



## WHY LEAVE THE USA?

- > You live at the Beach in California!
- ➤ Making the Mortgage (with only one income)
- ➤ Cost of living (taxes, taxes, taxes!)
- > Political Polarization
- ➤ Inexpensive Home Base
- > New Challenge
- ➤ New Adventures!

# WHY MEDELLÍN?

- ➤ It's gorgeous!
- ➤ Big City with all modern conveniences
- ➤ Beautiful malls / culinary choices
- Very few tourists
- > Small time difference with LA
- ➤ High speed Internet (300mps)
- > 4G cellular service
- > Amazon delivers from US!







## THE PROCESS















- Build your network (realtor, attorneys, contractor, friends)
- ➤ Home purchase gave us 5-year residency (then citizenship)
- Remodel from US
- ➤ Ship stuff from US
- > Bank Accounts
- ➤ Mail forward (Miami, FL)
- Play the tax game



## FINDING A HOME

- > No MLS
- Same home can have different prices per realtor
- We spent 2 weeks and viewed 17 properties to find the right one
- ➤ Remodel!



- Closed escrow 3/11/2020
- > Pandemic hit end of March 2020
- Couldn't record title, they were closed!
- ➤ No construction, lock down!
- ➤ Started construction October 2020
- ➤ Completed remodel June 2021
- Great GC! Weekly progress and cost report

## **BEFORE**





## **BEFORE**





#### **BEFORE**





## **BEFORE**





#### MOVING MONEY





## Bancolombia



- Setup a Trust through a Brokerage in Colombia
- Transfer US funds to Trust (consider timing with the exchange rate)
- > Your attorney approves the transfer
- Establish a local bank account once you receive your Colombian ID (Cedula)
- ➤ No joint bank accounts in Colombia
- Hard to establish credit (register credit)
- Use a friend to setup Internet/TV in their name, transfer after 3 months

## **TRANSPORTATION**









- > Car services in Medellin (sit in the front)
- ➤ Didi and Cabify are cash and very quick
- ➤ Uber is expensive, and less drivers, as the driver needs a bank account for a credit card transaction.
- ➤ 60% of Colombians don't have a bank account
- You can have restaurants or hotels call a taxi. If you don't speak Spanish, you won't be able to order a cab
- Cabs are very small here (if they don't understand where you are going, they will tell you to get another cab

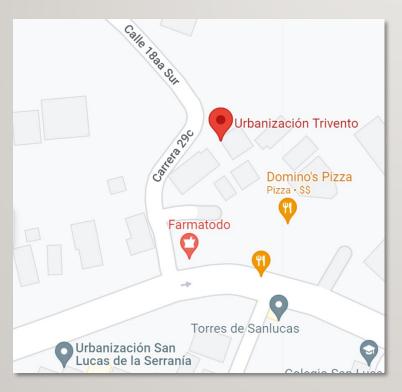
## ORDERING SUPPLIES





- ➤ We LOVE Rappi!
- Rappi is like an Uber Eats or Grubhub, but more!
- ➤ 10 minute delivery for many standard items with Express
- Full supermarket valet shopper with Rappi (takes 1-2 hours, or schedule delivery for later)
- ➤ Get your medications delivered 24 hours a day
- Italian, pizza, burgers, fine dining, Subway, Dominos

#### **NAVIGATION**



- > Street system in Medellin
- ➤ Carrera (Cla., CR KR)
- ➤ Calle (Cl, C)
- > Our address Carrera 29C Calle 18aa Sur 120
- Google Maps says 18a, Cra. 29 #120
- ➤ Apple Maps says Calle 20 Sur 25B 210 ???
- ➤ Rappi says <u>KR 29C #18 A SUR 120</u>
- Property Tax Bill <u>CR 029 C 018 A 120</u>
- ➤ Just use the name for GPS: Urbanizacion Trivento (except Apple, they are lost)
- ➤ Most taxis here use Waze, look up the name!

### TAX BENEFITS





- ➤ IRS Foreign Earned Income Exclusion
- Live outside the US for a least 330 days during calendar year, the first \$112K in income is not taxed by the IRS
- > YAY!
- ➤ If you live in Colombia more than 6 months, you have to file taxes

## NICE WEEKEND SPOTS



- There are lots of nice little towns surrounding Medellin
  - El Penol / Guatape (climb the rock)
  - > The Milky Way (dairy farms)
  - ➤ El Retiro (get your furniture made here)
  - Coffee tours
  - ➤ Communa 13
- ➤ Have a good driver with a van for comfort

## ON THE DOWNSIDE...



- ➤ No mail service (Amazon OK)
- ➤ Lead times on appliances are long (even before Pandemic unless you buy local brands)
- Deliveries will just show up or give you a onehour warning
- Deliveries may get there early by a few days, or late a week
- ➤ No Stoli vodka
- ➤ No good cheddar cheese
- Don't expect a lot of English (this is not a resort in Mexico)

## QUESTIONS?

