

Travel Information sheet: Santa Marta, Colombia

General Information on POGO-27 Annual Meeting

Meeting Venues:

*POGO Science Meeting & Poster sessions
(all delegates)*

Marine and Coastal Research Institute INVEMAR
Address: Calle 25 No. 2-55, Playa Salguero,
Santa Marta, Colombia
Website: <https://www.invemar.org.co/>

*POGO Members' Annual General Meeting
(POGO members only)*

INVEMAR (as above)

Logistical Information & useful links

Santa Marta location & climate

Colombia is located in the northwest of South America and offers a diverse geography that includes Caribbean and Pacific coastlines, the Andes mountains, and the Amazon region. The climate varies by region and altitude rather than by season, so travelers should pack accordingly. Spanish is the official language, although English is commonly spoken in major cities, hotels, and tourist areas. Colombia operates on GMT-5 year-round. Santa Marta is a coastal city in northern Colombia, located on the Caribbean Sea at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The city has a warm tropical climate year-round. Average temperatures ranging between 25°C and 32°C (77°F–90°F). Recommended items include light clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, reusable water bottle, sunglasses, light jacket (indoor air-conditioning).

Electricity

In Colombia, the standard electrical supply is 110 volts / 60 Hz, using Type A and Type B plugs (the same as in the United States). Visitors from countries using different voltage standards or plug types are advised to bring a power adapter and/or voltage converter for their electronic devices.

Currency

The local currency is the Colombian peso (COP). Credit cards are widely accepted, but carrying some cash is useful.



Airport

The local airport is the Simón Bolívar International Airport (SMR), with direct flights from major Colombian cities and limited international connections. Colombia's main international gateways are Bogotá (BOG), Medellín (MDE), and Cartagena (CTG). International delegates can connect to a domestic flight to Santa Marta from these cities. Please allow 2–3 hours for connections, especially when transferring between international and domestic terminals.

Transport

Local transportation includes taxis and ride-hailing apps (**UBER, inDRIVE**), and most distances within the city are short. A taxi ride from Simón Bolívar International Airport to Rodadero typically costs approximately \$30.000 COP however, it is recommended to agree on the fare in advance or ensure the meter is used, and takes around 15 minutes depending on traffic conditions. Some hotels also offer private airport transfers upon request.

Travel Requirements for Colombia

Participants are responsible for confirming their visa and entry requirements for Colombia (https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa). Those requiring an invitation letter for related travel may contact Laura Correa (laura.correa@invemar.org.co).

All international participants must present valid travel documents in accordance with current international regulations. These documents must be accompanied by a visa, if required by nationality.

- Passport valid for at least six (6) months.
- At least one blank page.
- Completion of the [Check-MIG](#) pre-registration form 24 hours to 1 hour prior to travel (if applicable)
- Yellow fever vaccination if applicable (minimum 10 days before travel).
- Travel medical insurance (highly recommended).
- Accommodation and flight reservations.

Visa

Participants who require a visa to enter Colombia must apply for the Type V-Eventos Visa through the official online platform of the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
<https://tramitesmre.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites/enlinea/solicitarVisa.xhtml>

Applicants are responsible for selecting the appropriate Colombian consular office based on their country of residence or nationality and for submitting the required documentation online.

Required Documents

- Recent color photo with a white background (4 cm x 3 cm).
- Passport information page, valid for at least 6 months.
- Invitation Letter from INVEMAR

- Proof of financial resources (bank statements of participant or sponsoring entity).
- Proof of legal residence if living outside country of nationality.
- Additional documents may be requested at the discretion of the consular authority.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their visa application well in advance of their intended travel date and to regularly check their email for notifications from the Colombian authorities. Legal processing time is up to 30 calendar days. The visa is issued electronically.




Two mandatory fees apply: Study fee (paid first) and Issuance fee (paid only if approved).



General Recommendations

- Verify travel regulations prior to departure.
- Carry copies of important documents.
- Familiarize yourself with local culture and regulations.

For more information about planning your trip to Colombia, please visit the official tourism website: [Official tourism guide to explore Colombia | Colombia Travel](#)

HOTELS

HOTEL	RATE PER PERSON	CONTACT INFORMATION	LOCATION
Hotel Tamacá <i>The hotel is a 15-minute walk away and 5 minutes by Car from the venue.</i>	Special rate INVEMAR COP\$416.000 (Approx. US\$115) <i>The price per person per night includes breakfast.</i>	Email: reservas@tamaca.com.co Tel:+57 (601) 744 4754	Carrera 2 No. 11A – 98, El Rodadero, Santa Marta 
Blu hotel by Tamacá <i>The hotel is a 15-minute walk away and 5 minutes by Car from the venue.</i>	Special rate INVEMAR COP\$300.000 (Approx. US\$82) <i>The price per person per night includes breakfast.</i>		Cra. 2 #11-65 El Rodadero, Santa Marta 
Salguero Suites - Playa Salguero <i>The accommodation consists of furnished apartments, allowing more than one person to stay in each unit. The building is directly across the street from the venue.</i>	Price for 4 nights COP\$850.000 (Approx. US\$230)	Booking: Salguero Suites - Playa Salguero - By INMOBILIARIA VS, Santa Marta (precios actualizados en 2026)	 Calle 26 #2-40 Playa Salguero

<p>Salguero Sunset - Playa Salguero <i>The accommodation consists of furnished apartments, allowing more than one person to stay in each unit. The building is directly across the street from the venue.</i></p>	<p>Price for 4 nights COP\$1.200.000 (Approx. US\$320)</p>	<p>Apartamentos Salguero Sunset - Cerca al Mar by SOHO, Santa Marta (precios actualizados en 2026)</p>	 <p>Calle 26 No. 2 - 80 - Barrio Playa Salguero - Edificio Salguero Sunset</p>
<p>Hilton Santa Marta <i>Located around 15 minutes away by car.</i></p>	<p>Approx. US\$145 (average price per night)</p>	<p>https://www.hilton.com/en/</p>	 <p>Carrera 2 No 114-78 Sector Pozos Colorados</p>
<p>Hotel Estelar Santamar <i>Located around 15 minutes away by car.</i></p>	<p>Price for 4 nights Approx. COP \$1.843.251 (US\$496) The price per person includes breakfast.</p>	<p>https://www.estelarsantamar.com/es/</p>	<p>Kilometro 8 Pozos Colorados</p>