



F & V

A WEDDING GUEST GUIDE

COLOMBIA, WITH LOVE

Medellín & beyond

Made with love for our favourite people

START HERE

Welcome

Whether you're staying for a few days or turning this into a Colombian adventure, here are some of our favourite places and experiences. We grouped everything by distance from Medellín to make planning easier.

IN THIS GUIDE

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IF WE HAD TO PICK JUST A FEW...

If you're short on time, these are our absolute must-dos:

- ☐ Comuna 13 Walking Tour
- ☐ Minca
- ☐ Weekend in Jardín
- ☐ Tayrona park
- ☐ Guatapé & El Peñol
- ☐ Drink as much Colombian coffee as possible
- ☐ Dinner + drinks in Provenza
- ☐ Learn salsa
- ☐ Football match at Estadio Atanasio Girardot
- ☐ Cartagena



ACCOMMODATION

Where should we stay in Medellín?

We recommend staying in El Poblado and Laureles depending on the type of stay you want.

EL POBLADO + LAS PALMAS

El Poblado is the easiest option for most guests, especially if it is your first time in Medellín. It has the most hotels, restaurants, cafés, shopping, nightlife, and easy access to ride-hailing apps. If you want to be close to dinner, drinks, and most tourist-friendly areas, this is the most convenient choice. This neighbourhood is located on the hills so not everything is walking-friendly. Stay closer to Avenida Poblado if you prefer to be able to walk everywhere. Places higher up on the mountains can be beautiful but you will need to taxi/uber it everywhere. Don't stay in/around Lleras Park (it gets very busy)

The Host**\$200-\$300CAD/NIGHT****ADULTS ONLY (SORRY MAMAS)**

Very Chic. Good location. Where we took our pictures

Sloh**~\$100CAD/NIGHT**

Budget friendly, a little small, good location

Celestino**~\$250CAD/NIGHT**

Well decorated, rooftop pool, decent size room, good location



ACCOMMODATION / EL POBLADO

El Poblado + Las Palmas

BOH Collection

~\$160CAD/NIGHT

Good size room, good location

Novotel Medellin El Tesoro

~\$300CAD/NIGHT

It is situated inside the mall on the outskirts of Pablado. with a nice pool and a view,

It's ideal for families (toddles) as there's lots to do inside the mall.

It is not a walkable location, you will need to taxi/uber into town.

LAS PALMAS

Las Palmas is a good option if you want a quieter, more scenic stay with beautiful views and a more upscale feel. Just note that it is not very walkable. It is more spread out, located in the hills, and you will likely need to use Uber, InDriver, DiDi, or taxis to get to restaurants, cafés, and activities. It is a great choice if you are staying somewhere with nice amenities or want a more peaceful stay, but less ideal if you want to walk out of your hotel and have everything nearby. There's lots of Airbnbs.



ACCOMMODATION

Laureles

Laureles is another area we really like. Vincent lived in Laureles when he was in Colombia, and we like it because it feels safe, more relaxed, and less busy than El Poblado, while still having plenty of restaurants, cafés, bars, and walkable streets. It is a great option if you want something a little more local-feeling but still convenient.

Kyux Studios by Jalo

\$100-\$150CAD/NIGHT

Clean fully equipped individual apartments, good size and location. We stayed here.

Eutopiq Hotel

\$140CAD/NIGHT

Good Location. Good size

Urbt Garden Hotel

\$61-140CAD/NIGHT

Good Location. The hotel is nice but rooms a little small.

For most guests, we recommend Laureles or El Poblado.



ACCOMMODATION MAP

Medellin Stay

CONVENIENT WALKING ACCOMODATIONS



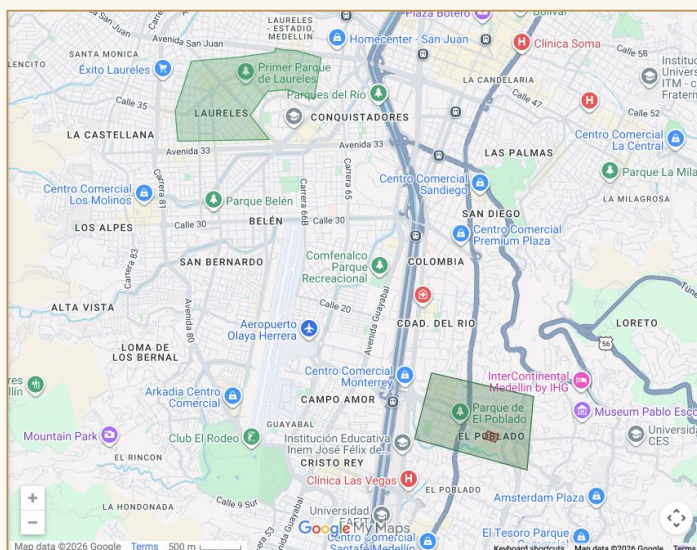
WALKABLE POBLADO



LLERAS PARK (NOT RECOMMENDED)



Laureles



A QUICK NOTE ON LOCATION

Medellín is built in a valley with lots of hills, so some places may look close on a map but still require a car. When in doubt, El Poblado or Laureles are the easiest choices for most guests. We do not recommend staying downtown / El Centro as your main base. It is worth visiting during the day for places like Plaza Botero and Museo de Antioquia, but we think El Poblado or Laureles are better and more convenient areas for guests.

We also recommend avoiding accommodations that are very far outside the city unless you are specifically looking for a quiet retreat and are comfortable relying on transportation. Some places may look close on a map but can take much longer to reach because of traffic and winding roads of Medellín's hills.



Q & A

Flights, Visa & Entry Requirements

Everything you need to know to help plan your trip to Medellín and enjoy our wedding.

What airport should I fly into?

Please fly into José María Córdova International Airport (MDE), the main international airport serving Medellín. The airport is located about 45 minutes outside the city, depending on traffic.

Several airlines fly into Medellín, including Avianca and other major carriers depending on your departure city.

Do I need a visa to visit Colombia?

Visa requirements depend on your passport nationality. Please confirm the requirements that apply to you before booking travel.

As a general guide:

- Canadian passport holders: No visa is usually required for tourist stays of up to 90 days. However, Canadian passport holders are required to pay an entry fee upon arrival in Colombia.
- United States passport holders: No visa is usually required for tourist stays of up to 90 days.
- Other passport holders: Please check with the Colombian consulate or official Colombian immigration/foreign affairs website before travelling. Some nationalities may require a visa in advance.

Entry requirements can change, so please check again closer to your travel date.



Q & A

Immigration & Arrival

Do Canadian guests need proof of return or onward travel?

Yes. Canadian guests should travel with proof of a return flight or onward travel leaving Colombia.

The Government of Canada advises that Colombian customs officials may ask travellers to show a return or onward ticket.

Please do not travel with only a one-way ticket unless you also have clear proof of onward travel. Airlines may ask for this before boarding.

What should I have ready when travelling to Colombia?

Please have the following ready before travelling:

- Passport
 - Check-Mig confirmation (if completed)
 - Hotel or accommodation address
 - Return or onward flight information
 - Money
-

Do I need to complete an immigration form before travelling?

Check-Mig is currently optional. Travellers entering Colombia can complete the official Check-Mig immigration form before travelling.

The form can be completed within 72 hours before your flight and up to one hour before travel.

Please save a screenshot or copy of the confirmation once completed.



Q & A

Getting Around

How do I get from the airport to Medellín?

José María Córdova International Airport is outside the city. The drive into Medellín usually takes around 45 minutes, depending on traffic.

The easiest options are:

- Take an official airport taxi
 - Use a ride-hailing app once you arrive such as DiDi, Uber or InDriver (~\$30)
-

How do we get around Medellín?

The easiest way to get around Medellín is by yellow taxis and ride-hailing app. Taxi drivers ACTUALLY use their meter.

Common options include:

- Uber
- InDriver
- DiDi

These are widely used in Medellín.

Medellín also has a clean and efficient Metro and Metro Cable system, which can be useful for getting around key areas.

For travel between cities, such as Cartagena, Santa Marta, Cali, or Bogotá, domestic flights are usually the fastest option and affordable. Most other places are an hour flight away.



Q & A

Safety & Essentials

Is it safe to travel around Colombia?

Medellín is a popular travel destination, and we want guests to feel comfortable visiting. Like any major city, please use common-sense precautions.

We recommend:

- Use ride-hailing apps or official transportation
- Avoid walking alone late at night
- Keep phones, jewellery, and valuables out of sight
- Stay in well-known areas
- No dar papaya (a Colombian saying which means don't make yourself an easy target!!!)

Colombians are warm and welcoming, and we are excited for everyone to experience the city.

Is tap water safe to drink in Medellín?

Yes. Tap water in Medellín is generally safe to drink. Bottled water is also widely available.

Do I need vaccines to travel to Medellín?

For guests staying mainly in Medellín and other urban areas, there are generally no mandatory vaccines.

If you plan to visit jungle, tropical, Amazon, national park, or remote areas before or after the wedding, please check health requirements in advance. Yellow fever vaccination may be recommended or required for certain areas.

What is the weather like in Medellín in January?

Medellín has mild, spring-like weather year-round. In January, daytime temperatures are usually warm and comfortable, around 22-27°C / 72-80°F, with cooler evenings around 15-18°C / 59-64°F.

Rain is still possible, so we recommend packing a light jacket, shawl, or wrap for the evening.



Q & A

Money, Language & Essentials

What power outlets are used in Colombia?

Colombia generally uses the same plug types as Canada and the United States, so most North American guests will not need an adapter.

Can I use my phone in Colombia?

Please check with your mobile provider about international roaming before travelling. FREEDOM USERS could get the add-on option for \$30 for 5GB/Month.

You can also use an eSIM or purchase a local SIM card. WhatsApp is widely used in Colombia for messaging, calls, reservations, and transportation coordination.

What currency is used in Colombia?

The local currency is the Colombian Peso (COP).

Credit cards are widely accepted in most restaurants, hotels, and shops. Smaller vendors, taxis, cafés, markets, and local spots may prefer cash.

ATMs, banks, and currency exchange offices are widely available throughout the city. The best and cheapest way to get pesos is to withdraw them at the ATM using a prepaid credit card.

Should I bring cash?

Yes. We recommend carrying some Colombian Pesos for smaller purchases, tips, taxis, cafés, markets, or places that may not accept cards.

What language is spoken in Colombia?

Spanish is the official language.

Some people in hotels, restaurants, and tourist areas can speak English, but Google Translate or a few basic Spanish phrases can be helpful. If Vincent's parents were able to get around by themselves, you should be fine!



Q & A

Wedding Details

Is the wedding indoors or outdoors?

The ceremony will be outdoors. The reception will be indoors for dinner and dancing.

Is there a dress code for the wedding?

Yes. We kindly request formal attire.

Will transportation be provided to the ceremony and reception?

We are currently looking into shuttle options from a central location.

Uber, InDriver, and DiDi are also reliable options for getting to the venue.

Are children invited?

Yes, please contact us directly so we can accommodate them.

Can I bring a plus-one?

Yes, please contact us directly so we can accommodate them.

Will there be events besides the wedding?

We will share any additional wedding weekend events closer to the date. We are planning a welcome party on Saturday night.



IN MEDELLÍN

Must-Do Medellín Experiences

Comuna 13 Walking Tour

One of our top recommendations. Take a guided walking tour to learn about the area's transformation while exploring colourful murals, music, street performances, local food, and amazing views. We recommend going during the day with a guide.

Catch a Football (Soccer) Match at Estadio Atanasio Girardot

If there is a football match while you are in town, this is a fun local experience. Even if you are not a football fan, the energy is incredible. Make sure to come early to La 70 for the tailgating and pre game festivities.

Plaza Botero & Downtown Medellín

A great stop if you want to see Fernando Botero's famous sculptures and artwork in the heart of downtown Medellín.

Ride the Metro Cable

One of the best ways to see the city - and completely safe. You could take it to the top to Parque Arví for a view and fresher air.



IN MEDELLÍN

Nature, Views & Active Things

Hike Cerro Tres Cruces

A great 30-45min workout hike with city views. Vincent's favourite for a morning sweat.

Go Paragliding

We both tried this on our first trip to Colombia! It was unforgettable... and yes, a little motion-sickness was involved. It is a really cool way to see Medellín from above!

Pueblito Paisa

A quick stop for panoramic views of the city. Best for photos rather than a long visit.

Jardín Botánico

A peaceful spot for a slower afternoon in nature. We haven't been yet, but it is highly recommended.



IN MEDELLÍN

Nature, Views & Active Things

Sunday Ciclovía

If you are in Medellín on a Sunday morning, go for a walk, run, or bike ride during Ciclovía, when some streets close to cars and open for people to exercise. The main route are along Avenida El Poblado and Estadio Atanasio Girardot.

El Estadio Area

Medellin is a very active city. This is one of the city's sports hub where you could always find a pick-up game of volleyball, soccer or anything else. There are hundreds of vendors around so you could always enjoy some fresh juice or beer after!

Mountain Biking

We are not mountain bikers, but for adventurous guests, Medellín and the surrounding mountains have great mountain biking options, including guided rides near Santa Elena, Parque Arví, and the hills around the city. We recommend booking with a guide or tour company rather than going on your own.

Guided Hikes Around Medellín

Medellín is surrounded by mountains, so there are plenty of hiking options if you want something active. We recommend going with a guide or local group, especially if you are not familiar with the area.



IN MEDELLÍN

Shopping, Food & Cafe

El Tesoro Parque Comercial

A beautiful shopping centre with great views, restaurants, shops, and even an indoor zipline.

Provenza

Popular area for dinner and drinks. Expect rooftop bars, patios, boutique shops, and some of Medellín's best restaurants.

El Hueco

A huge downtown marketplace where you can find almost anything. Go during the day, keep your valuables close, and avoid going after dark.

Mercado del Río

A popular food hall with lots of dining options. Great if people want variety in one place.



IN MEDELLÍN

Nightlife, Dancing & Fun

Social Club Academia

One of Vincent's favourite places to go salsa dancing. It is literally located in the streets, under a roundabout. Come early for lessons and stay for the social dancing after.

Super Bowling

A fun, unexpected option if you want a casual night out. Possibly the fanciest bowling alley you will ever go to.

Nightlife

For a more upscale night out, check out Provenza, El Poblado, or Las Palmas. For a more local night out, check out La 70.



COFFEE

Our Favourite Coffee Shops

You can't come to Colombia without trying the coffee.

Café La Manchuria

Our absolute favourite. If you only go to one café, make it this one.

Rituales Compañía de Café

Excellent specialty coffee and a local favourite.

Pergamino Café

One of Medellín's most well-known coffee shops, sourcing beans directly from Colombian farms.

Libertario Coffee Roasters

A sleek specialty coffee shop known for high-quality Colombian beans, creative espresso drinks, and a modern café vibe. Great for anyone who loves good coffee in a stylish setting.

Café San Alberto

Farah's first experience with GOOODDDDD COOFFFFEEEE. A premium coffee tasting experience featuring award-winning Colombian coffee. You will not find it in Medellín, you'll find it if you go to Bogotá or Cartagena.



DAY TRIPS

Around Medellín

Perfect for half-day or full-day adventures.

Guatapé & El Peñol (2 hours away)

Our favourite day trip! Climb El Peñol for incredible views, explore the colourful town, or rent a boat/jet ski on the lake. Even if you skip the climb, Guatapé is absolutely worth visiting. Busses run frequently or you could arrange for a tour/private transport.

Santa Fe de Antioquia (1.5 hours away)

A charming colonial town with cobblestone streets, warm weather, and historic churches. Highly recommended for a relaxed day.

Salto del Buey (2 hours away)

Farah has not been yet, but it is on her list. Expect waterfalls, hiking, and adventure activities. Best for guests who want something active and outdoorsy.



FROM MEDELLÍN

Weekend Getaways

These are best as overnight trips (or longer if you can!).

Jardín

Our favourite getaway in Colombia. A stunning mountain town filled with coffee farms, waterfalls, colourful streets, and horseback riding. If you go on a weekend you can party with some of the local cowboys!

Abejorral: La Peña & La Casa en el Aire

A unique adventure getaway outside Medellín. Farah has been bugging Vincent to go to since her second trip to Medellín. It is for guests who want something active and different. La Peña is known for guided rock climbing, via ferrata, hiking, and mountain views, while La Casa en el Aire offers a rustic cliffside stay with hanging hammocks and adventure activities. This is best for adventurous travellers, so plan ahead and confirm transportation and booking details before going.

Jericó

A picturesque and peaceful mountain town with incredible viewpoints and authentic Paisa culture.

San Rafael

Known for natural swimming holes, rivers, and waterfalls - perfect for a relaxing escape.



EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Explore More of Colombia

If you're extending your trip, these destinations are absolutely worth it.

Cartagena

One of Colombia's most iconic cities. Explore the colourful Walled City, enjoy rooftop bars, take salsa classes, and relax on nearby Caribbean islands.

Santa Marta

A laid-back Caribbean city and gateway to Tayrona, Minca, and the Lost City Trek. Great for beaches, fresh seafood and easy access to nature. A heads up, the city itself doesn't have pretty beaches. It is more of a hub to do cool things around the area.

Minca

Farah's favourite place in Colombia. A peaceful mountain escape with waterfalls, coffee farms, hiking, and incredible views of the Caribbean coast.

Tayrona National Park

Jungle hikes leading to some of the most beautiful beaches in Colombia. Also where Farah fell asleep on the beach, got sunburnt AND learned to scuba dive! There are also accommodations where you can sleep on the beach!

Salento & Cocora Valley

Vincent loved it, and it's still on Farah's list! Famous for wax palm trees, coffee farms, and beautiful scenery. It's like walking through a painting.

Cali

The salsa capital of the world! Farah has not been yet, but Vincent enjoyed moving his hips hahahah ajajajaja. It's famous for dancing, nightlife, and local food.

San Andrés

Vincent's second favourite beach destination. White sand, turquoise water, and the "Sea of Seven Colours." It's a 2 hour flight from Medellin and completely different than the rest of Colombia!



EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Explore More of Colombia

Bogotá

Colombia's capital. A bit chilly, but full of culture: Monserrate viewpoints, La Candelaria, the Gold Museum, and the Salt Cathedral day trip.

Juanchoco/Nuqui/Pacific Coast

One of the most unique/interesting places in Colombia. Black sand beaches, rainforest, tons of wildlife and very different cultures. Be warned, it is not your typical beach, it is rainy year round and slightly difficult to access.

Sapzurro/Capurgana

This is the first place in Colombia that Vincent visited when he first came 10 years ago. This sleepy beautiful little beach town borders Panama right along the Darien's gap. It is remote and only accessible by water or regional travel, so plan carefully.

Leticia & the Amazon

For guests looking for a bigger adventure, Leticia is the gateway to the Colombian Amazon.

La Guajira

A remote desert-meets-Caribbean destination known for dramatic landscapes, beaches, and Indigenous Wayuu culture. Best for adventurous travellers with extra time.

Barranquilla Carnival

One of Colombia's biggest cultural celebrations, known for music, dancing, costumes, parades, and Caribbean energy. In 2027, the main Carnival dates are February 6-9. If your travel dates line up, it is an unforgettable experience - just plan ahead, as hotels and flights can book up quickly.

ONE LAST NOTE

Wherever you go, leave room for a little spontaneity - some of our favourite Colombia memories were never on the itinerary





SEE YOU IN COLOMBIA

**We can't wait
to celebrate with you**

Safe travels, with love

Farah & Vincent