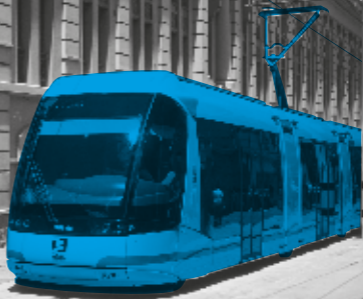


QUICK GUIDE TO MEDELLIN



Medellin.  TRAVEL

GREATER
MEDELLIN
CONVENTION & VISITORS
BUREAU



Alcaldía de Medellín

Thanks to the urban and social transformation Medellín has experienced in recent years, the city is increasingly becoming an attractive tourist destination for national and international visitors who want to discover its treasures. For that reason we will answer some of the most frequently asked questions posed by the city's guests and use the answers as a quick tourist guide.

COMMUTING

1. HOW DO I GET TO MEDELLIN FROM THE JOSÉ MARÍA CÓRDOVA AIRPORT?

The main ways to get to Medellín are:

- A. By bus.** Combuses S.A. covers the Medellín-Airport trajectory with two routes: Airport-Palmas-Sandiego and Airport-Highway-Downtown.
 - B. Individual taxi.** Companies that provide taxi service: Flota Córdoba, Combuses, Rápido Medellín Rionegro, Transportes Unidos La Ceja, Aerotaxi, Transportes Chachafruto and Copetaxi.
 - C. Shared taxi.** Companies that provide taxi service: Rápido Medellín Rionegro, Transportes Unidos La Ceja, Flota Córdoba and Aerotaxi.
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2. WHAT ARE THE RATES TO GO FROM THE JOSÉ MARÍA CÓRDOVA AIRPORT TO MEDELLIN?

The rates are:

- A. Bus.** Approximate \$10,000 COP
 - B. Taxi individual.** Approximate \$80,000 COP
 - C. Taxi colectivo.** Approximate \$18,500 COP
- Keep in mind:** these rates are subject to change every year, but can be used as a reference for the transportation system price.
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3. HOW TO GET I AROUND THE CITY??

The best way to get around the city of Medellín is using the Integrated Public Transportation Metro System, which has:

- **Line A:** Niquía-La Estrella y La Estrella-Niquía.
- **Line B:** San Antonio B-San Javier B y San Javier B-San Antonio B.
- **Metrocable:**
 - » **Line H:** Oriente-Villa Sierra y Villa Sierra-Oriente.
 - » **Line J:** San Javier J-La Aurora y La Aurora-San Javier J.
 - » **Line K:** Acevedo-Santo Domingo y Santo Domingo-Acevedo.
 - » **Line L:** Santo Domingo L-Arví y Arví-Santo Domingo L.

- » **Line M:** Miraflores-Trece de Noviembre y Trece de Noviembre-Miraflores.
- » **Line P:** Acevedo-Progreso y Progreso-Acevedo.
- **Bus line 1 & 2:** Universidad de Medellín-Parque Aranjuez.
- **Bus line O:** Caribe-La Palma y La Palma-Caribe.
- **Line T-A:** San Antonio-Oriente y Oriente San Antonio.
- **Feeder routes.**

4. WHAT IS THE METRO'S SCHEDULE?

Monday to Saturday:

- **Line A, B, T-A, H, J, K, M, P 1 y 2:** 4:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday and holidays:

- **Line A, B, T-A, 1 y 2:** 5:00 a.m. a 10:00 p.m.
- **Line K:** 8:30 a.m. a 10:00 p.m.
- **Line H, J, K y P:** 9:00 a.m. a 10:00 p.m.

Line J (Metrocable):

- **From tuesday to saturday:** 9:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m.
- **Sundays and holidays:** 8:30 a.m. a 6:00 p.m.

*No service on the first busniess day of the week.

5. HOW MUCH DO THE TICKETS COST?

The approximate ticket prices in effect are:

- **Frequent user Civic card:** \$2.255 COP
- **Casual user:** \$2.550 COP (only applicable to Metro and Metrocable).

Keep in mind: these rates are subject to change every year, but can be used as a reference for the transportation system's ticket price.

6. WHAT CITY ATTRACTIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE VIA METRO?

Metro lines cross the city from south to north and from east to west. There are many tourist attractions near the stations.

• Metro:

- » **Universidad:** Parque Norte, Explora Park, Botanical Garden, Parque de los Deseos and Planetarium.
- » **Hospital:** San Pedro Cementery Museum.
- » **Prado:** Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica and Bolivar Park.
- » **Parque Berrio:** Sculpture Plaza, Antioquia Musum, Palacio Nacional and Palacio de la Cultura.
- » **Alpujarra:** Plaza Cisneros o The Light's Park, buildings Vásquez and Carré.
- » **Exposiciones:** Plaza Mayor, Parque de los Pies Descalzos, Metropolitan Theater and Water Museum.

- » **Industriales:** Pueblito Paisa (Nutibara Hill) y Museum of Modern Art of Medellín.
- » **Poblado:** El Poblado Park, Lleras Park, La Buena Mesa Street and Vía Primavera.
- » **Aguacatala:** El Castillo Museum.
- » **Estadio:** Atanasio Girardot Sport Complex and 70 's Boulevard.
- » **San Javier:** San Javier Library Park y Graffitour.
- **Tranvía:**
 - » **Pabellón del Agua:** Pablo Tobón Uribe Theater.
 - » **Bicentenario:** Casa de la Memoria Museum.

7. HOW DO I GET BACK TO DOWNTOWN FROM SANTA ELENA?

You can take the Cable Arví (Metro Line L), o you can ride back on the Santa Elena bus. The average trip time to downtown Medellín is one hour, and the point of arrival is near the Tram's Pabellón del Agua station. Take the same bus to get to Parque Santa Elena from Parque Arví. Buses run every 30 minutes.

LODGING AND FOOD

8. IN WHAT PART OF THE CITY SHOULD I LOOK FOR LODGING?

There are several hotel districts in Medellín: El Poblado, in the south of Medellín, Laureles, in the central western region, and downtown.

9. WHERE CAN I FIND TRADITIONAL FOOD?

Calle de la Buena Mesa in the Manila neighborhood, Parque Lleras and its surroundings, and Milla de Oro in El Poblado; Calle Junín downtown and Boulevard de la 70 in Laureles; Las Palmas Avenue, where we can find very traditional restaurants offering typical food as bandeja paisa or cazuela de frijoles: beans casserole (smaller version of bandeja paisa with almost all of its ingredients)

You can also go to Mercados del Río, Mercados del tranvía and Mercados de Laureles.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

10. WHAT ARE SOME OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES I CAN DO IN THE CITY?

Bird-watching is one of the most recommended outdoor activities. You can also hike up El Volador and Nutibara ridges or trek through the San Sebastián de Palmitas, San Antonio de Prado, Altavista, San Cristóbal and Santa Elena townships. Visitors are encouraged to visit the flower-growing farms in the last two townships and learn about the variety of flowers grown in the region. Parque Arví in Santa Elena, home to numerous species of flora and fauna, features ecological and pre-Hispanic trails. You can access to it by Santa Elena's bus or by metro cable with line L. There is also botanical garden, a free place to enjoy the fauna and flora of the city

11. WHAT IS THERE TO DO IN PUEBLITO PAISA?

Located atop Nutibara hill, this attraction recreates a traditional Antioquia town. Our suggested activities include:

- A tour of the traditional cobbled town square and its church, fountain and other emblematic houses.
 - Try traditional foods, desserts, and fruits of the region.
 - Buy arts and crafts.
 - Look down on downtown and the southeast of the city from the observatory.
 - Visit the Museo de Ciudad on the terrace next to the observatory.
 - Enjoy abstract art sculptures under the stairway near the food court.
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12. DID PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE IN PUEBLITO PAISA?

Pueblito Paisa was built as a tourist destination for visitors to appreciate the traditional characteristics of Antioquia towns, but before it was built people actually lived on Nutibara Ridge, where the town is today.

13. WHERE IS PARQUE DE LOS PIES DESCALZOS, AND WHAT ARE SOME OF ITS ATTRACTIONS?

The park is located behind Caja de Madera in Plaza Mayor. It features a bamboo forest that forms a labyrinth you can explore barefoot. There is also a Zen garden and logs visitors are encouraged to walk on to leave behind negative energies. Moreover, the water area features a wishing well and water mirror.

In this park, you will find the Water Museum for children and adults, and also a food court with different options.

14. WHAT IS THERE TO SEE IN PLAZA BOTERO?

Plaza Botero is one of the city's great icons, showcasing 23 sculptures by Antioquia artist Fernando Botero outdoors. The Antioquia Museum presents temporary and itinerant exhibitions by national and international artists, in addition to a collection of paintings and sculptures by master Botero, as well as donations from his private collection of international masterpieces.

15. RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN VISITING PLAZA BOTERO

Because Plaza Botero is located in the heart of the city it tends to be busy and crowded, so take extra care and observe safety recommendations. We suggest you take steps to stay safe and be mindful of your belongings. If you need help or directions, ask a police officer in the sector or a museum security guard or staff member.

16. WHAT DO THE VÁSQUEZ AND CARRÉ BUILDINGS IN PLAZA DE LAS LUCES REPRESENT?

Initially the buildings were used for housing and business, but with the inauguration of the Antioquia Railroad's station in Medellín, they became hotels because the area operated as a market square and was a staging and lodging area for businessmen. Years later, the Carré building, with its balconies, became a tenanted property. At this time, both structures have been renovated and are used by different public entities. Currently they are both restored and are occupied by local entities and commercial spaces.

17. WHERE CAN I GO TO LISTEN TO TANGO?

There are many places in Medellín where you can experience and listen to tango music as well as live performances. Some of the best locations are:

- Patio del Tango, calle 23 #58-38.
- A Puro Tango, calle 44 #65-51.
- Salón Málaga, carrera 51 #45-80.
- Casa Cultural de Tango Homero Manzi, calle 48 #41-3.
- La Casa Gardeliana, carrera 45 #76-50.

18. WHAT ARE SOME NEARBY TOWNS THAT I CAN VISIT WHILE IN MEDELLIN?

- **East:** you can visit La Ceja, El Retiro, El Peñol and Guatapé. The latter is famous for its dam and colorful building facades. There is also Peñol Stone, one of the most visited natural viewpoints on earth.
 - **West:** you can visit Santa Fe de Antioquia and enjoy colonial architecture and cobbled streets on your way to the Occidente hanging bridge. You can also refresh drinking a tamarind juice, a traditional fruit that is also used to prepare candy.
 - **Southwest:** towns alive with the coffee-growing culture.
 - » **Jericó:** It has republican and colonial elements; its paved streets, 22 churches and the Madre Laura's Museum make of it a unique destination.
 - » **Jardín:** Colonial architecture, perfect weather and a lot of colors mix on a magic town that will make you fall in love with it. In addition, beyond the quality of its coffee, the town has a lot of recognition because of the majesty of its cathedral and the architecture of its park.
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19. WHAT FESTIVALS AND FAIRS ARE HELD IN THE CITY?

Medellin hosts major cultural events every year, including:

- **The Flower Festival:** the city's flagship event, which takes place at the end of July and early August. The main event is the Silletteros Parade. Other activities include the National Trova Festival, the Orchids, Birds and Flowers Parade, the Plaza de las Flores, and the Classic Cars Display.
- **The International Tango Festival:** one of tango's most important international festivals because of the featured artists and quality of its artistic and academic program. The festival is held in June in various venues around the city. Admission is free for all activities.
- **Book and Culture Festival:** a gathering to experience literature and culture, with an artistic and academic program and activities that promote reading and writing, plus a variety of commercial offerings. The event is held in the Jardín Botánico and other spaces, including the Planetarium and Parque Explora, during the second week of September. Admission is free.
- **Altavoz Fest:** a program hosted by the Medellín Department of Culture to provide young up-and-coming talent a chance to showcase their music in a three-day festival. The festival features genres such as rock, metal, punk, rap, ska, reggae and electronic music. The festival is held in November.
- **Christmas:** hanging Christmas lights is a tradition in Medellín

that attracts more and more visitors every year. As part of the Christmas celebrations, the city's most emblematic sites are adorned with millions of Christmas lights and rope lights, featuring a different theme every year.

20. WHAT SITES DISPLAY MEDELLIN'S TRANSFORMATION?

To learn about Medellín's history of conflict and violence and understand how a city can re-invent and transform itself by preserving its memory, visit the following sites. These places will help you gain a deeper, more constructive perspective and comprehensively understand events, moments, and characters.

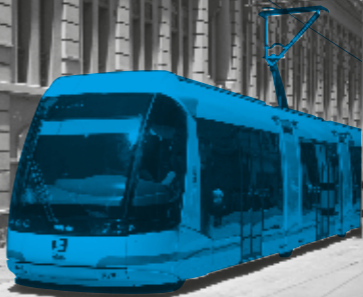
- **Museo Casa de la Memoria:** a space to understand the causes and consequences of the violence, and never forget the pain of the 600,000 victims that endured the armed conflict in Colombia. The Museum is located in the Parque Bicentenario in the Boston neighborhood.
- **Comuna 13:** a neighborhood that was blighted by conflict between gangs years ago and now attests to its transformation with tours that feature murals by local graffiti and urban artists in this part of the city.
Visitors can enjoy the only public electric escalator in the country, plus an ample offer of traditional gastronomy.
- **Library Parks:** are at the core of the city's urban and social transformation. Each library park offers rooms with internet and collections of books, magazines and newspapers, as well as a variety of cultural workshops and activities.
- **Integrated Life Units, or UVAs (for the Spanish original):** public spaces for recreation, culture and community participation. Available sites include: UVA Ilusión Verde in El Poblado, UVA de La Imaginación in Villa Hermosa and UVA de La Alegría in Manrique.
- **Northern Medellín:** the Jardín Botánico, Parque Explora, Parque Norte and Planetarium are located in this district. Enjoy nature, discover South America's largest freshwater aquarium, have fun on mechanical rides, and have a unique star-gazing experience. Admission to the Jardín Botánico is free, while Parque Explora, the Planetarium and Parque Norte charge different prices, depending on the bracelet you buy and the attractions you want to enjoy.
- **Moravia:** This place has been an axis of transformation. According to its inhabitants, it was a rubbish place during the 70s, but currently recovered its territory with vegetal crops and treatment for water, and has become Medellín's biggest garden and an example of resilience.

- **La Sierra:** This neighborhood was recognized for being one of the most violent zones of the city because of armed conflict. Currently it opens its doors to a transformation tour called “Tour to la Sierra”, where you can know the hope of its inhabitants and the change they have lived.
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21. IS THERE AN OFFICIAL DIGITAL GUIDE FOR MEDELLIN?

Yes, the city’s official guide is [Medellin.travel](https://www.medellin.travel). Remember that you can download the app or visit the website to find information about upcoming events and articles of interest about Medellin and Antioquia. You can also follow this portal on social media: Mainly Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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