



Arrival in Bogotá

Last-Minute Comments on What to Bring

1. Pack clothes for 60° to 70° F. weather (Bogotá), warm pajamas, some summer clothes (for trips to hot country), a small compact umbrella (never leave home without it – it could be raining in 10 minutes), dress shoes, and comfortable but nice-looking walking shoes. Generally speaking, Colombians dress up more than North Americans, and clean, nice shoes are a particular focus.
2. Don't wear or bring expensive jewelry. Some have bought cheap wedding bands to wear out-and-about.
3. If you want to bring some travel snacks, high-protein trail mix is light and convenient. Veggie sticks of cucumber and green peppers are excellent thirst quenchers without the hassle of liquids. And carrots and crisp apples are good toothbrush substitutes on a trip.
4. You should confirm luggage restrictions. Many airlines limit passengers to only **1** free checked 50-lb. bag, a carry-on, plus a personal item such as a computer bag, purse or small backpack, and boxes are often prohibited as checked bags.
5. Once you check your bags, you will not see them again until Bogotá. Pack the following items so they are handy: passport, tickets, credit card, some smaller denomination U.S. dollars including several \$1 bills in case you need them for tips or cell phone calls once in Bogotá. Before coming you should receive the name, cell, email and photo of the person picking you up from the airport. Keep the school's address and phone number handy to give when needed: **Calle 221 # 52 – 30, Bogotá 111166** and **742-2330**. If you know your Bogotá home address (it should be in your airport pick-up email), keep that handy as well.
6. American passports are valuable worldwide, so guard yours well. Some travelers keep their passports in a pouch inside their clothing. Keep it safe and inconspicuous.
7. Photocopy your passport and put the copy in a location other than where you keep your passport, in case it is stolen. Some leave a copy of their passport and visa with a family member in the States.

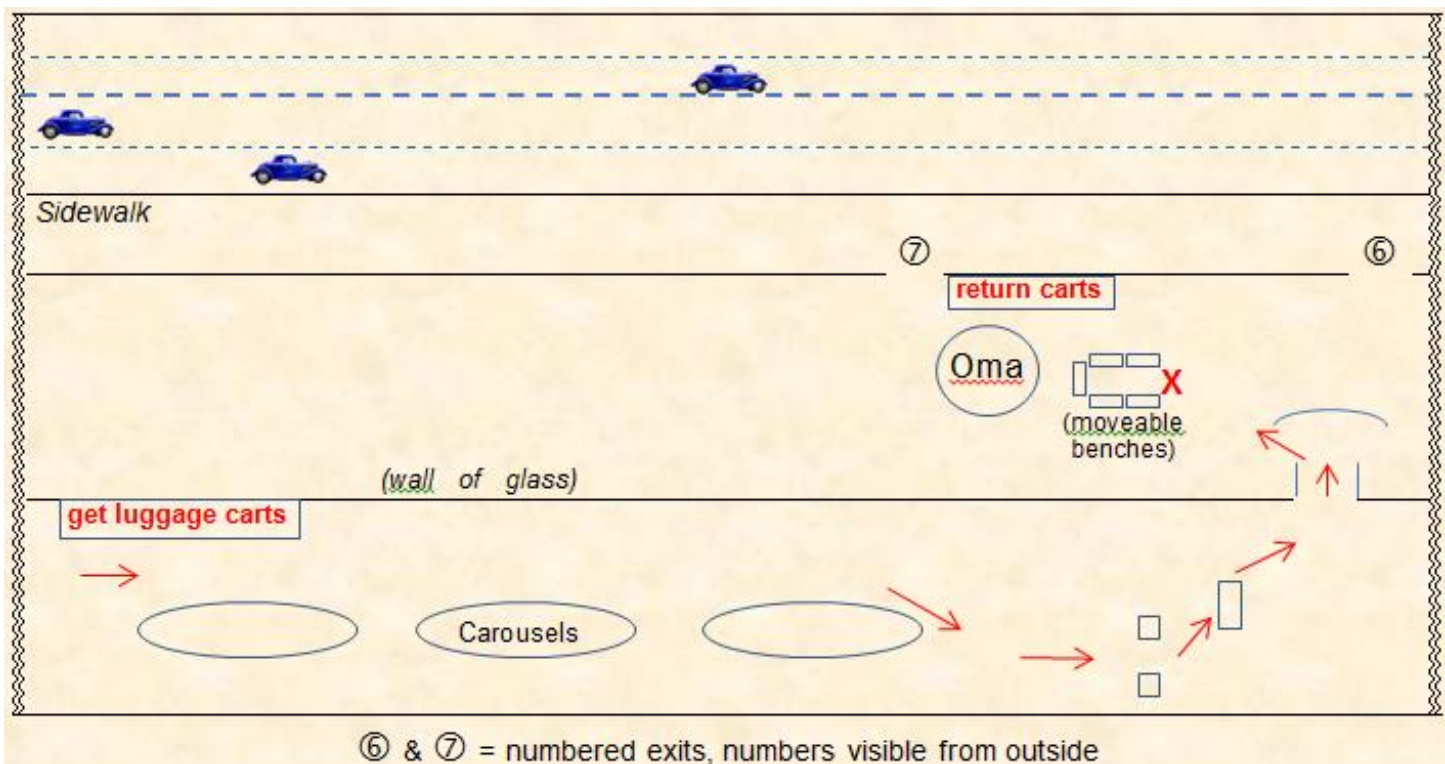
What Happens on the Plane to Bogotá

1. You will probably get a meal, so enjoy it.
2. Drinking lots of **water** on the plane may help with adjusting to the higher altitude (many do not have a problem, but some do struggle with the lower oxygen level here). Taking an **aspirin** on the plane sometimes helps with the adjustment.
3. On the plane you will receive two forms to complete, Immigration and Customs. Fill them out (you will need your Bogotá address for Immigration) and have them handy when you go through Immigration and when you get your luggage.
4. Pray, read, journal, maybe enjoy a movie ... anticipate this adventure that God has prepared for you in Colombia!

What Happens at the Airport in Bogotá

All important signs are in English as well as Spanish, so you don't have to worry about ending up in the wrong place.

1. When you get off the plane, follow the crowd to *Migración* and choose the line that says *Extranjeros* (foreigners) which leads to the far end on your left. When you get to a booth, hand them your passport and the form. They will stamp your entrance into your passport, probably a 90-day *Permiso*, similar to what we call a tourist visa in the U.S. You should have the **address** where you will be staying handy, either yours or the school's address above.
2. Follow the flow down to the luggage **carousels**. If you want a "free" luggage cart, to your left as you enter is an area where you can give **\$2.00** to get a receipt and a cart. When you turn in the cart and receipt near the curb, you will get your **\$2.00** back. Porters are also available for a fee – usually **\$1.000** (a thousand pesos) or **\$1.00** (a dollar) per bag.



3. After you collect your bags, continue to the far right corner of the room, where you will turn in your **Customs Declaration** form.
4. Once your Customs form has been collected, put your bags on an **x-ray scanner** belt. Collect them on the other side, then proceed to the lobby.
5. As you exit the secure area into the lobby, the barrier directly ahead is where your ride should be holding a sign that says **ECA** and possibly your name. If





they are not there, the designated meeting point is the **Oma** coffee shop (**X** on the diagram above) where you can sit down. If a porter has your luggage, he will stay with you. Once you find your ride, take a deep breath and relax. You've made it! If your pick-up party is one of our ECA families, they may or may not speak English. But they have all they need to drop you off at your designated address. 😊

[If you Don't Connect with your Ride. . .](#)

If the parent has not arrived within **15 minutes**, call Patricia below. The airport has WiFi, so you can use WhatsApp or Skype (country code is 57) to call. If you cannot access the Internet,

you should take a taxi. Though the driver may accept dollars, you can get pesos. . .

- a. Withdraw \$50.000 (50 thousand pesos) or an increment of \$10.000 from an ATM located right inside door 6 or to the right of the exit from Customs. A taxi should cost \$30.000 - 40.000 pesos, which includes the extra fee for the airport (\$3.900) and for off-hours (\$1.900 after 8pm).
- b. Go out through door 6 to the line marked "taxi."
- c. Show the taxi driver your address and he will take you to your apartment. Optional: you can tell the driver, "via Avenida Boyacá" - they might be less likely to take a roundabout route to increase the fare. If you do not speak Spanish, write down your phrases.
- d. When you pay the driver, ask for a receipt (*Necesito un recibo*).

[At Your Apartment / House](#)

All housing complexes have guards, so you will need to show them an ID card and your address. If you're a newly arriving teacher, they will give you an envelope which holds an authorization letter and your keys. Show the letter to the guard to let you in. If you don't arrive too late, you can call your assigned buddy – there should be a phone list by your home phone. Welcome to Bogotá!

[Cell Phone Numbers to Have Handy:](#)

Patricia Ramírez's cell (she arranges airport pick-ups)	313-249-4491
Beth Afanador's cell	314-219-1009
Jennifer Johnson's cell	321-302-8399
School (school hours only)	301-355-1154 / 315-381-8447

Questions? Write communication@eca.edu.co. We look forward to seeing you!!