

Bogotá, Colombia

The Cranky Croc

Calle 15 # 3-46

www.crankycroc.com

GPS: 4.600487,-74.070042

Price: \$25 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Parking: No. Public lot next door.

Bathroom: Shared, showers only

Hot Water: Yes

Notes: Rooms off the courtyard are nice and bright, but on the smallish side. We were "upgraded" to a room with private bath but preferred the one with shared bath (although the shower in the private bath was heavenly). Laundry facilities. Restaurant. Good location close to centre of activity. Check out the Bogota Brewing Company brew pub.

Villa De Leyva, Colombia

Hostel Renacer

<http://colombianhighlands.com/>

GPS: 5.643148,-73.516352, approximate

Price: \$15 (to camp)

Wi-fi: Yes

Parking: Yes

Bathroom: Shared, shower only

Hot Water: Yes

Notes: Lots of different types of accommodations from rooms, to camping, to RVing. Restaurant serves good food but it's pricey. Kitchen is available for cooking. Nice bathrooms. Also a wood-fired pizza oven and fireplace but they were never lit while we were there. Great views. Nice common areas.

San Gil, Colombia

Sam's VIP Hostel Hotel Mansion

Calle 12 near Carrera 9

www.samshostel.com

GPS: 6.555453,-73.132618

Price: \$30 (for an entire dorm)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot water: Yes

Parking: Yes, in courtyard

Notes: Central location close to park, and very Clean. They gave us an entire 8 bed dorm to ourselves with private bath and balcony. Door to the room didn't lock very well.

Aguachica, Colombia

La Hosteleria del Viajero

Calle 3, 16-42

GPS: N8.31110, W73.61773

Price: \$25 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: Yes, in affiliated lot next door or in indoor courtyard

Notes: Not much to do in Aguachica but the city is not without its charms. If you want a slice of normalcy, it's a great place to set up camp for a while. Great food available at food carts in nearby square, and at food stalls along side streets. Our room had a very hard bed, almost uncomfortably hard. Amazing staff, very friendly, and very welcoming. Attached restaurant serves good, cheap meals. Rooftop available for catching some cool breezes at night.

Valledupar, Cesar, Colombia

Hotel Provincia

Calle 16A #5-25

provinciavalledupar.com

GPS: 10.476503,-73.243523

Price: \$40 (queen)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: Yes, in courtyard

Notes: Room was quite pricey but more like a boutique hotel rather than a hostel. Room had a big comfy bed with nice duvet, a flat screen tv, 'leather' sofa, a/c, and a ceiling fan. There was also a common kitchen with separate cupboards and refrigerator for staff. Unfortunately it was also commandeered in the morning by the staff so that they could make their own breakfast – using up all the counter space, many of the pans, and all the burners on the stove. Another case of a family living in the hostel space and not wanting to share it with outsiders. We never really felt welcome here and wonder if the owners understood what they were getting into.

Palomino, Colombia

Finca Escondida

<http://www.chillandsurfcolumbia.com/>

GPS: 11°15'43.1"N 73°24'46.5"W

Price: \$17 (to camp)

Wi-fi: No

Bathroom: Shared, showers only

Hot Water: No

Parking: Yes

Notes: Very nice grounds and some of the best camping bathrooms that we have seen, as well as right on the beach. Rooms inside were also available but a little pricey for our budget. Restaurant on site is also a little pricey and the food wasn't very good – our fish was overcooked and more like jerky. Breakfasts were economical but hit and miss. Daily cocktail specials in the bar. Nice beach with lots of clean sand. The water was a little rough but ok for

wading. Advanced surf waves.

Minca, Magdalena, Colombia

Sans Souci

Along the main street through town and up the hill

GPS: 11.143919,-74.111123

Price: \$10 (to camp)

Wi-fi: No

Bathroom: Shared, shower only

Hot Water: No

Parking: Yes

Notes: An out of the way paradise where we saw toucans, monkeys, and hummingbirds. We also arrived right in the middle of cicada mating season, so they were making quite a ruckus and keeping us showered with pheromones. A kitchen is available for use, and they have a games room. Rustic and a little rough around the edges, but the owners were super-friendly. They also have a swimming pool but it looked a little murky. The bathroom was shared amongst all the campers (about 6 of us in total) and sported your average simple facilities with no hooks, a spout from the wall for a shower, toilet and sink. Adam loved it; it was a little rustic for me, and perhaps the wrong time of year for a visit.

Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

Amber Hostel

Calle Pacoa 10-103, Getsemani district

GPS: 10.400259,-75.511582, approximate

Price: \$30 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: No

Parking: Yes, in courtyard

Notes: Pushy staff but a good location and they let us drag our motorcycles into the courtyard. Our room had a/c which was excellent because it was pretty hot. Good seating areas for guests, although the staff and their children kept much of it occupied. Lots of mosquitoes so keep your room door closed. Kitchen was somewhat gross and mostly commandeered by staff. Good location in the Getsemani neighbourhood and close to the old town and waterfront.

Caucasia, Colombia

Hotel Chambacu

KM 5 on the Ruta de la Costa

GPS: 7.951542,-75.207781, very approximate

Price: \$30 (2 double beds)

Wi-fi: Yes, near restaurant

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: No

Parking: Yes, in front of room

Notes: A roadside resort that had a swimming pool (heavenly!), restaurant, and an attached love motel. Lots of parking. Grounds had a lot of trees and had a very jungle-y feel. The pool was warmed by the sun and wasn't as refreshing as we had hoped but was still amazing after a long, sweaty ride. The restaurant served good meals for every budget. Our room had a tv, screens on the windows, and a private bath.

Medellin, Colombia

Casa Kiwi

Carrera 36 #7-10, Zona Rosa

<http://www.casakiwi.net/>

GPS: N 06° 12.394' W 075° 33.953'

Price: \$30 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Shared, shower only

Hot Water: No

Parking: Yes, garage

Notes: A party hostel without a doubt. There seemed to be two sides to this hostel – the nice, chill, renovated side, and the unrenovated ghetto which is where we stayed. Our room as directly facing the street and directly above the bar and very, very loud. Our bed was also broken and when we reported it to staff they were unconcerned and claimed that they couldn't do anything about it. The renovated side was very nice with great ambience, a bar that served craft brews, a swimming pool, hammocks, water fountains, and a theatre-style room for viewing tv. It was also very clean. Our side was like the forgotten child, with bathrooms that needed an upgrade and rooms that were crying for attention. They claim that they are “the new concept in hosteling” but really it's just another party hostel with a fancy reno so that they can increase their prices. Staff were rude and dismissive.

Manizales, Colombia

Hacienda Valencia

<http://www.haciendavenecia.com/>

GPS: 5°02'17.4"N 75°33'49.0"W

Price: \$12 (per person, to camp)

Wi-fi: No

Bathroom: Shared, showers only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: Yes

Notes: A beautiful location on a working coffee plantation with tropical plants, various kinds of birds, lizards, and an awesome swimming pool. If you stay in the hostel the price includes breakfast. Hammocks on the porch make for a nice place to relax. Beautiful bathrooms, free coffee, and friendly staff who will let you use the kitchen to cook your meals (since their menu is a little pricey). The coffee tour is amazing. The road in is a single lane dirt road that can be a little tricky on the way out. Careful of the curves.

Salento, Colombia

La Serrana Eco Farm and Hostel
Via Palestina KM 1.5

<http://laserrana.com.co/>

GPS:

Price: \$12 per person to camp

Wi-fi: Yes, in main house

Bathroom: Shared, shower only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: Yes

Notes: A very popular place with high turnover. Located in most likely the prettiest spot that we have stayed in so far. Nice common areas that promotes being social. A beautiful restaurant that serves amazing food with nightly dinners served community style. We opted for the BBQ night and the burger night and were very happy with the quality of the food (finally a REAL burger in Latin America!). But there is also a kitchen for use. There was a real shortage of baths – even though each dorm had their own, there were only 2 common baths and they were always full. Hot water in the showers was a real treat, but the toilets were often clogged. Breakfast included.

Cali, Colombia

Casa Blanca

Avenida 6 Bis, Calle 26N #57, Santa Monica Residencial

<http://casablancahostel.com/>

GPS: 03°28'09"N, 076°31'47"W

Price: \$24 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Shared, shower only

Hot Water: Sometimes

Parking: No

Notes: We stayed at Casa Blanca because the owner runs a successful motorcycle shop and touring company, Motolombia, and the photo shows a garage in the front of the hostel for parking bikes. When we arrived we learned that while it was under the same ownership, the hostel was for sale, and the parking had been removed to add another bedroom. Strike out. It seems as though their touring company had really taken off and they were unable to devote as much time to the hostel which really showed. Handles fell off of toilets, the hot water in the showers were hit and miss (mine had none, Adam's had lots), and there appeared to be a general lack of care. The area is also a tricky one with seemingly lots around but not a very good place to get a budget friendly meal.

Popayan, Colombia

Hostel Caracol

Calle 4 #2-21, Centro Historico

<http://www.hostelcaracol.com/>

GPS: 2.441594,-76.602562, approximate

Price: \$27 (2 beds)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Shared, showers only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: No

Notes: Colonial towns are beautiful but the parking situation is very tricky. Another instance where we had to park off-site in a public lot. The hostel itself was lovely, tastefully decorated with nice seating areas (although the chairs were pilfered from a kindergarten class), and a cafe (which wasn't open while we were there). The bathrooms were clean and well-kept. Within walking distance to most things in the old town. Bedding felt damp.

Pasto, Colombia

Nogal Suite Hotel

Carrera 29 #16B-75 Centro

<http://www.hotelnogalsuite.com/>

GPS: 1.218017,-77.282063

Price: \$60 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: Supposedly

Parking: Yes, underground garage

Notes: A very pricey hotel but we were tired of driving around a city to places that didn't have parking or were \$70-\$100 for a room. We appeared to be the only guests staying here. Breakfast was included in the price but there wasn't any hot water. The staff tried to rectify the problem but the shower was pretty icy. For \$60 it was unacceptable. No elevator so be prepared to climb a lot of stairs.

Pasto, Colombia

Premier Hotel

Calle 17 #19-54

<http://www.hotelpremierpasto.com/>

GPS: 1.209136,-77.276977

Price: \$27 (double)

Wi-fi: Yes

Bathroom: Private, shower only

Hot Water: Yes

Parking: Yes, in attached affiliated parking garage

Notes: We ended up here after our previous night's stay was too far out of our budget. A giant room with an amazing shower and amazing hot water. The staff was fantastic and helped us settle in, made us feel very welcome. A bit of a seedier area but we never felt unsafe walking even at night. The strip is jam-packed with clothing stores, bakeries, and places to eat. Pasto is an average city but an ok place to cool your heels from traveler's overload.

<http://www.t-c-mambo.ca/places-visited/accommodations-listing/>