

Cartagena City Guide: Uncover the Hidden Gems of Colombia's Enchanting Coastal City



Cartagena City Guide - MyNativeGuide.com

by Debbie Jenkins

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4109 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 222 pages



Cartagena, Colombia is a vibrant and historic city that has something to offer every traveler. From its stunning colonial architecture to its lively nightlife, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

What to Do in Cartagena

There's no shortage of things to do in Cartagena. Here are a few of the most popular activities:

- **Visit the Walled City:** The Walled City is the historic heart of Cartagena. It's home to beautiful colonial architecture, charming streets, and lively plazas.
- **Take a boat trip to the Rosario Islands:** The Rosario Islands are a group of stunning islands located just off the coast of Cartagena.

They're a great place to relax, swim, and snorkel.

- **Visit the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas:** The Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas is a massive fortress that was built to protect Cartagena from attack. It's one of the most important historical sites in Colombia.
- **Go salsa dancing:** Cartagena is known for its lively nightlife. There are many salsa clubs in the city where you can dance the night away.

Where to Eat in Cartagena

Cartagena has a wide variety of restaurants to choose from, serving everything from traditional Colombian cuisine to international fare. Here are a few of the most popular restaurants in the city:

- **La Cevicheria:** La Cevicheria is a great place to try some of Cartagena's famous ceviche. They also have a variety of other seafood dishes, as well as a selection of cocktails.
- **El Boliche:** El Boliche is a traditional Colombian restaurant that serves a variety of regional dishes. They're known for their bandeja paisa, a hearty dish that includes rice, beans, meat, and plantains.
- **Carmen:** Carmen is a fine dining restaurant that serves modern Colombian cuisine. They have a tasting menu that changes seasonally, as well as a la carte options.
- **Alquimico:** Alquimico is a cocktail bar that's known for its innovative and creative cocktails. They also have a small menu of food items, such as tapas and empanadas.

Where to Stay in Cartagena

Cartagena has a wide range of hotels to choose from, from budget-friendly options to luxury accommodations. Here are a few of the most popular hotels in the city:

- **Hotel Santa Clara:** Hotel Santa Clara is a luxury hotel that's located in the heart of the Walled City. It's a beautiful hotel with a rich history, and it offers a variety of amenities, including a swimming pool, a spa, and a fitness center.
- **The GHL Hotel Santa Catalina:** The GHL Hotel Santa Catalina is a mid-range hotel that's located just outside the Walled City. It's a modern hotel with a variety of amenities, including a swimming pool, a restaurant, and a bar.
- **The Hotel Las Americas:** The Hotel Las Americas is a budget-friendly hotel that's located in the Getsemani neighborhood. It's a basic hotel, but it's clean and comfortable, and it's a good value for the price.

Getting Around Cartagena

Cartagena is a relatively small city, so it's easy to get around on foot. However, there are also a number of taxis and buses that can take you to where you need to go.

When to Visit Cartagena

Cartagena can be visited year-round, but the best time to visit is during the dry season, which runs from December to April. During this time, the weather is warm and sunny, and there is less rain.

Additional Tips for Visiting Cartagena

- **Learn some basic Spanish:** While many people in Cartagena speak English, it's helpful to know some basic Spanish phrases. This will help you to communicate with locals and get around the city more easily.
- **Be prepared for the heat:** Cartagena is a tropical city, so it can be hot and humid. Be sure to drink plenty of water and wear sunscreen.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Cartagena is a generally safe city, but it's always important to be aware of your surroundings. Be sure to keep your valuables close to you and avoid walking alone at night.

Cartagena is a beautiful and vibrant city that has something to offer every traveler. With its stunning architecture, lively nightlife, and delicious food, Cartagena is a city that you won't soon forget.



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