

Colombia,
the only risk
is wanting
to stay.

San Andres,
Providencia and
Santa Catalina

Aquarium / San Andres


Colombia
is passion!

San Andres for all tastes

The island of San Andres, capital of the archipelago, will always be an excellent option to consider for a pleasure trip. The charm of its seven-colored sea seduces locals and visitors, and makes it an ideal destination for those who seek relaxation on a beach, under the shade of palm trees.

Entertainment options during your stay range from nautical sports to the lively night life in restaurants and bars and from shopping for thousands of products to strolling along beautiful beaches under the sun.

Sun and Beach

There are over forty beaches on the archipelago. Some are virgin, and all have white sand of coral origin. Due to the location of the islands, there are ten hours of sunlight. The offer of beaches becomes more tempting if Johnny Cay, Haines Cay and The Aquarium are included, all of them at five minutes away by motorboat. The Courtown and Albuquerque Cays are located two hours away, also by motorboat.

Ecotourism

Offerings here include horseback rides through the tropical forest, hiking near the sea and the mangroves, and guided walks in conservation areas.

Ethnotourism

The native population, proud of its traditions and determined to maintain them, offers plans for individuals and families interested in becoming acquainted with the people. There are over forty native inns, where visitors can share everyday life with the islanders.

Shopping

There are over 500 shops in San Andres's shopping area at the North End. They offer well-known brands of perfume, liquor, and clothing, as well as handicrafts, jewelry, and accessories.



San Andres, Providencia
and Santa Catalina



I. San Andres



Lodging

Again, the offer is wide: hotels, inns, cabins, hostels, aparthotels, and luxury accommodations. There are over 7,000 beds. Hotels offer varied plans and services, from all-inclusive to simple.

Sports

Nautical sports beat the rest in San Andres. There are diving, kitesurfing, and windsurfing schools. Jet skis, kayaks, and snorkeling equipment are easy to rent. On land, a favorite stroll or hike takes tourists from Sprat Bight to the new dock on Newball Avenue, a circuit of about three kilometers. Cycling is another good alternative; bikes can be rented by hours or by days.

Night Life

Caribbean music - salsa, merengue, calypso, reggae, zouk, and reggaeton - can be enjoyed in varied night spots on the island. Several hotels have discos, bars, and live shows, and even offer dancing lessons.

Gastronomy

The "rondon" (rundown) is the most sought after dish of typical gastronomy. It is a delicious stew of fish, coconut milk, the fruit of the bread tree, snails, and a few more ingredients. Crabs are another basic ingredient. Patties, stuffed shells, stews, and, naturally, crab legs served with vinaigrette are favorites. A variety of Colombian typical food, international cuisine, and fast food restaurants is also available.

Festivities

National Holidays: July 20 and August 7
September: Festival of the Green Moon
October: Festival of Religious Choirs
October 12, Columbus Day
Ethnic Roots International Theater Festival
November: Anniversary Feasts
Coconut Beauty Pageant
San Andres Patron Feasts
Tub & Horse Jaw Bone Festival.

Tourist attractions

- Sprat Bight Beach
- Morgan's Cave
- The Cove
- The Blowing Hole
- San Luis
- Big Pond
- La Loma

Institutional information:

SAN ANDRES • Secretaria de Turismo • Phone +57 (8) 5125058

• E-mail: secturismosai@yahoo.com

www.sanandres.gov.co

Old Providence And Santa Catalina

The Natural Charm of the Caribbean

I. Santa Catalina



I. Providencia

Old Providence - in Spanish, La Vieja Providencia - is an unequalled ecotourism destination on account of the number of places of unique beauty. This relatively unexplored island is graced by the typical flora that can easily be observed when horseback riding along the beaches. A visit to the neighboring island of Santa Catalina is the perfect complement. Here the calm is disturbed only by the songs of birds and the sound of the waves hitting the rocks, among them the famous Morgan's Head.

How to get there?

Two airlines have daily 20-minute flights between San Andres and Old Providence.

Sun and Beach

The coral barrier in Old Providence is 32 kilometers long. The deep blue sea is calm, and the beaches are suitable for relaxation, as well as water sports. The main beaches are Manchineel Bay, Southwest Bay, and Freshwater Bay. Delicious meals are offered in seaside restaurants.

Ecotourism

The ascent to The Peak, the highest on the island at 360 meters above sea level, is the favorite activity of most visitors.

The panoramic view of the islands, the multi-colored sea, and the coral reef is splendid.

Old Providence is the ideal place for interesting hikes through trails bordered by Caribbean nature at its best. Rides on motorcycles and bicycles are also a possibility. And do not forget to visit Old Providence Natural Park.

Ethnotourism

Your voyage to the islands will only be complete after you take the time to know its people. We suggest that you sit on the beach with the fishermen. They will delight you with stories, sermons, and legends told in Caribbean English.

Their voices will blend with the sound of domino tiles, and in the background, the voices of the people who encourage one horse or another to win the traditional seaside races.

Nights will be filled with the stories of Anancy, a famous spider. Legends will tell you about the hidden treasure of pirate Henry Morgan. Many more tales will draw a vivid picture of the customs passed down by pirates. And all of the above, enlivened by native music.



Typical House / Providencia

The natives are a spontaneous people, always willing to give out warm smiles. They are independent, self-sufficient, people and famous for maintaining their traditional Caribbean architecture: brightly painted wooden houses with finely carved doors.

Sports

For diving purposes, San Andres and Providencia possess the third largest coral barrier in the world. A paradise for divers and snorkelers. The weather is favorable the whole year. The tranquil, clear waters are home to the most beautiful flora and fauna in the Caribbean. The waters also lend themselves to marvelous submarine adventures visiting The Sunken Boat, Coral View, The Caves, and Morgan's Sponges. Providence offers the perfect setting for snorkelers in Crab Cay, and for divers in Manta's City, Planchon, The Cave, and Turtle Stone.

Lodging

In Old Providence and Santa Catalina, accommodations are family-style, small, comfortable; most of them are owned and operated by natives. They have all the basic facilities and are spread throughout the island. Lovers of simplicity, peace, and quiet may rent well-equipped cabins at a very reasonable price. They are made of wood, following the typical Caribbean style.

Night Life

Nights in Old Providence and Santa Catalina are magical and charming. Several restaurants and kiosks throughout the island offer international and local food. Open-air bars and discos are very popular with residents and visitors. Get-togethers around a seaside bonfire and to the rhythm of mento, calypso, salsa, and reggae are traditional. Occasionally, local groups will give concerts around the island.

Festivities

June: Folk, Culture, and Sports Festival of Old Providence. Old Providence Carnival Patron and Cultural Festivities of Old Providence / Traditional Sailboat Races.

July: Patriotic Parade.

Gastronomy

Native food is an important part of the island's culture. The best dishes are red snapper and other fish, snails, lobsters and crabs. The accompaniments are coconut, plantains, yuca, and coconut milk. The "rondon" (rundown) is a traditional fish and snail stew prepared with coconut milk, yucas, and yams. The "dumpling" is a cake made from wheat flour and seasoned with basil. The beverage can be a glass of the exquisite, local rum known as "bushy".

Climate

The archipelago is located in the Tropics. The average temperature is 81.3° F (27.4° C), with a minimum of 62.6° F (17° C) and a maximum of 91.4° F (33° C). The dry seasons go from February to April and from July to September. The east winds prevail, and weather is determined essentially by the trade winds.

Language

According to the 1991 Constitution of Colombia, the official languages are Spanish and English. An English Creole is widely used by the native population.

Tourist attractions

- Southwest Beach
- Lover's Bridge
- The Peak

Institutional information:

ALCALDIA MUNICIPAL DE PROVIDENCIA Y SANTA CATALINA ISLAS (the mayoralty)

Post: SECRETARIA DE DESARROLLO SOCIAL Y COMUNITARIO Direccion. Sector Santa Isabel

Phone: +57 (8) 5148666 - (8) 5148227

• E-Mail: alcalde@providencia.gov.co - desarrollosocial@providencia.gov.co

www.providencia.gov.co



www.colombia.travel



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