



CURIOUS DAY

Cartagena, Colombia | ¿Qué más? | Departure - 3:00PM

It's the Humidity

This will likely be the hottest port of our tour. Sunscreen, hats and other protections are strongly recommended! This is a good day to bring some water with you.

Early Back!

Unfortunately, our visit to this beautiful city is rather short, and the city itself is a distance from the port. If you're not on a tour, please plan for traffic. It's recommended that you head back to the ship after lunch. Check the ship's schedule before you disembark.

¿Que? ¡No Ingles!

Cartagena has a higher percentage of English speakers than the rest of the country, but you may still encounter vendors and stores that speak only Spanish. Language apps on your smartphone can be very helpful. If you have an Internet connection, type what you want to say into Google Translate and hand the phone to vendor. It works wonders!



New New Carthage of the Indies

A city of many colors today, Cartagena gets its name from Cartagena, Spain, which itself was named as a "new" Carthage. A port with a rich history and seeming endless potential, its lack of access to the interior of Colombia almost rendered it abandoned in the 19th century. It wasn't until oil was discovered in the early 20th century that the city began to grow again.

Early Spanish explorers report that the city was surrounded by the heads on spikes. Local resistance was fierce, resulting in the deaths of many Spaniards. But the lust for gold and evangelism won out.

Despite its impressive battlements, the city was sacked several times, including by Sir Frances Drake. Drake took a payment of ten million pesos not to burn the entire city to the ground. After each raid, more walls were built, until finally the French conquered the city in 1697. Yellow fever weakened the French, and their rule lasted only a short time.



Cartagena de Indias Facts & Figures

Named: 1533 CE

Human Habitation: ~7000 BCE

Indigenous Peoples: Puerto Hormiga, Monsú, Caribe, Zenú

Population: ~ 1,000,000

Exports: Oil, Coffee, Gold, Charcoal

Walls Length: 7 miles (11km)

Average Temp.: 84°F (30°C)

Area: 32 mi² (83km²)

Distance from Equator: 2,600 miles (4200 km)

Flag Meaning: Red for the blood of patriots, yellow for the sun shining on the lands' riches, green for the hope of a "dignified homeland," and an 8 pointed star for the 8 municipalities.



"The Soul of Carmen Miranda"

Known for the fruit she wore on her head, Carmen Miranda was NOT from Cartagena or even Colombia, but she's inextricably linked with the city because of her peculiar headwear. Her native language was Portuguese, as she was from Brazil.

Miranda's success earned her considerable criticism in Brazil, her home country. Many felt she was typecast as a "Latina Bimba," and "too Black." In America, she was seen as the image of "Exotic Latin America," and her image influenced American culture in the form of the Chiquita banana logo, based off her performance as a *palenquera*.

But where did the fruit hat come from? Its origins are found in Palenque, Colombia, where women, often of African descent, would don colorful clothing and carry wares on their heads—in this case, fruit for sale. Eventually they started selling in the big city, Cartagena. Their bright colors impressed tourists, and thus the *palenquera* became a symbol of Cartagena.

In truth, these women had their fruit in bowls or baskets, not hats, and this was very practical as it's often more comfortable to carry heavy loads this way, and it leaves hands free for holding a child's hand.

