

## ENTRY TO COLOMBIA AND VISA INFORMATION

### A. Visa Waiver: Nationalities and Special Conditions

#### *Visa-exempt nationalities and passports*

Colombia exempts a group of 102 nationalities and territories from the Visitor (V) visa for short-stay visits (stays of less than 90 days). By virtue of this exemption, delegates of such nationalities accredited for COP16 will be able to enter Colombia exempt from the visa requirement.

#### Nationalities exempt from Visitor (V) visa for short stay

Albania	Germany	Andorra	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina
Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Bahamas	Barbados
Belgium	Belize	Bolivia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Brazil
Brunei-Darussalam	Bulgaria	Bhutan	Canada	Czech Republic
Chile	Cyprus	Republic of Korea	Costa Rica	Croatia
Denmark	Dominica	Ecuador	El Salvador	United Arab Emirates
Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	United States of America	Estonia
Fiji	Philippines	Finland	France	Georgia
Grenade	Greece	Guatemala	Guyana	Honduras
Hungary	Indonesia	Ireland	Iceland	Marshall Islands
Solomon Islands	Israel	Italy	Jamaica	Japan
Kazakhstan	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg
North Macedonia	Malta	Morocco	Mexico	Micronesia
Moldova	Monaco	Montenegro	Norway	New Zealand
Netherlands	Oman	Palau	Panama	Papua New Guinea
Paraguay	Peru	Poland	Portugal	Qatar
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Dominican Republic	Romania	Russia (Federation)	Saint Kitts and Nevis

Samoa	San Marino	Saint Lucia	Holy See	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Serbia	Singapore	Sweden	Switzerland	Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago	Türkiye	Ukraine	Uruguay	Venezuela

**Passports from special territories exempt from Visitor (V) visa for short stay**

Hong Kong – SAR Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	Sovereign Military Order of Malta
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*Conditional Visa Exemption*

The visa exemption is also applicable to nationals of *Cambodia, India, Nicaragua, Myanmar, the People's Republic of China, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam* who prove at the time of arrival in Colombia that they have a permanent residence permit, or a visa valid for more than six months, issued by the United States or any of the countries belonging to the Schengen Area; otherwise, participants of these 8 nationalities must obtain a visa in accordance with the provisions of section B.

In addition, Colombia also exempts from the visitor visa foreigners who prove to be permanent residents in any of the countries of the *Alianza del Pacífico (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru)* or the *Comunidad Andina de Naciones (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru)* regardless of their nationality,

*Visa Exception under Bilateral Agreements for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports*

Colombia has signed with some countries bilateral Agreements on Exemption Visitor Visa for holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service passports – Colombia has signed bilateral agreements with 13 countries to exempt holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service passports from the visa requirement. If a participant does not meet any of the other conditions for visa exemption referred above, but is a holder of a diplomatic, official, or service passport, he/she must check the following list of current valid agreements that allow entry to Colombia without a visitor visa.

COUNTRY	YEAR	AUTHORIZED STAY TIME	PASSPORT TYPE		
			DIPLOMATIC	OFFICIAL	SERVICE
Algeria	2013	90 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belarus	2018	90 days within a period of 180 days	Yes	Yes	Yes

Cambodia	2017	30 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
China	1987	30 days	Yes	No	No
Cuba	1994	Holders of diplomatic passports will be exempt from visas for an indefinite period of time, as long as the documents are valid. Holders of official passports will be visa-exempt for up to 6 months.	Yes	Yes	<b>No</b>
Egypt	2015	90 days within a 6-month term	Yes	Yes	Yes
India	2001	90 days, which may be extended at the request of the Mission or Consulate to which the holder is attached.	Yes	Yes	<b>No</b>
Iran	1998	30 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lebanon	2015	90 days during a period of 180 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mongolia	2014	30 days	Yes	Yes	<b>No</b>
Myanmar	2017	90 days during a period of 180 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nicaragua	2017	90 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Palestina	2024	90 days during a period of 180 days	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thailand	2013	90 days	Yes	Yes	<b>No</b>
Vietnam	2012	90 days	Yes	Yes	<b>No</b>

*Information for participants of Canadian and Nicaraguan nationality*

Based on the principle of reciprocity, and in compliance with Colombian immigration regulations (Resolution 2676 of August 25, 2023), Canadian nationals who enter Colombia using the visa exemption prerogative are subject to payment of an immigration control fee 85 Canadian dollars. Canadian nationals holding a valid Colombian visa, as well as diplomatic, consular and service agents of that country, are exempt from paying this fee.

For the same reason, a fee of 10 American dollars (USD) will be charged to Nicaraguan nationals who enter Colombia using the visa exemption condition.

**B. Processing and obtaining a visa for participant whose nationalities are not exempt from visa or are not subject to other exemption conditions.**

For participants duly accredited who do not meet any of the conditions set in section A, the government of Colombia has established an expedited procedure for applying and obtaining a visa (VISITOR (V) COURTESY-INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT). It is entirely electronic, free of any charge and does not required interviews, nor verification or capture of biometric data other than the photograph required in the application form.

Access the electronic visa application form by clicking on the following link:

<https://tramites.cancilleria.gov.co/SOLICITUD-VISA-CORTESIA>

Please note that the visa regime in Colombia does not foresee the '*visa on arrival*'. Therefore, each participant subject to the visa requirement must obtain it, prior to the trip, and present it upon entry into Colombian territory.

Keep in mind the following recommendations for successful visa application:

- Complete the visa application with appropriate advance and preparation. It is recommended to complete it almost immediately once the accreditation is obtained by the participant, or at least two (2) months before the scheduled date of the event in Colombia. The legal time for the process of studying a visa application is thirty (30) calendar days. Avoid, as far as possible, postponing the visa application until the last minute. Avoid, as far as possible, postponing the visa application until the last minute or a few weeks or days before the event begins.
- Reserve at least 30 minutes to complete the electronic application, preferably through a desktop or laptop computer (not a tablet or cell phone). Make sure you already have the documents required for the visa, in PDF, perfectly legible, without cuts, smudges or stains that make it difficult to read them fully. Do not use photos of documents. The maximum allowed size of documents is 5MB.
- Make sure to register a valid email address in the visa application.
- The requirements for the visa application (VISITOR V COURTESY-INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT) for participants accredited to COP16 are as follows:
  1. Copy of the main page (biographical data) of the passport. The passport must be the same which you obtain accreditation from the COP and which you plan to enter Colombia, it must be valid for more than six (6) months, counted from the scheduled entry date in Colombian, being in good condition and having free pages for stamps.
  2. Attach recent, clear, color and a well resolution photography (JPG format, maximum 300 kb), with a white background, 4 x 3 centimeters. The face must be facing the camera and with a neutral expression, head complete and centered, both eyes open; hair and accessories must not cover the head or face (photos with shadows, or taken from passport or other documents are not allowed).
  3. Official notes issued by the COP Secretariat, including the accreditation letter (priority pass and visa letter). These notes must clearly contain the full participant names and surnames, as well as his(her) nationality and passport number.

Once the electronic application for the visa has been completed, the applicant/participant can check the status of the application through the following link, providing passport number, nationality, and application number (*número de solicitud*):

<https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/consultarEstadoSolicitud.xhtml>



**This is the ONLY suitable way to check the status of the visa application. Inquiries related to this matter will not be answered via e-mail.**

Decisions or questions regarding the visa application, will be transmitted in a timely manner to the applicant e-mail registered in the application.

Once the application is approved, the visa (e-visa) will be sent to the email. No visa stamping is required in the passport. It is allowed to enter Colombia with the visa on an electronic device or with a legible copy printed on paper.

## **C. Immigration Control, Health Measures and Air Transportation**

### **Immigration control**

Before entering Colombia, it is not necessary to carry out any type of prior electronic registration with the Immigration Authority. However, upon arrival in Colombian territory the Authority *Migración Colombia* may require at any time, in addition to the valid passport and the visa for participants whose nationality requires it, or who are not covered by any other visa weaver measure, the accreditation documents to participate in the event.

### **Health and vaccines**

To safeguard against setbacks during your stay in Colombia, it's helpful to consider some general health and vaccination recommendations.

#### *Vaccines*

Currently, no vaccines are required to gain entry to Colombia, except for yellow fever vaccination, which is required for travelers coming from Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Brazil. However, if you wish to visit tourist sites such as the *Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park*, the *Tayrona National Park* or the different *Amazon reserves*, the Colombia authorities will require that you are properly vaccinated against [yellow fever](#). Remember that this vaccine must be administered at least 10 days prior to traveling to these destinations.

Other recommended vaccines, but not mandatory, include immunization against Hepatitis A and Typhoid fever. The same applies to Malaria pills, which are advisable if visiting the rainforest regions, where we would also recommend the use of insect repellent and mosquito nets.

#### *Medication and healthcare services*

If you take medication, it is essential that you bring your prescription with you so that you can purchase them at a pharmacy or drugstore, if needed. Remember to always keep handy any related documentation regarding any special health condition you may have that would need to be considered in the event of an emergency.

We would also highly recommend that, before traveling, you take out international medical insurance to ensure full cover should you need medical attention.

Another key tip for you to follow in any part of the country, no matter what the climate, is to use sunscreen and stay well hydrated at all times. Keep in mind that in certain regions it is recommendable that you only consume bottled mineral water. You'll have no problem finding bottled water at any local store.

Lastly, if you have any food allergy, make sure you always ask about the ingredients used in the meals you order.

#### **Air transportation**

During the months prior to COP16, until December 2024, Colombia will also host other international events, increasing demand for international transport services and itineraries. It is strongly recommended that participants make their flight reservation as far in advance as possible to ensure their participation in COP16.

#### **Local currency**

The Colombian peso is the country's legal tender. It is generally identified with the abbreviation COP, and you'll find that the official peso symbol (\$) is used locally.

A wide selection of banknotes and coins are used. You will find 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 peso coins and 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000 and 100,000 peso banknotes, highlighting Colombia's wealth and diversity. You can pay for your purchases in cash, or with debit or credit cards.