

Expat Life In Barranquilla: Colombia's Folkloric Heartland

Outline

My Expat Story
A Bit About Barranquilla
Highlights
Downsides
Q&A



My Expat Story

- Why Barranquilla?
- Making The Move:
 - Pre-Move: Visa Application
 - Arrival: Where The Heck Am I?
 - Post-Move: Getting Set Up & Settled



A Bit About Barranquilla

- Where Is It?
- Climate
- Cost Of Living
- Neighborhoods
- Housing

Where Is It?

- Northern Colombia, Caribbean Coast
- Capital of Atlántico Department
- Colombia's fourth largest city
- Population: 2.2 million
- Located at mouth of Magdalena River
- Important port city
- Getting here: Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport



Climate

- Tropical savanna climate
- Hot year-round... air conditioning required
- Two rainy seasons: April to June and August to November
- Famous for *arroyos*—flash floods that form on certain streets

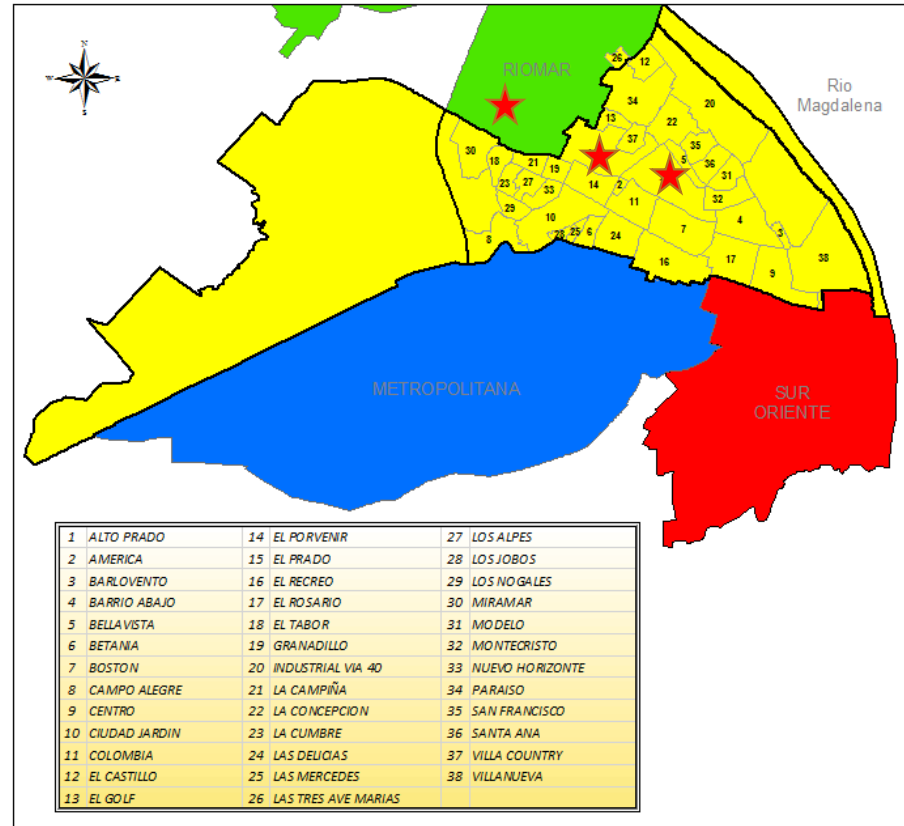
Avg. High	90°F / 32°C
Daily Mean	81°F / 27°C
Avg. Low	76°F / 24°C
Avg. Rainfall	32 inches
Avg. Rainy Days	78
Relative Humidity	80%

Cost Of Living

Item	Amount (US\$)
Rent	350 to 1,000
Transport	65
Electricity	80
Other Utilities	20
Cell Phone	25
Internet	40
Entertainment	275
Groceries	250
Medical Appointment	15
Total	1,120 to 1,770

- Average monthly expenses for an expat couple
- Opportunity to reduce your cost of living
- Monthly expenses can be tailored to your needs

Neighborhoods And Housing



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- *Estrato System:*
 - 1-2: poorest
 - 3-4: middle class
 - 5-6: wealthiest
- Barranquilla's Best Neighborhoods For Expats:
 - Alto Prado - 6
 - El Prado - 4
 - Riomar - 6
- Neighborhoods To Avoid:
 - Siloe - 1
 - San Roque - 3
 - Soledad - 1

Highlights

- Colombia's Folkloric Heartland
 - Carnival
 - The culture, the people, the pride
 - The Caribbean
 - El Metro—official stadium of national team
 - Music and dance: salsa, cumbia, vallenato, mapalé, congo, son de negros, gusano, cumbión, and more
- Things to do:
 - Museums, landmarks
 - Events, concerts, festivals, exhibitions, etc.
 - Malls and movie theaters
 - Regional excursions
- 15 major public hospitals, 19 health centers, 28 health posts, plus many private clinics
- University town, plus bilingual international schools (K-12)
 - Job opportunities?

Colombia's Folkloric Heartland



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*Quien lo vive
es quien lo goza*

Other Cultural Highlights



Downsides

- Limited expat community
- Limited English speakers... you'll need to learn Spanish
- Culture shock and cultural differences
- Not as beautiful as Cartagena or Medellín
- Hectic public transportation system
- Safety



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Q&A