# Tourism in the Colombia's golden Gate

Barranquilla Carnival

The Carnival of Barranquilla is a celebration Colombia offers to the world: a mestizo festival, enlivened by rhythms by the names of cumbia, porro, mapalé, chandé, puya, fandango, and last, but not least, merecumbé. Some call it a party of sones and danzones. This is a feast that gathers traditions based on the creativity of our people as expressed through dance, music, handcrafts, costumes, and party styles.

The Barranquilla Carnival is singular for its cultural diversity and the fact that the entire city participates. Each and every dance, folk group, and costume play an important role in making this celebration one of the best shows in the world, not only for watching, but for enjoying. Barranquilleros believe that the carnival is their property and their very special way of expressing their beings and feelings.

Also called La Arenosa (the sandy one) and Curramba la Bella (Curramba the beautiful), Barranquilla was founded around 1629. It is the main river and sea port of the country, and its historic center was declared a national monument in 1959. Several waves of immigrants have enriched its traditions and given the city its metropolitan and deeply joyful character.

The Carnival belongs to all and has its own expressions of being and feeling.

The buildings in El Prado neighborhood exhibit a Mediterranean architecture adapted to the Caribbean. Among the cultural compounds are the Teatro Amira de la Rosa and the Estadio Metropolitano.

Barranquilla has several hotels, restaurants, and night clubs where every night a small

reenactment of the carnival is performed. UNESCO declared the carnival a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The actual carnival takes place during the four days before Lent, but preparations begin several months before.

## Climate

Average temperature is 28º C (82.5º F).

## Altitude

Between 4 and 98 meters (12 to 300 ft.) above sea level.

## Location

Barranquilla is located at 10º 59’ 31” latitude north and 74º 47’ 42” longitude west.

## Airport

The Barranquilla Carnival is a festival that brings out traditional cultural expressions such as dance, music and costumes

The Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport is located in the municipality of Soledad, exactly seven kilometers from downtown Barranquilla. The airstrip can take aircraft with large wingspans. It is the international hub for theAires Airline and the secondary hub for Avianca during the high season. Colombia’s Aeronáutica Civil granted the airport open-sky status, which means that any airline in the world can fly in any aircraft with the desired frequency. Strategically located between North and South America, it is a necessary crossroads for air routes connecting both parts of the continent. The airport has a modern passenger terminal that connects to virtually all Colombia and Venezuela at highly competitive prices.

## Transportation

Taxis: Minimum fare is $5,000 pesos (about US$2).

Barranquilla’s street network is in good condition for easy travel between locations. Quite a

number of urban bus routes will transport you quickly anywhere in the city. The price of the bus ride is only US$ 0.30. Currently a modern system of massive transport called Transmetro is being built.

## Events in 2009

- Carnaval de las Artes (Carnival of the Arts); Amira de la Rosa Theater; February 4 - 8, 2009

- Carnaval de Barranquilla (Barranquilla Carnival); Via 40 (40th St.); February 21 – 24, 2009

- Plataforma K (Platform K) Universidad del Norte Colisseum; March 12 – 14, 2009

- Encuentro Nacional e Internacional de Teatro (National and International Theater Encounter); Amira de la Rosa Theater; April 20 – 30, 2009

- Sabor Barranquilla (The Taste of Barranquilla); Country Club; August 21 – 23, 2009

- Barranquijazz; Amira de la Rosa Theater; September 9 – 13, 2009

- Navijazz & Rock; Plaza de la Aduana (Old Customs Plaza); December 18, 2009

## Contact

**Comité Mixto de Promoción del Atlántico**
www.comixto.com
Vía 40 N° 36-135
Phone: + 57 (5) 330 3862 - Airport Counter - Phone: + 57 (5) 334 8105

## When in Barranquilla, enjoy:

- Activities: birdwatching and diving.
- The region's autochthonous products:: sombrero vueltiao and Hammock from San Jacinto .
- Feasts: Carnival of Barranquilla .
- Nearby cities: Cartagena y Santa Marta .

## Map of Barranquilla