Who needs a visa?

**Non-conditioned nationalities**
States whose nationals do not require a visa upon arrival, provided they meet the requirements to obtain one of the nine types of Entry and Permanence Permit (PIP, for its acronym in Spanish).

**Nationals from the following countries do not require a visa to enter Colombia:**

- Albania
- Andorra
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Belize
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Brunei-Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Estonia
- Fiji
- Finland
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Holy See
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Romania
- Russia (Federation of)
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Samoa
- San Marino
- San Vicente and the Grenadines
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Spain
- Suriname
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

*Source: [www.cancilleria.gov.co](http://www.cancilleria.gov.co)*
What is an entry and permanence permit?

Nationals of non-conditioned countries do not require a visa upon arrival, provided they meet the requirements to obtain an entry and permanence permit (PIP). These permits are issued to foreigners with non-conditioned nationalities visiting the country for stays of up to 90 days, which may be extended for an additional 90 days (maximum 180 days for each calendar year). This also applies to foreigners whose nationalities are not conditioned and who wish to obtain a visa directly in the Colombian territory.

What types of PIPs do Colombian immigration authorities handle?

- **PIP 1**: Persons of importance to the country or treaties.
- **PIP 2**: Academics and arts and crafts trainees.
- **PIP 3**: Medical treatments
- **PIP 4**: Legal or administrative proceedings.
- **PIP 5**: Tourism.
- **PIP 6**: Training, commercial or corporate activities, recruitment interviews, academic, cultural, sporting, or scientific events.
- **PIP 7**: Technical visits for 30 days.
- **PIP 8**: Crew members.
- **PIP 9**: Transit.

With the PIP, foreigners are not authorized to:
- Carry out regulated activities.
- Carry out activities other than those declared in the PIP application.
- Receive payments in Colombia.
- Stay more than 180 days in the country, per calendar year.
- Obtain a foreign ID card (cédula de extranjería).
- Enter a work contract in Colombia.
- Enter the country with a conditioned nationality.

What types of visas are there in Colombia?

In case a visa is required, Colombia has three types of visas, issued for specific activities.

Visitor (V)

- Two years maximum
- Maximum 180 days stay
- Maximum value: USD 297*

Foreigners wishing to visit the country one or several times or staying temporarily without intending to remain in the country indefinitely.
1. Transit
2. Tourism
3. Business visits
4. Academic exchange or non-formal studies
5. Medical treatments
6. Legal proceedings
7. Crew members
8. Conferences
9. Internships
10. Voluntary work
11. Audiovisual productions
12. Journalistic coverage
13. Provision of temporary services
14. Intracorporate transfers
15. Official or commercial representative of a foreign government
16. Vacation-work program
17. Courtesy
Migrant (M)

Maximum validity: 3 years indefinite (the visa will be granted for a number of years)

Maximum time allowed: same as the visa valid time

Maximum value: USD 282*

Foreigners wishing to enter and remain in the country and wishing to stay in the country in the long term, who do not meet the conditions required for type R visas.

1. Spouse of a Colombian citizen
2. Parent of an adopted Colombian citizen
3. Mercosur
4. Refugee
5. Worker
6. Entrepreneur
7. Independent
8. Clergy
9. Student
10. Real estate property investor
11. Pensioner
12. Unforeseeable circumstances

Resident (R)

Maximum validity: indefinite (the visa will be granted for a number of years)

Maximum time allowed: same as the visa valid time

Maximum value: USD 443*

Visas may include the following permits

• Open work permit: allows performing any legal activity in Colombia.
• Work permit for the specific activity: authorizes working in the above activity upon applying for the visa.
• No work permit.

Through Resolution 6045 of August 2 of 2017, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued new conditions related to visas and rescinded Resolution 5512 of September 4 of 2015.

What are the immigration process obligations?

• Foreign Identification Card (cédula de extranjería): Its only purpose is identifying foreigners in the Colombian territory, its validity being the same as the visa’s.

*The visa fee is established by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Today’s exchange rate is USD 1 = COP 3410

• Reporting to the Colombian immigration authorities: Any natural or legal person hiring or admitting a foreigner in any manner, especially under a labor or civil relationship generating benefits, should report the activity’s start and end to the Colombian immigration authorities, through the SIRE (Foreigners Information and Report System).
Regulated profession/activity: All foreigners engaging in a regulated profession or activity in Colombia should be in possession of a document authorizing them to perform such activities/professions (permit, license, professional card, recognition, or legal concept), issued by a competent entity.

Foreign workers registration (RUTEC): Colombian companies are required to register any foreign workers with a work or service contract in Colombia. Venezuelan workers with special permanence permits (PEP) making payments to the Social Security System, and the administrative personnel of embassies or consulates in the country, should also be registered. This should be done within 30 calendar days following contract initiation/termination.

What are the sanctions should they fail to comply with the above?

Colombian immigration authorities stipulate a number of infractions, either minor, moderate, or serious/very serious, applicable to foreigners and companies.

Minor
- Failing to apply for/renew their ID in a timely fashion.
- Exercising a profession, occupation, or task other than that which has been authorized.
- Doing paid work with no authorization.
- Performing activities when an exit document has been issued.
- Not notifying residence or employer changes.

The sanction may vary from 0.5 to 7 times the monthly minimum wage.

Moderate
- Entering commercial contracts with foreigners without meeting the legal requirements.
- Obtaining a visa simulating some type of contract.
- Not allowing the review of documents.
- Hiring, appointing, admitting to, or enabling a foreigner who doesn’t meet the requirements to engage in any of the aforementioned activities.

The sanction is equivalent to 8 - 40 times the monthly minimum wage.

Serious/very serious
- Obtaining a visa through fraud or simulation or misleading documents.
- Failure to change their visa or not applying for one when required.
- Performing activities not allowed by the entry permit.
- Non grata persons: complaints.
- Being in possession of fraudulent documents.
- Failure to comply with a deportation resolution in a timely fashion.
- Persons sentenced to prison, the sentence not considering deportation.
- Sex trade.

The sanction is equivalent to deportation and/or expulsion.

• Allowing irregular permanence or not timely notifying a hire, admission, or discharge.
• Not paying a hired foreigner and their family’s return trip expenses to their country of origin.
Which are the main immigration surveillance and control bodies?

The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main immigration surveillance and control body. However, there are other surveillance and control entities.

**Professional Councils**
- Regulate the professional activity to convalidate degrees in certain professions.
- Issue temporary permits and licenses.
- Issue professional cards.
- Control the exercise of the various professions in Colombia.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- Issues Colombian visas.
- Manages nationalization processes.
  [cancilleria.gov.co](http://cancilleria.gov.co)

**Colombian Special Immigration Administrative Unit**
- Controls immigration at Colombian borders and ports of entry.
- Issues entry and permanence permits (PIP).
- Issues foreign identification card (cédula de extranjería).
- Sanctions processes.
  [migracioncolombia.gov.co](http://migracioncolombia.gov.co)

**Ministry of National Education**
- Certify professional titles.
  [mineducacion.gov.co](http://mineducacion.gov.co)

**Ministry of Labor**
- Keep a record of foreign workers with work contracts from a Colombian company.
  [mintrabajo.gov.co](http://mintrabajo.gov.co)

More information on this topic