

# Bang Colombia

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# I

## WELCOME TO COLOMBIA

It wasn't long ago that Colombia was a no-go zone for tourists. Your main concern wasn't becoming sick from street food but getting kidnapped by the FARC and held up in some jungle dirt cave with menacing parasites that crawled up your urethra and latched on for dear life.

Thankfully times have changed. The heavy hand of President Álvaro Uribe has diminished influence of the drug clans and pushed the FARC deeper into the jungle or across the border to Venezuela. The currency has stabilized and the economy has picked up with no inflation threat in sight (fun fact: most of the flowers sold in the United States are from Colombia). Tourists have flooded the country in search of something raw and edgy, unfortunately making it less raw and edgy with every passing month.

There are so many fresh tourists that if things hold I'm afraid it's just a matter of time until the popular Colombian city of Medellín becomes spoiled like Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some say it has already happened, but I believe travel here should be enjoyable for years to come. Still, the last thing you want is to meet a girl who is already experienced with banging and playing gringos. To get the best of Colombian women you want to be one of her first gringos so the

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relationship is novel and fresh.

While Colombia has made great strides with its economy, keep in mind that it's still an impoverished country. Most of the population is poor, and this will be very obvious during your first cab ride from the airport when you'll witness desperate masses tripping over each other to sell you things like gum and cigarettes. Common sense plays big here, so take the same precautions you would in shady parts of your nearest metropolitan city.

Poor Colombians aren't savages, but if you let your guard down or they sense weakness, they will "take papaya," as the saying goes. This means you shouldn't flash expensive gold jewelry, watches, and electronic equipment, especially at night. Leave the SLR camera in your room after the sun goes down. Don't take a huge stack of cash from your pocket when paying for something on the street (keep big bills in a separate pocket). Avoid carrying a wallet since professional pickpockets look for bulges in pants. Don't stroll around in the gringo uniform of flip-flops, cargo shorts, and a beer in your hand in unfamiliar areas, and definitely don't hop into a cab when drunk unless you want to be at the mercy of a man who makes less than \$30 a day. In other words, don't give papaya.

If you're going to get robbed in Colombia, it will probably be by a cab driver who nicked your money while you were passed out in his cab. If you get injured, it will either be from eating improperly cooked food or from getting hit by a car or motorcycle, since vehicles make no attempts to stop for pedestrians.

Whenever someone "jokes" with me about getting kidnapped in Colombia, I know they're an idiot who has probably never stepped outside of the United States. Kidnapping should be your absolute last concern. You have a bigger chance of killing yourself in a bathtub or choking on a jellybean, but if you want to go on an unguided tour in parts of the jungle where the FARC are known to have a presence, it wouldn't be a bad idea to make out a will beforehand.

Before I go on about the logistics of getting to Colombia, I want to

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give you a rough guide on how long you'll need to spend there in order to get your flag, which is a notch with a girl who was born in another country. (For example, if a girl was born in Poland but moves to the United States where you bang her, you still get the Polish flag.) Assuming you have average looks, decent game where you can get laid on your own from time to time, and poor Spanish (under 500 words), you'll need *at least* two weeks to give yourself an honest shot of banging a non-prostitute. Four weeks would be more reasonable because it simply takes time to meet enough girls necessary to get your flag.

On the other hand, if you have basic Spanish conversational skills, meaning you can roughly communicate (albeit with serious grammatical errors), you'll need at least ten days, which includes two weekends. Even if you're fluent in Spanish, I don't recommend that you book a trip of less than ten days. Because Colombia is not a one-night stand culture, you need enough time to build a pool of three or four prospects and then ride them out until you leave. Personally, even with my Spanish knowledge and game, I would give myself two weeks, as it just takes a single bad streak to doom a shorter trip.

Be careful if you're fortunate enough to stay in Colombia for a month or longer. When you're aware of having so much time, you don't hit the ground running and can actually have less success than if you only had a couple weeks. The mindset of being in a pressure cooker does wonders, and I've seen it firsthand with guys who had a short stay in Colombia and approached like a fucking machine, getting their flag in only a few days. Longer is not necessarily better if it causes you to slack off in the process.

If it's difficult for you to stay in Colombia for more than a week or two, don't worry because I'll share my tips for setting up dates with Colombian girls via various Internet sites before you arrive.

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### **Bogotá, Medellín, or Cali?**

These are the three ideal cities for your Colombian visit, since they are well-populated and offer easy lodging and logistics for the visiting gringo, along with a large pool of available women. If you plan on staying in Colombia for more than a month, it would be ideal to visit all three for at least one weekend each to see which one fits you best, but for shorter trips I recommend you pick one city and stay there for the entire duration of your trip. Moving around too quickly will make it hard to get your flag.

Bogotá is the most populous city in Colombia with nearly 7 million people. It's located in the middle of the country at an altitude of 9,000 feet, which may give you mild altitude sickness for the first couple days of your stay (headache, nausea, and shortness of breath). There are numerous universities but since the city is so heavily populated you won't notice a dense college girl presence like other smaller South American cities such as Mérida, Venezuela and Córdoba, Argentina. The air pollution is abominable and you may find yourself choking on fumes during taxi rides through congested streets. Without a rail system, the city's size becomes unmanageable, and getting from one part of town to another is a headache. The weather is mild during the day but cool and rainy at night. There is a slight bohemian and hipster vibe among the females, with Converse shoes and mullets being common among both sexes.

Medellín is the second largest city with 2.4 million people. It has perhaps the best climate in the country; days hover around 80 degrees Fahrenheit and nights are made for jeans and a t-shirt. Unfortunately there is quite a bit of rain, especially during April, May, September, and October.

With a reliable, safe, and clean subway system, Medellín is a much more manageable city than the capital, though slightly more dangerous, if you trust government statistics. The girls here are arguably more attractive because of the shallower *paisa* culture, which teaches young

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women to aim for looks instead of brains. Gigantic fake breasts are not uncommon (as well as ass implants), especially in the richest part of town (El Poblado). This creates a cheesier vibe than Bogotá, but Medellín's permanent summer is also more pleasing to the eyes, since girls don't need to pile on the thick clothing.

Finally there is Cali, the country's third largest city and also the hottest. The girls here are a shade darker, from stronger African-American ancestry, but are more sensual and friendly. This is the salsa capital of Colombia—an ideal place to go if you prefer to dance in your nighttime pick-ups. Cali is more dangerous than Bogotá or Medellín.

If a choice isn't obvious for you after reading these descriptions and any of the cities would suit your style, I recommend Medellín. I am biased since I spent more than five months there, but I think with the pleasant weather, bountiful supply of single women, and modern public transportation, it's a rather easy choice. If you want something more spicy without the gringo hordes, Cali should be your pick. If you want a more progressive vibe along with a large selection of restaurants and clubs then choose Bogotá. All cities are connected by frequent buses and flights in the case you want to travel around.

# II

## LOGISTICS

Because of its relative proximity to Miami, flights to Colombia will always be significantly cheaper (from the United States) than to other countries in South America such as Brazil or Argentina. The cheapest way I've found to book your ticket is by using the "Flexible Dates" option on CheapTickets.com, which searches for the lowest fare based on how long you want to visit. Go to the site and click the small "Flexible Dates" link at the bottom of the homepage's search box. Type your home airport in the "From" box (use WAS if you're in Washington, DC) and either MDE, BOG, or COL in the "To" box, for Medellín, Bogotá, and Cali, respectively. Scroll down to "Option 3" and enter how long you can stay and the window of dates you want to travel between. Don't worry if you want to stay for more than 14–16 days, since you mainly want to see which day the cheapest fare departs.

After submitting the form you get a grid that lists prices for various departure days. If all the prices are the same, you can go back and enter your preferred dates and most likely get the same deal. If the prices are different, note which days of the week are cheaper to leave and arrive and enter those days for the trip length that you prefer. It will usually be cheapest to travel on either a Tuesday or Wednesday. Flights to Medellín and Cali may be slightly more expensive, but you always have the option of taking the nine-hour bus ride from Bogotá to either city at a cost of about \$25. For flights between Colombian cities, try

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these airlines:

- Aero Republica (<http://www.aerorepublica.com>)
- Aires (<http://www.aires.aero>)
- Avianca (<http://www.avianca.com>)
- Easy Fly (<http://www.easyfly.com.co>)
- Satena (<http://www.satena.com>)

Sometimes you'll get lucky and find a flight that's barely more expensive than the bus, though if you've never been on a long bus ride in South America then I recommend the experience, since it will make you a stronger man. Just don't stow any bags in the overhead compartment because there's a very high chance they'll get nicked if you doze off.

If your trip is shorter than a month, you'll be looking for short-term lodging at either a hostel or hotel. If you have some money to play with, visit Expedia.com for hotels that are between \$50–120 a night. If you're a budget traveler like myself who likes self-catering facilities to cook meals, you'll want to check out hostels that cost about \$15–30 a night for a private room, sometimes with an in-suite bath.

My first recommendation is to check out Hostel Trail (<http://www.hosteltrail.com>) for personal reviews of Colombian hostels and semi-hotels. My second choice is Hotel World (<http://www.hostelworld.com>), which has more listings that I would classify as “party hostels,” meaning they're full of Australian guys getting drunk and acting obnoxious.

If the hostel doesn't give you a key to the front door, it's unlikely they'll let you bring a girl back to have sex, even if she's not a prostitute. You're going to have to find an hourly motel to get your flag. Ask the person working the front desk the following question: “Do you know an hourly hotel near here, in case I get lucky?” *Don't be shy to do this.* You're a man with needs and there's no reason to be embarrassed if someone else thinks you're going to get laid. The last

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thing you want is to have a girl ready to fuck but then stumble and bumble when it's time to take her somewhere. Get an address immediately upon arrival and stick it in your pocket. Then all you have to do is hand it to the taxi driver when you think your girl is ready. Again, this is a crucial step if you want to get your flag.

If you lodge in a hostel and meet a girl who asks where you're staying, say "with a friend." Otherwise you'll lose about 100 points and be delegated to the category of "backpacker who is passing through." Also be vague about how long you're staying in the city, saying that you're keeping your schedule open.

The most ideal option is to rent an apartment so you can have your own bedroom and bath and also be able to bring back girls. There are four sites I recommend:

- Poor But Happy (<http://www.poorbuthappy.com>): A discussion board with a Rent section. Unfortunately, it has shut down but the archives are still available as of this writing.
- Colombia Blog (<http://www.colombianblog.com>): Another discussion board with a Rent section.
- CompartoApto (<http://www.compartoapto.com>): A classified site that has shared rooms for rent, though most listings are in Spanish.
- Vanilla Colombia Forum (<http://colombia.vanillaforums.com>): The apparent successor to the Poor But Happy forum.

Simply post your needs and see what responses come in. The longer you're staying, the easier it will be to get a good price. Another option is to hit Google and search for terms like "Medellín + apartamento + temporada" to find broker sites. Yet another option is to initially stay in a hostel and then visit real estate broker offices for rentals upon arrival. Aim for getting as much apartment as you can afford because telling a girl you're staying in a nice area displays status, something that helps with women who have long been spoiled by drug money.

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### Packing

Colombia has everything that a first-world gringo needs to live comfortably, except for quality condoms, turkey breast, and English books. They definitely have contact lens solution, SPF-15 facial moisturizer, rechargeable batteries, SD memory cards, clothing, and the like, though they're generally more expensive than in the States. Here is a simple packing list for trips from two weeks to six months in length:

- Socks, t-shirts, underwear, two fancy nighttime shirts, one pair jeans, one pair shorts, bathing suit, towel
- Day shoes, night shoes, flip-flops
- Contact lens accessories, toothbrush, floss, mouthwash, deodorant, soap, razors, shaving cream, electric beard trimmer, shampoo, lip balm, comb
- Computer and camera accessories, GSM cell phone, headset for Skype, mp3 player, travel clock, batteries
- Condoms, Astroglide, small padlock, Swiss army knife, keychain light
- Ibuprofen, foot powder, earplugs, nail trimmer
- Credit and bank cards, extra passport photos, books, pens, journal

There are two things on this list that are more important than the rest. The first is a GSM-compatible cell phone. *You must have a cell phone if you want to get laid.* It simply can't be done without one. Okay, it can be done if you pull the one-night stand, but being able to set a date is very important. The cheapest way to do it is to buy an unlocked cell phone in the Colombian band of 850mhz or 1900mhz. Go to Amazon.com and search for "[unlocked cell phones](#)" and you'll be able to find something reasonable starting at \$35. When you arrive in Colombia, go to a reseller of one of their three most popular providers

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(Movistar, Comcel, Tigo) and purchase a SIM card for less than \$10 to start a prepaid (*prepago*) account. When your balance runs low, you can recharge at any large grocery store. The resellers also sell prepaid phones, but they're locked and more expensive than what you can get back in the States.

Another thing you should bring is earplugs—and not the kind for sleeping. Because Colombia doesn't have a bar pick-up scene, you'll have to frequent more clubs than you're used to. Some of these clubs can be so loud that it can be impossible to understand anyone, especially if they're speaking a language that you're still learning. You need a pair of discreet ear plugs that filter out the music and not human voices, allowing you to stay for hours without getting frustrated or going temporarily deaf. I recommend the Etymotic Research ER20. They cost around \$8 from Amazon and will last you at least a year with regular use. I always leave them in the change pocket of my jeans.

### **Calculating a Budget**

Your budget is 120,000 pesos a day. You don't need more than that if you plan to rent a basic room for a month and cook most of your meals. It includes the aforementioned food and shelter, going out to clubs, taking girls on dates, cell phone service, and random purchases for clothing and other necessities. The most expensive date I've ever been on cost \$50 and included drinks at a nice lounge after a fancy dinner (a mistake, as you'll read later). In the U.S. that would have cost me about \$140.

If you're going to travel from one city to the other, staying in hostels or cheap hotels and rarely cooking your own meals, bump up your daily budget to 160,000 pesos, not only for extra transportation and food costs, but because of the higher chance something will go wrong and you'll need cash to resolve it.

To convert these numbers to dollars, simply divide them by the

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current exchange rate. As of this writing that rate is 2,000 pesos per dollar, so the daily budget estimates range from \$60 to \$80. Living in Medellín I averaged 2,350,000 pesos a month (\$1,175), so note that I'm giving you higher-end estimates.

The main thing that will increase your budget is taking Spanish classes, which run about 16,000 pesos an hour for group lessons. If you want to go out more than 2–3 times a week, do drugs regularly, and eat in fine restaurants, your budget will also increase. On the other hand, with a frugal approach you can get by on 1,500,000 pesos per month, but this is only possible if you quickly get a Colombian girlfriend and don't need to go out frequently. Going out at night to gain prospects will be one of your larger expenses. To give you an idea of how much things cost, here is a brief price list of basic items:

- Basic set lunch: 5,000 pesos
- Bottle of beer at snobby club: 6,000 pesos
- Bottle of beer at local pub: 3,500 pesos
- Hostel dorm bed per night: 20,000 pesos
- Nice steak dinner: 18,000 pesos
- Short taxi ride: 4,000 pesos
- Ice cream sundae: 2,500 pesos
- Apples (per pound): 3,000 pesos
- Paper photocopy: 150 pesos
- Text message (send or receive): 200-300 pesos
- Subway ticket (one way): 1,500 pesos
- Bus fare (one way): 1,400 pesos

If you've ever been to Argentina, the costs in Colombia are very similar.

## A Sound Strategy for Learning Spanish

Because Spanish is so important in communicating with Colombian girls, it's worth your time to learn as much as you can, especially since it's spoken in so many countries (twenty-one, to be exact). Plus it makes learning Portuguese easier for when you're ready to conquer Brazil. Here's a sampling of countries you can game in Spanish: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and certain parts of the United States. Knowing both English and Spanish will give you a ton of options, not only with banging girls, but living abroad as well. For instance, if the American authorities apply heat on you, you'll have somewhere else to hide where you can communicate with the natives. I believe that with each new language you learn, the world becomes smaller while increasing your options at the same time.

A lot has been written on the "secrets" of speaking a new language, but the biggest secret is work. The more work you put into it, the more you'll learn, and there's no escaping that. My strategy recognizes the importance of attacking the problem from a lot of different angles.

To get you started speaking right away, I strongly recommend the *Pimsleur* program. It's a series of audio recordings that teaches you the language through a call-and-response system. There are three Spanish units and each contains thirty half-hour lessons, for a total of forty-five hours of instruction. (You can buy the courses from Internet retailers or download the torrents illegally.) The program will likely keep you busy for at least three months because you'll have to repeat some of the tougher lessons up to three times if you don't already know another romance language, such as Italian or Portuguese. Aim to do the audio program for at least one hour a day. This is an easy feat if you pair it with another one of your routines, like going to work in your car (burn the courses on a CD) or exercising in the gym (iPod). In Medellín I did six hours a week of the Portuguese courses solely on the bus to and from the gym.

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Next up is a textbook that builds a strong foundation of the language. My recommendation is *Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish*. It has forty-five fast-paced lessons organized in a way to highlight the similarities between Spanish and English. The first couple of lessons show you how to convert hundreds of words from English into Spanish without having to do any memorization, and by the end you'll have a basic grasp of how to construct sentences using the most important verb tenses. Do at least one lesson a day.

Books with drill exercises are often boring and repetitive, but are incredibly effective in learning a language. There are two exercise books I recommend: *Practice Makes Perfect: Complete Spanish Grammar* and *Practice Makes Perfect: Spanish Verb Tenses*. Both have the correct answers in the back. The exercises are probably going to put you to sleep, but you'll quickly notice a newfound ability to construct sentences on the fly. Do forty-five minutes a day from these books after you finish *Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish*.

Finally, you need a Spanish reader in order to help with comprehension. Two readers to get you started are *First Spanish Reader* and *Stories from Latin America*. You can begin the first book immediately, while the second one will be more suitable once you enter an intermediate level. When you do any exercise or reading in Spanish, make sure you add the step of speaking everything *out loud*, which accounts for the downside of studying from books that strengthen reading and writing instead of speaking.

For words you don't know, make notecards and review them every couple of days. Construct a sentence from each one so you can start speaking the language in your own words. Add additional words you wanted to use but didn't know at the time, meaning you should be walking around with pen and paper. There's no point in memorizing vocabulary that you don't even use in your own language.

Rent Spanish movies from Netflix and download all of Juanes' albums (he's a famous Colombian singer from Medellín with a relatively easy-to-understand accent). If you study two hours a day, six

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days a week for three months, you'll be able to have basic conversations with girls in Spanish. Since most Colombian girls don't speak English, any conversation you can have with them is better than no conversation. There will be painful pauses for sure, but there won't be complete and utter silence.

If you're going to be in Colombia for a month or longer, it would make sense to take a Spanish class. Classes keep you motivated, help you better understand spoken Spanish, and teach you local ways of saying things. Most universities in large Colombian cities have Spanish classes for foreigners. In Medellín, there are two recommended schools: EAFIT (<http://1.bangcolombia.com>) and the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (<http://2.bangcolombia.com>). Both are within walking distance of subway stations. EAFIT is considered a top school in a more desirable part of town, but UPB is a solid choice as well. Taking a class at these schools will familiarize you with the campus, a place you're going to approach girls during the day.

Your language ability will get better with time, and on subsequent trips to Latin countries you'll find it significantly easier to get laid. I can't stress how important it is to give studying Spanish a shot, especially since the above resources can be obtained for very little money. Besides being rich, I believe that learning a popular language is the most important means to building real connections with foreign women.

# III

## CULTURE

There are two things driving most Colombians: religion and family. Colombia is deeply Catholic, apparent with the many young mothers you'll witness who didn't have a choice to abort (it's illegal, except in a couple very restricted cases). Birth control is more the exception than the rule, and the art of pulling out seems to be foreign to Colombian men.

You'll be in a bus or taxi and see Colombians make the Hail Mary sign every time they pass a church. Images of white Jesus will be everywhere, especially inside people's homes. Don't be surprised if you're at a girl's place and see statues of Jesus placed in front of life-sized portraits of Jesus next to more statues of the apostles and portraits of the Virgin Mary. The net effect of religion here is that Colombians are a superstitious bunch and except for some young people who haven't really bought into it (yet), Colombians look to religion for basic answers on how they should live.

They're also very serious about family. You'll often find three generations living under one roof, a big difference from how things operate in the United States, where aging members of the family are shipped off to some faraway nursing home. In Colombia, it's assumed that the younger generation has some responsibility to take care after their elders and also to accept their advice. Family is so important that young people have little independence, and permission must be gained

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for even small things. There's a good chance you'll meet a girl's parents before you come close to having sex with her, and there's a near 100% chance she'll be living with them. In fact, if she lives alone then it's a guarantee she comes from a very wealthy family.

Additional cultural phenomena will make your job in gaining a Colombian flag even harder, such as cell phone communication. A majority of Colombians have prepaid cell phone plans that are teetering on the edge of a zero balance. Since call charges are borne by those making the call, no one wants to call someone from their cell phone, since it will cost upward of forty cents a minute. No one leaves voice messages either, and if you happen to leave one you can sleep well knowing it probably won't be checked promptly. If you send a text message to a girl with a zero balance, she'll receive the text but won't be able to write back. Many girls have a tag technique where they call you and let the phone ring just once so you get the hint and call her back. This is their way of saying they want to talk to you but are unable (or unwilling) to pay for it.

Expensive cellular calls have led to the "*minuto celular*" business, where vendors purchase unlimited plans from the cell phone companies and then resell minutes to the general public from street corners or plazas. Think of them as human phone booths. Because a girl doesn't know if her cousin or best friend is calling from a vendor or not, she's much more likely to pick up the phone from unknown numbers. You'll see that Colombian girls screen calls much less than Western girls.

Nightlife logistics are also different. In America, nightlife is constructed to meet other people. There are few chairs and tables for sitting and most people stand around a crowded bar to mingle. In Colombia, bars and clubs are packed with chairs and tables and everyone is using them. If there's a bar or club that doesn't have chairs, it will be frequented by hordes of gringos who rightly prefer a set-up where people are standing up instead of sitting down.

Another Colombian nightlife feature is that girls rarely go out with only girls—they go out with other men. Because the girls can't afford