



Santa Marta

Weather: The average temperature is of 82 *F but it has a dry climate due to the breezes that come from the Sierra Nevada

Altitude: Santa Marta is at 6 m above sea level so expect nothing but warm weather, but its humidity is around 75%

Rainy Season: You will most likely find rainy season from April until June and in between September to October. The dry season in Santa Marta is from November until March and July to August.

Transportation: Inside the city you will be able to move around in taxis, public transportation and even some transportation apps are available. Please have in mind that taxis do not accept credit card payments, only cash, a few of them accept dollars or euros but we do not recommend it though due to the exchange rate.

WHAT TO WEAR? Your what-to-pack list will depend on the activities you will be doing while in Santa Marta. However, having in mind its weather, humidity and our recommended activities please do not forget to pack loose-fitting clothes, preferably of cotton. A bathing suit, light clothes and comfortable sneakers if you are going to visit PNN Tayrona are a must! And of course, don't forget to pack your favorite hat, sunglasses and an eco-friendly sunscreen and mosquito repellent.

HIGHLIGHTS: Santa Marta is characterized by its natural attractions and its culture. One of its highlights is without a doubt the Tayrona National Natural Park, which, according to the travel magazine Condè Nat Traveler, is one of the most beautiful parks in the world! And you can prove this once you are there.

This natural attraction is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, there is an approximately 4-hour walk to discover its main beaches and the natural wealth that this destination holds. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes for your walks and make sure to set your alarm the day before since normally these activities start early in the morning!

MUST-DO ACTIVITIES: A visit to the Tayrona Park is a definite MUST! While at Tayrona, you will be able to walk through the jungle, enjoying its landscapes and beaches, you could even do some diving and collect wonderful memories in this natural landscape. Don't forget to pack your camera so you can brag to your friends about the incredible natural landscapes you be able to capture.

Oh! and for the more adventurous travelers, we recommend a visit to "*Ciudad Perdida*" located at La Sierra Nevada in Santa Marta. This destination is one of the most important archaeological sites in Colombia, since it is the most important urban center of the ancient Tayrona civilization.

INSIDER TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Santa Marta is a perfect destination for people who want to relax and enjoy nature. Usually, we recommend staying in this place for 2 to 3 nights in order to carry out various activities and have time to rest and relax.



Before travelling to Santa Marta make sure you get vaccinated against yellow fever 15 days prior your arrival! Also, we do not recommend drinking tap water.

The city of Santa Marta was founded in 1525 as the first Spanish settlement in South America. This beautiful city offers great views of the bay and the peaks of Sierra Nevada, its calm waters offer great opportunities to dive along the magnificent coral reefs. A visit to the historic center is necessary when coming to this city, its cathedral is considered to be the oldest in South America. The weather also invites its visitors to eat and drink al fresco either in one of the many outdoor restaurants facing the sea, in a café or a bar. It is also home to the impressive Tayrona National Park, which is one of Colombia's most renowned natural treasures, lies at the Caribbean coast near to Santa Marta.

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Explore the enchanted Tayrona national park

This impressive national park, which is one of Colombia's most renowned natural treasures, lies at the Caribbean coast near to **Santa Marta**. It has some of South America's loveliest coastline and is dotted with beautiful beaches, swamps, forests, and mountains in close proximity. Actually, Colombia's higher peak is located here, in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta with 5.775 meters over the sea level, at just 42 kilometers from the coast, being also the world highest coastal range. Due to this, a stunning variety of flora and fauna represents diverse tropical eco systems between the mountain and the sea. It consequently boasts fascinating wildlife such as howler monkeys and iguanas and more than 400 species of birds. This is the ideal place to enjoy the **Caribbean beaches with a plus of history, sport and nature.**

Insider tip: This magical place is also home of several indigenous communities, which descend from the **Tayronas** and have declared this place as world's bellybutton. The **Lost City** or the Pueblito Chairama, are part of the living legacy of these ancient people that you might visit during your trip as hiking tours.

The Lost City

Described by National Geographic as one of the 50 places you should visit and perched on the northern slope of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta 'Ciudad Perdida', one of the largest pre-Colombian towns discovered in the Americas, sat in silence for four centuries. Be one of the few to visit this remarkable archaeological site with its stepped terraces, built by ancient Tayrona Indians and hidden in lush and dense tropical vegetation. The tour entails scenic and serene treks of moderate level traversing rivers and hiking fairly steep climbs and descents.

Minca: Coffee and birds



Perched 600m high up in the Sierra Nevada **above Santa Marta**, Minca is a small mountain village famous for its **organic coffee**, incredibly varied **birdlife** and – perhaps more importantly – much **cooler temperatures** than on the scorching coast below. The town, which until a few years ago could only be reached via a dirt road, is delightful, surrounded by thick cloud forest and soaring mountain peaks.

The small town of Minca is two hours away from Santa Marta, however, to get to the natural attractions you need to go up a bit more. Our experiences here include a full day from Santa Marta to visit a coffee hacienda and a beautiful waterfall; or a three-day experience focused on birdwatching.

Insider tip: If you are really interested in birdwatching **El Dorado lodge** up in the mountains of Minca is your go-to place. Amazing homemade food, specialized guides and a very good service characterize this hidden place. Make sure to book the kogihabs, even though you have to walk 10-15 minutes to get to the rooms, these accommodations that want to simulate the ecohabs of the kogis are the perfect place to relax, disconnect and enjoy the most beautiful view that makes you feel you're sleeping on the clouds.

Be ready to visit one of the most diverse areas of the world!