

CARTAGENA

COLOMBIA

The Caribbean jewel. Colonial walls, turquoise water, and Afro-Colombian beauty.

Region

South America

Climate

88°F / 31°C year-round — hot and humid

Language

Spanish — Caribbean dialect, relaxed and musical

Currency

Colombian Peso (COP) — \$1 USD ≈ 4,000 COP

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CITY GUIDE

Cartagena

Cartagena is one of the most visually stunning cities in the Americas. The walled Old City is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is expensive by Colombian standards and better as an experience than a long-term base.

UNESCO

WORLD HERITAGE OLD CITY

88°F

AVG. TEMP, YEAR-ROUND

\$35-80

ROSARIO ISLANDS DAY TRIP

1-3 wk

IDEAL STAY LENGTH

— WHERE TO STAY

- ◆ **Old City / walls** — The postcard experience — book a sunset walk on the walls, non-negotiable.
- ◆ **Getsemaní** — The artist and nightlife neighborhood, more authentic and better value than inside the walls.
- ◆ **Bocagrande** — The modern beach neighborhood — hotels, more expensive, less character.

— DAY TRIPS

- ◆ **Rosario Islands** — Crystal water, snorkeling, beach clubs — \$35-\$80 for a full day.

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Cartagena is hot in a way that changes your daily rhythm — plan strenuous activity for early morning and evening, and don't underestimate how much the humidity affects a first-time visitor.

COST OF LIVING

Cartagena

Cartagena is the most expensive Colombian city — more of a destination than a long-term base.

THREE REAL BUDGETS

BARE-BONES

\$1,200-\$1,600/mo

Getsemaní room, cooking most meals, minimal day trips.

COMFORTABLE

\$1,900-\$2,600/mo

Getsemaní or Bocagrande IBR, eating out, occasional island trips.

PREMIUM

\$3,000-\$4,000/mo

Bocagrande apartment with amenities, frequent day trips, fine dining.

LINE-ITEM BREAKDOWN

ITEM	TYPICAL COST
IBR apartment (Bocagrande)	\$600-\$1,000/mo
IBR apartment (Getsemaní)	\$400-\$700/mo
Local meal	\$4-\$8
Restaurant meal	\$12-\$28
Day trip (Rosario Islands)	\$35-\$80
Monthly utilities	\$50-\$90

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Book beyond a week and negotiate directly with Getsemaní property owners rather than tourist-platform listings — rates soften noticeably for stays over 10 nights.

DATING GUIDE

Cartagena

Cartagena women carry Caribbean warmth — confident, expressive, and beautiful. The social scene is more transient given heavy tourism.

— WHERE TO MEET PEOPLE

- ◆ **Getsemaní nightlife** — The authentic local scene, away from the cruise-ship crowds.
- ◆ **Old City bars** — Heavier tourist mix — filter deliberately on apps.

— APPS THAT WORK HERE

Tinder — heavy tourist + local mix

Badoo — local focus

Colombia Cupid — for genuine connections

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Getsemaní after 9pm consistently outperforms the Old City for meeting locals rather than fellow tourists — the Old City crowd skews heavily toward short-stay visitors.

VISA GUIDE

Cartagena

Same Colombia visa rules apply. Cartagena is part of Colombia — one country, one tourist stamp.

— THE PATH, STEP BY STEP

1 Tourist entry

90 days on arrival for most Western passports.

2 Extension

Same extension rules as Medellín and Bogotá.

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

There's no separate Cartagena immigration process — handle any extension through the same national Migración Colombia system as the rest of the country.

MEDICAL TOURISM

Cartagena

Medical facilities in Cartagena are limited compared to Medellín and Bogotá.

FACILITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Clínica Boca Grande — adequate for minor needs
- ◆ For any significant procedure: fly to Medellín (1.5 hrs) or Bogotá (1 hr 20 min) instead

NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

Don't plan a medical tourism trip around Cartagena itself — use it as the vacation add-on before or after treatment in Medellín or Bogotá.

DIGITAL INCOME

Cartagena

Cartagena is not optimized for digital nomads but has improving infrastructure.

Adequate INTERNET RELIABILITY	Limited COWORKING OPTIONS	2-4 wk BEST USE AS WORKING VACATION	GMT-5 TIME ZONE
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NOMADBOLD INSIDER TIP

If you need to get real work done, book a hotel with confirmed fast wifi reviews rather than assuming — connectivity varies block to block more than in Medellín or Bogotá.

WANT THE MEMBER EDITION?

This guide covers the essentials for Cartagena. The Member Edition goes further on every section — deeper budget breakdowns, named venues, step-by-step visa filing, procedure-level medical pricing, and a full 90-day action plan — plus it's included on all 15 NomadBold cities.

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