

Travelled in Colombia in 2014

We started keeping this list of accommodation for several motorcycling friends (couples) who were following us to South America in the next 12 months but we thought it may be of use to other motorcycle travellers. However please note that our Spanish is poor and we are not good at haggling so many people will probably be able to do a much better deal. Prices are also very seasonal. We never booked accommodation ahead of time with the exception of San Agustin, Medellin and Cartagena. Probably best to book ahead for Bogata.

Everyone has a different measure of good and bad, and value in accommodation, let me **stress** that these are our own personal thoughts and experiences. Because we are travelling as a couple, we generally try to get a double (matrimonial)/twin (doble) room with our own bathroom, and we have never stayed anywhere that is totally gross, very basic yes, but gross no, once again this is reflected in the price.

All the accommodation listed has secure parking unless we have commented otherwise and we have highlighted (in yellow) our favourites for whatever reason. The GPS co-ordinates are in all different forms as some are ours and some we have borrowed from other people, they seem to have got us to our desired destination but we take no responsibility for their accuracy.

Hope this is of some use,
John & Alanna Skillington

Town	Country	Accommodation	Comments	Price per night- Col Peso
Bogata	Colombia	<p>Tip Top Hostel – Carrera 1 No 12B - 81, Bogata (White building with big brown doors has parking)</p> <p><i>N 04 35.859'</i> <i>W 74 04.111'</i></p> <p>Tip Top Hostel (Yellow and Blue Building doesn't have parking) Carrera 1 Bris No 12 D - 78 <i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p><i>N 04.599184</i> <i>W 74.067989</i></p> <p><u>We then moved to</u> Alegrias Hostel Carrera 2 No 9 - 46</p> <p><i>N 04 35.617'</i> <i>W 074 04.321'</i></p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with shared bathroom</i></p>	<p>There are 2 Tip Top hostels operated by the same people. The one with parking is at the address opposite. I think it only offers dorms. We parked the bike here but stayed at their other hostel.</p> <p>Pretty old and a bit dodgy but OK. Includes a very ordinary breakfast. Electric showers, so very sporadic hot water. Good location for Candelaria GOOD WIFI</p> <p>Need to book ahead for private rooms. Firstly let me say this is a nice friendly hostel with gorgeous staff but their booking system is a shambles. We booked a week with them in a private room, double checked booking in person the day before and when we arrived they only had a room for four nights telling us we had to shift into a dorm for one of those nights. This never eventuated. Once you are</p>	<p>50 000 Pesos</p> <p>65 000 Pesos</p>

		<p>One other option is the Cranky Croc Hostel – Calle 12D No 3 – 46 no parking but there are paid guarded parqueadero on either side of the hostel.</p> <p><i>N 04 35.989' W 74 04.205'</i></p>	<p>staying there it doesn't seem to be a problem.</p> <p>The private rooms are very nice although the beds are bowed like bananas. Shared bathrooms which were ok for us, good hot water, although only 2 bathrooms for the whole hostel.</p> <p>Parking was across the road at the French Bakery locked in and undercover. In the end worth the hassle. GOOD WIFI</p> <p>A very popular hostel which looked quite nice, with all the usual facilities. Need to book ahead for private rooms</p>	
Buga	Colombia	<p>Hostel Buga – Carrera 13 #4 - 83</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite (only one)</i></p> <p><i>The hostel also had a small dorm room and a private room with shared bathroom</i></p> <p><i>N 03.897929, W 76.301370</i></p>	<p>This hostel is more of a cafe and microbrewery with a couple of rooms thrown in to the mix. A really groovy little place but you need ear plugs to sleep before midnight. We really enjoyed the beer, the food and the accommodation. No hot water, but this was OK in June. Parking in parqueadero just across the street, we could see the bike from our room. We really liked this little town and hostel.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p> <p>John thinks that they should start a chain of these hostels – boutique beers and beds</p>	<p>50 000 pesos</p> <p>4000 pesos for parking</p>
Cartagena	Colombia	<p>Hostal Real -</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p><i>N 10.421619, W 75.544694</i></p>	<p>A pretty old dodgy hostel/hotel that has seen better days. Could do with a really good clean. Incontinent Pets!!!! On a positive note Colombian family run. Good strong fans in the rooms. Parking in the foyer/courtyard for quite a few bikes via a couple of purpose built ramps. Great area, close to the old walled city, restaurants and supermarkets.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	<p>60 000 pesos</p>
Cartagena	Colombia	<p>Hostel Mamallena (formerly Holiday Hostel)-</p>	<p>An ok, clean, friendly hostel with all the usual travellers requirements including kitchen, bar and restaurant. Good air conditioning in most rooms including</p>	<p>80 000 pesos</p>

		<p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p><i>N 10° 25.344'</i> <i>W 75° 32.692'</i></p> <p><i>Dorm with air con</i></p>	<p>dorms. Pancake breakfast supplied. Parking in the courtyard through the reception, they have a ramp to negotiate small gutters. We took our panniers off to get in. Fairly limited parking space. Only downside, is it is very, very noisy and a bit of a party place some nights so bring earplugs</p> <p>Great area, close to the old walled city, restaurants and supermarkets.</p> <p>Has a variety of rooms including dorms and cheaper rooms without air conditioning.</p> <p>Very popular hostel need to book ahead and reconfirm booking day before arrival. Contact hostel via email to OK parking.</p> <p>OK WIFI</p>	<p>25 000 pesos</p>
Caucasia	Colombia	<p>Hosteria Horizontes – Carrera 20 #11 -2a</p> <p>(Behind the Terpel Petrol Station)</p> <p><i>N 07° 58.338'</i> <i>W 75° 12.107'</i></p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p>	<p>A good clean comfortable hotel with fridge and air conditioning. Parking outside your room. Includes an OK breakfast. Big supermarket down the road for supplies.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	<p>99 900 pesos</p>
Giron (near Bucaramanga)	Colombia	<p>Hotel Las Nieves – Calle 30 #25 – 65</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p><i>N 07 04.036' W 73 10.184'</i></p>	<p>Nice enough hotel with big rooms, right on the square in a cute little town. Air conditioning and restaurant. Let us park the bike inside the hotel courtyard right down the back past the restaurant. Room for a couple of bikes. Very secure.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	<p>116 000 pesos (with air con)</p> <p>80 000 (without aircon)</p>
Guatape	Colombia	<p>Lake View Hostel – arriving from Medellin continue along the waterfront and take the street to the right just before the big bridge, hostel is 2 blocks up on the right</p> <p><i>N 06 13.966' W 75 09.367'</i></p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p>	<p>Brand new hostel building. (Still in the process of being finished, had only been open for five weeks when we stayed) Lovely rooms and good kitchen. Tab system for beer. Exceptionally friendly, welcoming owners, Greg and Nick were great guys who were happy to share their knowledge of the area.</p> <p>Parking in a family run parqueadero which is right next door to the hostel, could also accommodate overland vehicles. Secure parking. 3000 pesos per night</p> <p>*When finished the hostel will offer</p>	<p>55 000 pesos</p> <p>Dorms 18 000 pesos</p>

			<p>many more facilities and the prices will probably rise a bit*</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	
Medellin	Colombia	<p>Hostal Medellin – Carrera 69, No 46B – 17</p> <p><i>N 06 15.125' W 75 35.225'</i></p> <p><i>Private matrimonial without ensuite</i></p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite (no hot water)</i></p> <p><i>Dorms</i></p> <p>Another option other Motorcycle travellers recommend was Casa Kiwi which looks more upmarket, we didn't stay there. (can be booked on www.hostelworld.com)</p> <p>N 06* 12.394' W 075* 33.953' Need to book ahead</p>	<p>This hostel only has three private rooms, two of which are tiny, and a bit difficult to even fit panniers into, however the dorms are quite large. Claudia the owner is a lovely, helpful lady. Very secure parking.</p> <p>The private room with a shared bathroom (with hot water) is a tiny add on in the garage and has no windows or ventilation. With 3 bikes parked in the garage the room smelt like fuel. A bit uncomfortable.</p> <p>Tiny little room and we didn't get to see the other private room.</p> <p>Dorm rooms</p> <p>Great position in a quiet street, can walk to two big supermarket, bars and restaurants. The metro is just around the corner. Lovely clean kitchen and a tab system for beer and soft drinks. Pool table and laundry service.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p> <p>Private room without bathroom</p> <p>Private room with bathroom</p> <p>Dorm room</p>	<p>50 000 pesos</p> <p>60 000 pesos</p> <p>20 000 pesos pp</p> <p>60 000 pesos</p> <p>80 000 pesos</p> <p>24000 pesos</p>
Minca	Colombia	<p>Hostal Mirador – On entering Minca from Santa Marta just after the coffee shop but before the bridge turn right up a laneway travel along it for about 300 metres and take next right up a steep rutted dirt track. Hostel Mirador is on your right at the top of the hill.</p> <p>N 11.144398° W 74.119455°</p>	<p>Quite a nice place to camp in the hostel grounds. There is a good basic restaurant which serves food (all the time) on site and a hostel which has a dodgy but usable outdoor kitchen. Clean toilet and cold water shower are in an outdoor area. Amazing night views and sunsets. Bonuses include 2 beagle puppies and a mad macau and lovely friendly Colombian owners. Parking is inside the hostel grounds next to tent sites. Gates locked at night</p> <p>OK to Slow WIFI. Power points in the hostel available to charge equipment</p>	<p>10000 pesos per person to camp</p>

Minca	Colombia	<p>Emerald Green Guest House – On entering Minca from Santa Marta just before the bridge turn to your left at Police Station. Guest House is next to Police Station</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p>N 11.14396° W 74.11750°</p>	<p>Nice new Guesthouse (still in the process of being built) offering two private rooms. Hot water showers. Niel is a friendly Irishman who is happy to share his knowledge of Minca if you want to see the sites independently but can also organise tours etc. Also offers breakfast as an option. Parking is in front of the hostel (off the street) next to Police Station. Appeared to be quite safe, we had no problems</p> <p>Not sure if there was WIFI or not.</p>	80 000 pesos
Neiva	Colombia	<p>Hotel Orquida – Calle 12 #3a -27</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p>N 02.929942 W 75.291864</p>	<p>A really lovely little hotel. Very friendly people. Nice quiet, clean rooms with air conditioning and fan. No hot water but definitely not needed in Neiva. Excellent secure parking undercover. Close to restaurants and supermarket.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	81 000 pesos
Palomino	Colombia	<p>Tiki Hut Hostel – Playas Don Aire, Avienda Principal (about 1 km from town)</p> <p>N 11.25380° W 73.55735°</p> <p><i>Private hut with ensuite bathroom</i> (No hot water but not needed)</p> <p>The huge Dreamer Hostel complex is across the road.</p> <p>Looked like there were also some places towards the beach that offered camping</p>	<p>Not a budget place by any means but a lovely brand new place to stay. (Only open for 5 months when we stayed) Little thatched huts set around a pool, fan provided. Bar and restaurant on site. Lovely friendly people and let us park the bike inside the compound near the reception. About a four minute stroll to the beach.</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	110 000 pesos
Pasto	Colombia	<p>Hotel Sello Dorado – Calle 13 No 14 -19 Julian Bucheli</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p>N 01.203638 W 77.278664</p>	<p>We did not stay here but fellow over landing friends did, said it was OK. Had parking.</p>	50 000 pesos
Popayan Finding a place in Central Popayan with parking is a little difficult	Colombia	<p>La Alcayata Hotel – Calle 4, #10 – 35, Centro Historico (Opposite Dann Monasterio Hotel)</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p>N 02 26.608' W 76 36.571'</p>	<p>Nice enough hotel with small rooms, although it is a bit noisy, try to get a room at the back or upstairs away from the reception area and the kindergarten next door. Electric shower heads but good hot water. Included an OK breakfast. They let us park the bike in the reception area. A bit of a tight squeeze, had to take the panniers off to get through the door way and</p>	60 000 pesos

		<p>We were going to stay at HostelTrail Guesthouse but couldn't be bothered lugging all our gear up all the steps and also parking was in a Public Parqueadero up the street but will list the GPS co-ordinates for anyone interested</p> <p><i>N 02 26' 37.07</i> <i>W 76 36' 36.41</i></p>	<p>hallway. Very friendly staff and right in the middle of the historic part of town</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p>	
Salento	Colombia	<p>Plantation House</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p><i>N 04 38.378' W 75 34.378'</i></p> <p>Other motorcyclists also recommended: La Sarrena Hostel – via Palestina Km 1.5 just out of town. Has camping</p> <p>N 04.666933, W 75.499603</p>	<p>A hostel with the usual dodgy kitchen. Good black coffee on tap for free. Rooms are OK as is the bathroom. Good hot water. No screens on the rooms so beware of mosquitoes.</p> <p>Parking was just up the road in the owner's (Tim) house yard. Gates locked at night</p> <p>Also did a coffee plantation tour from here. We really enjoyed it</p> <p>OK WIFI</p> <p>Eating in Salento - Beta town for gringo food (Columbian owned) just down the street from Plantation House. El Rincon de Lucy for local food up the street towards the mirador.</p>	60 000 Pesos
San Agustin	Colombia	<p>Casa de la Francois – on the outskirts of San Agustin up on the hillside, very steep driveway.</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with shared bathroom</i></p> <p>N 01.88828, W 76.27123</p>	<p>A lovely friendly hostel with small restaurant and also a big guest kitchen to use. Drinks fridge with a tab system. Only two hot showers, but good. All in all a quiet relaxing place with lots of other travellers around. Outdoor parking.</p> <p>OK WIFI</p>	40 000 pesos
San Gil	Colombia	<p>Sam's VIP Hostel – Carrera 10 #12 -23 Right on the main plaza</p> <p><i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i></p> <p>N 06.554494 W 73.133932</p>	<p>Absolutely beautiful hostel with a huge secured undercover parking area right on the central plaza. Lovely big double rooms with private bathroom and fan. Also offers dorm rooms. Great kitchen facilities, bar, pool, and laundry service, balcony overlooks the square. Only draw back is the 6 flights of stairs</p> <p>GOOD WIFI</p> <p>Good Gringo eating places – Gringo</p>	80 000 pesos

			Mikes Sandwiches Sam's Pub, great steaks.	
Santuario de Las Lajos (near Ipiales) Nice quiet place to stay before/after crossing the border to/ from Ecuador	Colombia	Hotel Kuleap - <i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i> N 0° 48.400' W 77° 34.961' The hotel is painted all white but has no name on the front. It is at the end of the main parking lot where the trail leads down to the church. (Thanks Life Remotely for the tip)	Nice little hotel with clean, <u>small</u> rooms. Hot water. Dinner and breakfast available in the restaurant/dining room. They let us park the bike in their store room, could easily fit in two bikes. NO WIFI	40 000 pesos
Taganaga Very hot, dusty dirty town with dodgy beach and a sketchy reputation.	Colombia	Hostel D'mer - 9 Santa Marta, Calle 9 No 1 -33 N 11.26910° W 74.19241° <i>Private matrimonial with private bathroom</i>	Lovely clean, hostel with friendly, helpful guys on the front desk. No kitchen but let us put our stuff in the fridge. Has a tiny pool but wasn't in working order at the time we stayed Parking is usually at the front of the hostel just off the street. They do have a night guard on duty all night. However they let us park the bike in the garage (as their own car was away at the time) Rooms have a fan but it is still very hot. OK WIFI	90 000 pesos
Tatacoa Desert	Colombia	Noches de Saturno N 03.233842 W 75.166108 <i>Private matrimonial with private bathroom</i> Estadero Donna Lilia (very hard to read the sign, quite faded)	Quite expensive given the very basic conditions but OK. Cold water showers only which is just fine given the heat. In the room we were in, the generator noise was very loud and the lighting was practically non existent, bring headlights, ear plugs, and towels (not supplied). Pool, camping, drinks and food available. We were there on a long weekend, very busy and <u>very</u> noisy, but nice owners. Probably a good idea to bring a bit of food with you just in case, meals could be hit and miss. Parking outside our room. NO WIFI. No electricity plugs in room. Can charge electrical items at the reception. The first hostel on the left after the Observatory looked quite nice and maybe a bit quieter than Saturno	50 000 pesos
Tena – on the road from Giradot to Bogata	Colombia	Cabanas Pelicanos - on the main road through town <i>Private matrimonial with ensuite</i>	Nice enough little hotel with small cabin rooms, with good restaurant and swimming pool. Cold water showers a bit brisk. Stayed on a long weekend so lots of noise from the pool and LOUD music being blared out all day, very	80 000 pesos

		N 04 39.029' W 74 24.808'	quiet at night. Otherwise it would have been quite lovely. Secure parking in the hotel parking lot. OK WIFI	
Tolu	Colombia	Villa Babilla - <i>Private matrimonial without ensuite</i> N 09.527847 W 75.581698	A lovely hostel with huge private rooms with good fans. Well equipped outdoor kitchen and seating area and a huge terrace overlooking the town. Parking inside the hostel garden. Offers lunchtime meals. Tolu is a very hot, noisy town. Bring earplugs. OK WIFI	60 000 pesos
Villa de Leyva	Colombia	Columbian Highlands and Hostal Renacer - N 05.641953 W 73.513001	Rooms looked just beautiful, private matrimonial with ensuite ranged in price from 65000 pesos to 75 000 pesos per room. Not sure if they are screened. A lot of sandflies around. However we camped, lovely camping with good camp kitchen and sitting room facilities and nice clean bathrooms with good hot water. Also a small restaurant offering breakfast and dinner. Also had drinks fridge with a tab system. A bit of a walk from town but beautiful setting. Outdoor Parking in camping area OK WIFI and power plugs to charge your electrical equipment.	14 000 pesos per person for camping
		Our favourites for one reason or another	Another great accommodation/camping website for Mexico, Central and South America is www.liferemotely.com We spent New Years Eve with Jarred, Jessica and Kobus at Puyuhuapi, Chile. Jessica often posts really helpful information on the HU Hubb.	