



## 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. 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 sometimes a 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**. Keep handy as well your Bogotá home address – it should be in your airport pick-up email.
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 keep the copy separate from your passport, in case it is stolen. You could leave a copy of your passport and visa with someone back home.

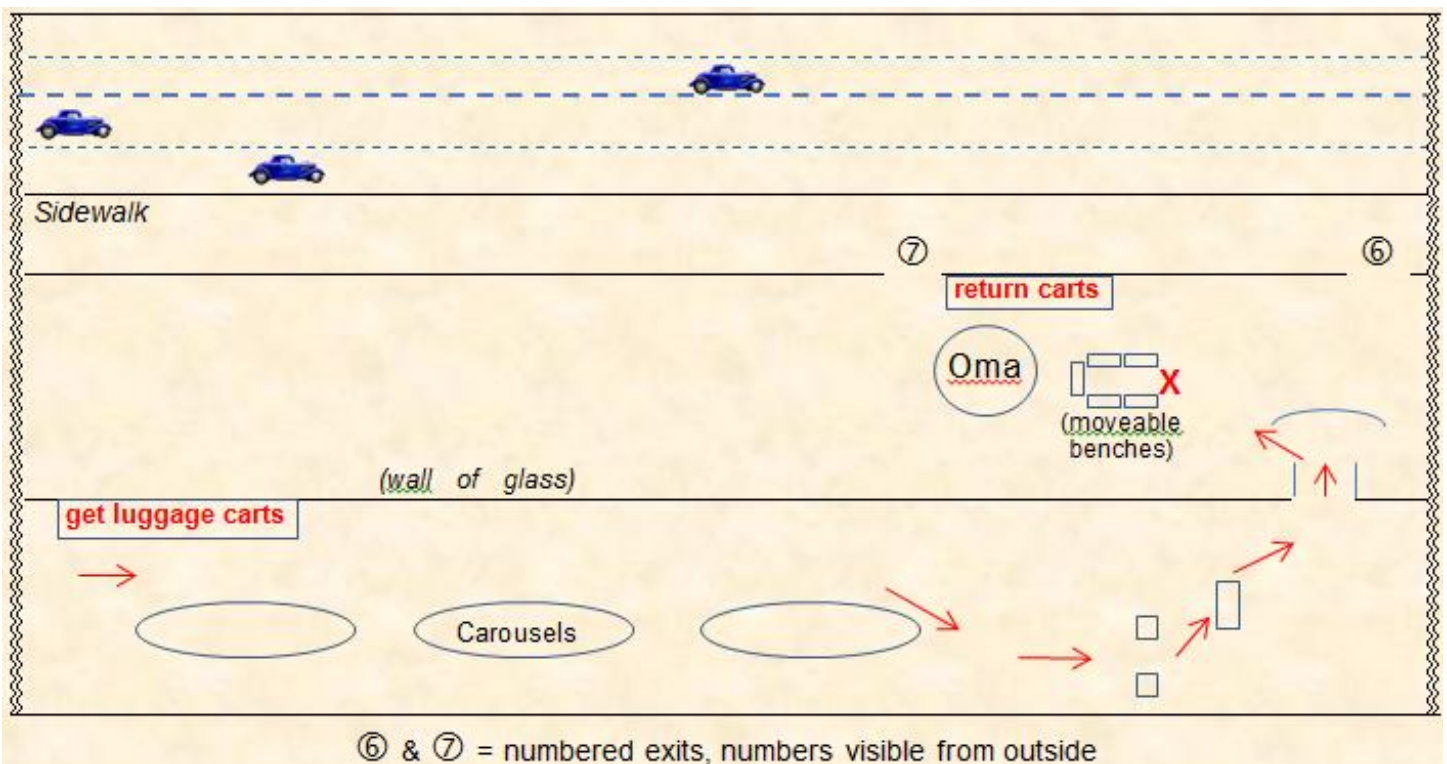
### What Happens on the Plane to Bogotá

1. 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.
2. If you receive a Customs form on the plane, fill it out (you will need your Bogotá address) and have it handy after you pick up your luggage.

### What Happens at the Airport in Bogotá

All important signs are in English as well as Spanish.

1. When you get off the plane, follow the crowd to *Migración* and choose the line that says *Extranjeros* (foreigners). When you get to a booth, hand them your passport and any letter of invitation we send you. When they stamp your passport, you will probably have a 90-day *Permiso*, similar to what we call a tourist visa in the U.S. Have handy the **address** where you will be staying, 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 can 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 they receive Customs forms.



4. If directed, put your bags on an **x-ray scanner** belt. Collect them on the other side, and 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 driver has not arrived within **15 minutes**, call Erika 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 \$40.000 - 50.000 pesos, which includes the extra fee for the airport (\$4.400) and for off-hours (\$2.100 between 8:00p and 5:00a). Fares are for 2019.
- b. Go out through door 6 to the street, where there should be taxis at the curb.
- c. Show the taxi driver your address and ask if s/he can provide a receipt when you pay (*Necesito un recibo*). If along the way you tell the driver, "*via Avenida Boyacá,*" they might be less likely to take a roundabout route to increase the fare.
- d. Remember to ask for a receipt when you pay.

### [At Your Destination](#)

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, after you show them your ID card they should give you an envelope which holds an authorization letter and your keys. Show the letter to the guard to let you in. Once in your new home, 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:](#)

<b>Erika Castiblanco's</b> cell (her office arranges airport pick-ups)	<b>313-249-4491</b>
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](mailto:communication@eca.edu.co). We look forward to seeing you!!