



Magdalena · Tayrona · Colombia

Santa Marta

Traveler's guide

Tayrona park, the Lost City trek, Minca in the Sierra Nevada, diving at Taganga and tubing in Palomino: Colombia's wildest Caribbean.

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Contents

1.	Nature	3
2.	Activities	3
3.	When to go	3
4.	How to get there	3
5.	Experiences	3
6.	Guides	4
7.	Photo gallery	4
8.	Map	5
9.	How to book with a local guide	5

Nature

Santa Marta sits between the Caribbean and the Sierra Nevada, the world's highest coastal mountain range, rising from the beach to 5,700 m in 40 km. Tayrona park mixes jungle, giant boulders and turquoise beaches; Minca, at 600 m, is coffee farms, waterfalls and hummingbirds; and deep in the sierra lies the Lost City, the Tayrona Teyuna, with stone terraces in the mist.



Activities

- Lost City trek, 4 days and 46 km through the jungle with local guides and Wiwa and Kogui communities
- Tayrona park: hike from Cañaveral to Cabo San Juan, beaches, snorkelling and a night in a hammock
- Minca: Marinka and Pozo Azul waterfalls, coffee and cacao farms, birdwatching
- Diving and snorkelling at Taganga, tubing down the Palomino river to the sea, kitesurfing at Palomino
- Sierra Nevada: trails to Cerro Kennedy, Arhuaco villages and Tayrona culture

When to go

December to March is dry and windy, with clearer seas; July and August are a second dry season. April to June and September to November bring afternoon rain and fewer people. Tayrona closes a few weeks a year for ecological rest (usually February, June and October).

How to get there

Simón Bolívar airport (SMR) is 16 km away, with flights from Bogotá (1 h 30), Medellín and Miami. Buses from Cartagena (4 hours) and Barranquilla (2 hours). Tayrona is 45 minutes by bus to the El Zaino gate; Minca 40 minutes by shared taxi; Palomino 1 h 30. The Lost City trek leaves from Santa Marta with transport included.

Activities in this destination

Trekking · Volcano · Rafting & hydrospeed · Kayak, sailing & fishing · Hot springs · Zipline & tree climbing · Canyoning & rappelling · Paragliding · Horseback riding · Snow & snowshoeing · Mapuche culture · Nature & photography · Stargazing · Full-day excursions · Food & wine · Family & inclusive · Surfing & bodyboard · Sandboarding & dunes · Cycling & MTB · Climbing & mountaineering · Ice & glaciers · Kitesurfing & windsurfing · Diving & snorkelling

Experiences

No experiences published in Santa Marta yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

Guides

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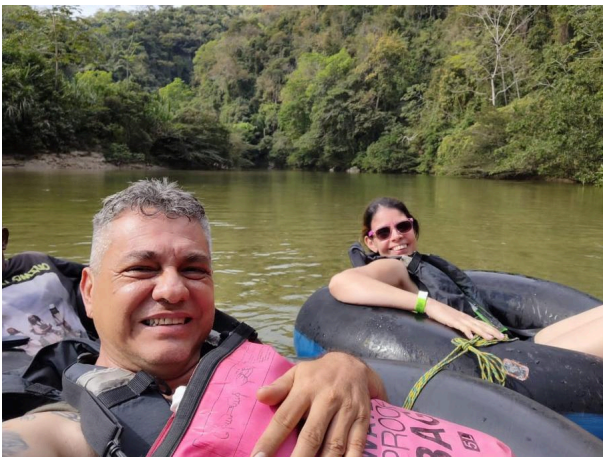
Photo gallery



Shield Lichen of the Sierra (Parmotrema), near Minca cloud forest, 2025 · Mottenpriesterin · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

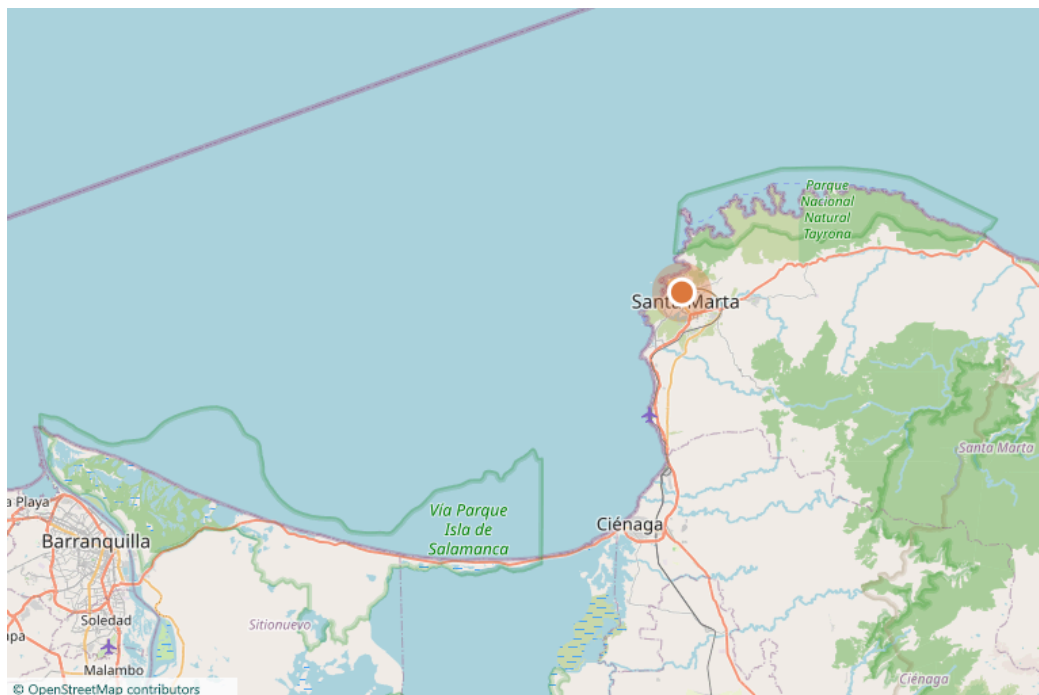


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Paseo por el río Palomino en Neumatico · ADRYGIL · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Map · Santa Marta



11.2408, -74.1990 · [Directions in Google Maps](#)

How to book with a local guide

Choose your experience → Request your date → Experience Santa Marta
Send your request and the guide contacts you directly with availability and price.

<https://www.trekonda.com/en/experiencias/santa-marta>

Contact platform: each guide provides the service.