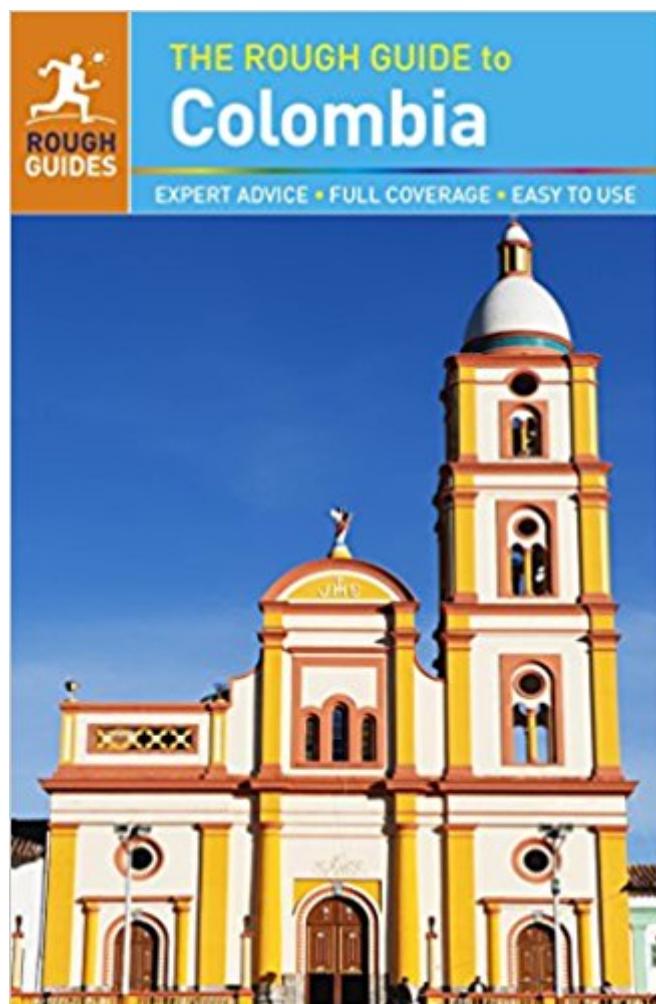


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# The Rough Guide To Colombia (Rough Guides)



## Synopsis

New First Edition! Home to a rich history, stunning scenery, and some of the continent's most welcoming and sophisticated people, Colombia is an unrivaled destination for travelers to South America. Tourism has surged to nearly 2.4 million in 2014; the New York Times recently named Colombia the region's next affordable hotspot and called Cartagena "Latin America's Hippest Secret." Throughout The Rough Guide to Colombia, you will find intuitive cultural content, tips for what to see and what to skip, and practical information on etiquette, transportation, food, drink, costs and currency, and health, plus a handy guide to the Spanish language. Whether you want to explore the vibrant cultural scene of Cartagena, trek to the archaeological ruins of the Lost City, or stroll the sandy beaches of Parque Nacional Tayrona, The Rough Guide to Colombia gives the honest advice you'll need to plan your trip, navigate each adventure, and make the most of your time in Colombia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This guide probably has excellent information for traveling in Colombia -- if I could read it. I do understand that one of the big deals with travel guides is to make them as small as possible. **HOWEVER** the drive to keep this book small made is essentially useless. The print is tiny AND they chose a very thin-lined font which provides almost no contrast -- the combination of those two things make this nearly impossible to read. Seasoned travelers know that lighting in many South American accommodations is often very poor. Likewise on buses and trains. I do not want to have to pack a special reading lamp or a magnifier in order to be able to read the guide I bring to get myself around.

while traveling. What I can read does seem to be very useful information, but I honestly have to hold this right up to my face to see the tiny print. Since I am a reader and have no problem with reading other things, I won't cut them any slack for my "poor vision" (which I don't have). Too bad, but I'll be waiting for another guide to come out and will buy that to take along on my travels. Don't waste your money on this one.

Okay guide!

Full of useful information on all of Colombia. Taking it along on my trip.

Very helpful information. Excellent source of information.

A good supplement but not as informative as the Lonely Planet guide

I have always appreciated the ROUGH GUIDES for their deep research, stunning photography, and urbane matter-of-factness about the places and people that fall under their gaze. A certain British eye on the world and the exploration of it is usually detectable as well, which arguably shortens the distance between the tourist and his or her hosts. THE ROUGH GUIDE TO COLOMBIA is no exception. It may well be the best of its kind for Colombia. Why do I say this? First, the photography in the Kindle format I own just pops on my iPad. Second, Stephen Keeling has a knack for capturing a whole complex of reality in a single, well-crafted sentence. His very first lines of introduction prove the point. 'One of the world's most infamous but misunderstood countries, Colombia boasts a rich history and an incredibly diverse array of attractions, from soaring Andean peaks smothered in cloud forest to palm-fringed Caribbean beaches and gorgeous colonial cities such as Cartagena.' But this ability is sustained throughout the book. Allow me a few more examples: 'Colombian food is hearty and filling rather than spicy or exotic (although they do spice it up a bit more on the coast).' 'For all its instability and upheavals, Colombia has a strong and robust tradition of press freedom, and as befits a country with 94-percent literacy, a wide range of newspapers and magazines ... Colombian newspapers tend to be regional rather than national ...' Although the press is in principle free, and papers express a wide range of views, press owners tend to be closely tied to political interests—indeed, some are active politicians.' Colombia is a tropical country, where germs breed fast, but it's also a country where hygiene is generally good, and most travellers who come here catch nothing more serious than a dose of the runs, if that.' The

same sense for brevity without reductionism is found in the book's helpful 'Fact Files', which are eccentric without being cute. Again, one-offs like '21 Things Not to Miss' touch upon a wide range of Colombia's virtues without kowtowing to any narrow line of interest. Third, Keeling invests a substantial number of pages to the basics of traveling to, through, and out of Colombia. He neither moans about Colombia's violent past nor naively whistles past current risks that must be thoughtfully addressed. Fourth, the research that has gone into this guidebook is both broad and deep. A reader could spend a lifetime in Colombia and not exhaust the practical counsel that Keeling offers here. Most, however, will not spend that lifetime in Colombia. A week or two is more likely. In this light, one of the standards to which I hold a purported guidebook takes the form of a question: 'Would a citizen of the nation that is being introduced say, "Yes, the author has understood us and our place?"' I believe a Colombian reader would likely judge that Keeling has done so. The ROUGH GUIDES in general are the guidebook line to beat. If I were to take only one guidebook to Colombia, Stephen Keeling's ROUGH GUIDE would be the one.

Great content. Love the historical sketches and out of the way places in the Rough Guide series. This book I received, however was poorly printed. The ink was light, and difficult to read, so I returned it for a replacement. Just hoping the replacement will be better quality print. Also hoping the company will make the tradeoff to larger print (which I understand will make the book larger)

Noted a few errors during a recent trip (May 2016), mainly in terms of pricing - sometimes close to double the price. However, I approached this with understanding that market may change rapidly as Colombia becomes more popular tourist destination. Otherwise, decent guide. Took off one star because I thought there could be better maps inside the book.

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