

Colombia security brief

IATA

Colombia is a fantastic and greatly diverse country with a generous and hospitable population. This brief has been designed for IATA to enable travelers to enjoy their visits to Colombia and to focus on their business activities in a safe and secure manner. Here are the principal considerations:

1 Principal risks

- ▶ **Common crime** is the biggest risk for business travelers
- ▶ **Social unrest:** Protests and strikes are common in Colombia and can turn violent
- ▶ **Organized crime** is prevalent but doesn't pose a significant risk to business travelers
- ▶ **Terrorism and armed conflict** emanating from guerilla groups is a low risk
- ▶ **Kidnap** has greatly reduced and is not a significant risk for business travelers

2 Preparing for your trip

- ▶ **Pack sensibly**, ensuring that you leave valuable possessions and jewelry behind
- ▶ **Print** copies of your key contacts, itinerary and identification and keep them separate from your valuables and electronics
- ▶ **Locks** should be fitted on your hold luggage and it's better to have it on your hand luggage
- ▶ **Electronic** ancillaries and chargers should not go in your hold luggage
- ▶ **Always** have control of your possessions

3 What to do

- ▶ **Understand** that your possessions may be perceived as valuable even if they are not. Regardless, don't leave valuables where they can be seen in public (e.g. computers, phones, tablets)
- ▶ **Analyze** your security risk and profile for every activity that you undertake
- ▶ **Understand** that your security profile changes depending on your associations during an activity
- ▶ **Carry** the minimum valuables that you need
- ▶ **Secure** other valuables in your hotel safe or a locked suitcase or another secure location such as the office, if appropriate
- ▶ **Be aware** of the people around you
- ▶ **Be suspicious** of people trying to help you or coming close to you but be courteous
- ▶ **Act!!** If you have a suspicion or a sense that something's not right, act to avoid it

4 What not to do

- ▶ **If a victim**, comply with the criminals, do not struggle, fight, flee or try to deceive
- ▶ **Expose** potentially perceived valuables in public, including rucksacks, handbags etc.
- ▶ **Panic** leads to bad decisions but fear is healthy. Get somewhere safe and contact your emergency contacts
- ▶ **Go out at night** on your own
- ▶ **Get distracted**, stay focused!
- ▶ **Fight or resist!**



Your security profile is how you are perceived by threat actors such as criminals, and on which you may be selected as a potential target.

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Airport and transportation recommendations:

5 Phone and connectivity

- ▶ Try to arrive with your phone battery fully charged.
- ▶ Ensure your roaming cellular data is turned on.
- ▶ Claro is the largest mobile network provider in the area and generally offers the best coverage.

6 Arrival tips and facilities

- ▶ You may choose to use the bathrooms located in the luggage hall to avoid the public terminal restrooms, which could complicate the meet-and-greet process.
- ▶ If you need to withdraw cash or exchange currency, it's preferable to do so in secure, discreet locations.
- ▶ ATMs and currency exchange services are available in the luggage hall (after immigration and before customs). While these services are also found in the public area, it is not advisable to use them there due to higher visibility and security concerns.

7 Luggage and Personal Security

- ▶ After clearing customs, remove the tags from your luggage to avoid revealing personal details (like your name, flight, or seat class).
- ▶ Keep the bag tags in case you need to prove ownership.
- ▶ Take a moment to ensure you have all your belongings securely stored in pockets, bags, or pouches—especially before walking through the terminal where theft risk increases.

8 Exiting the airport and transportation

- ▶ After customs, you will exit into the public area of the terminal via International Arrivals (Llegadas Internacionales), where there will likely be many people waiting.
- ▶ Ignore anyone offering taxi services directly.
- ▶ Use official airport taxis (Taxi Imperial). The Taxi Imperial counter is located just outside customs. They accept credit cards or cash and can provide invoices if needed.
- ▶ For any issues or concerns, please contact Control Risks personnel for assistance.

9 Who to contact

- ▶ Emergency services: 123
- ▶ Control Risks Colombia (advice):
 - ◆ Daniela Cuéllar +57 318 306 5738
 - ◆ Juan Clavijo +57 310 346 9694

