

slow and are not recommended although improvements are under way.

Taxis are inexpensive and most are metered. Radio taxis as well as tourist taxis are available, although the latter usually charge double the normal rate. It is wise to retain a taxi by the hour when on a tight schedule. The Commercial Division of the embassy can assist in this regard.

Hotels

There are good hotels throughout Colombia, ranging from first-class members of the international chains in principal cities, to the rather modest in smaller centres. Prices vary according to class and location and also, in some cities, according to season.

Principal hotels in the major cities are:

- Bogotá: Hilton, Tequendama, Plaza, Royal, la Fontana, Casa Medina, Cosmos 100
- Barranquilla: El Prado Intercontinental, Cadebia
- Cartagena: Del Caribe, Hilton, Capilla del Mar
- Cali: Alferez Real, Aristi, Intercontinental, New York, Adriático, Guadalajara, Monasterio
- Medellín: Nutibara, Europe, Hotel Intercontinental Medellín

Income Tax Clearance

Income tax clearance is not required for tourists. Income earned and paid inside Colombia, such as consulting fees, is subject to tax. An income tax clearance is also required for foreign business people who visit under a business visa, whether they earned remuneration from Colombian sources or not.

Travel Documents

Canadian tourists require, in addition to a valid passport, a tourist visa, which is available from Colombian consulates and embassies. This also applies to business people who only intend to survey the market and make contacts. Business people intending to actually write orders or to engage in other remunerative activity may require a business visa. An application for this visa should be made to a Colombian consulate or embassy well in advance of the trip. Tourists cannot change their visa status while in Colombia except