



Christmas Lighting in Medellin (Los Alumbrados)

[Medellin](#) 's Christmas spirit is bright in lights as the Colombian city dresses its parks and houses in colorful lights radiating the joy of the season. Los Alumbrados, as the glowing of the city is known, is a tradition of Medellin – a charm no one can resist.

This year's theme features the most representative element of every region in Colombia – the river. Medellin and its locals will be celebrating throughout the month of December with parties starting the 3rd until the first week of January.

This is a great time to enjoy the season's greetings with the traditional festivities.

For more information, visit [www.alumbradosepm.com.co](http://www.alumbradosepm.com.co)

## **Villa de Leyva – Lights Festival**

This is one of the festivals a foreign visitor cannot miss; [Villa de Leyva](#) is a tourist attraction throughout the year with great gastronomic offer, horseback riding, caves, fun events like the Kite Festival in August, and attractions such as the Fossil Museum, Archaeological Park of Moniquira or the “Yacimiento Rupestre of Sachica” (cave painting of Pre-Columbian origin), the Blue Wells or the Gondava Thematic Park, which are the most outstanding places to visit in the town.

On December 7th, visitors gather in Villa de Leyva's Central Square to witness the majestic fireworks. Villa de Leyva transforms into the ideal setting to officially welcome the Christmas season with lit streets, balconies, and colonial houses.

The festival also offers different activities such as the Lantern Contest. The streetlights are then exhibited in the middle of the religious procession of the Immaculate Conception, public presentations of Christmas Choirs and Musical Groups are featured in the main square.

### **The Cali Fair**

From December 25th of each year, [Cali](#) residents welcome tourists from different cities of Colombia and countries of the entire world, in a week in which the city transforms into one huge dance festival.

For 6 days, the visitors will be able to enjoy the famous cabalgatas (horse riding parades), the bullfighting season, and the best Salsa music orchestras of the whole continent, multiple concerts, dancing, and the best gastronomy of the region.

The beginning of this fair is marked by the horse ridden parades where the best Paso Fino horses of the country walk through the streets. The celebrations are then complemented with different popular parties around the towns of the city.

The rest of the week is acclimated by the parties and concerts that are organized in diverse zones of the city. In addition to the exhibition of the best bullfighters of South America and Spain that performed in the Cañaveralejo Bullring.

Each year, thousands of citizens let the liveliness of the fair lead the way of happiness surrounded by music, party, and all the uniqueness of the Cali flare.

The Commerce, Industry and Tourism Ministry reported the arrival of 113,146 travelers in 2010, which shows an increase of 15.4% compared to 2009 where 98,060 visitors were reported. Cali represents the 7.7% of the total tourists that arrive in the entire country.

Other activities available in Cali include:

- Visit to the Buga Cathedral
- Meet the Marimba Music and Traditional Songs of the Pacific, recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- [Bird watching](#) and [Ecotourism](#)
- Visit Paradise Farm
- Learn how to Dance (Visit Juanchito or the Salsa Cabaret)
- Visit Buenaventura, Sancipriano, and Golden Beach in the [Pacific for the Humpback Whale watching](#)
- Follow the Sugar Cane Path: visit to the sugar refineries

[Click here for more information on the Cali Fair](#)

## **The Manizales Fair**

As soon as the year begins, the streets of [Manizales](#) are full with visitants from all the country and the world, the fair was born in the middle of the 20th century as emulation of the Valencia's Fair in Spain, as the years pass the roots of the Hispanic Mediterranean combined with the best Colombian tradition.

This fair takes place from January 4th to January 11th with activities that goes from bullfight; art crafts expositions, street shows, parades, concerts and fireworks.

The tourists will be able to enjoy the entire offer that the city and the surroundings provide, such as the National Snow Peak Parks, Andes Central Mountain Range Birth sight and Ecotourism by the coffee farms that are located in the entire region.

Other activities available in Manizales include:

- [Visit the Ruiz Snow Peak in the National Snow Peak Park](#)
- Visit the Coffee Park and Panaca
- Live the experience of the [Coffee Farms](#)
- [Bird watching](#) and [Ecotourism](#)
- Taste Coffee with Juan Valdez or in the Thoughts Recinct Park (El Recinto del Pensamiento)
- Enjoy a relaxing day in the thermals

- Ride a Willy Jeep in Salento and Rise to the Cocora Valley