{rokbox title=|World tourists highlight Colombia as one of their favorite destinations.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Colombia/noticias/hostelworld/mochilero.jpg{/rokbox}

World tourists highlight Colombia as one of their favorite destinations / Photo by Flickr user Nathaniel KS

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Colombia is positioned in the tourist market as one of the most sought after destinations for 2010. So say the highly regarded New York Times and the Hostel World portal.

The North American journal compiled a list of 31 tourist destinations to visit this year and highlighted Colombia's affordable prices and the infrastructure of Bogotá , its restaurants, historic center, and museums, underlining the Gold Museum among the latter. In a similar fashion, it described the picturesque sites in Cartagena and its boutique hotels; and it even refers to it, in the words of travelers, as "the next Buenos Aires".

Tourists prefer Cartagena, Bogotá, the northern Pacific, and San Agustín.

On its part, Hostel World's internet portal declared Colombia as the favorite destination for 2010. This portal specializes in offering information to mochileros; that is, backpackers who travel the world of search of experiences that provide contact with local cultures. The next countries on the list are Kenya, Sweden, Cambodia, Croatia, Belize, New Zealand, Tunisia, Malaysia, and Turkey.

Knowing the country is enough for travelers who have been to tens of cities across the globe to place Colombia on their list of favorite tourist destinations. They praise the people's kindness, the beauty of Cartagena de Indias, Bogota's countless cultural activities, the waves of the northern Colombian Pacific , and the exuberance of San Agustín .

{rokbox title=|Gabriel García Márquez Cultural Center, in Bogotá's historic

center.|}images/stories/turistainternacional/Colombia/noticias/hostelworld/bogota-centro.jpg{/rokbox}

Gabriel García Márquez Cultural Center, in Bogotá's historic center.

Those who have visited the country are not at a loss for words of praise. "The Colombian Pacific [bordering with Panama] is excellent for surfing! That is all the incentive I need to go to Colombia"; "Bogotá is a beautiful city – not dangerous, as people say. Incredible churches, museums, plazas, avenues, colorful buildings, excellent food. Come soon before tourists come in droves!"

Others decided to take the risk and stayed: "I visited Colombia four years ago while backpacking across South America. I'm still here. I can't think of a better compliment than this one."

Read the complete articles:

- Hostel World
- New York Times