUE
COTTON

WORLDVIEW
LAW OF ORIGIN /
SEYN ZARE

SACRED PLACE
K'ADUKWU

COCA
AYU

LANGUAGE
IKU

WII WAA

HAT:
MAMTU

POPORO:
DUNBURRU

MOCHILA:
SUSU WOOL
FIQUE
COTTON

REGIONS

- › MAGDALENA
- › LA GUAJIRA
- › CESAR

RESERVATIONS

- › KOGUI-
MALAYO-
ARHUACO

ATTIRE:
TRADITIONAL
WHITE

WORLDVIEW
LAW OF ORIGIN /
SHENBUTA

SACRED PLACE
MAMANUA

COCA
AIU

LANGUAGE
DANAMA

KANKU AMO

WORLDVIEW
LAW OF ORIGIN

LANGUAGE
KANKUÍ

POPORO
POPORO

MOCHILA:
SUSUGAO WOOL
FIQUE
COTTON

REGIONS

- › CESAR

RESERVATION

- › KANKUAMO

› LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA IN COLOMBIA, CIUDAD PERDIDA, OR THE LOST CITY, ALSO KNOWN AS "TEYUNA" OR "BURITACA," IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES IN SOUTH AMERICA.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE -

Built in the 9th century, Ciudad Perdida serves as a living testament to the advanced Tayrona civilization, which flourished long before the discovery of America by Europeans. While Machu Picchu often takes the honors in terms of global recognition, Teyuna is actually 650 years older. This city was a crucial political, social, and economic center for the Tayrona, and its architectural structure reflects a deep connection with nature and an advanced understanding of mountain engineering and urbanism.

THE TAYRONA PEOPLE -

The Tayronas were one of the most organized and sophisticated indigenous tribes in Colombia. Not only were they experts in goldsmithing and ceramics, but they also possessed a profound astronomical knowledge that influenced the construction and orientation of their cities.

CIUDAD PERDIDA

TEYUNANA

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES -

The architecture of "Ciudad Perdida" stands out for its adaptability to the terrain. The terraces, stairs, and stone squares were built in harmony with the mountainous landscape, demonstrating a deep understanding of topography and a desire to coexist with the natural environment.

DISCOVERY -

Teyuna remained hidden from the modern world until 1972. Although known to local indigenous communities, it was rediscovered for the rest of the world by "guaqueros," treasure hunters who stumbled upon stone stairs while searching for gold objects.

The site comprises 200 structures, including circular houses, plazas, ceremonial areas, food storage sites, and pathways that form a complex of terraces connected by stone stairs. The restoration process took place between 1976 and 1982, and in 1981, the archaeological park of Ciudad Perdida was opened to the public.

EXPEDITION CIUDAD PERDIDA

4 DAYS
COP 1.750.000

DAY 1

- › SANTA MARTA
- › MAMEY
- › CAMP 1

DEPARTURE FROM SANTA MARTA TO MAMEY

2 HOURS

HIKE TO CAMP 1

3-5 HOURS | 8 KMS APPROX.

NIGHT IN HAMMOCKS OR BEDS WITH MOSQUITO NETS

DAY 2

- › CAMP 1
- › MUTANZI
- › CAMP 3

BREAKFAST

HIKE TO THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGE OF MUTANZI

2 HOURS

BATH IN THE BURITACA RIVER

HIKE TO CAMP 2 AND LUNCH

40 MINS.

HIKE UNTIL REACHING CAMP 3

4 HOURS

NIGHT IN HAMMOCKS

DAY 3

- › CAMP 3
- › CIUDAD PERDIDA
- › CAMP 2

HIKE TO CIUDAD PERDIDA

1 HOUR | 1200 MAMSL

1200 STONE STEPS, BUILT BY THE ANCIENT TAYRONAS

TOUR TO EXPLORE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ETHNOLOGICAL, AND HISTORICAL AREA, AND FREE TIME TO ENJOY THE PLACE AND THE HEALING ENERGY OF THE MOUNTAIN

2 HOURS

RETURN TO THE PARAISO TEYUNA CAMP AND LUNCH

HIKE TO CAMP 2

5 HOURS | 10 KMS APPROX.

NIGHT IN HAMMOCKS OR BEDS, DINNER AT THE CAMP

DAY 4

- › CAMP 2
- › MAMEY
- › SANTA MARTA

BREAKFAST

EARLY DEPARTURE FROM CAMP 2, HIKE TO EL MAMEY

7 HOURS

LUNCH AND DEPARTURE IN A 4X4 VEHICLE TO SANTA MARTA OR THE TRAVELER'S FINAL DESTINATION





KUTANSAMA /KATANSAMA

DURATION-

1 day

HOW TO GET THERE-

Take the Troncal del Caribe towards Santa Marta to Riohacha until Perico Aguao, kilometer 58. Then walk from the entrance to the reserve for 20 minutes to reach the community.

DIFFICULTY-

Low

HIKE-

2 Km

TOUR COST-

\$200.000 a \$500.000

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION-

\$120.000 per person

This contribution allows supporting the sustainability of the communities, the maintenance of roads, homes, and school, promotion of our community, and more, so that you can have the best experience.

ACCESS-

- Direct coordination with the communities is required.
- During the low season, access is only available on weekends and holidays.
- Groups must consist of a minimum of 5 people and a maximum of 12.

Kutansama or Katansama is an Arhuaco community with a privileged location along the sea between the Don Diego River and Palomino, easily accessible and just minutes from the main road. It is the only community settled at the seashore, in an area of sacred beach where bathing for visitors is prohibited.

Only a 25-minute walk from the main road (Troncal del Caribe), Katanzama is typically visited by tourists seeking a unique experience with nature and its culture, aiming to see and learn about the Arhuaco indigenous wisdom with its architecture and traditions.

ACTIVITIES-

- Conversations with Mamo Camilo or community members
- Delivery of insurance and planting a tree as a gesture of gratitude to Mother Nature
- Visit to the ceremonial house
- Contemplation of the majesty of the Sacred Tree
- Walk along the beach and visit sacred sites, where you will connect with nature and the purity of water while exploring the circuit of the Old Mother's river
- If you're lucky, you might see the snow-capped peaks from the beach
- Spend the night in a traditional house
- Bonfire, dinner, and musical ceremony with the Mamo
- For more information, you can contact community members directly:

[@ARHUACOTRAVEL](#)

GOTSEZHY



Located in the Guachaca River basin, at 450 meters above sea level, Gotsezhy is a hidden gem of the Wiwa people, founded in 1986 by the respected Mamo Ramon Gil. This settlement is home to more than 50 Wiwa families, making it one of the main enclaves of this community in the region. When you visit, you will be immersed in the genuine hospitality of its inhabitants and fascinated by the serenity of its sacred lagoon.

HOW TO GET THERE-

Take the Troncal del Caribe road via Santa Marta to Riohacha until Guachaca, kilometer 30. Then, you can hike for 3 hours to the community or take the journey in one hour by car.

DURATION	1 day	2 days
DISTANCE	2.5 km	10 km
TOUR COST	\$600.000- \$700.000	\$800.000- \$900.000
DIFFICULTY	Medium	

ITINERARY-

DÍA 1

› Departure from Santa Marta heading to Guachaca

1.5 HORAS

› Trekking through trails that lead you through both farmer and indigenous territories

3 HORAS

› Welcome talk and the delivery of insurance, a traditional gesture of gratitude and protection

› Traditional lunch

› Visit to Matuna Waterfall to enjoy a refreshing swim in its crystal-clear lagoon, accompanied by local members

› Learning the extraction of sap from the Maguey to obtain fique fibers, which men offer to women for their subsequent dyeing and crafting of mochilas and crafts

› Practical workshop on mochila weaving and a talk on its profound cultural significance

› Dinner followed by rest in traditional homes or open-air hammocks

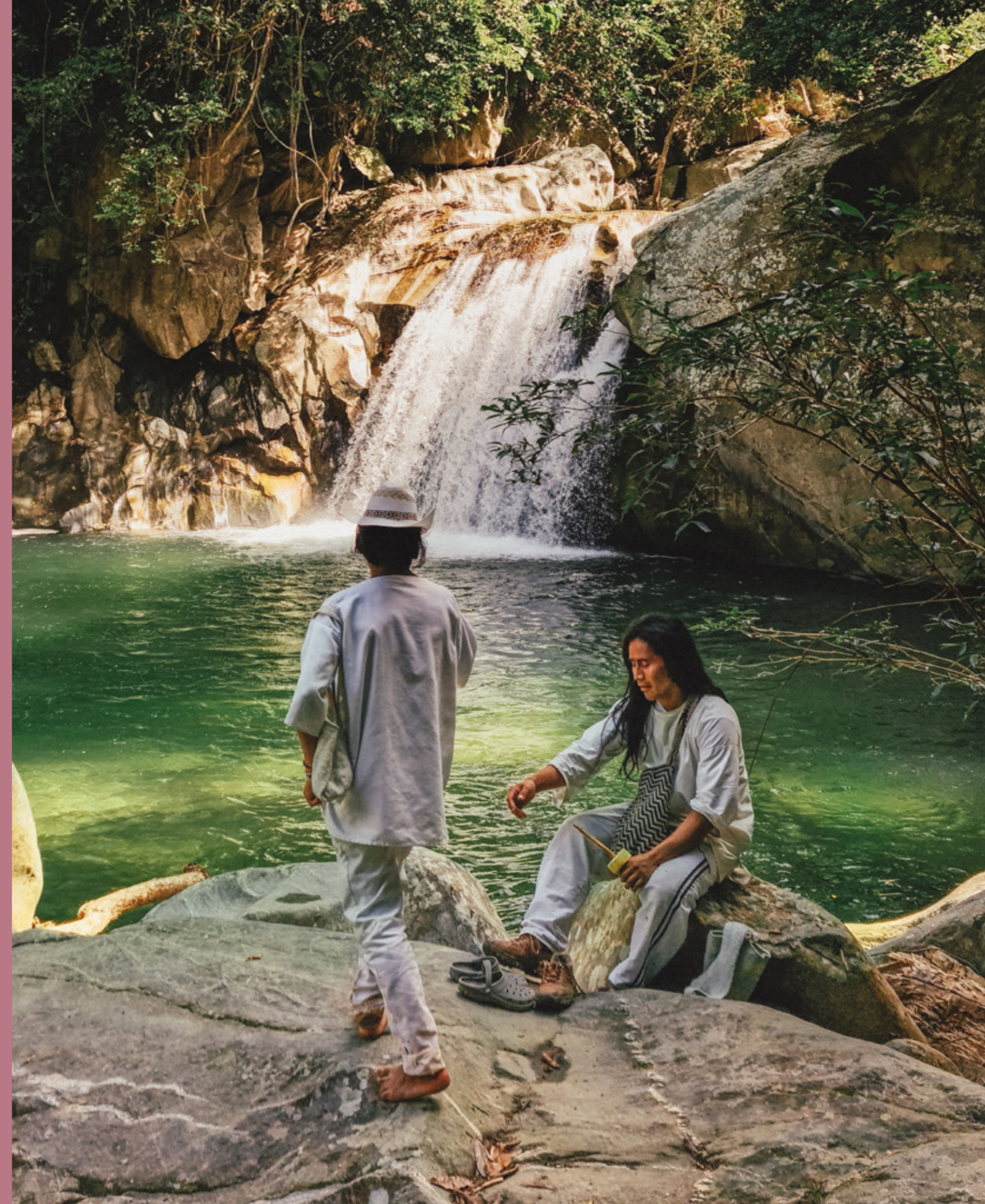
DAY 2

› Tour of the surroundings of Gotsezhy, engaging in discussions about the rich culture and traditions of the Wiwa people

› Lunch

› Return hike

› If time is limited, Gotsezhy also offers a one-day experience, departing from Santa Marta at 5:00 am and making the journey to the vicinity of the community by vehicle, ensuring an equally unforgettable trip



BUNKUANY: *THE NEW CIUDAD PERDIDA*

HOW TO GET THERE-

Take the Troncal del Caribe Road via Santa Marta to Riohacha until you reach the Calabazo village, kilometer 21. Then, you can hike for 3 hours to the community or go by car in a 1 hour drive.

DURATION-

1 day

HIKE-

10 km

DIFFICULTY-

Medium

TOUR COST-

\$400.000 - \$800.000



Bunkuany, often referred to as the "New Ciudad Perdida" is an emerging gem in the Sierra Nevada. The well-preserved ruins and archaeological remnants of this ancestral city evoke the grandeur and mystery of Ciudad Perdida, providing visitors with a similarly enriching experience.

ITINERARY-

- Departure from Santa Marta to the El Calabazo village
1.5 HORAS
- Trekking through jungle trails, culminating in the first ruins
3 HORAS
- Welcome talk and exploration of the terraces. In group trips, there is the option to coordinate the participation of a Mamo, enriching the journey with a profound cultural exchange.
- Traditional lunch
- On the return journey, a stop at the Madre Sierra hotel or a swim in one of the crystalline rivers discovered along the way is recommended.

For those seeking a more extended experience, some operators offer two-day tours, including a visit to the enigmatic Donama stone and accommodation options, thus complementing the experience in Bunkuany. It is important to note that the tour cost may vary depending on the selected additional activities.

MULKWAKUNGUI

Mulkwakungui, a Kogui settlement, is located in the Quebrada del Sol area, on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Although it is a Kogui community, members of the Kogui and Arhuaco peoples from the Kandumake community, as well as farmers, coexist in Quebrada del Sol, enriching the cultural diversity of the area. This cohesion is clearly reflected in the local school, where children from different cultural backgrounds learn together, keeping their respective traditions alive.

DURATION-

1 day

HOW TO GET THERE-

Take the Troncal del Caribe Road via Santa Marta to Riohacha until reaching the Los Linderos village, kilometer 51. Then, take a 1 hour drive by car.

DIFFICULTY-

Low

HIKE-

1 km

TOUR COST-

\$500.000 - \$700.000

ITINERARY-

- Departure from Santa Marta to Los Linderos village
1.5 HORAS
- Ascent on an unpaved road to Quebrada del Sol
- Welcome by members of the farming community
- Cross to the upper part of the Buritaca River towards the Mulkwakungui settlement
- Welcome talk at the Sacred Tree, ritual for energy recharge, and delivery of insurance
- Various activities in the community: cacao collection, use of the trapiche for beverage preparation, coca leaf collection, and purchase of crafts and mochilas
- Lunch
- In the upper part of the Don Diego River, you can swim and cross to the Kandumake community, a settlement of some Arhuaco families
- Return to Quebrada del Sol and to Santa Marta



STONE OF DONAMA IN BONDA

DURATION-

1 day

HOW TO GET THERE-

Tomar la Troncal del Caribe
via Santa Marta a Bonda

DIFFICULTY-

Low

HIKE-

1 Km

TOUR COST-

\$300.000 - \$500.000

Bonda is a small indigenous village that relies on agriculture and ecotourism. Located near the Manzanares River, its main natural attractions revolve around areas adorned by waters descending from the Sierra Nevada. The carved stones of Bondigua Well and the famous Donama Stone are the region's major draws. This monolith, around four meters in diameter and three meters in height, features numerous petroglyph engravings believed to represent the codes of nature.

The carvings are thought to have been created by the Tayrona people between 500 and 1525 BCE. Although its true meaning remains a mystery, the stone holds significant spiritual and symbolic importance for the indigenous populations in the area.



ITINERARY-

- Departure from Santa Marta to the Stone of Donama in Bonda
- 1 hour tour
- Hike to La Liza waterfall
- Lunch
- Return to Santa Marta
- This is the most basic excursion, but usually the visit to the Stone of Donama is combined with other plans around the Sierra Nevada.



TAYRONA PARK

› THE TAYRONA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK, LOCATED AT A SHORT BOAT RIDE FROM SANTA MARTA, IS ONE OF THE MOST VISITED DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THE PARK COVERS A VAST AREA THAT INCLUDES EVERYTHING FROM TROPICAL JUNGLES TO COASTAL BEACHES, OFFERING A DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES.

GEOGRAPHY & BIODIVERSITY

The park extends from the Caribbean Sea to an altitude of 900 meters above sea level in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Its approximately 150 square kilometers of coastline are characterized by paradisiacal beaches with calm waters. As you venture into the park, you'll discover a dense tropical jungle, home to a variety of wildlife, including monkeys, toucans, jaguars, reptiles, and amphibians.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Arrecifes Beach

This area has accommodation services, bathrooms, and a restaurant. It is not suitable for swimming due to the strong waves. It is known for its spaciousness and tropical vegetation that reaches the shoreline. The waves are ideal for surfing, but caution is advised due to strong currents.

La Piscina (The Pool)

A beach adjacent to the Arrecifes sector, suitable for swimming. You can swim to the reefs and observe different kinds of fish. La Piscina is calm and picturesque, with natural rocks forming a natural pool. The water is crystal clear and calm, ideal for swimming and snorkeling.

Cabo San Juan de Guía

Considered one of the best sectors of the park and very popular among foreign tourists. It is about 9 kilometers from the "El Zaino" entrance. Access to the beach can be on foot, horseback, or by boat from Taganga. Accommodation is offered in camping or hammocks. It is recommended to bring hydration, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Boca de Saco Beach

Although not officially nudist, it is used for this practice because it is not very crowded. Swimming is not allowed, but it is possible to enjoy the water at its shores with caution.



Guachakyta

A tranquil beach with crystal-clear waters, ideal for snorkeling or diving. Accessible by boat from Taganga or Neguanje.

Gairaca

A less crowded beach with an extensive coral reef, ideal for snorkeling or diving and exploring the diversity of marine life.

Cañaveral y Playa Neguanje

Cañaveral is a starting point for hikes to Playa Neguanje and other nearby beaches. Playa Neguanje is known for its dark sand and calm waters, ideal for swimming and relaxation.

Playa Brava

Ideal for camping and sleeping in hammocks, it is an open area. It offers cabins for accommodation and restaurant service, with costs that vary depending on the season and the ability to negotiate.

Otros lugares interesantes

Other interesting places include the Los Naranjos trail, Playa Cristal, and the Piedras River Channel. Beyond Cabo San Juan, there are two less frequented beaches not suitable for swimming but with white sands and crystal-clear waters.

TAYRONA NATIONAL PARK ENTRANCE FEES - 2023

CATEGORY	PEAK SEASON	LOW SEASON
PEOPLE BETWEEN 6 AND 25 YEARS OLD	\$23.500	\$21.000
RESIDENTS OLDER THAN 25 YEARS	\$33.000	\$28.000
FOREIGNERS	\$73.500	\$62.000
PEOPLE BORN IN SANTA MARTA AND UNDER 25 YEARS OLD	\$10.500	\$10.500
PEOPLE BORN IN SANTA MARTA AND OVER 25 YEARS OLD	\$13.500	\$13.500

NOTE: ADDITIONALLY, MANDATORY INSURANCE PER PERSON IS REQUIRED AT A COST OF \$6,000

RATES FOR VEHICLE ENTRY TO TAYRONA PARK - 2023

- CAR: \$17.500
- BUS: \$89.500
- COLLECTIVE: \$42.500
- MOTORCYCLES: \$11.500



How to get there

Bus:

- **Departure:** City Market
- **Destiny:** Zaino entrance of Tayrona Park
- **Costo:** Approximately \$10.000 COP

BOAT:

- **Departure:** Rodadero/Taganga beaches
- **Destiny:** Tayrona Park
- **Cost:** Between \$150.000 y \$200.000 COP (round trip)

TAXI:

- **Departure:** Any point in the city
- **Destiny:** Zaino entrance of Tayrona Park.
- **Cost:** Approximately \$115.000 COP.

Public Opening Hours

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M

EVERY DAY, EXCEPT DURING PERIODS WHEN THE PARK IS COMPLETELY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

There are specific periods during the year when the park closes completely to allow for ecosystem restoration. This measure is part of an agreement between the National Natural Parks of Colombia and the indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. The closing dates, subject to change, are as follows:

- From February 1 to 15: During the period known as Kugkui shikasa, a time dedicated to the renewal of the land.
- From June 1 to 15: In the Saka Juso season, which corresponds to the period of the earth's menstruation.
- From October 19 to November 2: In the Nabbatashi season, a time when animal rituals are performed in honor of the earth.

These temporary closures are vital to maintaining the ecological balance of the park and preserving its rich biodiversity.



THE BEST PLACE FOR DIVING IN LATIN AMERICA



When choosing a beach destination, diving in Santa Marta stands out as an activity that significantly enriches the experience. This city, famous for its beautiful coasts, provides exceptional underwater adventure opportunities in some of the clearest waters of the Caribbean Coast. With over 500 kilometers of golden sandy beaches, Santa Marta stands as a paradise for diving enthusiasts, also offering numerous diving schools suitable for all levels of experience.

In Santa Marta, the experience goes beyond the typical sun and beach combination. The waters of the Colombian Caribbean Coast are home to marine ecosystems of great beauty and value. Each dive here promises a unique adventure, catering to both novice and experienced divers.

MUST-VISIT DIVING SPOTS IN SANTA MARTA

› **TAYRONA PARK:**

Recognized as one of Colombia's most iconic natural parks, Tayrona Park is also a sanctuary for diving. Its depths harbor a rich marine fauna and a surprising universe of corals and reefs.

› **GRANATE BAY:**

Located between Taganga and Isla Aguja, it is one of the most beautiful places for diving in South America with a majestic Cantil, a coral wall that reaches 20 meters in depth, housing thousands of species in various colors and shapes.

› **ISLA AGUJA:**

Located south of Tayrona Park, beyond the bay of Taganga, Isla Aguja is a recommended site, especially for experienced divers. It features coral reefs ranging from 1 to 45 meters in depth and is known for having one of the best-preserved reefs in Colombia. Colombia is a destination that is definitely worth visiting.

› **EL MORRO DE SANTA MARTA & PUNTA BETÍN:**

This is the preferred diving refuge when Tayrona National Park closes its doors during certain times of the year to allow for the sacred rituals of indigenous peoples, who make offerings to nature. These closures typically occur annually around February and September, providing a different diving alternative during this sacred time for local communities.



RATES & COURSES IN SANTA MARTA:

- ⓑ FOR BEGINNERS
- ⓒ FOR CERTIFIED DIVERS

ⓑ BAPTISM / MINI COURSE	\$350.000
ⓒ FREE DIVE	\$250.000
ⓑ PADI OPEN WATER	\$1.400.000
ⓒ ADVANCED OPEN WATER	\$1.400.000

› COURSES AND EXPEDITIONS USUALLY DEPART FROM THE TOWN OF TAGANGA, WHERE BOATS WAIT TO TRANSPORT DIVERS TO DIFFERENT POINTS IN THE WATERS OF TAYRONA PARK, DEPENDING ON THE DIVER'S CERTIFICATION LEVEL.

BIRDWATCHING

PREPARATION:

› PREVIOUS RESEARCH:

Before your trip, research the bird species present in the region. Santa Marta is home to more than 600 species, including hummingbirds, toucans, and birds of prey.

› EQUIPMENT:

Bring binoculars, a field guide to birds, a camera with a telephoto lens, and comfortable clothing suitable for hikes. A local guide can be of great assistance.

› SEASON & BIRDS:

Birds are most active at dawn and dusk. The dry season, from December to March, is ideal for visiting Santa Marta.

BIRDWATCHING DESTINATIONS:

› TAYRONA NATIONAL NATURAL PARK:

Home to a great diversity of species, such as the toco toucan, the osprey, and the quetzal.

› SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA:

Refuge for endemic birds such as the Santa Marta parakeet and the golden hummingbird.

› SANTA MARTA IS AN EXCEPTIONAL DESTINATION FOR BIRDWATCHING ENTHUSIASTS. WITH ITS DIVERSE GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING BEACHES, MOUNTAINS, AND JUNGLES, THIS REGION OFFERS A WIDE DIVERSITY OF BIRD SPECIES, MAKING BIRD WATCHING AN EXCITING AND REWARDING ACTIVITY.





EL DORADO

NATURAL RESERVE

Established in 2006 on the Cuchilla de San Lorenzo, within Minca, the reserve covers 1,200 hectares and houses 366 bird species, including 26 endemics. Notable species include the Santa Marta parakeet, the sabrewing hummingbird, and the Santa Marta flycatcher.

The biodiversity-rich reserve is also home to migratory birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians. Its trails traverse multiple springs, and the reserve is bathed by the Gaira River, with waterfalls flowing into the Toribio River.

HOW TO GET THERE:

› BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

From Santa Marta's Public Market, take minibuses or private vehicles to Minca. From there, motorcycles or bicycles may be options to reach the reserve, considering the terrain. A guided tour can be safer.

› BY PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

From Santa Marta, follow Avenida Libertador or Avenida del Ferrocarril to Minca. Park in Minca and consider motorcycles or bicycles to reach the reserve, or choose a guided tour.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- › BRING ECO-FRIENDLY REPELLENT, SUNSCREEN, SUITABLE MOUNTAIN CLIMATE CLOTHING, AND HIKING-APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR
- › DON'T FORGET A FLASHLIGHT, PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT, SNACKS, WATER, AND A RAINCOAT
- › BRING CASH AND A GARBAGE BAG

RECOMMENDATIONS



› **RESPECT FOR MOTHER NATURE:**
Maintain respect for nature, a safe distance from birds, and their habitat.

› **SILENCE AND PATIENCE:**
Birdwatching requires patience. Sometimes, birds may be hiding, but with time and calm observation, many will appear.

› **LOCAL GUIDE:**
Consider hiring an experienced local guide. They know the best spots and are experts in bird identification.

› **RECORDS:**
Keep a record of the birds you observe. This will assist in identification and contribute to conservation projects.

› **REMEMBER THAT BIRDWATCHING IN SANTA MARTA IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE TO CONNECT WITH NATURE AND APPRECIATE THE INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY OF THE REGION. RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOLLOWING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES WILL ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN ALSO ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL ACTIVITY.**

ACCOMODATION:

› **Eco-CABINS:**
In the region, there are several cabins and eco-hotels focused on birdwatching with specialized guides.

SANTA MARTA
NATURALLY MAGICAL



YOGA & WELLNESS HUB

› SANTA MARTA, WITH ITS PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN MOUNTAINS AND SEA, PROVIDES AN IDEAL NATURAL SETTING FOR THE PRACTICE OF YOGA AND WELLNESS. THE COMBINATION OF LUSH LANDSCAPES AND THE SERENITY OF THE CARIBBEAN MAKES THIS CITY A UNIQUE DESTINATION.



Activities & Experiences:

Between the Sierra and the sea, you can find countless revitalizing and relaxing experiences that combine different practices with the natural beauty of the territory, fostering introspection, spiritual renewal, and disconnection from routine. Some activities that can be carried out in retreats, sanctuaries, hotels, and hostels, which continuously update their programming, include:

- › YOGA SESSIONS BY THE SEA OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE
- › MEDITATION RETREATS IN NATURE
- › CONSCIOUS EATING WORKSHOPS
- › HOLISTIC THERAPIES AND AYURVEDIC MESSAGES
- › BREATHING WORKSHOPS
- › MUD BATH
- › CACAO RITUALS AND MESSAGES
- › SOUND THERAPY
- › CHAKRA HARMONIZATION
- › AROMATHERAPY
- › MESSAGES AND OUTDOOR SPA
- › ASTROLOGY

All these practices can be combined with a wide range of approaches, from traditional to contemporary, complemented by the discovery of local gastronomy and workshops and events that connect you with local traditions.

Recommended Places & Sanctuaries:

- › **GITANA DEL MAR:**
OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE WELLNESS EXPERIENCE AT THE FOOT OF THE SEA AND IN A STUNNING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.
- › **CASA YOGA MINCA:**
A MOUNTAIN RETREAT, PERFECT FOR THOSE SEEKING TRANQUILITY AND YOGA PRACTICES IN NATURE.
- › **SELVA MINCA:**
A UNIQUE PLACE TO CONNECT WITH NATURE, PRACTICE YOGA, OR ENJOY A WIDE RANGE OF WELLNESS ACTIVITIES IN A JUNGLE SETTING.
- › **ONE SANTUARIO:**
A SERENE SANCTUARY OVERLOOKING THE PALOMINO RIVER, IDEAL FOR YOGA PRACTICE AND MEDITATION.
- › **MUNDO NUEVO ECOLOGDE:**
COMBINES SUSTAINABILITY WITH WELLNESS PRACTICES, OFFERING A UNIQUE YOGA AND MEDITATION EXPERIENCE.



GASTRONOMY

› SANTA MARTA STANDS OUT AS AN AUTHENTIC GASTRONOMIC PARADISE, WHERE THE RICH HISTORY OF THE CITY IS REFLECTED IN EVERY EXQUISITE DISH. THIS MELTING POT OF CULTURES, WITH INDIGENOUS, AFRO-DESCENDANT, AND SPANISH INFLUENCES, HAS CREATED A UNIQUE CULINARY IDENTITY CHARACTERIZED BY A COMPILATION OF TRADITIONS AND DISTINCTIVE FLAVORS.

The cuisine of Santa Marta is, essentially, a living and captivating narrative that tells the story of its people, reflecting their struggles, hopes, and the richness of a land caressed by the sea and guarded by majestic mountains.

More than simple culinary preparations, the dishes of Santa Marta are authentic time capsules that treasure stories, recipes passed down from generation to generation, zealously preserving the authenticity and essence of people who have resisted and thrived over time. In this way, each bite offers a fascinating journey through a palette of flavors as diverse as the stories that this city holds dear.

The privileged geographical location of Santa Marta, embraced by the waters of the Caribbean Sea, has allowed the city to absorb influences from distant lands, in addition to its ancestral roots. Whether through migrations or trade exchanges, the people of Santa Marta have incorporated diverse culinary practices, expanding their repertoire and further enriching their gastronomic offering.

Here, the visitor not only discovers traces of pre-Columbian, African, or Spanish heritage but also glimpses of Asian, Arab, Mexican flavors, and more. This fusion of cultures has turned Santa Marta into a gastronomic hub that invites a unique sensory journey, where passion and love for cooking manifest in each recipe with palpable intensity.

TEN GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCES

FRIED FISH WITH PATACÓN -

Fried fish is a very popular and typical dish. It is served with coconut rice, patacones (fried green plantains), and a salad of tomato, onion, and lettuce. It can be made with mojarra, red snapper, or sabalo. The finishing touch is salt and lemon to taste.

CAYEYE OR MOTE DE GUINEO -

A dish emblematic of the Caribbean coast of Colombia, cayeye, popularly known as mote de guineo, encapsulates cultural and gastronomic heritage. Its roots trace back to the Magdalena department, specifically during the period when the United Fruit Company, an American company established in the region for banana export, discarded green bananas that didn't meet export standards. Resourceful locals collected these bananas and transformed them into a tasty mash, later known as cayeye. This versatile dish has become an essential component in both breakfast and main meals on the Caribbean coast. Cayeye is a mixture of cooked and mashed green banana, enriched with ingredients like butter and the indispensable grated costeño cheese.

BONITO RICE -

Bonito rice in Santa Marta reflects a culinary tradition deeply rooted in local history and the region's marine abundance. Decades ago, the abundant presence of bonito fish on the beaches of Santa Marta made it a central food in the local population's diet. This fish, easily catchable and numerous on local beaches, was a common ingredient in Samarian households. Over time, the dynamics around bonito have evolved. Currently, it is less common to find it on restaurant menus, where dishes like bonito salpicón have gained popularity. The reason for this change is partly due to the complexity of handling fresh bonito, an ingredient that requires almost immediate processing after capture. Freezing affects its texture and flavor, posing a challenge for the gastronomic industry seeking to preserve the fish's quality and authentic taste.





CAZUELA DE MARISCOS -

The seafood casserole combines fresh seafood such as shrimp, prawns, squid, and fish, cooked in a coconut sauce with bell peppers, onions, and tomatoes. This typical dish is prepared in various ways worldwide, and in Colombia, it stands out for its use of coconut milk, giving it a creamy texture. It is commonly served with coconut rice or fried plantains.

COCONUT RICE -

Coconut rice is a preparation that involves cooking white rice in coconut milk with coconut pieces. This versatile recipe can be prepared in various ways, whether seasoned with salt or sweetened with sugar or panela. Some variations even incorporate coca-cola and raisins to add a touch of flavor. Coconut rice is commonly served alongside fried plantains, fried fish, and salad or carne en posta.

EL BOLLO "TRES PUNTÁ" -

Originating from the Sierra Nevada and deeply rooted in the tradition of Mamatoco, Santa Marta, this ancestral food has been guarded and passed down through generations. This bollo is distinguished by its unique triangular shape with three points, a notable variation from traditional bollos. Its wrapping in bijao leaves marks an evolution in its preparation, setting it apart from other ancient methods that used different leaves. The geometric shape of the bollo evokes the three peaks of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, reinforcing its connection to this iconic landscape.

SHRIMP COCKTAIL OR CEVICHE -

The shrimp cocktail is a preparation that usually includes raw shrimp, seasoned or marinated in a mixture of olive oil or pink sauce, chopped onions, and cilantro. Sometimes, it is spiced up with hot sauce and lime juice for an additional kick of flavor and spiciness. It is often served with salted crackers as an accompaniment.

SIERRA COFFEE -

The coffee from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta stands out for its characteristic flavor and aroma, reflecting Colombia's deep coffee tradition. The uniqueness of this region is due to climatic conditions that allow for a single annual harvest, typically between October and January, owing to high solar radiation and the dry season.

Coffee plantations in the Sierra Nevada follow a shade-grown system under native trees, an essential practice for organic coffee plantations in the region, as it protects against solar radiation and enriches the soil with vital nutrients.

In Minca, you can visit coffee farms open to the public and get up close to the cultivation and production process while enjoying this special variety of coffee.

In Santa Marta, on the other hand, it stands out for the diversity of places to enjoy coffee, from trying different types in coworking spaces, attending coffee tastings, and getting a close look at the production process. The city offers a diverse experience for those wishing to explore coffee culture and experiment with its various flavors and aromas.

TROPICAL JUICES -

In Santa Marta, the warm climate is ideal for enjoying refreshing tropical juices. Visitors can savor options like corozo, passion fruit, sapote, and mango juices. These drinks are a way to cool off while exploring the city.

AREPAS DE HUEVO -

These are corn-based arepas, either sweet or savory, filled with egg and fried until golden and crispy. They are a popular choice for breakfast or a snack.

MAIN

DESTINATIONS

HISTORIC CENTER

📍 BETWEEN STREETS 10 AND 22 IN SANTA MARTA

› THE HISTORIC CENTER OF SANTA MARTA IS A CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST OF COLOMBIA.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

- › HISTORICAL TOUR OF THE HISTORIC CITY CENTER
- › SUNSET ON THE CAMELLÓN DE LA BAHÍA
- › ENJOY A PERFORMANCE AT THE SANTA MARTA THEATER
- › VISIT THE TAIRONA GOLD MUSEUM
- › ENJOY ITS GASTRONOMY AND NIGHTLIFE

CAMELLÓN DE LA BAHÍA DE SANTA MARTA

The Bay is an essential stop for all visitors to the city, and touring the Camellón de la Bahía, also known as Paseo Bastidas in honor of Rodrigo de Bastidas, the city's founder, is a must. On the boardwalk, you'll find gastronomic areas, children's play areas, a space for pets, an outdoor gym, and artisan stalls along the Camellón, where they exhibit their creations.

📍 CRA. 3 # 16-30, COMUNA 2

CALLEJÓN DEL CORREO

This pedestrian passage connects Parque de los Novios with Plaza de Bolívar and stands out as a gastronomic epicenter. Along this alley, there are restaurants offering a fusion of the best of international and local cuisine, becoming an authentic gastronomic journey that invites you to discover flavors of the sea and land. Its atmosphere, enhanced with lights, signs, flags, and the presence of street artists, makes it the ideal setting to enjoy a special dinner with friends.

📍 CRA. 3 # 16-30, COMUNA 2

PLAZA DE BOLÍVAR

This square, located in the oldest and central sector of Santa Marta, has great historical importance. Surrounded by buildings of great architectural value, libraries, the Tairona Gold Museum, and monuments, it is a testament to the city's past. The square has had several names throughout history and is currently called Plaza de Bolívar, in honor of Simón Bolívar. Today, it is a space that hosts cultural, artistic, and political events.

📍 CRA. 3 # 16-30, COMUNA 2

SANTA MARTA THEATER

The Santa Marta Theater, inaugurated in 1949 and designed by the renowned Cuban architect Manuel Carrera, is an iconic example of the 'Art Deco' style in the Caribbean. Since its reopening in November 2021, the theater has been a distinctive feature of the Historic Center and offers a constant and free cultural program for the public.

📍 CRA. 3 # 16-30, COMUNA 2

CATEDRAL BASÍLICA DE SANTA MARTA

The Cathedral Basilica of Santa Marta, surrounded by small restaurants and other colonial buildings, is three blocks east of the main beach and the International Marine. The cathedral was built in 1765 and took over 30 years to complete due to constant pirate attacks that resulted in the city being burned more than 20 times. Throughout the

centuries, it has been renovated several times, giving it a blend of various architectural styles. It also houses the ashes of Santa Marta's founder, Rodrigo de Bastidas, as well as the heart of the Liberator Simón Bolívar. The military leader was initially buried in the church before his remains were transferred to Venezuela.

📍 PLAZA DE LA CATEDRAL, CRA. 4,
COMUNA 2



PARQUE DE LOS NOVIOS

Located in the heart of the Historic Center of Santa Marta and just one block from the bay, Parque de los Novios is an iconic meeting point. Surrounded by heritage buildings and right in front of the Palace of Justice, this space

becomes the main social and nightlife hub of the city. It offers a variety of gastronomic options, from restaurants to nightclubs and bars, allowing visitors to dine and then enjoy the festive atmosphere.

 CALLES 19 Y 20 Y CARRERAS 2 Y 3



TAIRONA GOLD MUSEUM CASA DE LA ADUANA

The Tairona Gold Museum is located in the historic Casa de la Aduana, an emblematic building from 1530 considered the cradle of Colombian architecture. It stands out as a must-visit for those interested in the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The museum's collection includes approximately 565 objects, such as goldsmithing pieces, ceramics, bone, shell, stone, and ethnographic objects, representing both the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the Magdalena department.

 CARRERA 2 PARQUE SIMÓN BOLÍVAR

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

› FREE ADMISSION FOR EVERYONE

› BILINGUAL EXHIBITION
(SPANISH AND ENGLISH).

› OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday and holidays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, including public holidays.

› LOCATION

Casa de la Aduana, Carrera 2 with Calle 14,
Parque Bolívar.

› THE MUSEUM IS EQUIPPED WITH
FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH
LIMITED ABILITIES.

THE MUSEUM IS ORGANIZED INTO FOUR THEMATIC ROOMS:

› PRE-HISPANIC SOCIETIES

Tells the story of the cultures that inhabited the Sierra Nevada during the Nahuange (200-900 AD) and Tairona (900-1600 AD) periods.

› MAGDALENA PEOPLE

Takes visitors to the current Magdalena province, showing aspects of its population and traditions.

› STORIES OF THE CASA DE LA ADUANA

Narrates key moments such as the founding of the city, battles, pirates, local customs, and significant events related to the port, railway, and tourism.

› BOLÍVAR WAS HERE:

A special room that pays tribute to Simón Bolívar, who found his final rest in Santa Marta in 1830.



RESTAURANTS

GUÁSIMO –

Located at Cra. 2 #19-15 in the historic center, Guásimo Restaurante stands out for its commitment to keeping alive the authenticity of the flavors that characterize the region, especially those from the Sierra Nevada, the surrounding seas, banana plantations, and local markets.

This restaurant was founded by Chef and artist Fabián Rodríguez, a native of Fundación, Magdalena. His mission is to showcase the abundant pantry of Magdalena through research and the rescue of the cuisine that identifies the region.

Among its recommended dishes, Guásimo Restaurante offers the "Guásimo Sea Bass," a sea bass on creamy shrimp rice, "coconut rice with banana caramel and sautéed seafood," "tripe with pesto and cashew," and a dessert: sublime coconut ice cream accompanied by panela honey, cafongo, and corn chocolate powder, all blending the indigenous flavors of the area into a unique gastronomic experience.

CASA MAGDALENA –

Casa Magdalena offers a gastronomic experience with a touch of familiarity that will transport you to the warmth of your grandmother's house. Its charming patio and cozy lounge invite you to enjoy excellent food accompanied by live music and exceptional service. The menu is varied, with options ranging from Thai ceviche to squid ink risoni, truffled mushroom risotto with goat cheese and nuts, as well as a variety of signature cocktails and sangrias to share.

Located at Calle 17 #2-09 in the historic center, Casa Magdalena is an ideal place to participate in a unique and cozy culinary experience in the heart of the city.



SERENA –

Located at the corner of Cra. 1 #22 - 93, Prolongación Camellón Rodrigo de Bastidas, Serena Tropical Bistro is a restaurant that blends local flavors with the freshness of the tropics. Privilegedly situated in front of the marina, this gastronomic refuge offers an exceptional culinary experience in an elegant and welcoming atmosphere.

The restaurant has two distinctive spaces: a spacious terrace to enjoy the impressive sunsets of Santa Marta and an air-conditioned interior for a more comfortable experience. Serena's menu offers a variety of options, from main courses such as grilled sea bass and octopus sealed with mango romesco sauce to desserts such as costeño cheese sponge cake with sweet guava cream and caramel flan. Signature cocktails also complement the culinary experience.

Ouzo –

In 2011, American chef Michael McMurdo was captivated by the warm hospitality of Santa Marta, leading him to establish Ouzo, a restaurant that pays homage to the Colombian Caribbean through its cuisine. Ouzo stands out for its focus on using local ingredients such as fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, fish, and seafood from the region, which harmoniously blend with Mediterranean influences. The dishes at Ouzo are crafted with care, using fresh regional ingredients and traditional Old World techniques. Mediterranean food enthusiasts can enjoy classic Italian pizzas with serrano ham, salami, and chorizo. All of this makes Ouzo an essential place for those seeking a unique dinner experience in the heart of the historic center of Santa Marta.



› LULO –

Lulo, the coffee bar located in the heart of the Historic Center, in the Callejón del Correo, brings its visitors the authentic taste of Latin America. In this place, diners can delight in their star dish: corn arepas, prepared artisanally with a gourmet touch that makes them unique.

Lulo's menu offers a diverse selection, including options such as wraps, paninis, sliders, ceviches, and breakfasts, providing a diverse and satisfying culinary experience for all tastes.

The atmosphere at Lulo is relaxed, comfortable, and vibrant, providing visitors with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a welcoming atmosphere. In addition, the coffee bar offers outdoor seating options, making it the perfect place to enjoy organic coffee, craft sodas, and craft beer while relaxing and savoring the culinary delights offered.

LAMART –

Lamart is a restaurant that focuses on artistic gastronomy, standing out for its excellent service and artistic decoration. It is located in the Callejón del Correo, one of the most picturesque streets in Santa Marta. It offers live music and a unique atmosphere. Its motto, "Artistic Gastronomy," is due to the art they put into the preparation of all their dishes. Some chef recommendations include ceviches, such as chicharrón ceviche, as well as handmade pasta, sea bass in coconut milk, and salmon boronía, dishes that blend flavors exceptionally. Each visit to Lamart is a memorable experience that captivates both the palate and the spirit.

QUINTA DE SAN PEDRO

This historic estate, dating back to the 17th century, is primarily known as the place where the liberator Simón Bolívar spent his last days. Bolívar, famous for leading the fight for the independence of several South American countries, passed away at Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino on December 17, 1830. Today, Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino is located just 5 km from the historic center of Santa Marta and operates as a museum and cultural center that preserves the legacy of the liberator. Visitors

have the opportunity to explore its gardens, enjoy the natural beauty with its centuries-old trees, tour the main house where Bolívar spent his last days, and admire an extensive collection of art and objects related to his life and work. Additionally, the site has a library and a research center dedicated to the history of the independence of Latin America. In addition to its function as a museum, Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino is a venue for cultural events and art exhibitions that promote Colombian culture and art.

› WELCOME CENTER

Begin your visit at the welcome center, where you can get information about opening hours and entrance fees, as well as printed guides or guided tour services.

› GARDENS

Explore the beautiful gardens of Quinta, filled with fruit trees, exotic plants, and statues. This is an ideal place for a relaxing stroll and enjoying nature.

› HACIENDA HOUSE

Visit the Hacienda House, a restored colonial mansion that houses a collection of art and historical objects related to Simón Bolívar and the independence of Colombia.

› SAN PEDRO CHAPEL

The Chapel of San Pedro Alejandrino, dating back to the 18th century, is a place of worship with simple architecture and a tranquil atmosphere, perfect for reflection.

› MUSEUM

In the Bolivarian Museum of Contemporary Art, you can appreciate a collection of contemporary art that celebrates Bolívar's figure and legacy.

› EVENTS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino organizes cultural events and special exhibitions throughout the year. Check the calendar before your visit to see if it coincides with any interesting events.

› RECOMENDACIONES ADICIONALES

It is recommended to bring water, sunscreen, and a hat. Respecting the rules and the history of the place is essential, given its significant historical and cultural value.

Consider joining a guided tour to get detailed information about the history and details of Quinta.

› FEES

Children from 0 to 5 years old
(Nationals and Foreigners) **FREE**

Children from 6 to 12 years old
(Nationals and Foreigners) **\$15.000 COP**

Nationals, 13 years or older **\$17.000 COP**

Foreigners, 13 years or older **\$23.000 COP**

Active and retired military personnel* **EXEMPT**

**OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY,
EXCEPT JANUARY 1ST**

Entry hours and ticket office service
— *Off season.*
09:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

Closure of spaces of interest to visitors
— *Off season.*
4:30 P.M.

Entry hours and ticket office service
— *Peak season.*
09:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.

Closure of spaces of interest to visitors
— *Peak season.*
5:30 P.M.

Service hours in the cafeteria and
souvenir shop.
09:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Schedule for December 24 and 31.
09:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Schedule for the first of January, of
every year.
CLOSED

RODADERO & SOUTH TOURIST CORRIDOR

MAIN DESTINATION

102

› RODADERO IS LOCATED ABOUT 15 MINUTES FROM THE CENTER OF SANTA MARTA AND STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE PREFERRED DESTINATIONS THANKS TO ITS ICONIC BEACH, ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR IN THE COUNTRY. IN THIS AREA, VISITORS CAN FIND VARIOUS ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS, RANGING FROM HOTELS TO TEMPORARY RENTALS, AND A VARIED GASTRONOMIC OFFER. ADDITIONALLY, NAUTICAL ACTIVITIES ARE ABUNDANT IN ITS CALM WATERS, IDEAL FOR KAYAKING, PADDLEBOARDING, JET-SKIING, AND MORE.



TOP 5 THINGS TO DO:

- Enjoy its beaches
- Hot spots for watching the sunset
- Water sports
- Visit its luxury hotels
- Enjoy its restaurants and bars

ATTRACTIONS & EXPERIENCES

BELLO HORIZONTE

Located in the southwest of Santa Marta, it is known for its luxury hotels and tourist residences. This place is ideal for families, offering a variety of restaurants and entertainment, ensuring a complete and memorable experience.

POZOS COLORADOS

The perfect choice for those seeking a quieter and less crowded beach. Its relaxed atmosphere is optimal for water sports, swimming, or simply enjoying a relaxing day with family. In the area, you can find a variety of hotels and condominiums that enhance visitor comfort.



RESTAURANTS

EL KAREY –

Located on Calle 9 No. 1-19, in front of El Rodadero beach, El Karey Restaurant is a gastronomic emblem with over 45 years of history, specializing in paellas and seafood since 1975. This iconic establishment has captivated both locals and tourists with its authenticity and freshness, offering a unique culinary experience that captures the essence of the sea. With a privileged location, Karey has an indoor dining area and an outdoor terrace overlooking the Bay of El Rodadero, creating a perfect atmosphere to relax and enjoy the view. Famous for its seafood paella, the restaurant also delights with its black squid ink paella, crab and fish croquettes, and calamari, either breaded or with garlic. Each dish is prepared with meticulous attention, maintaining its prestige and quality that continue to attract locals and visitors in Santa Marta.

CINTO –

Cinto Cocina de Playa, located in the Zazue shopping center, has achieved success thanks to its diverse gastronomic offer focusing on sea flavors. The menu stands out, especially for its wide selection of high-quality fish and seafood. Highly recommended options include seafood and fish stew, seafood casserole, octopus with corn, and a variety of ceviches. The restaurant's ambiance creates a unique atmosphere of warmth and serenity, where music perfectly complements the experience, making diners feel completely at ease. In addition, the attention and service stand out for their exceptional quality.

BK –

This restaurant features architecture influenced by local indigenous culture and is decorated with a refined style that captures the essence of the Caribbean. Its seaside location offers an incomparable view. The restaurant's specialty lies in taking local ingredients and transforming them with a touch of style and uniqueness in each preparation, maintaining the integrity of culinary techniques and procedures. The menu ranges from house specialties to classic options and oriental proposals, such as sushi and rice dishes, as well as signature cocktails and other alternatives. One of the standout recommendations is the "Filete a la Mar," a characteristic dish from Valle del Cauca adapted to the region's products.

CHEF DEL MAR –

Nineteen years ago, a culinary story inspired by exquisite meat and fish empanadas and carimañolas began. This restaurant had its beginnings in the Playa Salguero area, where it offered its delights in the surroundings. Today, the restaurant has grown and has three locations, with Playa Salguero being its main headquarters. This place offers a warm and accessible environment for everyone, celebrating the cuisine of the Caribbean Sea and paying homage to the region's history. The constant goal of this restaurant is to create memorable experiences for everyone who visits. Among its standout recommendations are the seafood casserole, piragua-style rice, grilled octopus, and the King of Kings. These dishes are representative of the passion for sea cuisine and the culinary culture of the region, promising a truly memorable gastronomic experience for those who try them.

TAGANGA

› TAGANGA IS A FISHING VILLAGE LOCATED A FEW KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF THE CENTER OF SANTA MARTA. IT STANDS OUT FOR ITS RELAXED ATMOSPHERE AND POPULAR BEACH. THE AREA OFFERS ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS AND RESTAURANTS. IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS A STARTING POINT FOR DIVING AND OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES. ADDITIONALLY, HIKES TO NEARBY PLACES CAN BE TAKEN. REGARDING GASTRONOMY, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TRY LOCAL FISH AND SEAFOOD DISHES. TAGANGA HAS AN ACTIVE NIGHTLIFE AND OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING NEARBY INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES. IT IS SUGGESTED TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLAN TRANSPORTATION FROM THE CENTER OF SANTA MARTA.

› TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

- Best place for diving and snorkeling
- Watch the sunset
- Hiking between beaches
- Visit hostels
- Eat fried fish with patacón and coconut rice

› TAGANGA BEACH

Taganga Beach is the epicenter of life in the village. Here, visitors can enjoy the sun on the sand, contemplate the sunset with a beer, swim in calm waters, and participate in water sports such as snorkeling and kayaking.

› PLAYA GRANDE

Accessible by a walk of approximately 20 minutes over the hill or a 10-minute boat ride. It is a suitable place for relaxation, enjoying the sun and the sea, with crystal-clear waters that harbor a varied aquatic life. In its surroundings, there are various gastronomic options, mostly specialized in coastal cuisine and seafood. It also has tents and areas to share with friends and family.

› SISIGUACA BEACH

Located after the Taganga area, it is characterized as a place where many natives of the community engage in fishing activities. Additionally, you can find corals of different colors that make this beach very attractive for snorkeling.

› NIGHTLIFE

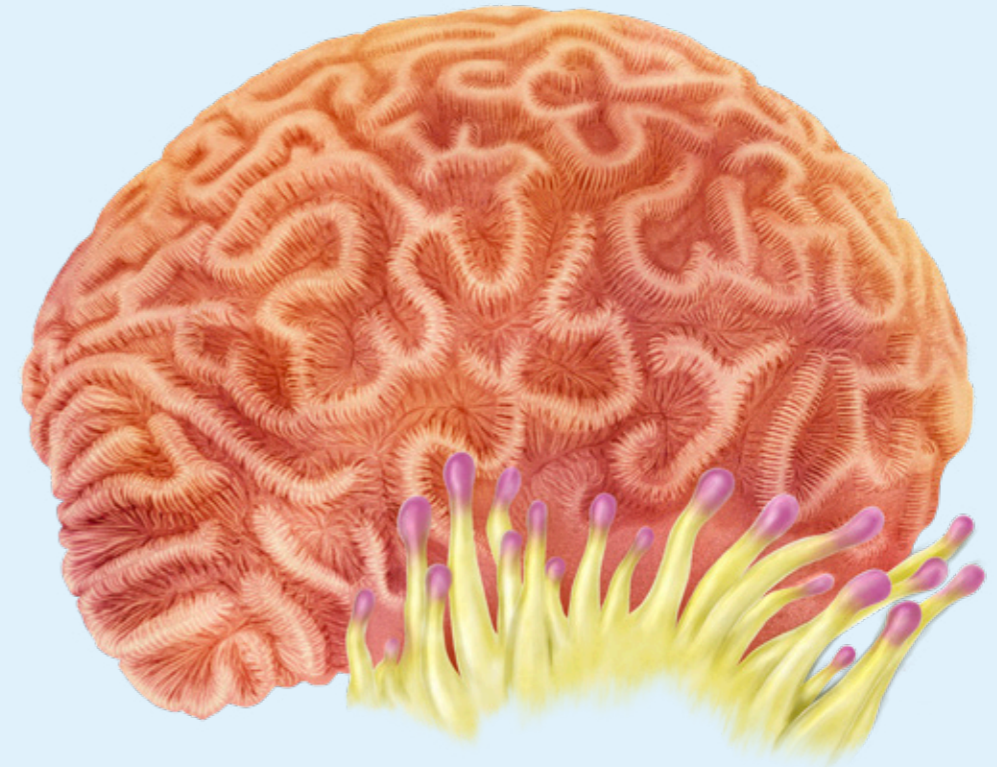
Nightlife in Taganga is vibrant and lively, with bars and nightclubs located on the beachfront. Travelers can enjoy live music and dance under the starry sky.

› HIKING

From Taganga, hikes can be taken to other beaches such as Sisiguaca and Playa Grande. These routes provide spectacular views of the beach and the lush surrounding tropical jungle.

› DIVING AND SNORKELING

Taganga is widely recognized as an ideal starting point for diving. The village is home to several diving schools that offer opportunities both to obtain certifications and to carry out guided dives, allowing travelers to explore the nearby coral reefs.



RESTAURANTS *in*—TAGANGA

LA MORENA RESTAURANT —

Located in front of Taganga Beach, it features a menu inspired by Caribbean cuisine fused with international influences. Besides being a cocktail bar, it offers dishes such as shrimp cocktails, seafood-stuffed avocado, and seafood rice. The restaurant's privileged location, combined with its varied culinary offerings, makes it an ideal place to enjoy marine flavors while contemplating the beach view.

BABAGANOUSH RESTO-BAR —

Located on the third floor of the Tayrona Diving Center in Taganga, Babaganoush Resto-Bar offers a culinary experience that combines landscape views with a variety of dishes and drinks. This place is known for its pleasant atmosphere and a selection of both classic and signature cocktails, ideal for enjoying while watching the sunset. Babaganoush presents a variety of options for all tastes, from dishes like chicken curry and fine loin to vegetarian alternatives such as pokes and vegetarian lasagnas, focusing on the quality and freshness of ingredients.

PLAYA ALTA —

Playa Alta restaurant, located on Via Taganga, in front of the entrance to Techos Azules, is known for its specialty in burgers. In addition to having a wide variety of burgers, it offers milkshakes, desserts, and a variety of cocktails and beers to accompany meals.

PACHAMAMA RESTAURANT BAR —

Pachamama offers a gastronomic experience that blends Franco-Colombian cuisine. With an atmosphere featuring live music, this restaurant and bar stands out for dishes such as Cordon Bleu with mustard sauce, exotic fish Carpaccio with passion fruit vinaigrette, cilantro pesto, coconut milk, and pistachio, and the French-style chef's Tartare, which includes tuetano bone, raw fine loin, walnut, capers, parsley, Dijon mustard, and red onion.



MINCA

Located on the lush slopes of the Sierra Nevada, Minca presents itself as a natural oasis with trails, rivers, waterfalls, and iconic coffee and cacao plantations in the region. Just 20 km from Santa Marta, this town, renowned for its coffee excellence both nationally and internationally, impresses visitors with breathtaking panoramas and a variety of attractions. Due to its altitude, Minca's climate ranges from temperate to cold, making it an ideal retreat for those seeking to connect with nature in its purest form. While initially attracting adventurous backpackers and trekking enthusiasts, the addition of glamping, boutique accommodations, and a rich culinary scene has expanded and enriched its tourist appeal.

TRANSPORTATION PRICES-

TAXI:

Approximately \$60,000 from the city center.

SHARED VAN:

Approximately \$10,000, departing from the public market.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO-

- Bird Watching: Minca is a paradise for bird enthusiasts.
- Ecotourism and Extreme Sports/Adventure: Perfect for the most adventurous.
- Hiking: Explore the natural surroundings of Minca on foot.
- Motorcycle and Bicycle Rides: A different way to explore the area.
- Coffee, Cacao, and/or Beekeeping Tour: Get up close to the agricultural culture of the region.

RESTAURANTS IN MINCA



BURURAKE

Bururake offers a "Grill Fusion" concept in a lush green setting. The menu includes a diverse selection of grilled dishes as well as vegetarian options. The restaurant's terrace provides panoramic views of the Gaira River.

LAZY CAT

Strategically located near the town's main square, Lazy Cat offers its diners a prominent view adorned by the lush vegetation along the riverbank. This gastronomic establishment is known not only for its varied menu, which includes options such as burgers, sandwiches, meats, bowls, quesadillas, and appetizers but also for its commitment to quality and value for money.

LA MIGA

One of the must-visit and taste places in Minca is La Miga, a renowned French artisan bakery known for its chocolate bread. Although they offer a variety of bread and specialties, the chocolate bread is undoubtedly the favorite among visitors.

CAFICOSTA

Caficosta stands out as one of the largest and most recognized coffee shops in Minca, becoming a meeting point for cyclists who arrive in the town for a well-deserved break. In this establishment, visitors have the opportunity to savor exquisite coffee from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta or try the diverse selection of origins, including the Serranía del Perijá, the Serranía de San Lucas, or even a blend of these, all available in espresso, filtered, and other preparation methods. Caficosta offers you the opportunity to appreciate in one place the roasting process and a tasting experience.

SOUL KITCHEN

The restaurant at Casa Loma hostel, Soul Kitchen, stands out as an ethical and creative vegetarian restaurant. It offers a varied menu with local influences and ingredients. In addition to its food offerings, visitors can enjoy a wide range of drinks, including coffees, cappuccinos, slushies, as well as infusions with native plants from the region and natural fruit and vegetable extracts.





ACCOMODATIONS IN MINCA

Terramia Estate

📍 KM 13, VÍA MINCA
CERRO KENNEDY

Terramia is a destination that offers complete disconnection in the midst of the mountains. Its geodesic domes are the ideal refuge for adventurous travelers, nature lovers, hiking enthusiasts, and environmentally conscious individuals seeking a unique experience in the highest coastal mountain in the world. Each of these nests stands out for its unique design and offers a distinct experience to each guest. Accommodations include terraces with panoramic mountain views, equipped kitchens, and private bathrooms.



Chunuu Hostel & Glamping

📍 VEREDA MILAGRO VERDE,
HOUSE 42, MINCA

Chunuu Hostel is located on the banks of the river in Minca, offering diverse environments that guarantee comfort in a natural setting. Its privileged location allows guests to enjoy the rich biodiversity of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, with the presence of numerous species of flora and fauna.

The hotel has a range of amenities, including a pool, jacuzzi, and a hammock area for relaxation and admiring the landscape. Additionally, it features a restaurant, bar, and a game area for the enjoyment of its visitors.

Trekker Glamping

📍 KM 1.8 MINCA-MUNDO NUEVO

Trekker Glamping is a luxury experience immersed in a naturally beautiful environment. Its purpose is to awaken the consciousness of its guests, fostering a deep connection with Mother Nature and themselves.

The domes at Trekker offer gardens, terraces, and a restaurant with a bar. Each accommodation option in this hotel has mountain views and a hot tub.



Hostal Sierra Minca

📍 FINCA BELLAVISTA,
VEREDA DEL ORIENTE

This picturesque hotel offers guests a unique experience surrounded by the lush natural beauty of Minca. With two pools for relaxation and multiple accommodation options ranging from private cabins to shared rooms, Sierra Minca Hostel caters to the preferences of all travelers.

In addition to its comfortable accommodation, the hotel is immersed in an ideal environment for outdoor activities such as hiking, visits to viewpoints, and bird watching. It is located approximately 30 minutes by motorcycle or 40 minutes by car from the center of Minca.



Minca Ecohabs

📍 CALLE 1, CRA 3-752

This accommodation offers spa services and free WiFi access. Its rooms are equipped with a minibar, sofa, desk, coffee maker, and private bathroom. Prices include breakfast, and the restaurant serves a variety of local and international dishes.



BONDA

BONDA, A DISTRICT OF SANTA MARTA LOCATED 50 MINUTES FROM THE HISTORIC CENTER, IS A TOWN WITH DEEP INDIGENOUS ROOTS THAT OFFERS A NATURAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT ENRICHED BY THE BONDA RIVER. THIS AREA, COVERING APPROXIMATELY 34,533 HECTARES, FEATURES A NETWORK OF TRAILS, WATERFALLS, AND VIEWPOINTS, AND PRESENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS REFLECTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE TAYRONA CULTURE IN THE REGION.

¿HOW TO GET TO BONDA?

USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Take a bus or taxi from Santa Marta. Information about bus routes and schedules is usually available at the front of the vehicles.

OPTING FOR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

From the center of Santa Marta, follow Avenida del Ferrocarril towards Troncal del Caribe. Passing through the Ocean Mall Shopping Center and La Lucha Roundpoint, continue towards the Santa Marta Transport Terminal and head towards the 11 de Noviembre Bridge until reaching the Bonda police station.

DONAMA

STONE

MONOLITH
500 Y 1525 BC

DIAMETER
4 M

HEIGHT
3 M

PETROGLYPHS

- › ZOOMORPHIC SYMBOLS
- › ABSTRACT FIGURES

RELEVANCE

CURRENT INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES SEE REFLECTIONS
OF THE TAYRONA WORLDVIEW



CAOBA

NATURAL RESERVE

THIS NATURAL RESERVE IS A PLACE WHERE VISITORS CAN ENJOY OBSERVING A VARIETY OF FAUNA, INCLUDING CROCODILES, TURTLES, TITI MONKEYS, AND MACAWS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY CAN EXPLORE THE RICH FLORA OF THE AREA, WHICH HOUSES MORE THAN 300 SPECIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.



PASO DEL MANGO

PLACE
500 MAMSL

CONNECTION
VIDA RURAL DE LA REGIÓN

LANDSCAPE

MANGO TREES AND RIVERS

CACAO & COFFEE

FROM CULTIVATION TO
YOUR TASTING

ZONES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL

RESERVE
BIOLÓGICA CAOBA

LOS NARANJOS

› THE LOS NARANJOS BEACH, LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN END OF TAYRONA PARK, IS A POPULAR DESTINATION AMONG SURFERS SEEKING HIGH-QUALITY WAVES. SITUATED NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE PIEDRAS RIVER, IT OFFERS PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA AND THE RIVER. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS RECOGNIZED AS A SACRED SITE BY THE KOGUI COMMUNITY."



5 HOTELS IN — LOS NARANJOS

› CASA TAYRONA:

This boutique hotel is located near the shore of Los Naranjos beach and the mouth of the Piedras River. It offers rooms equipped with a luxurious private bathroom, minibar, hot water shower, air conditioning, private terrace, internet, and television.

› MALOKA BARLOVENTO:

It is an ecological cabin located with panoramic views of the Sierra Nevada, the Piedras River, and the Caribbean Sea. It has 11 rooms, all with a fan and private bathroom. In addition, it has common areas such as a dining room, living room, and hammocks.

› CABAÑA BARLOVENTO:

Located on a rock near the mouth of the Piedras River and on the shore of Los Naranjos Beach, this cabin has three rooms and a suite. All are equipped with a private bathroom and are designed to offer an intimate experience with the sea and nature.



› CASA BAMBÚ:

This hotel presents itself as a destination for couples seeking a romantic getaway and for solo travelers or groups interested in exploring Tayrona Park. The hotel provides a tranquil and comfortable atmosphere, complemented by facilities such as a pool and a restaurant. Additionally, its proximity to Los Naranjos Beach allows guests to easily enjoy the coastline.

› VILLA PLAYA TAYRONA:

This boutique hotel offers a variety of activities in its surroundings, suitable for groups of friends interested in the natural beauty of the river, the sea, and the gardens around the hotel, couples looking for a place for their getaway, and individuals seeking accommodation while visiting Tayrona Park. The hotel has six suites, each with a king-size bed and a single bed, accommodating three people per room.





LAS OLAS CORRIDOR

› LAS OLAS CORRIDOR ATTRACTS NATIONALS AND TRAVELERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. MORE THAN JUST BEACHES, THIS STRETCH OF SANTA MARTA IS A SERIES OF COVES RANGING FROM PRISTINE BEACHES TO RUSHING RIVERS. THE COMBINATION OF THESE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS OFFER A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, WHERE VISITORS CAN ENJOY ADVENTURES AND DISCOVERIES AMID A PRISTINE AND MAJESTIC SETTING.



TOP 5 THINGS TO DO

- Waterfalls, Rivers, and Tubing
- Hiking and Bird Watching
- Best Beaches in Santa Marta
- Luxury Hotels and Wellness Retreats
- Soak in the Vibe of Hostels

DON DIEGO RIVER

📍 56 KILOMETERS FROM SANTA MARTA

Located 56 kilometers from Santa Marta, the Don Diego River connects snow-capped peaks to the Caribbean Sea. Tours in the area allow you to connect with the local community. After a boat ride on the river, observing biodiversity, local fishermen share fishing techniques, and visitors can choose to release the caught fish or learn to prepare a local recipe with it.

BURITACA RIVER

📍 IN THE HEART OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

Originating in the Sierra and crossing places like Teyuna before flowing into the sea, the Buritaca River is a confluence of mountain freshwater and ocean saltwater, attracting tourists. Additionally, Buritaca Beach offers a unique experience by allowing enjoyment of both the salty sea and freshwater river.

GUACHACA RIVER

📍 KM 49 VIA RIOHACHA

Located at kilometer 49 on the route to Riohacha, the Guachaca River basin is home to Gotsezhy, an indigenous village recognized for its cultural preservation.



MENDIHUACA RIVER

📍 KM 27 ROAD VIA RIOHACHA

The area around the Mendihuaca River is close to various tourist accommodations.

PIEDRAS RIVER

📍 28 KM AWAY FROM SANTA MARTA

28 kilometers from Santa Marta, near Tayrona Park, is Los Naranjos Beach, famous for its cold and rocky waters. It is a popular destination for surfing and is surrounded by hotels and resorts.

QUEBRADA VALENCIA

📍 SANTA MARTA

This river winds its way to the sea, creating waterfalls and natural pools, especially during the rainy season. These natural pools, surrounded by tall trees, offer the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing swim in the midst of nature. Getting to the waterfalls involves traversing a trail that crosses the streams, covering a journey of about 30 minutes. Quebrada Valencia provides a unique experience for those seeking to connect with natural beauty and enjoy moments of tranquility and freshness.

LAGUNA ENCANTADA (ENCHANTED LAGOON)

📍 37 KM FROM SANTA MARTA
AND ABOUT 2 KM FROM THE
ENTRANCE OF TAYRONA PARK

The Laguna Encantada is a natural destination that attracts visitors with its beauty and charm.

The trail to the lagoon is easily accessible and takes approximately 40 minutes. Upon arrival, you'll find a serene lagoon fed by a small waterfall, creating an ideal environment for reflection and connection with nature.

RÍO FRÍO

📍 JULIO ZAWADY DISTRICT

Near the Río Frío bridge on the eastern highway, it offers a refreshing spot in the midst of nature.

Influx:
Especially on Sundays, this resort comes to life thanks to visitors from various municipalities in Atlántico and Ciénaga. It is also common to find informal vendors who add a local touch to the atmosphere.

Nearby Activities:
Float Down, Kayak, Paddle, or Boat Ride. Coordinated by local guides. Prices starting from \$45,000 per person. Paddle: A relaxing activity that allows you to appreciate the surroundings while gliding on a board over the water.

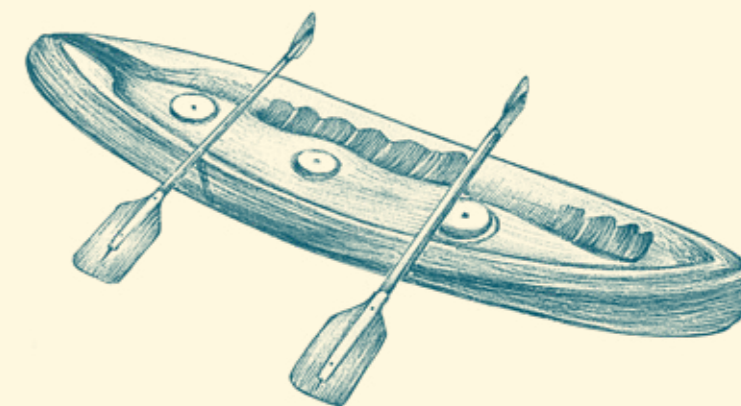
EL SALTILLO DE LA DANTA

📍 GUACHACA DISTRICT

This natural treasure is hidden in the dense jungle in the Guachaca district, away from conventional tourist routes, attracting those seeking unique adventures despite the lack of signage.

Services:
It is recommended to hire a local guide to explore this place. The service costs \$80,000 per person and includes a 40-minute walk, assistance to the waterfall, and the exciting tubing experience in the river.

How to Get There by Public Transportation:
Before reaching the Guachaca bridge, descend and head towards "El Chorro," a popular landmark. From there, follow a trail that will take you along the Guachaca River. Although the path may be challenging in certain sections, it offers stunning landscapes and culminates in the spectacular waterfall.



TAIRONAKA

Tayronaka is an eco-lodge that blends recreation with culture in the heart of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Visitors can immerse themselves in the magic of the region while discovering the legacy of the Tayrona people. Accompanied by expert guides, they will explore ecological and archaeological trails that highlight the rich heritage of the area.

DURATION	1 day
DISTANCE	1 km
DIFFICULTY	Low
TOUR COST	\$350.000 - \$600.000

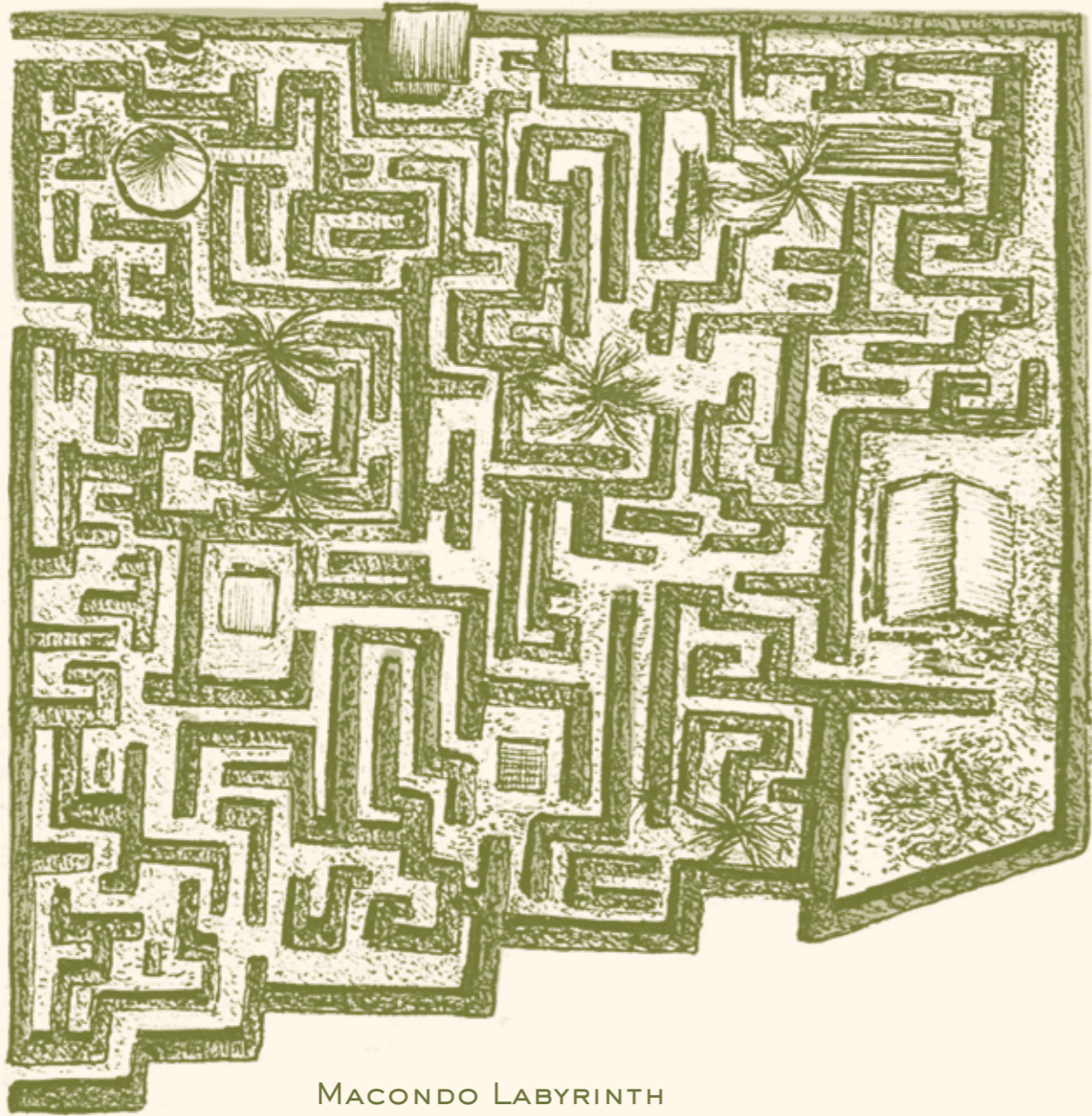
HOW TO GET THERE-

Taking the Troncal del Caribe Road from Santa Marta to Riohacha until reaching the Don Diego River.

ITINERARY-

- Departure from Santa Marta to the Don Diego River
- 15-minute hike on an ecological trail or 5-minute boat transfer
- Tour through gardens and terraces
1 HOUR
- Visit the Tayrona culture museum
- Lunch
- Return to Santa Marta
2 HOURS





MACONDO LABYRINTH

The Macondo Labyrinth is located at kilometer 35 on the road that connects Santa Marta with La Guajira. It draws inspiration from the vegetation and history of Macondo. Its main attraction is a labyrinth that covers approximately 3,000 meters and offers a variety of activities for visitors. The labyrinth consists of six thematic stations, including the fisherman's net, the Macondo tree, the Aracataca house, the stranded boat, the Sierra Nevada, and the Kogui house. Additionally, it features a restaurant that preserves the culinary traditions of Magdalena, providing visitors with a complete experience that merges the nature, culture, and history of the region.



OTHER DESTINATIONS NEAR SANTA MARTA

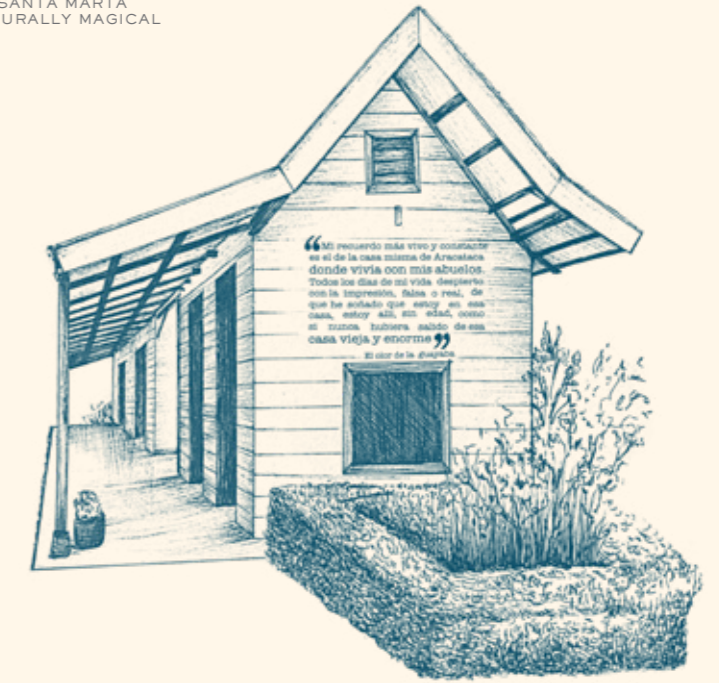
› **SANTA MARTA SERVES AS A STARTING POINT FOR MULTIPLE REGIONAL DESTINATIONS THAT ATTRACT TRAVELERS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD. ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION PROVIDES ACCESS TO BEACHES, RIVERS, WATERFALLS, AND PLACES OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

PALOMINO:

Situated at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, Palomino is a paradise for those seeking to enjoy the sun, sea, and nature at its best. In addition to its natural beauty, Palomino is renowned for its river, where tubing can be practiced, allowing visitors to drift along the current while contemplating the jungle surroundings. The accommodation options range from hostels to eco-lodges.

CIÉNAGA:

Ciénaga is a picturesque town that blends history and culture. Its historic center is a testament to colonial splendor, and its proximity to Ciénaga Grande makes it a strategic point to explore one of the largest wetlands in Colombia. Moreover, its beaches are less crowded than those in Santa Marta, making them ideal for those seeking a tranquil retreat.



ARACATACA:

Aracataca, the birthplace of Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez, is a treasure for literature enthusiasts. Here, visitors can immerse themselves in the magical-realistic world of "One Hundred Years of Solitude," exploring the house where the author was born, which now serves as a museum, and strolling through the streets that inspired the fictional Macondo.

STILT VILLAGES AND CIÉNAGA GRANDE:

Ciénaga Grande, located between Barranquilla and Santa Marta, is one of the largest wetlands in Colombia and has been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. In this area, there is remarkable biodiversity, including migratory birds, the white-faced capuchin monkey, manatees, the capybara, and the prominent blue heron. In addition to its natural richness, Ciénaga is famous for its "stilt villages," floating settlements that reflect a culture adapted to the aquatic environment. Nueva Venecia and Buenavista are representative examples of this way of life, where visitors can find everything from a church and a school to shops and a football field, the latter being a gift from the famous Colombian footballer Radamel Falcao. The houses, built on wooden stilts and adorned with bright colors, add a unique touch to the region.



ACCOMODATIONS

› IN SANTA MARTA, TRAVELERS FIND A WIDE RANGE OF ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS THAT CATER TO DIFFERENT BUDGETS. THE CITY HAS COZY HOSTELS AND HIGH-QUALITY BOUTIQUE HOTELS, AS WELL AS LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE SIERRA NEVADA AND EXCLUSIVE RESORT AREAS IN THE NORTH OF THE CITY. TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY, ESPECIALLY DURING PEAK SEASONS SUCH AS HOLY WEEK, MID-YEAR VACATIONS, AND CHRISTMAS, IT IS ADVISABLE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE.

BACKPACKER ACCOMODATION

Hostels are a popular option in Santa Marta, providing affordable accommodations with an active social atmosphere. Mainly located in the city center, these hostels offer shared dormitories and private rooms, ideal for budget-conscious travelers looking to meet other adventurers.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOTELS

For those seeking comfort without spending a lot, budget hotels in Santa Marta are an excellent option. These hotels offer basic services and comfortable rooms, often managed by local families and located in areas such as Rodadero and the city center.

BOUTIQUE HOTELS

For a more personalized and exclusive experience, boutique hotels in Santa Marta combine luxury and unique design. These hotels are often located in historic buildings and offer a more intimate service with attention to detail.

CAMPING & GLAMPING

For nature lovers, Santa Marta offers camping and glamping areas, especially near Tayrona Park or Minca. These sites allow visitors to enjoy the natural surroundings, with options ranging from bringing their own tent to glamping accommodations with all amenities.

MID-RANGE HOTELS

Some international chains have established themselves in Santa Marta, mainly attracting Colombian business travelers or family groups.

HIGH-END HOTELS

For a luxury experience, high-end hotels in Santa Marta offer the ultimate in comfort and exclusivity. With privileged locations, these hotels feature first-class facilities such as pools, spas, gourmet restaurants, and stunning views, especially in the northern part of the city and the Sierra Nevada.

A DESTINATION FOR ALL

DIGITAL NOMADS & COLIVING

Santa Marta offers several facilities for the modern digital nomad. The city is equipped with coworking spaces, access to high-quality WiFi, and a wide variety of cafes and restaurants.

USEFUL TIPS

- Consider sharing an apartment with entrepreneurs for better adaptation and expanding contacts.
- Look for coworking spaces to connect with other digital nomads.
- Since 2022, Colombia grants specific visas for digital nomads, with stay options for up to two years.

LGBTIQ+ TRAVELERS

Colombia stands out for its openness and acceptance:

- Homosexuality has been legal since 1981
- Vibrant LGBTQ+ scene and nightlife in cities like Cali
- Approval of same-sex marriage in 2016
- Recognition as a leading LGBTQ+ destination on multiple occasions

For more information and specific resources, visit www.guiagaycolombia.co.

TRAVELING AS A COUPLE

Santa Marta stands out as a romantic destination, thanks to its intimate atmosphere, beautiful landscapes, diverse accommodations, and activities. The emergence of boutique hotels has contributed to making it a perfect place for couple getaways.

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

Family trips in Colombia offer unique experiences:

- Many attractions have discounts for children.
- Public breastfeeding is in the process of normalization.
- If you opt for ecotourism, make sure the activities are suitable for the little ones.

BACKPACKERS & ADVENTURE

For those with an adventurous spirit, Santa Marta is an ideal destination. It offers hostels for every budget, camping areas, and inns. Outdoor activities are abundant, and land connectivity is remarkable.



TRAVEL TIPS

CHECK THE WEATHER

Santa Marta has a warm and humid climate throughout the year, so check the specific weather conditions for your travel dates and pack appropriate clothing.

SAFETY

Santa Marta is a safe city, but like any tourist destination, keep an eye on your belongings and avoid poorly lit areas at night.

VACCINES & HEALTH

Consult with a healthcare professional about the recommended vaccines before traveling to Colombia and carry a basic first aid kit.

SUN PROTECTION

The sun in Santa Marta can be intense, so bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to protect yourself from UV rays.

DOCUMENTATION

Ensure that your passport is valid and check the visa requirements for your country of origin. Make copies of important documents and keep them in a secure place.

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Pack lightweight and comfortable clothing, swimwear, and sandals, but also consider bringing something more formal if you plan to dine in elegant restaurants.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Consider getting insurance that covers medical emergencies and repatriation if necessary.

KNOW THE LOCAL CULTURE

Research the local culture, customs, and traditions to respect and enjoy your experience in Santa Marta.

BOOK IN ADVANCE

If you plan to visit popular places like Tayrona National Natural Park, Ciudad Perdida, or Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino, book in advance, especially during peak season.

LANGUAGE

While Spanish is spoken in Santa Marta, knowing some basic phrases can be helpful. Bring a dictionary or translation app if needed.

MONEY

Carry enough cash, as it can be challenging to find ATMs in some places. Inform your bank about your trip to avoid card blocks.

PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES

Make a list of activities and places you want to visit to make the most of your time in Santa Marta.

ELECTRICAL ADAPTERS

Check if you need an electrical adapter for your devices.

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TOURISM GUIDE