



ACREDITADA EN ALTA CALIDAD
RECTORÍA
VICERRECTORÍA DE INVESTIGACIÓN



**2021
2030**

United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



Santa Marta, Magdalena - Colombia

**The University of Magdalena
extends a warm welcome to you all!**

**We are pleased to welcome you to our city. This guide has been prepared to
assist you during your stay as part of INNOVAZUL CARIBE 2026.**



Santa marta and the department of Magdalena

founded in 1525, Santa Marta is the oldest city in Colombia and one of the most emblematic destinations in the Colombian Caribbean. Located between the Caribbean Sea and the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta, the city offers an exceptional setting where history, biodiversity, culture, and tradition converge.

Santa Marta is a city of contrasts: within the same territory, visitors can find crystal-clear beaches, marine and coastal ecosystems, rivers, waterfalls, tropical forests, and the mountains of the Sierra Nevada. This extraordinary natural diversity makes our city and the department of Magdalena a privileged setting for learning, research, and encounters with different forms of life and knowledge.

Its richness can also be found in its history and cultural diversity. Santa Marta was the place where Liberator Simón Bolívar died, and it preserves important historical and heritage sites. At the same time, the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta is the ancestral home of Indigenous peoples who keep traditions, knowledge, and cultural practices alive and pass them down from generation to generation.

Santa Marta's identity is also experienced through its Caribbean atmosphere: its cuisine, music, cultural expressions, coastal communities, and the warmth of its people. The Historic Center, bay, beaches, markets, cultural spaces, and natural landscapes make the city a place where heritage and everyday life come together.

A perfect climate for outdoor activities

Santa Marta enjoys a warm and sunny climate almost all year round, with an average temperature of 27 °C (81 °F) and a range between 23 °C and 32 °C (73 °F–89 °F).

This climate makes it possible to enjoy countless outdoor activities, from ecological hikes to water sports on its beaches. Peaceful beaches are just 15 minutes away from the Historic Center, while the mountains of the Sierra Nevada are only about 30 minutes away, and offer a cooler climate with rivers and waterfalls.

Practical information for your stay

- The official currency is the Colombian peso (COP).
- We recommend wearing light, comfortable clothing.
- Sun protection: We recommend using sunscreen and staying well-hydrated.
- Water: **We recommend NOT drinking water directly from the tap** (it is not safe to drink).

Transportation

For getting around Santa Marta, we recommend using reliable transportation services. Please consider the following options:

- **Taxi Santa Marta: +57 318 200 0081.**
- **Downloading the InDrive and Uber apps to facilitate transportation around the city.**

WHAT CAN YOU DISCOVER IN SANTA MARTA?

Tayrona National Natural Park is the region's ecotourism jewel and is home to world-renowned beaches such as **Arrecifes, La Piscina, Cabo San Juan, and Playa Cristal**. Each offers unique experiences, from hiking and relaxation to taking in breathtaking landscapes.

For those seeking adventure, **Casa Grande and Los Naranjos** are internationally recognized surfing beaches.

In **Taganga**, a traditional fishing village located just 15 minutes from the city, visitors can learn to dive and enjoy unforgettable sunsets.

Farther north, **Palomino** combines river and sea in a peaceful and relaxed setting. While in the mountains, **Minca** offers trails, waterfalls, and spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea.

Culture, history and heritage

- **Tairona Gold Museum (Casa de la Aduana):** Located across from Bolívar Park in the historic center. It displays more than 560 archaeological artifacts from the Nahuange and Tairona cultures, as well as items from present-day indigenous peoples. Admission is free.
- **Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino and Bolivarian Museum:** A historic estate surrounded by botanical gardens. It preserves the rooms where Simón Bolívar spent his final days and displays a comprehensive collection of contemporary Latin American art.
- **San Juan Nepomuceno Cloister:** Located in the Historic Center, it showcases the cultural and archaeological diversity of the Colombian Caribbean.
- **Bahía de Santa Marta (Santa Marta's Bay):** One of the city's most iconic spots for enjoying the coastal scenery.
- **Inca Inca Beach, Cabo Tortuga Beach, and Concha Bay:** Options for exploring Santa Marta's diverse coastal landscapes.

Caribbean flavors and recommended restaurants

Santa Marta offers a wide variety of culinary options, from traditional Colombian Caribbean cuisine to contemporary dining. The following establishments are recommended:

DONDE CHUCHO

@DONDECHUCHO

Calle 19 #2-17, Parque de los Novios

GUASIMO

@GUASIMOBYFABIANRODRIGUEZ

Carrera 2 #19-15 Centro Histórico

LULO CAFÉ BAR

@LULOCABEBAR

CARRERA 3 #16-34 - Callejón del Correo

CASA MAGDALENA

@CASAMAGDALENA_SMR
Calle 17 #2-09 Centro Histórico

OUZO

@OUZO.SANTAMARTA
Cra 3 #19-29, Parque de los Novios

MOMPOX

@MOMPOX_SM
Calle 17 #2-43 Centro Histórico

PORTHOS STEAKHOUSE

@porthospub
Cl. 19 #3-25, Parque de los Novios

SERENA

@SERENABISTRO
Cra 1 #22-93, La Marina

CREPES & WAFFLES

@CREPESYWAFFLES
Calle 18 #2-59A, Centro Histórico

LA MUZZERIA

@LAMUZZERIAMSAM
Cra 3 #16-02, Callejón del correo

General recommendations and safety

- Keep your personal belongings under your supervision, especially in crowded places.
- Use reliable transportation services and consult with the organizing team if you have any questions about your travel arrangements.
- For excursions outside the city, check in advance for access conditions, schedules, and recommendations for the location.
- Carry your international health insurance information with you. Before traveling, ask your insurance provider for the necessary instructions and contact information to receive medical care should you need it during your stay in Colombia.

Emergency / Service contacts

- National Police Hotline 123 – 112.
- Civil Defense Phone Numbers (605) 438 27 13 – (605) 423 20 05.
- Red Cross hotline 132.
- Ambulance Phone Numbers (605) 430 40 50 or 420 71 41.
- Fire Department (line) 119.
- Avidanti Clinic – Cra 4a #26A-71.
- Perfect Body Clinic – Carrera 20 #15 – 110.

**WE HOPE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN SANTA MARTA IS
ENRICHING AND UNFORGETTABLE!**