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## Top places to go in South America in 2025



Colca Canyon, Peru



Santa Marta, Colombia



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# Colca Canyon

PERU

Often missed for its renowned neighbor, Machu Picchu, this is one of the deepest canyons in the world with soaring condors and Inca terraces.



by Heather Jasper



WHY IT'S WONDERFUL



WHERE TO STAY



WHEN TO GO

The village of Coporaque is one of several that organizes homestays in a traditional Andean community. In the village of Yanque, try glamping at Puqio, which opened in 2024, or a homestay, and don't miss the scenic Chacapi hot springs. For a more high-end stay, the most luxurious option in the canyon is the gorgeous [Las Casitas, A Belmond Hotel](#).

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Be prepared for high altitude as the Cruz del Condor viewpoint sits at 12,470 feet above sea level, and many nearby hotels are over 10,000 feet above sea level. At this altitude, daytime temperatures of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and nighttime temperatures of 45 degrees Fahrenheit are the norm year-round, so bring warm layers or, better yet, buy an alpaca sweater when you arrive.



#### WHAT TO READ

*Andina: The Heart of Peruvian Food: Recipes and Stories from the Andes* by Martin Morales and David Loftus



#### WHAT TO LISTEN TO

Camote by Novalima

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# Santa Marta

COLOMBIA

A UNESCO World Heritage Site with a national park that is best reached by boat.



by Angelique Kennedy-Chavannes



WHY IT'S WONDERFUL



WHERE TO STAY



WHEN TO GO

Colombia is a very popular place to visit right now. With its unique biodiversity, ranging climates, fascinating history, and overall beauty, there are plenty of reasons why people are falling more in love with the country and want to explore more of it.

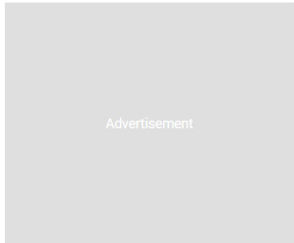
Not only are the beaches in Santa Marta amazing—especially Bahía Concha, Playa Grande, and Playa Cristal—and best visited by boat, but the city also acts as a home base for many adventures. The beautiful [Tayrona National Park](#), a protected area stretching from the foothills of Sierra Nevada to the Caribbean coast, can best be reached by either a 30-minute bus or 40-minute private transfer. For hiking enthusiasts, you can embark on the [La Ciudad Perdida](#), a multi-day hike covering over 30 miles, bringing hikers to the famed Lost City.

If you're in Colombia, chances are you enjoy coffee. Only half an hour outside Santa Marta is the small village of Minca, nestled in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains. There, you'll find one of Colombia's oldest coffee farms, [La Victoria](#), which offers coffee tours.

When exploring the more tropical climates of the country, Santa Marta should be a main stop on any traveler's trip. Roughly four hours outside of the uber-popular Cartagena, the oft-overlooked seaside city promises a quaint city center, ample excursions to Colombia's jungles, and can become lively during the Colombian holiday season.



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Cartagena Is Great but You Should Also Head to This Coastal UNESCO Site

Angelique Kennedy-Chavannes



and can become lively during the Colombian holiday season.

INSIDER TIP

Go on a city tour to understand the deep history of one of the oldest cities in the Americas. The history is long and complex, so it's best explained by a local while walking through Santa Marta.



WHAT TO READ

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez



WHAT TO LISTEN TO

Estoy Aqui by Shakira

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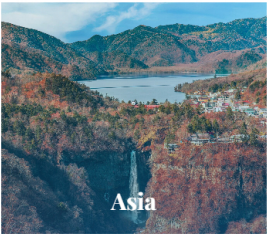
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