



Bogotá's Legal Guide to Foreign Direct Investment

2026

02

MIGRATORY REGIME



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Migratory Regime

The States whose citizens are exempt from presenting a visa for short-term visits may enter Colombia as long as they comply with the requirements established to obtain an Entry and Stay Permit (PIP) in one of its three categories.

Below is the map and list of countries that have this exemption.



 Non-conditioned nationalities	 Special Consitions	 Conditioned Nationalities	 Colombia
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Own elaboration based on Resolution 8558 of July 23, 2025, issued by the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

States **exempt** from visa requirement for short-term activities

- Albania
- Andorra
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Palau
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russia
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- South Korea (Republic of Korea)
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

Own elaboration based on Resolution 8558 of July 23, 2025. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (2025).



Likewise, holders of passports of Hong Kong - SAR China, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Taiwan are exempt from visa requirements.

States or territories with **conditional visa exemption** for short-term activities

Nationals of the following States or territories may enter Colombia without a visa if they meet one of these conditions:

- 1 Hold a valid residence permit from a Schengen Area member State or from the United States of America.
- 2 Hold a Schengen or U.S. visa with at least 180 days of remaining validity at the time of entry.

- Cambodia
- India
- Nicaragua
- Myanmar
- People's Republic of China
- Thailand
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

Own elaboration based on Resolution 8558 of July 23, 2025. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (2025).

Important Aspects



Academic activities by invited professors or researchers are considered non profit when support such as meals, transport or lodging is provided.



Nicaraguan nationals from the North or South Caribbean Coast are exempt from short term visa requirements.



Migration Colombia may establish, under reciprocity criteria, the migratory control fee applicable to Nicaraguan nationals entering under a PIP without a visa.



Permanent residents of member countries of the Pacific Alliance or the Andean Community may enter Colombia without a visa using a PIP.



Nationals of States with which Colombia has visa exemption agreements also benefit from this provision.



All other nationals—including stateless persons with a valid travel document issued by a State recognized by Colombia—must apply for a visa prior to traveling.

States that require visa for direct airport transit

Holders of passports from the following States must obtain a visa to transit directly through an international airport in Colombia en route to a third State.

- Afghanistan
- Angola
- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Ivory Coast
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Haiti
- India
- Iran
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mali
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Sierra Leone
- Syria
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan

Own elaboration based on Resolution 5488 of 2022. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (2022).

Entry and Stay Permit (PIP)

For short-term visits (up to 90 days, extendable once for an additional 90 days, with a maximum stay of 180 days per calendar year), visa-exempt nationals may apply for an entry permit upon arrival in Colombia. This also applies to foreign nationals who intend to submit a visa application directly from within Colombian territory¹. This also applies to foreigners intending to apply for their visa within Colombian territory.

¹ Unidad Administrativa Especial Migración Colombia. (2019). Resolution 3167 of May 30, 2019.

Types of PIP



Tourism Permit (PT): For tourism, medical treatment, business meetings, or participation in cultural, scientific or sports events.



Integration and Development Permit (PID): For cooperation agreements, personal matters, activities of national interest, academic roles, journalism, emergencies, or official/service missions.



Permit to Develop Other Activities (POA): For technical assistance, artistic events, temporary transit, and crew members.

Restrictions

- Engaging in regulated activities.
- Performing activities other than those declared.
- Receiving payment in Colombia.
- Staying more than 180 days per year.
- Obtaining a foreigner ID (cédula de extranjería).
- Holding a Colombian employment contract.
- Entering with a conditional nationality (except applicable exceptions).

Visitor (V)

Validity: Up to two (2) years

Maximum permanence: depending on the visa category, ranging from up to 180 continuous or non-continuous calendar days within each 365-day period from the date of visa issuance, or for the full duration of the visa's validity, as applicable.

Maximum value: USD \$300–350

Purpose: For foreign nationals who wish to visit Colombia on one or multiple occasions, or remain temporarily in the country without the intention of establishing permanent residence.

Visa V Categories

- Airport traffic.
- Tourism.
- Business visits.
- Student.
- Medical treatment.
- Judicial and/or administrative procedures.
- Crew member.
- Seasonal agricultural worker.
- Permanent correspondent
- Events.
- Religious.
- Student or volunteer in religious entities.
- Volunteer or cooperant.
- Film productions or large format documentaries.
- Digital nomad.
- Journalistic coverage.
- Technical assistance.
- TLC entrepreneurs.
- Non-accredited officials.
- Vacation and work.
- Labor practice.
- Service provider - work or labor.
- Promotion of internationalization.
- Rentier.
- Unforeseen cases.

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. (2022). Resolution 5477 of July 22, 2022.



Types of Colombian visas

Colombia offers three visa categories based on the nature and duration of the intended activity: **Visitor (V), Migrant (M) and Resident (R).**

Resident (R)

Validity: permanent; however, a visa transfer is required every 5 years.

The term is permanent; however, it is at the discretion of the national government to accept the transfer every 5 years.

One-time fee: USD 452.

Purpose: For foreign nationals who wish to settle permanently or establish domicile in Colombia and who meet the applicable eligibility requirements.

Categorías

- By renunciation of nationality.
- For accumulated time in Colombia.
- Under the Temporary Protection Statute for Venezuelan Migrants.
- Special Resident of Peace.

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. (2022). Resolución 5477 del 22 de julio de 2022.

Migrant (M)

Maximum validity: 3 years.

Maximum permanence: equal to the time of validity.

Maximum value: USD\$ 324*.

Purpose: For foreign nationals who wish to enter and remain in Colombia with the intention of establishing themselves in the country on a long-term basis, but who do not meet the requirements to apply for a Type R (Resident) Visa.

Visa M Categories

- Spouse of a Colombian national.
- Permanent partner of a Colombian national.
- Mother or father of a Colombian national by adoption.
- Investor.
- Father or mother of Colombian national by birth.
- Mercosur migrant.
- Andean migrant.
- Refugee.
- Stateless person.
- Employee.
- Partner or owner.
- Independent professional.
- Pensioner.
- Promotion of internationalization.

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. (2022). Resolution 5477 of July 22, 2022.

Some visa categories allow dependents, including the spouse, permanent partner, and dependent children under 25 years old (or over 25 if they are unable to support themselves). This provision ensures that the principal visa holder may remain in the country accompanied by their immediate family during the validity of the visa.

Dependent visas do not authorize employment, as their purpose is solely to permit the individual's stay in the country as a companion of the principal visa holder. If a dependent wishes to engage in work or any remunerated activity, they must apply for their own visa that expressly grants authorization to work.

Visa Application Process in Bogotá

01

Identify the appropriate visa category and place of application



Before starting the application process, applicants must determine which visa category applies to their situation (**Visitor, Migrant, or Resident**). Each category has specific documentary requirements, which should be verified under Resolution 5477 of July 22, 2022 or through the official web ([Visa | Cancillería](#)).

If the applicant is in Colombia, the application must be submitted before the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; if abroad, it must be filed through the Colombian consulate in the applicant's country of nationality or residence.

02

Gather the required documents

Certain general documents apply to all visa applications, including:

- A passport or travel document valid for at least 180 days at the time of application.
- A color scanned PDF copy (photographs are not accepted) of the passport's main page containing the holder's biographical information.
- A color scanned copy of the page containing the most recent Colombian entry stamp.
- A digital passport-style photograph, white background, 3x4 cm, without accessories.
- Copies of any previous Colombian visas, if applicable.

03

Complete the online application form

The Colombian visa process is fully digital. Applicants must complete the electronic application form available on the official Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, provide all requested information, and upload the required scanned documents.

04

Pay the application review fee and await evaluation

Once the application is submitted, the applicant must pay the applicable visa processing fee. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will review the application and may request clarifications or additional supporting documents during the evaluation process, which may take up to 30 calendar days. If approved, an electronic visa (e-visa) will be issued and sent to the applicant's registered email address.

Register the visa and apply for a Foreigner Identification Card (if applicable)

05

After receiving the visa, the holder must register it with Migración Colombia. In addition, foreign nationals holding visas valid for more than 90 days are generally required to obtain a Foreigner Identification Card (Cédula de Extranjería), subject to certain exceptions, such as specific business visas.





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