

VACATION RENTALS CARTAGENA APARTMENT INFORMATION

PRACTICAL- LOOK AT THE APARTMENT NOTEBOOK. LOTS OF GOOD INFORMATION!

HOUSE RULES-

- 1) NO SMOKING.
- 2) NOISE-MAINTAIN A NOISE LEVEL RESPECTFUL OF OTHER GUESTS.
- 3) BEACH-YOU MAY TAKE ONE BEACH TOWEL PER PERSON TO THE BEACH. THEY ARE STORED IN THE 2ND FLOOR HALL CLOSET. BRING THEM BACK OR BUY US A NEW BEACH TOWEL. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TOWELS OR SHEETS FOR A BEACH TOWEL, AS THEY WILL BE RUINED.

Not too many rules! Enjoy!

ADDRESS- Balcones, Calle Segunda de Badillo 36-12, located in the San Diego section of the colonial walled city. In the walled city the streets have posted names (which change every block), but officially the streets have numbers (ex. Calle 36 for us) which is how you'll find it on Google maps, for example.

Here is a link to our location on Google maps at www.TinyURL.com/LocationOfApartments.

Apartment Managers: Benjamin Daguer 315-883-3023 bdaguer@gmail.com and Erica Rodel 301-574-4080 ericarc09@hotmail.com

Owners (for emergency or comments): Deb Bennett deb@itisgoodtobeus.com

Police, fire or medical emergency- call 123

HOW TO GET TO THE APARTMENTS FROM THE AIRPORT!

The cost should be about 10,000 pesos. Take a taxi from the airport (10 minutes) to Calle Segunda de Badillo 36-12. The building is large and wraps around Calle de la Moneda and Calle Segunda de Badillo. The store Tennis is located on the corner on the street level. Balcones is the first door just past Tennis. The building is famous for its balconies. The street is on a regular taxi route. Our apartment manager will meet you at the apartment.

(Don't forget to visit the Tourist Office kiosk in the baggage claim area at the airport to pick up a city map & other information to get you going!)

The cost to return to the airport should be 13,000.

CHECK IN/OUT

Check in is at 3 pm and check out is at 11am (unless otherwise arranged).

Please leave the key on the counter and close the door as you depart turning off all lights, fans, and AC before you leave. Go Green!

NO SMOKING—Thank you!

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are the way to travel in the old city and surroundings. Be sure to negotiate your fare as you get in the taxi. Taxi fares are set by zone. You should be able to go most places in and around the old city and Bocagrande, Manga, Castillo San Felipe, etc. for 6,000 pesos during the day and 7,000 pesos or so at night. Everything in the old city is within walking distance.

CAR PARK

We do not recommend you bring a car to Cartagena, but if you do, there is a car park nearby. It is called Easy Park and is located on Calle de la Universidad. It is open 24 hours a day.

GROCERIES

Exito is a big grocery store that is very close. They accept credit cards. Take a left onto Calle de la Moneda and go to the end of the block and you are there. It is a 3 story yellow building with no signage. Hours are 8:00 AM-9 PM daily usually. (They also sell other items besides groceries.) You may be asked to show ID in order to pay by credit card. You may be asked to show a receipt when you leave. They also sell things like paper goods, clothing, and more and have an ATM at Exito, very convenient.

There is an Exito Express just down the street from us. Take a slight left onto Calle San Augustin as you leave our door and it is on the right about 1 block.

Olimpica is a smaller grocery a little closer to our apartments. Take a left onto Calle Primera de Badillo and walk a short distance. It is on the left and has a blue awning. Olimpica also accepts credit cards. The hours are 8AM- 8PM (except they close at 2pm on Sunday.) We find the produce better and the wine prices lower at Olimpica.

SIM CARD

You can purchase a SIM card almost anywhere.

INTERNET

The WiFi name for each floor is-

Roof top deck- balcones

3rd floor- balcones2

2nd floor- balcones3

The password is 732moneda.

Tommy Disco Galeria Café is an internet café on our street about half way to Exito. They also sell food and drink. Hours: 10am- 8:30pm Monday- Thursday, 10am- 11pm Friday & Saturday. 10am- 11pm
Hours: 9:30-10 M-S; open until midnight on Friday. Internet use costs 2,000 pesos per hour. You can also make long distance calls and buy more time for a Colombian cell phone there.

PHONE

Add "035" before the # when calling a Colombian land line from a Colombian cell phone.

DirecTV

The television provider is DirecTV with many shows in Spanish or English and there are many channels available or you could go explore this beautiful city!

STOVE/ OVEN

There is no stove/oven. Each apartment is furnished with an induction burner and a stainless steel skillet. Our manager love this method of cooking. Ask our managers to teach you how to use the induction burner if you want to cook.

TRASH

Daily pickup at night. We need you to put out your trash on the sidewalk by the front door about 6:30-7:00. It attracts bugs if you don't. Pick up times vary, but usually start about 6 PM. (We use the plastic grocery bags for trash can liners.)

WATER

The tap water is ok to drink. The water pressure in old town Cartagena can be variable and sometimes cut off. If the city shuts off the water, there is a water tank on the roof that should automatically provide water to the apartments.

ELECTRICITY

Voltage the same as the US which is 110.

Electricity is expensive in Cartagena. Please turn off lights, fans, AC, etc. each time you leave the apartment. Do not operate the air conditioning with the balcony doors open. Feel free to operate the fans with the balcony doors open, but not with the AC on.

EXTRA TOWELS, LAUNDRY AND CLEANING-

Guests staying more than 3 nights may contact the manager for towel replacements. Laundry and housekeeping services are available (at your expense), please contact our Manager for arrangements.

SECURITY AND STREET DOOR AND KEYS

We are told there are over 2,000 police in El Centro and security is good. It is ok to only lock the regular lock during the day, but it is best to also lock the deadbolt at night.

Front door- Use your key to unlock the front door by

To enter the apartment, put the room card against the lock. Our manager will show you how to do this. THERE IS A \$100/US CHARGE FOR A LOST CARD. Make sure you have your card when you leave, as the apartment doors lock automatically when the door is closed.

SAFES

Each apartment has one safe. To change the combination, while the door is open, you press the red button on the back side of the door. A yellow light will come on. Enter 1-8 digits and then press A or B. The sequence (including A or B) you entered is then your combination. YOU SHOULD WRITE THE COMBINATION DOWN AND PUT IT IN YOUR WALLET OR ON YOUR PHONE. WE HAVE HAD GUESTS THAT ARE READY TO GO TO THE AIRPORT TO FLY HOME, BUT THEY FORGET THEIR COMBINATION. Please leave the safe open when you leave so the next guest can enter their own combination.

MAIL & UTILITY BILLS

Mail and utility bills for our apartments show up under our front door. Please pick up all mail and utility bills and put them on top of the closet in the 2nd floor hall.

CARTAGENA THINGS TO DO AND RESTAURANT & BAR RECOMMENDATIONS

Visit the Tourist Office for information—pick up a blue city map (available in English and Spanish), a copy of the monthly tourist newspaper “Donde” (Spanish only), and anything else they may have. Locations:

1. In baggage claim at the airport (kiosk)
2. In the old city, Plaza de la Aduana (main office)
3. Outside the old city wall & to the right of the Clock Tower (kiosk)

Links:

*This is Cartagena (English): <http://www.ticartagena.com/>

*Cartagena Info (English and Spanish): <http://www.cartagenainfo.net>

*Cartagena government tourism site (English and Spanish): <http://www.cartagenedeindias.travel>

*Cartagena events (Spanish): <http://www.quedesparche.com>

THINGS TO DO-

How to get an overview of the walled city:

Take a carriage ride. You may be able to begin your ride elsewhere, but you can almost always find a carriage ride available at Plaza Bolivar.

Rent A Bike: Jader Perez, owner of Ciclo Sport 512

Work Phone: 312 769 1424

Mobile Phone: 6608438

Calle del Cuartel N, 36-35

Internet:

E-mail (W) Address: ciclosport412@live.com

Website (W) Address: www.ciclosport512.com

Hours: 9 AM-10 PM.

We met Jader when we wandered into his shop in June of 2014. He probably has the biggest selection of bikes and has plenty of helmets and safety vests. He focuses on renting to locals and not to tourists. He does not speak English, but is very friendly. He rents bikes at the following rate:

1 hour 4,000

4 hours 12,000

8 hours 24,000

24 hours 35,000

6 PM-9 AM 22,000

Jader also rents mountain bikes, electric bikes, and more. Go see him!

Segway Tours: Calle 40 #06-26, Local 108, Centro, Edificio Mirador del Tejadillo (across from the “La Boquetilla” entrance inside the wall, along Avda Santander) <http://segwaycartagena.com>

Our friend, Cesar, owner of Segway Tours, is bilingual (English/Spanish).

60 minutes US\$45; 90 minutes US\$65

Tel: +57 5 660-5885; cell: +57 316-862-5588; email: info@segwaycartagena.com

“Walk the Wall”:

We recommend going left onto Calle de la Moneda as you exit the Apartments and keep going until you get to the old city wall. Climb the ramp and walk around the old city on the wall until you get to the clock tower across from the Convention Center. There is more wall further south, but this part of Cartagena is not the same and may not be worth the walk.

WARNING:

Best done in the day, as the pavement is not always level and there are no railings or lights and some places where you could fall.

From Above and Afar:

The “Monastery”/CONVENTO DE LA POPA

This has the best view in Cartagena. It is on a 150 meter high hill, the highest point in the city, about 2km beyond Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas is this convent. adult/child 9,000/5,000 pesos; hours 9am-5pm). There is a zigzagging access road leading up to the convent (no public transport) and paths cutting the bends of the road. Take a taxi; the fare of about 40,000 pesos includes round trip transportation and 40 minutes waiting at the top while you tour the convent and admire the views. It takes 30 minutes to walk to the top, but it's not recommended for safety reasons.

From The Water-Evening Bay Tours by Boat

There are evening bay tours, typically done on weekends, leaving at 6 pm from the pier across the water from the convention center and across the street from the old city. The tour last two hours and gives you good views of the inner harbor and the high rise buildings of Bocagrande. The cost is 80,000 pesos per person which includes two drinks. Different kinds of boats are used including catamarans and sailboats depending upon the number of people. Best to make a reservation by calling 300-573-7625.

The Fort/ Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas-The largest Spanish Fort in the Americas.

The Castillo (666 4790; Av Arévalo; adult/child 13,000/7,000 pesos; Hours 8am-6pm) is the greatest and strongest fortress ever built by the Spaniards in any of their colonies. It was truly impregnable and was never taken, despite numerous attempts to storm it. The fortress is a 20-minute walk from the old town. The audio guide is an additional 17,000/pesos.

Nightlife In The Squares

Plaza Santo Domingo is a great place for people watching and seeing live dance performances, but aggressive street vendors hang out there.

Plaza Fernandez de Madrid is the plaza nearest us (see restaurant ideas) and is one of our favorites- popular with tourists and locals. Often there are acrobats, mimes, and musical performers.

Plaza San Pedro is in front of the famous church. There are fewer street vendors than at Santo Domingo and the restaurant San Pedro is excellent.

Plaza de Bolivar is home to several museums. In the center are several water features and a park with huge trees-very scenic.

Plaza San Diego is home to the famous Santa Clara Hotel, a former convent, and is worth a visit.

Museums

Naval Museum

664-2440, Calle San Juan de Dios No 3-62. Hours: 9 AM-7 PM.) This is a great museum, but it is all in Spanish. We recommend having an English speaking guide for this museum unless you can read Spanish. Calle San Juan de Dios No. 3-62, near the Hotel Charleston/Santa Teresa; Open Daily 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Gold Museum/MUSEO DEL ORO

The Gold Museum (421 0953; Calle 14 No 2-07; admission free; Hours 8-11:45am & 2-5:45pm Mon-Fri) is in the fine colonial mansion known as the Casa de la Aduana (Customs House).

Inquisition Palace/Cartagena History Museum

While there is not a lot in English, most of the displays on the ground floor from the Inquisition (mainly torture instruments) are fairly self-explanatory. On the second floor, there are several rooms with displays on the history of Cartagena with the basic information in English.

ADDRESS: Centro, Calle 34 3-11, Plaza de Bolivar, Cartagena, Colombia

TELEPHONE: 664 7381 and 664 4570;

OPENING HOURS: Mon-Sat: 09.00-18.00 |; Sundays and Holidays: 10.00-16.00 |; Entry Adults = 15,000 |; Seniors/Children = 12,000 (Free last Sunday of the month from February to November)

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Monuments and museums are free the last Sunday of the month- except during high season.

More information (in Spanish) on prices and hours for museums, fortifications and churches in Cartagena:

<http://www.donde.com.co/secciones/informacion-util/horario-de-museos-fortificaciones-e-iglesias-de-cartagena>

The Rosario Islands

Regular tours are for those that are physically fit, as getting in and out of the boats on the islands can be difficult, and facilities can be somewhat primitive. You can step on and off the boat from docks on the islands with a first class trips, but they are more expensive.

You can also charter a boat for the day that holds up to 10 people. They charge 1,100,000 pesos (under \$600/US) for all day from 8-4:30. They have music, snorkel equipment and a refrigerator on the boat.

See our manager for details on your options.

Shopping

There are two malls within walking distance. The closest and newest is Mall Plaza El Castillo (www.mallplazaelcastillo.com).

Across from the Castle to the south is a smaller mall, called Portal San Felipe, which has a movie theater and a bowling alley. See the following link to what is showing:

http://www.royal-films.com/cartelera_ciudad_sala.php?sala=Multicine Portal de San Felipe&ciudad=Cartagena

Select a movie from their web site to see show times. It should say "Subtitulos en Español" if it is in English with Spanish subtitles.

There are many, many small boutiques in the Old City worth a look.

Plaza Bocagrande is new mall in Bocagrande. It is a big mall with a movie theater and much more.

COOKING CLASS- Want to learn to cook local style? Our manager will set up a class for you in the apt. so you can learn to cook and you will enjoy a wonderful local meal in the apt. Ask our manager for details.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

This section could be really long as there are many good restaurants in Cartagena. We focus on restaurants in the old walled city and support our local businesses in our immediate area. There are many good choices if you do not want to cook.

Fernandez de Madrid Plaza Restaurants-

Turn left as you leave the apartment, right on Badillo and go a block or so.

Montmarte-Divine French/Colombian cuisine at affordable prices especially for lunch for their daily special with generous portions. The owner, Valerie, is French Colombian.

La Majagua-On the square with a good price for the size of the portions. We share one order of the Parrillada Majagu for 3 people. Outdoor seating with air conditioning inside.

Totopo-No AC, but good Colombian style food and good prices and they have DirecTV. Great manager!

Mistura-Elegant and affordable delicious menu of Colombian/Peruvian food. Live music most nights except for Monday.

Other Restaurants and Bars-

El Bistro (also known as the German place)

Calle Ayes #4-46; A restaurant tourists, expats, and locals all enjoy. The menu is on the blackboard with meals ranging from 14,000-22,000 pesos. One of our guests told us they sell excellent fresh bread. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Closed Sunday. tel: 660 2065; cell: 312 666 3550; info@el-bistro.com

<http://www.el-bistro-cartagena.com/>

La Brieche-out our front door and turn left. Across the street from the Juan Valdez coffee shop before the University of Cartagena. Good food, including breakfast starting at 7 am 7 days a week, AC and good WiFi.

Firos Pizza is just down the street on Calle Moneda across from Exito. Fast, close and inexpensive great pizza by the slice or by the pizza. We like their "Carne con Vegetales .pizza". They are open 9AM-9PM Monday- Saturday. Cash only.

Many locals go there.

Espiritu Santo is close and has excellent local food-large portions at super good prices. Go out our door and turn left. Go past Calle Badillo and take the next left onto Calle del Porvenir 35-60. Lunch only. Cash only. tel: 660 6948

La Mantilla at Mantilla 32 (tel: 660 1436) is close (just a few blocks away as you turn left out our door) and open Sundays. CHEAP beer and a good beef fillet with some of the best cooked vegetables I have found.

The Clock Pub is a sports pub located inside of the wall near the clock tower at Plaza De Los Coches 733. It shows some Gringo sports events and several of their managers and waitresses speak English.

Tel 3184654881, 3014647078 and 6601310. www.theclockpub.com

San Valentin-Calle Vicente Garcia 6-33, tel: 6641112. Exit the apartment and turn left. Take the first left and the next right. It will be on your right. Family place with locals and tourists and something for everyone. They have a huge screen for watching sports.

San Pedro- Plaza San Pedro Claver 30-11 tel. 6645121 We are in a rut and always get the Torre. Lots of indoor and outdoor dining. You will not be bothered by vendors.

Crepes and Waffles-great crepes and excellent salad bar with a fun rooftop deck dining area, but hard to give directions to. Ask our manager if you want to try it out.

Hard Rock Café-Sounds like a tourist trap, but the people going there are almost all Colombians. Amazing fajitas and fun wait staff. Say hi to a waitress called "Sol" for us. Several of their managers and waitresses speak English.

"Wall Bars"

There are two bar/restaurants on top of the old city wall which are good at sunset or at night, but best accessed directly and not by walking around the wall to get to if at night.

1) Cafe del Mar

Hours: About 6 PM-2:30 AM Not the best food or service, and it can be windy, but the views are some of the best on the planet. Fantastic sunsets!

2) Tasca Bar (aka Baluarte San Francisco Javier and El Baluarte Tasca-Bar)

Hours: Noon until late

Best to sit facing the Hotel Charleston Cartagena and the square for people watching as you mostly see a parking lot looking the other way. Closed on Monday nights.

You can also always buy a beer for 2-3000 pesos from a vendor on the wall and enjoy!