

# Colombia 2026

Travel Planner + Hotel Recommendations

Family & Friends Review Draft

July 9–17, 2026 • Medellín → Tayrona → Cartagena

A review draft to help the group compare the route, day-by-day flow, lodging choices, and next booking decisions. No bookings have been made from this document.

# Priority Booking Checklist

Item	Why it matters	Timing	Cost	Status
Book Tayrona-area lodge	Best park access/cooling options are limited near El Zaino/Los Naranjos.	Now / before flights are finalized	TBD by property	Open
Choose Medellín and Cartagena hotels	Locks in neighborhood, transfer logistics, and dinner planning.	After comparing room layouts/rates	TBD by property	Open
Book Tayrona → Cartagena private transfer	Door-to-door pickup depends on exact Tayrona lodge and Cartagena hotel.	After lodging is chosen	TBD	Open
Reserve key restaurants	Top Medellín/Cartagena restaurants can book up.	After hotels are set	TBD	Open
Complete Check-Mig forms	Needed for smooth arrival; confirmation may be requested at immigration.	72 hours to 1 hour before travel to Colombia	Free via official site	Pending

## Passport / Colombia Check-Mig / Entry Requirements

Topic	Family review note
Patrick, Jack, Amy — U.S. passports	Tourism visits are generally visa-free for short stays. Carry proof of onward/return travel and first lodging address. Use the latest U.S. State Department / airline guidance before departure.
Amanda — UK passport	UK FCDO states British citizens can visit Colombia for up to 90 days without a visa for business or tourism, at the discretion of the immigration officer, and must be able to show onward/return ticket within the 90-day period.
Passport validity	Passport must be valid on entry; Colombian immigration authorities recommend expiry at least 6 months after planned departure. Best family rule: verify every passport has 6+ months beyond July 17, 2026 and blank pages.
Check-Mig	Complete the official Migración Colombia Check-Mig form between 72 hours and 1 hour before travel to Colombia; save the confirmation email/screenshot. Use the official site only: <a href="https://apps.migracioncolombia.gov.co/pre-registro/en">apps.migracioncolombia.gov.co/pre-registro/en</a> .
Passport stamp	Make sure passports are stamped on entry and exit, especially if any travel is by land/sea/river. Missing stamps can create fines or exit problems.
Yellow fever documentation	A yellow fever certificate may be required if arriving from certain countries with transmission risk and may be requested for travel to high-risk Colombian areas. Check CDC/TravelHealthPro and a travel clinic before departure.

## Health & Practical Information

Topic	Practical note
Health	CDC recommends routine vaccines be up to date; Colombia has mosquito-borne disease risks including dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, malaria and Zika. Use strong mosquito precautions, especially Santa Marta/Tayrona.
Heat / rain	July on the coast is hot and humid with rain flexibility needed. Plan early tours, midday pool/siesta, breathable clothing, sun protection, hydration/electrolytes and bug spray.
Money	Colombian peso (COP). Cards work widely in hotels/restaurants, but carry some cash for Tayrona, tips, small vendors and transfers. Use bank ATMs; decline dynamic currency conversion.
Phone / data	Use international roaming or an eSIM; keep WhatsApp active for drivers, guides, hotels and restaurants.
Safety	Use app-based rides or hotel-arranged transport at night. Keep phones/jewelry discreet, especially nightlife/busy plazas. Do not resist robbery; avoid isolated areas and risky dating-app scenarios.
Electricity	Colombia uses Type A/B plugs, generally 110V/60Hz like the U.S.; UK devices need plug adapters and voltage check.
Emergency	Colombia emergency number: 123. Save hotel contacts, driver/guide WhatsApps, travel insurance and passport photo copies offline.

## Recommended Day-by-Day Flow

Date	Base	Recommended flow
Thu Jul 9	Medellín / El Poblado	Arrive MDE around 9:10 PM; transfer to El Poblado hotel; low-commitment evening.
Fri Jul 10	Medellín	Comuna 13 + Metro/Metrocable + responsible city history; dinner in Provenza/El Poblado.
Sat Jul 11	Guatapé / El Peñol	Private/small-group Guatapé + El Peñol day trip; optional reservoir boat.
Sun Jul 12	Medellín → Santa Marta / Tayrona	Fly to Santa Marta; transfer to El Zaino/Los Naranjos lodge.
Mon Jul 13	Tayrona National Park	Early Tayrona park day: El Zaino → Arrecifes → La Piscina → Cabo San Juan.
Tue Jul 14	El Zaino → Cartagena	Private door-to-door transfer to Cartagena; pool/cool-down and sunset/easy dinner.
Wed Jul 15	Cartagena	Old City/Getsemaní walking tour + Castillo San Felipe; siesta/pool; strong dinner/nightlife.
Thu Jul 16	Rosario Islands / Barú	Choose one reputable island/boat day: catamaran, beach club, or private boat.
Fri Jul 17	Cartagena / Fly home	Flexible departure day until flight details are confirmed.

# Hotel Recommendations

## Medellín

Best base: El Poblado, with Milla de Oro for polished full-service hotels and Manila/Provenza for more restaurant/nightlife walkability.

Priority	Hotel	Location	Why / Caveat	Link
Full-service hotel	Medellín Marriott Hotel	El Poblado / Milla de Oro	Reliable full-service comfort with pool/spa/restaurant setup, a calmer business-district base, and easy Ubers to Provenza/Manila. Caveat: Less local boutique character and not in the nightlife core.	<a href="#">open</a>
Practical value	Four Points by Sheraton Medellín	El Poblado / Milla de Oro	Practical hotel with mall/ATM/pharmacy access, predictable service, and easy transfers. Caveat: More business-hotel feel; farther from Provenza/Manila restaurants.	<a href="#">open</a>
Best neighborhood fit	Landmark Hotel	Manila / El Poblado	Strong family base with walkable cafés/restaurants, a calmer feel than Provenza, rooftop pool, and modern rooms/suites. Caveat: Confirm two rooms/suite layout; request quiet rooms.	<a href="#">open</a>
Boutique calm	Patio del Mundo	El Poblado / Provenza edge	Small garden boutique close to restaurants without being in the loudest nightlife core. Caveat: Tiny inventory; book early.	<a href="#">open</a>
Style/nightlife	The Click Clack Hotel Medellín	Provenza	Design-forward and fun for young adults right by restaurants/nightlife. Caveat: Potential noise; some rooms compact.	<a href="#">open</a>

## Tayrona / El Zaino / Los Naranjos

Best base: El Zaino or Los Naranjos, close to the Tayrona entrance, with strong cooling, pool/on-site food, and transfer help.

Priority	Hotel	Location	Why / Caveat	Link
Top Tayrona base	Senda Koguiwa Tayrona Nature Hotel	El Zaino, near main Tayrona entrance	Best practical family base near the park: pool, restaurant, breakfast, transfer help, and strong access to El Zaino. Caveat: Confirm A/C/cooling and room layout.	<a href="#">open</a>
A/C boutique	Casa Bambú Tayrona	Los Naranjos	Comfortable jungle/boutique stay about 3 km from the main entrance; official site notes A/C, Wi-Fi, private baths, hot water and pool. Caveat: Verify July 2026 inventory and transfer options.	<a href="#">open</a>
A/C + pool	Villa Playa Tayrona / Villa Playa Los Naranjos	Los Naranjos / Playa area	Good A/C + pool + Los Naranjos option; official site lists A/C, Wi-Fi and hot showers. Caveat: Verify active availability and Cartagena transfer support.	<a href="#">open</a>
Polished lodge	Senda Watapuy Boutique Hotel Tayrona	El Zaino / Troncal del Caribe	Higher-comfort boutique option with pools, restaurant/bar, spa and airport shuttle listings. Caveat: A/C not clearly verified; confirm cooling before booking.	<a href="#">open</a>

## Cartagena

Best base: San Diego or Centro Histórico for first-time Cartagena walkability; choose El Cabrero/Marbella only if a specific hotel value outweighs the location tradeoff.

Priority	Hotel	Location	Why / Caveat	Link
Marriott option	Ermita Cartagena, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel	El Cabrero / Marbella edge	Polished hotel option just north of the Walled City, useful if brand consistency and a newer hotel feel matter. Caveat: Location tradeoff: outside Centro/San Diego/Getsemaní, so expect taxis or longer hot walks.	<a href="#">open</a>

Priority	Hotel	Location	Why / Caveat	Link
Best overall	Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Cartagena	San Diego / Walled City	Excellent family/luxury pick: full-service restored-convent hotel, strong pool, A/C, spa, restaurant/bar, and ideal walkability. Caveat: Likely one of the more expensive options.	<a href="#">open</a>
Classic rooftop	Charleston Santa Teresa Cartagena	Centro / Walled City	Iconic historic hotel with rooftop/panoramic views, pool, restaurants/bars and polished service. Caveat: Premium pricing; confirm two-room setup.	<a href="#">open</a>
Boutique splurge	Casa San Agustín	Centro Histórico	Top-end boutique atmosphere in restored colonial houses; excellent walkability and character. Caveat: Small inventory and likely expensive.	<a href="#">open</a>
Rooftop value	Movich Hotel Cartagena de Indias	Centro Histórico	Central Walled City location with rooftop, pool, sea/old-city views and sunset energy. Caveat: Compact urban hotel; rooftop can be lively.	<a href="#">open</a>
Boutique compromise	Bastión Luxury Hotel	San Diego / Walled City	Likely best boutique/full-service middle ground with San Diego location, rooftop pool, restaurant and A/C. Caveat: Official site had bot challenge; re-check directly.	<a href="#">open</a>

## Open Booking Priorities

- Confirm flight numbers/times and who is on each booking.
- Choose and book lodging in Medellín, Tayrona, and Cartagena.
- Book the Tayrona/El Zaino → Cartagena private transfer after the exact lodge is chosen.
- Reserve high-demand dinners in Medellín and Cartagena once lodging is set.