



In the framework of the Bicentennial of its Independence COLOMBIA CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL DAY

*Greetings of Mr. Ambassador,
Luis Antonio Dimate Cardenas*

Dear friends,

It is a great honor for me to greet you on this happy occasion when the people of Colombia commemorate the gesture of July 20, 1810, which marked the beginning of the process of independence that would end nine years later in the Battle of Boyacá, when the freedom of our country was forever sealed.

Today we pay tribute to the heroes who bequeathed us freedom and with their sacrifice laid the foundations of a great and sovereign nation. Two centuries have passed since those heroic deeds. Two centuries of work and effort that today allow us to see the future with optimism.

Today Colombia is a nation with strong institutions and a solid and stable economy; a nation fully committed to peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development; a nation determined to overcome the great challenges it has on the road and to achieve the well-being and progress of all its inhabitants, guided by the principles of legality, entrepreneurship, and equity promoted by the Government of President Iván Duque.

Today Colombia is a nation that plays an increasingly active role on the international scene, contributes and promotes cooperation, and seeks to further strengthen ties of friendship and solidarity with other nations. A clear example of this is the significant progress we have made in recent years in our relations with Azerbaijan, a friendly country with which, in addition to an excellent political dialogue, we share an increasingly important agenda in the areas of trade, culture, education and technical cooperation.

As the first Colombian Ambassador to Azerbaijan, I am firmly committed to the continued strengthening of the fraternal ties that we have forged with this beautiful country. In this purpose, I am accompanied by my colleagues from the Embassy and compatriots residing in Azerbaijan, who with their creativity and hard work also contribute to the development of this nation.

We celebrate this national anniversary amid a health crisis that has tested our resilience, which prevents us from sharing physically. However, I am sure that with the spirit of solidarity that emerges more strongly in adversities, we will be strengthened and united as fraternal peoples.

In conclusion, let me renew to the government and people of Azerbaijan the wishes of President Iván Duque and our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Claudia Blum, to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, as well as our wishes for the well-being and progress of Azerbaijan.

*Congratulatory letter of Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to his counterpart*



Official meeting with H.E.
Mr. President, Ilham Aliyev, for Presentation
of the Credentials.

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Colombia, I would like to express my most sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the further prosperity of your country and people. It is my conviction that the existing traditional friendship and partnership between Azerbaijan and Colombia, based on mutual understanding, as well as respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of our states will further strengthen in coming years. I am convinced that the cooperation between our Ministries will be further expanded both at the bilateral level and within the international organizations. Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for happiness, peace and prosperity to your country.

*Congratulatory letter of Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova,
Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan to her counterpart.*

On behalf of the members of Milli Majlis and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my cordial congratulations to you and the people of friendly Colombia on the occasion of the national holiday — Colombian Independence Day, which is widely celebrated in this jubilee year in Colombia. It is encouraging to note that the friendship relations between Azerbaijan and Colombia have been upwardly developing. I am convinced that mutually beneficial cooperation between the legislative bodies of our countries, both on bilateral form and within international organizations, will continue to give its contributions to the further strengthening of existing friendly ties between our states and peoples. Dear Colleague, availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to congratulate you once again in regard with this remarkable day and wish the best of health and success in your endeavours, and peace and prosperity for the people of friendly Colombia.

*Congratulatory letter of Mr. Mushfig Jafarov,
Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to his counterpart*

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly congratulate you and the friendly people of Colombia on the occasion of the Independence Day of Colombia on behalf of the members of the Azerbaijan-Colombia Inter-Parliamentary Working Group and on my own behalf. Important to emphasize that further comprehensive development of the existing relations with friendly Colombia in various fields of cooperation, including inter-parliamentary cooperation is of great importance for us. In this regard, I have no doubt that the deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation between our legislatures will serve to strengthen the existing friendly relations between our states and nations. And we, as an Inter-Parliamentary Working Group, are determined to henceforth deepen this cooperation.

COLOMBIAN-AZERBAIJANI RELATIONS

Increasingly solid in all areas

Since

1993

2014

Inauguration of the of the Embassy of Colombia

In order to advance in the deepening of relations between both countries, in 2014 Diplomatic Missions were established in Baku and Bogotá at the level of Charge d'Affaires. That same year, Colombia exempted Azerbaijani citizens from the visa requirement, as a sign of friendship and measure to facilitate tourism and knowledge between the two countries.

Designation of the first Ambassador to Baku

On May 20, 2019, the first Ambassador of Colombia to Azerbaijan arrived in Baku. With the decision of President Iván Duque to raise diplomatic representation to the level of Ambassador, Colombia reaffirmed its commitment to the continued strengthening of the cooperation and frank dialogue that characterize the relationship between the two countries.

Together with its partners in the Pacific Alliance, in July 2019, Colombia welcomed Azerbaijan as a new observer member of this important regional integration mechanism, a status that brings us even closer and allows us to explore new and diverse forms of cooperation.

2019

A year dedicated to deepening and diversifying our bilateral agenda

Valuing the importance of our bilateral relationship, we are pushing for an increasingly diverse political, economic, and cultural agenda. Aware of the growing importance of technical cooperation, we explore new areas of knowledge exchange in agriculture, based on the successful experience of the project of growing Azerbaijani pomegranates in Colombia, which started in 2018. We will also carry out the VIII version of the Spanish Course for Public Servants, a cooperation program developed since 2013 by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

We will move along this path with our partners in the Pacific Alliance, with whom we share not only our facilities, but also our interest in deepening and diversifying our agenda with Azerbaijan.

2020

Colombia and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations on December 13, 1993. Since then, the two countries have maintained excellent bilateral relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. In December 2019, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of these relationships with a cultural event at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic Hall, organized with the support of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture, and the presentation of a varied dance performance of the two countries, with choreographic arrangements by Azerbaijan's popular artist and Vice-rector of the Baku Choreographic Academy, Tarana Muradova.



Ambassador Dimaté visited in December 2019 the then Minister of Education and current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov

The Embassy welcomes and wishes Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, the new

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

many successes and expresses its full interest in working closely to give renewed impetus to relations between Colombia and Azerbaijan.



In her congratulatory message to the Government of Azerbaijan on its National Day, Foreign Minister Claudia Blum reiterated the firm interest of the Government of Colombia to continue strengthening our ties through cooperation, especially in the fields of tourism, culture, and education, and by strengthening our political and economic relations, for the benefit of our peoples.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mrs. Claudia Blum.

COLOMBIA-A STABLE, DYNAMIC COUNTRY FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES

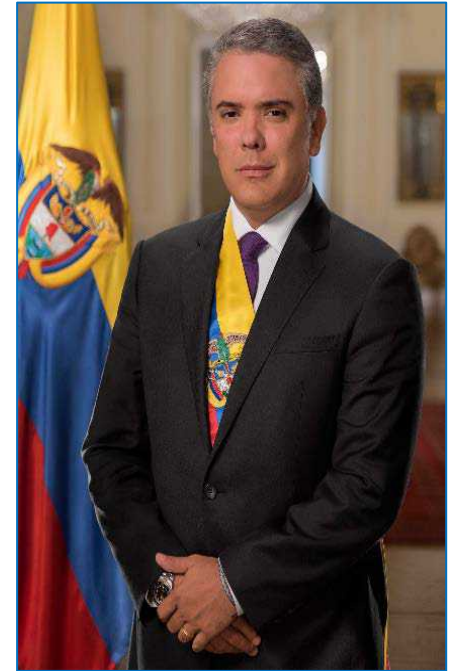


Casa De Nariño-Government Headquarters

Two centuries of republican life have allowed Colombia to consolidate its democracy and develop a strong institutionality, with which it has managed to overcome great challenges and obtain important achievements in social and economic matters.

The Peace Agreement of 2016 and the commitment of the Government of President Duque to their implementation within the framework of the Peace with Legality Policy, as well as the various policies of the current administration, based on the principles of legality, entrepreneurship and equity, show important progress.

The Peace with Legality policy is generating transformations in the 170 municipalities most affected by poverty. In addition, the Government strengthens the protection of human rights defenders and social leaders.



IVÁN DUQUE MÁRQUEZ
The President of Republic
2018-2022

In 2019, our economy had the highest growth for five years and 615,000 Colombians came out of poverty.

A country determined to overcome its challenges and looking forward with optimism to its future.

Trust in our institutions, the strength of our people and the wealth of our fields and cities encourage us to decisively face the challenges we have and to project ourselves optimistically into the future.

- We strengthen justice and the fight against illegal economies such as drug trafficking.
- With a generous policy, we face the migratory crisis that the region is experiencing and that registers in Colombia more than one and a half million Venezuelan migrants. We recognize the importance of interational cooperation to overcome this crisis, and therefore we hope that it will increase.
- This year we will have an impact due to the health emergency, but we will recover decisively.

- Social rule of law
- Unitary republic
- 32 regions
- 3rd most populous country in Latin America
- 10 development poles with a population of more than 500 thousand people
- More than 20 UNESCO heritages
- 700 festivals and carnivals

♦ **Territory:** 1,141,748 square kilometers and extensive coasts and maritime areas in the Caribbean and the Pacific

♦ **Population:** 48,258,494 people

♦ **Official language:** Spanish

♦ **Native languages:** 68 (spoken by 850,000 people).

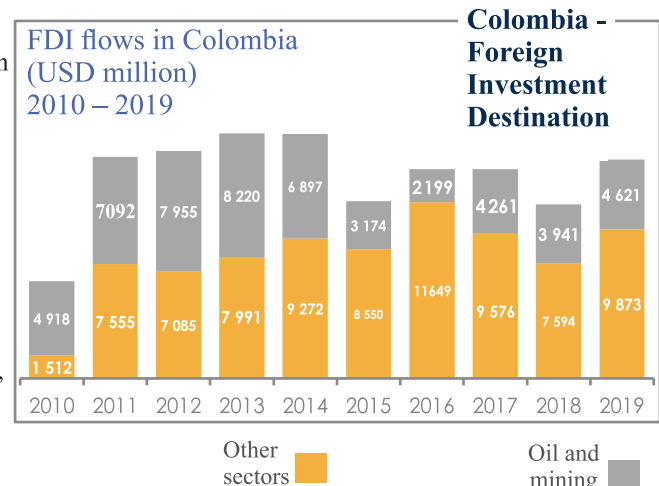
♦ **Ethnic groups:** indigenous, Afro-Colombian, Raizales, ROM (gypsy).

♦ **Neighboring countries:** Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and Venezuela

Economy of Colombia

- GDP growth by 3.3% in 2019 (\$ 328 billion USD).
- GDP per capita - \$ 6,498 USD and inflation of 3.8% in 2019.
- Exports of \$ 39.489 billion and imports of \$ 50.270 billion in 2019.
- Third largest world exporter of coffee and second world exporter of flowers.
- Number 1 in the diversity of fruits and country with finest emeralds.

- Third country of receipt of investments in Latin America.
- The 25th position among the top 30 economies FDI recipients globally.
- Access to more than 60 countries, through its network of free trade agreements.
- Member of the OECD, WTO, Pacific Alliance and Andian Community, among others.



Source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2019

Wonderful Tourist Destination

A Historical Figure

Colombia is home to amazing landscapes, products of its varied geography. Visitors can marvel in the same country with the exuberance of the Amazon rainforest, the joy of the tropics, the majesty of the Andean peaks, and the evocative views of the Atlantic Coast and the Pacific.

Each city is a fascinating place that attracts thousands of tourists year after year. Highlights include some places such as Cartagena de Indias, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, for the preservation

of its colonial architecture, its houses, streets, and the historic walled cord that surrounds it; the coffee zone, a set of municipalities dedicated to this emblematic activity in Colombia and where the coffee culture is lived permanently; its insular area, which includes cities such as Santa Catalina, San Andrés and Providencia, scene of the most beautiful sunsets in front of the piers; and of course Bogotá, the country's capital and heir to colonial architecture, is the

epicenter of culture by offering a wide variety of internationally renowned museums, squares and restaurants. Colombia is a tropical country of incredible diversity and charm. Its varied geography, its history full of mysteries and adventures, its people and its cultures have fascinated the world for centuries. Famous for its excellent coffee and the purity of its emeralds, Colombia is also the land of the El Dorado legend and the magical universe of Macondo.

Travel Guide:

<http://www.colombia.travel/es>

<http://www.colombia.co/>



Simón Bolívar
(1783-1830)

Record-breaking tourism in 2019

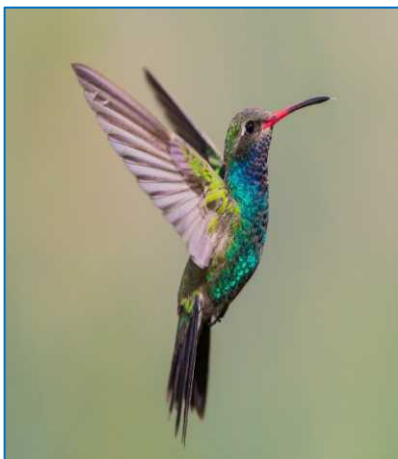
- More than 4 million visitors with a record of growth in 2019 of 2.7% compared to 2018.
- Record in hotel occupancy that reached 57.8%.
- A record figure with growth of 3.7% in nominal income of travel agencies.
- USA - main country of origin of travelers to Colombia, with a 22% participation.
- The growth of visitors stood out from Peru and France, with 19% and 12% increase, respectively.



Privileged country in its biodiversity

Colombia is identified by the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity as one of the 19 mega-diverse countries, hosting 70% of the world's biodiversity, in only 10% of the territory.

- First in birds with 1,932 species.
- First in orchids.
- Second country in plants, amphibians and butterflies.
- Third country in palms, reptiles.
- Fourth in mammals.
- 54,000 species registered.



Political and military genius to whom Colombians owe having laid the foundations for the formation of our nation and the foundation of the Republic. His social and political ideology fueled the awakening of the American conscience and, with it the collective will of sovereign self-affirmation of the peoples of South America. He led the rebellion of Creoles, Indians, and blacks that, in mythical epic, achieved the independence of New Granada (today Colombia and Panama), Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. As ruler, Bolívar devoted his inexhaustible energy and genius to crystallize the dream of a great nation. Colombia made up of all the Andean-Amazonian brother peoples.

On July 8, 2020, in his opening speech to the 20th Meeting of the Andean Presidential Council, during which Colombia assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Andean Community, President Iván Duque thus recalled Bolívar:

"(...) our Liberator, the true, genuine architect of Bolivarianism, who defended the integration of nations, who defended a common dream of teamwork that was solidified in iron and indeclinable principles. (...) That dream is genuine. It is the dream that among our nations the common interest must prevail, the benefit to the neediest and, of course, also, grounded in the concept of free enterprise, of trade. And, of course, in democratizing opportunities for the most vulnerable. That is the true Bolivarian thought (...)"