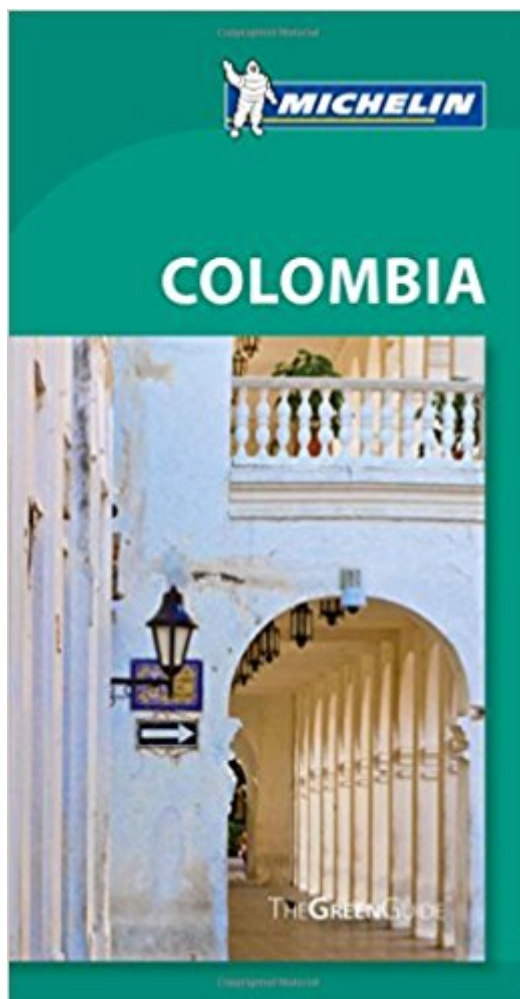


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# Michelin Green Guide Colombia (Green Guide/Michelin)



## Synopsis

Colombia, a new addition to the Green Guide series, brings to life this amazingly diverse land whether your travels take you to the River and the surrounding rain forest, the rolling plantations and coffee-farms set in Zona Cafetera's verdant valleys, or the vibrant nightlife and great museums of Bogota, Medellin and Cali. With each page packed with sight descriptions, maps and color photos, Michelin makes sure you'll see the best Colombia has to offer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I selected this guide book based on the reviews, and regretted the choice. First, our trip was only to Bogota, Chia, and Zipaquirá, so I cannot comment on its usefulness for other destinations. However, it was profoundly frustrating for our purposes. First, it is very light on maps of major neighborhoods, and features only La Candelaria. Even within La Candelaria, we found at least one location on the map (the Museo del Oro) that was just wrong. We had to wander a few blocks until a local pointed us the right way. Further, several times I tried to look up a location, a neighborhood, a site, only to find that it was not listed in the index. Frustrated, we ditched this book in the middle of our second day, and spend some time in a cafe with wifi using the internet to plan the rest of our explorations. While understandably this book covers the entire country, and Medellin and Cartagena are probably bigger draws for travelers, the fact that this book only spends 28 of its 437 pages on the capital city is telling. Maybe this is a good book for other destinations, but if your destination is Bogota I feel certain you can do better.

I recently went to Bogota for the first time, and this guide was great! I was on a very strict budget (\$23.00 a day, not including lodging), and although this guide is not geared to the budget traveler, I was able to find tons of free and cheap things to do in the guide. It also provides a bit of the country's history. As I was only in Bogota (and a day trip to Zipaquirá), I can only speak for the section on Bogota. One thing is that I wish there were more comprehensive maps. There was a very good map of downtown, and fortunately, I was staying there (in La Candelaria). However, once you leave downtown, there is only a general map of the city without streets. The construction of the book is very durable. It's fairly slim (about 1/2" thick) and easily fits in a normal-sized purse. The cover is slick, thick, and resists bending.

I selected this guidebook as a change from the weary Lonely Planet formula. I must say I am very happy with my choice and it served me well throughout my trip. Of particular help is its style throughout where different places are ranked on a scale of interest; I found these recommendations to be pretty much spot-on. (Although it does offer accommodation and restaurant suggestions, I did not use these much, preferring to use TripAdvisor and to talk to locals, respectively.) Overall, a very good guidebook- lightweight, well-presented, good photos, and presented in a readable style.

We just spent a month in Colombia. A marvelous country. Except for Cartagena, you will very few Americans or foreign tourists. The people are so friendly. Certain as safe or more safe than the average South American country. More species of birds than all of North America and Europe combined. So green it makes the Pacific Northwest seem drab. The Michelin guide was very helpful in our enjoyment of Colombia. We used it in Bogota, Cartagena, and Cali. It told us where all the good stuff was and it had useful maps for walking on our own.

This book does a decent job of presenting and recommending attractions, but the lack of practical info is a little appalling. The maps almost NEVER suffice, and don't even include the restaurants/accommodations in the book. Michelin only lists about one hotel per price point - what if you want to stay in a different part of the city? One of the best (worst?) examples of the need for practical info is in their section on Tayrona. They list it as one of the most important things to see in Colombia, but only give you like nine sentences about the whole park. And none of them tells you the most important information, namely the logistical info about where to stay, how much things cost, what to bring, etc. For example, we didn't know that everyone usually shows up around 2PM to

claim hammocks and that if you get there much later you will not have a place to sleep. Instead, we only knew the names of the different beaches, and the fact that there is a nude beach somewhere (who cares?).

This guidebook had good general information in a compact format. Easy to find location information. However, I can't really recommend this to backpackers. It only had minimal info about budget rooms and had almost none of the essential information regarding travel infrastructure... ie. where the freakin' bus station is, etc. Good general brochure of the country. Not for backpackers.

We found this guide very helpful. There is a great introductory section on Colombian culture and history, as well as useful phrases. We used the Bogota, Armenia and Cartagena sections and they were extremely helpful.

Used it a lot in Bogota, and was easy to carry in a purse. The suggested places to visit were spot on, and it was enough info without being too heavy.

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