

Colombia

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History of Colombia

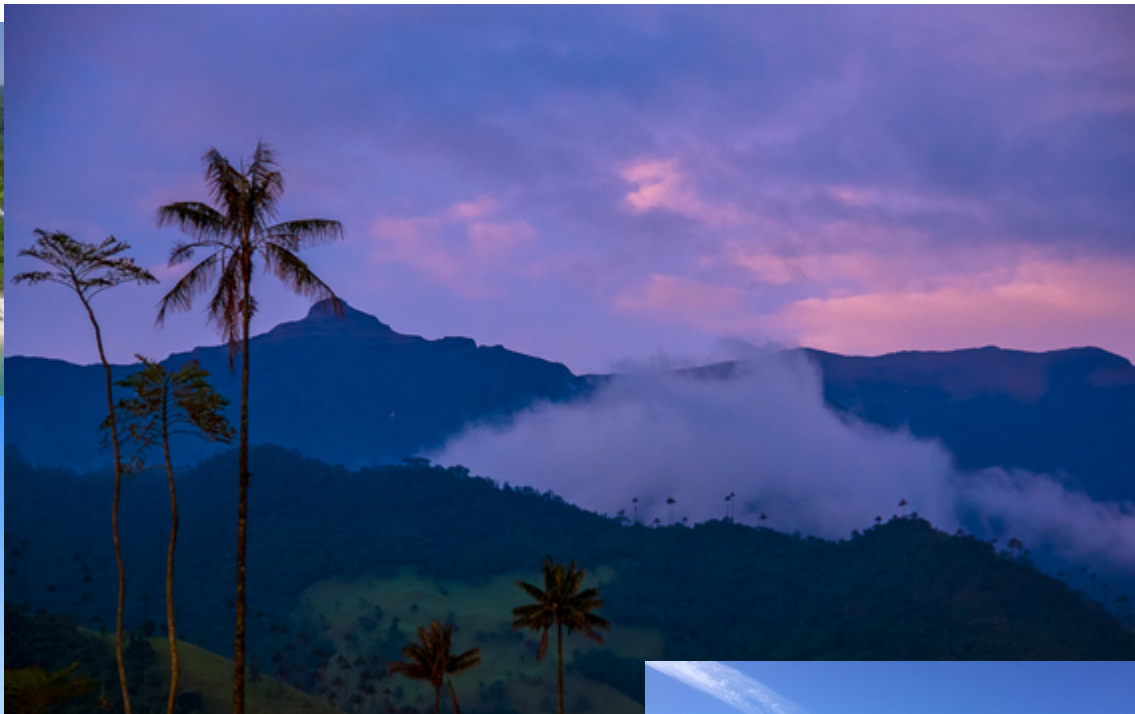
- A lot of Colombia's forests have remained undisturbed for thousands of years now, which allowed many species to develop.
- Many archeologist believe that the first people to arrive to Colombia came about 20,000 years ago. About 8,000 years after that, settlers in the western part of the country grew into a civilization called the Chiba.
- From the Chiba came Muisca, which became a more advanced culture that became the dominant power of Colombia.
- Spanish explorers arrived in Colombia around 1500, yet they did not actually establish the settlement until 1525. These explorers were obsessed with finding gold and other valuable items, by 1538 they ended conquering the Muisca and had stolen all of their gold and valuables. Colombia had remained under spanish rule for 250 years.
- By the late 1700s Colombia had grown tired of being under spanish rule, and in 1811, the city of Cartagena declared independence and Bogata followed. By 1815 the spanish attempted to reclaim control but in the end were defeated by colombian forces in 1819.
- After Colombia gaining Independance Colombia became apart of a larger country called New Granada

Geography



Geography

- Colombia is nicknamed “the gateway to south america” due to the fact that it sits in the northwestern part of the continent where South America is connected to Central and North America.
- Colombia is the only South American country with coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.
- With vast rain forests, large savannah's, huge mountains and 1,800 miles (2,900 kilometers) of coastline on both oceans
- Colombia is considered one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world.
- In fact about 10% of all animals species live in Colombia



Culture

Colombian culture is very varied because of the influence of Spanish colonizers, native peoples and African slaves. Colombia's culture revolves around music.

A common tradition in Colombia is folkloric dancing. Some other elements of Colombian culture are:

- Carnaval de Negros y Blancos:
- Carnaval de Barranquilla
- Ibagué Folk Festival and Bambuco National Folk Festival
- Wind and Kite Festival:



All Folkloric dancing includes detailed outfits. Women's dresses have a circular shape with extra fabric to twirl with.

Most Folkloric Dancing is traditionally a woman and a man, but group dancing has become more popular.



Cuisine

- Colombia cuisine includes a lot of tropical fruits such as cape gooseberry, feijoa, arazá, dragon fruit, mangostino, granadilla, papaya, guava, blackberry, lulo, soursop and passionfruit.



Some popular dishes:

- patacones- fried plantains
- sancocho de gallina- potato/chicken soup
- ajiaco- chicken, herb soup
- empanadas- meat stuffed pastries
- bandeja paisa- red beans, pork and egg
- tres leches cake- sponge cake soaked in milk

Cuisine



What is Colombia known for?

- Emeralds
- The myth of El Dorado
- Andean Peaks
- Coffee
- Salsa Dancing
- Shakira

