

After a recess of one year, the Feast of the Sea, in honor of Santa Marta, a city in northern Colombia, on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, and considered the most beautiful bay in America, is back.

The Golden Anniversary of Santa Marta's Feast of the Sea will be celebrated in 2009, starting on the 29th of July, the date that will also honor the patron saint of this Caribbean capital.

One of the novelties of the Feast of the Sea in its 2009 version will be the organization of the first Nautical and Beach Games of Colombia, backed by the Colombian Olympic Committee (COC, by its Spanish acronym) and the participation of 500 athletes from several regions in Colombia, who will be competing in several categories, such as beach soccer, basketball, beach volleyball, swimming, surfing, and kayaking.

COC President Baltasar Medina announced that he will back Santa Marta's nomination as the seat for Second South American Beach Sports Games. Along these lines, and with the goal of consolidating Santa Marta as a secure destination with the appropriate logistics and infrastructure for practicing and enjoying sports, the Mayor's Office is working jointly with the Port Authority, the Coastguard Station, Civil Defense, and Sergio Arboleda University.



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Marta|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Colombia/noticias/santa\_marta\_fiesta\_del\_mar1.jpg{/rokbox}

Santa Marta /Picture: Alcaldía de Santa Marta/

And as is now traditional, the National Sea Beauty Pageant will take place in the framework of the Feast of the Sea, with the participation of fourteen candidates who, aside from their physical beauty must exhibit skills in nautical sports and knowledge of marine subjects.

Several candidates from the departments of de Córdoba, Sucre, Cundinamarca, and Norte de Santander, among others, will compete for the title of Queen of the Seas of Colombia.

Finally, and as a complement to the presence of the candidates and over 500 athletes, the organization of these festivities has prepared a musical program with performances by important national and international groups who will enliven with their rhythms [Santa Marta](#)'s cult to the sea from July 29 to August 2.