{rokbox title=|928 thousand km2 in two seas; Colombia a scuba diving paradise|}../es/images/stories/prensa/especiales/itb2011/fotonota2.jpg{/rokbox}

928 thousand km2 in two seas; Colombia a scuba diving paradise

Bogotá, March 9th. (Pxp). – The natural richness of Colombia is not only in its continental surface of over one million squared kilometers, but also in its immense sea area. This allows the South American country to enjoy a privileged position in the tropic for scuba diving; an activity where it is undoubtedly rated among the most important destinations.

The 928,660 squared kilometers covered in both seas – 339,500 in the Pacific and 598,160 in the Caribbean – are anything but sterile sands. These are underwater lands filled with keys and reefs, coral walls and a sea fauna as diverse as its continental fauna.

In addition to the water extension, Colombia has 2,900 kms of coast that offers a large variety of rocky sea cliffs, virgin beaches and a tropical jungle such as the Tayrona Park in Santa Marta on the Caribbean Coast.

Scuba diving sites in the Caribbean

San Andrés: You my arrive to this beautiful island only by air from Bogotá; it's possible to dive around the coral walls and the aquarium along with multicolored fish such as the butterfly fish, the sergeant major fish, the obispo, the blowfish, and sea horses surrounded by gorgonias, rays and even barracudas. The water is so crystal clear that you have visibility from 15 to 30 meters away, very few currents, and over 40 diving points including: La Caleta de José, La Calera, Las Piedras de la Langosta, Trampa Tortuga, Nirvana, Bowle View, Wild Life, La Rocosa, El Avión.

Scuba diving in San Andrés includes magnificent scenarios in very good condition. There are more than 35 diving sites for different modalities included sunken ships, cliffs, and caves; the water has a pleasant temperature and good visibility in addition to the fauna of several sizes and colors.

Cartagena de Indias and Rosario Islands: This destination you cannot miss; you will be able to dive in several sites at the Baru and Rosario Islands. The most important are: Salmedina banks, Bajo Burbujas, and the “Submarine mountain” – where you may find the candelabra, feather and black corals; el Faro, Octubre Rojo, Pendales, Isla Tesoro on the northern cliff and in the south, El Aparecido and La Coca are spots where you will find whip corals on a ground

covered mainly by the lettuce coral.

Santa Marta, Taganga and Tayrona: Beautiful destination for scuba diving in Bahía Betín, Isla Morro Grande and Morrito, Bahía Granate, Ensenada de Cocha, Isla de la Aguja, Bahía Gayraca and Neguange, to view the variety of fish including the Rainbow Wrasse, the French Angel, the Butterfly Fish, the Blowfish, and the Barracuda, and more than 39 shapes of soft corals such as the Gorgonian or the Sea Fan.

Along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, home for important ancient civilizations that have not disappeared to this day, there is one of the most beautiful places of our blue Colombia: Santa Marta, Taganga, Concha, Chengue, and Gayraca bays are a fascinating environment where infinity of sea species live. You may dive together with large sized fauna and small sea horses. You may find very calm areas as well as others that require certain experience because of the strong currents in the area.

Capurganá and Sapzurro: Two magical locations that unite the Darien jungle and the Colombian Caribbean sea. Its majestic cliffs, white sand beaches that reflect the sun and blue water, move at the calm and harmonic pace of small tides.

Scuba diving between May and November, where you may see the fascinating submarine life in more than 70 sites: Cabo Tiburón, la Grieta, la Cueva del Mero, Bajo El Carey, la Punta del Faro, el Internacional, and Bahía de Sapzurro. Between January and June you may visit La Playona, a spawning site for the Leatherback turtle, the largest in the planet. Enjoy the famous traditional fishing day with the natives.

Barranquilla: You may practice diving in Caño Dulce; a beach with calm water used for practicing scuba diving and observing sea life. Diving underwater in this location is discovering a world full of beautiful prodigies, colorful organisms, and a silent and exuberant environment. This is the home of the octopus, the starfish, the jellyfish, the sea urchin, the crab, the lobster and the sea sponge, among others.

Diving sites in the Pacific

On the western end of Colombia, you may find the Pacific coast with popular scuba diving sites of easy access through charter flights or by land.

Bahía Solano and El Valle: Scuba diving lovers that wish to see snappers, groupers and giant rays may visit Piedra de la Esperanza and Punta Diego in Utria, the Sunken boat in Huina, San Telmo in Juná, Chado, El Faro, Juan Tejada, León, La Mina del Diablo and the Marzo Cape area. This is also a traditional and high altitude fishing spot. The period between July and November is ideal for viewing the humpback whale.

Solano Bay is known for its beautiful sunsets with multicolored skies. Together with El Valle, a village located south of the Colombian Pacific with immense beaches, together they become the best opportunity for enjoying an exotic and unforgettable nature.

Nuquí: A small fisher town surrounded by jungle, with immense beaches and many fresh and cool water creeks, ideal for strollers, divers, surfers and nature lovers. We recommend you dive in La Parguera for a close encounter with white and black finned sharks, in addition to the snappers, tuna, and large schools of black tail mackerels and a beautiful garden of Gorgonias. In El Amargal you may dive at great depths where you will be able to see the black corals and the white finned shark as well as the tiger and the lemon sharks.

Malpelo: A small rock located on the furthest western end of Colombia, emerging from the deep ocean surrounded by eleven rocks. Certified as one of the ten best places in the world for viewing sharks such as the hammerhead, the silvertip, the whale, the Galapagos, the silky and the bumpy tail ragged tooth or “monster” shark found in deep waters, in addition to and endless amount of fish of all sizes and colors. All sites around the island are excellent: El Arrecife, La Nevera, La Pared del Náufrago, el Bajo de Júnior, Bajo del Ancla, La Pared del Águila, Vagamares, El Sahara, El Freezer.

Packages include an offer focused on this activity that includes visits for experts, courses, snorkeling, among others, and they offer supplementary activities such as visits to popular tourist sites or attractions. The market interested in this type of product can be very heterogeneous, from certified divers to people that want to being diving or take a course to experience this activities; therefore there are several alternatives offered.

This year Proexport Colombia, the Office of Tourism Promotions, Investments and Exportations of the country will participate in ITB with 25 representatives including regional institutions, tour operators and hotels, in order to position Colombia in Germany and the world, in addition to supporting entrepreneurs for the generation of business and strengthening alliances with their partners.

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