



CARTAGENA

A Cruisers' Guide

After exploring the remote and beautiful San Blas Islands in Panama, or coming from the jet-set pace of Florida or the Eastern Caribbean, you will find your stay in Cartagena, Columbia, to be unique and enriching. This magnificent city offers safe streets, friendly people and an amazing array of things to see and do. From touring the city's many historical sites, taking in some culture at the theater, sampling from the myriad of fantastic and reasonably priced restaurants, or spending a day at the beach, "boredom" will not be part of your itinerary here! We hope that this cruiser's guide will assist you during your stay in Cartagena. "A la orden!"

**Information for this guide was compiled by Cindy Robinson, s/v ANGEL, with assistance from John Halley, dock master. The disk for this document is in the office at Club Nautico. Please make updates and additions to this guide as necessary to help others in your wake enjoy their stay. You may download this and other cruising guides from www.deckersailing.com. (August 2002)*

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1. CHECKING IN

Cartagena's port captain does not deal with any yacht captain directly and will insist on the use of an agent.

As de Guia Maritime Agency Manga, Av. Miramar and Callejon Olaya K23 #24-29. Diagonal to Muelle Turistico. Tel: 660 9179, cell:0330336077, Fax: 6608222. VHF #16 Email: asdeguia@ctgred.net.co. Ask for Myrna. English spoken. \$50 U.S. to check in and out.

Solymaraire Ltda. Manga, office at Club Nautico. Tel and Fax: 666 3230 or 6605582. Cel: 033 655 8422. Email: Manfred.al@gmx.net. Manfred Alwarelt is German and English speaking, charges \$50 U.S. to check in, and can obtain discounts on certain items.

Port Captain's Office BCH Building, 5th floor (Multi story office building facing Parque Centenario) La Matuna, Avenida Daniel Lemaitre Center.

Upon clearing with immigration, you will be issued a two-month tourists' visa. This can subsequently be extended on a monthly basis for up to a six month total stay per calendar year. Time spent outside of the country will not cancel out the time you have spent in Columbia, as in Panama for instance, but will instead be added on to your original expiration date. Before going to Immigration for your visa renewal after your first two months here, stop at the bank to pay the fee:

Bancafe Pedro de Heredia, Sector Lo Amador, # 19-204. Payment is made to Account No. 14299001-9, Codigo 103. The charge for monthly renewal is \$48.100 pesos. Lines in the bank can be long so plan on going early. ("Prorrogar Turismo" = "to renew a visa")

D.A.S. (Immigration office is here), Pie de La Popa, Tel: 656-2524. There are many holidays in Columbia, so it's a good idea to call first to make sure they are open.

2. MOORAGE FACILITIES

There are two marinas available along with the option of anchoring off of Club Nautico. Both facilities are conveniently located in Manga, a safe and comfortable middleclass neighborhood occupied by families and professionals. It won't take long for you to discover that the bay is, shall we say, very rich in nitrogen content! The small price you pay to have your boat's bottom and prop cleaned at least every 30 days during your stay, and shortly before leaving, is unquestionably a bargain! Also watch that anchor chain—the barnacles will love it!!! Water from the taps is potable, but a hose filter is always a good idea.

Club Nautico Manga, Av. Miramar No. 19-50. Tel: 660 4863, 660 4769. Club Nautico is "the cruisers' marina" offering bow or stern-to ties on wooden docks. A diver is provided upon arrival to secure lines—anchor not required. Moorage fees for sailing vessels: US 25¢ per foot per day, catamarans 35¢, motor yachts 30¢. Substantial discount for extended stay over two months. There is a daily charge of \$2 for water and electricity combined. 110 & 220 60 cycle AC power provided. The entire dock electrical system has been recently upgraded. The Club's courteous dock master, John Halley, will see to it that you are securely moored and provide you with good basic information about the city and it's customs after you tie up. Club Nautico includes a restaurant and bar utilized by both cruisers and locals, a secure dinghy dock, laundry (6500 pesos wash & dry, your soap), phones, toilets and cold water showers. In addition there is a TV room and book exchange, garbage and oil disposal. There is ALWAYS something going on and someone to talk to at Club Nautico! The docks are lit all night long and there is a night guard on duty seven days a week. The two gates into the marina are locked at night. VHF #16 & #13.

Anchoring out off of Club Nautico is popular and a flat fee of \$2 per day entitles you to the use of all of the marina's facilities.

Club de Pesca Yacht Club Manga, Fuerte de San Sebastian del Pastelillo. Tels: 660 5578/9. Fax: 660 5576. Email: cpescacartagena@ctgred.net.co. Considered to be the "premier marina" in the city, Club de Pesca is a private club that reserves a few slips for visitors. Advance notice AND a personal recommendation from a club member or resident cruiser are now required in order to procure a space. Olga Martinex de Lemaitre is the office manager and Carlos Rojas is dock master. Bow or stern-to ties on beautiful new concrete docks with pilings. Moorage fees for sailing vessels: US 30¢ per foot per day, power and

water inclusive. A very secure marina, NO ONE is allowed inside the gates without prior approval or a special pass. The marina includes a very elegant restaurant, beautiful clubhouse and bar, telephones, toilets and hot showers, small travel lift. Laundry service is available for 13,000 pesos per load.

3. MONEY

The monetary unit in Columbia is the peso. At the time of this writing the exchange is 2600 pesos to \$1 U.S.-- roughly speaking, 2000 pesos, or "2 mil", equals \$1. Numerous banks and "cajeros", automatic cash machines, are conveniently located throughout the city. There are two stand-alone cajeros next to the Carulla grocery near Club Nautico. Not all machines accept both MasterCard and Visa, often just one or the other. Check the exchange symbols on the back of your card and see if it matches up with what the machine accepts. Most machines pay out in 20 mil bills. There is a Banco Columbia on Calle 7 and San Martin in Bocagrande that pays out in 10 mil bills. As change is hard to come by in this town, it's nice having the smaller denomination! Money exchanges are located in "el centro", in the old city. DO NOT USE MONEY CHANGERS ON THE STREETS! Banks here do not accept telegraphic transfers unless you have an account with them.

4. TRANSPORTATION

Taxi drivers in Cartagena are for the most part friendly and honest, but check on the fare before you take off. The going rate from Manga to Centro is 3000 pesos, 4000 at night. Manga to Bocagrande, 4-5000. Centro to Bocagrande, 3000. "Turismo" cabs are usually a bit higher, but then the cars are nicer and have air conditioning. Taxi to or from the airport is \$6 US. An average hourly rate if you'd like your cab to wait while you do your errands is 12-15000 pesos. Buses run continuously throughout the day along Av. Jimenez from Manga to Bocagrande for 500 to 1000 pesos, depending on the bus, and whether or not it has air conditioning.

5. PROVISIONING

If you're an early riser you will hear the neighborhood of Manga come to life with the distinctive cries of the local street vendors hawking their wares—"Mango! Mandarina! Aguacate! Pina!" Don't hesitate to buy from them! (You might also pick up a "tinto" from one of the boys toting the thermoses. Tinto is a tiny but stout cup of sweetened coffee for a mere 200 pesos.) Good quality produce, meats and poultry are available from the fine grocery stores throughout the city. Pork and beef are especially good here. Treat yourself to "Lomo fino" tenderloin, either "cerdo" (pork) or "rez" (beef). There is not much variety in canned goods. Wines and liquors tend to be very expensive in the grocery stores.

- Carulla**
- Manga, one block east of Club Nautico with clothing, cosmetics, a pharmacy, film developing & stationary.
 - Bocagrande, Calle 14 and Av. San Martin
 - Manga, 1 ½ blocks east of Club de Pesca, "Carulla Express".
- Olympica**
- Bocagrande, Calle 12 and Av. San Martin
 - Av. Pedro de Heredia and Calle 32 with nice selection of household goods. Next to HomeMart.
- Vivero**
- Large combination grocery / department store similar to Target in the states or Gigante in Mexico.
- Centro, right inside the city wall near the Santa Clara Hotel.
 - Castellano, the big one!
- Butcher**
- Carnes Bocagrande Next door to Olympica in Bocagrande
 - Productoros Carnicos Aliados (PCA) Manga ,corner of Calle California & Porta Avenida. Good selection of meats and poultry.

SPECIALTY FOODS:

Enoteca Calle San Juan de Dio #3-39 between Hotel Charleston and San Pedro de Claver. In the back of the restaurant is a large Italian delicatessen.

Le Petit Chantily Delicatessen Bocagrande, Av. San Martin #13-63 near Hotel Pegaso. Gourmet delicacies made by an experienced French chef. Chorizo, pates, quiches, crepes, pastries, etc. Meals made to order.

Panebon A great bakery in Old Town.

Restaurante Vegetariano Centro, Calle Quero No 9-09 and another one at Paseo de la Castellana, 2nd floor. They have a variety of herbs and breads.

Delicias Espanolas Delikatessen Bocagrande, Av. San Martin 11-139. Direct importer of quality Spanish foodstuffs and wine. Hams, sausages, cheeses, and specialty canned goods.

6. BOOZE

The best values to be had for purchasing alcohol in Cartagena are the import stores located in "Contraband Alley" or "Centro Comercial Turistico", that runs between Calle Larga and Av. Arsenal near the Convention Center. Prices are substantially less than in the grocery stores. You will also find good prices on various other imported food items not otherwise available.

7. PROPANE

At Club Nautico give your bottles to Fernando. Refills are around 20 mil including his time and transportation, less if you pool your bottle with other cruisers'. At Club de Pesca you can give your bottle to any one of the workers there.

8. FUEL

Texaco Fuel Dock is across from Club de Pesca. 2239 pesos / US gallon.

Todomar Marina Located on the dock opposite the Convention Center.

9. GENERAL HANDS

For boat cleaning, varnishing, head overhaul, antifouling, running errands, piloting, underwater work, obtaining parts and general repairs, there are quite a number of workers. Most of them are at Club Nautico on the docks, ready, willing and able! While these men are experienced and hardworking, it is important that you oversee the job to insure your own satisfaction. The going rate for general repairs and maintenance is \$50-60 mil per day. (US\$25-30) Negotiate the price before the job is started.

Alberto Vasques, Experienced seaman. Speaks some English

Alphonso Villababa, attention to detail, security approved for Club de Pesca.

Jose Cana

Eduardo Parro

Eduardo Camaro, "Coro"

Melki Seded

10. HAULOUT FACILITIES

Manzanillo Marina Club Bosque, Calle Malaga Diag. No. 53-76 (Sector Zapatero) Tel: 669 4180, 669 4067, Fax: 669 4070, Email: mmc@ctgred.net.co , VHF Ch 78, Travellift rated to 40 tons but small. A ketch may need to remove its mizzen mast, a sloop must remove its forestay or backstay. Fax/ Internet service. Max draft 7 ft. Probably the most cruiser-friendly, English spoken. Check with office for current rates.

Ferrocem Albornos via Mamonal, Tel: 668 5554 Travel lift to 40 tons. Local calls and use of fax. Max draft 7' 8" If approaching this depth take Alberto with you. You may need to wait for high tide. Check first with the marina for sedimentation and dredging. Less bother when bringing in outside workers. Armed security. Toilets and showers. Check with office for current rates.

Todomar Albornos via Mamonal Km 56 No. 0577. Tel: 668-7220, 668 7219, Fax: 668 7221. Speak to Tony. 40 ton travel lift. Slip will take an 8' draw. Efficient service with good skills available on site. Good flat-bottomed stands. Big yard, not concrete, so it's dusty. One shower, one toilet. 30 minute ride from town. Check with office for current rates.

Club de Pesca 30 ton travel lift . Boat stays in the sling. Max draft 6'5".

For larger boats there are facilities available at the Naval yard and Vikings.

Check with the Club Nautico Office for current situation.

11. SURVEYOR

NAVAL ARCHITECT & MARINE ENGINEER:

Mauricio Salazar Tel: 656 6080

12. BOAT BROKERAGE

Cartagena Navegando Full service brokerage for yachts in the Caribbean including Panama and Columbia. Kirk Ezell and partner Fabian Arcila, owner of s/v TERCERO, can help you buy or sell. Tel: 665 7249, cell: 310 747 3838, www.cartagenanavegando.com, Email: ezsail@hotmail.com.

13. MECHANICS

DEISEL ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION REPAIR:

Vladimir, "Chino"

Candelario, "Nene"

These men know where to go for parts acquisition and fabrication.

14. ELECTRICAL

STARTER MOTORS & ALTERNATORS:

Orlando Quinonez Tel: 662 0835

REPAIRING MARINE ELECTRONICS:

IEC Electronica Maritima, Santa Lucia Shopping Center, 2nd floor, L8 Centro Commercial.
Tel: 663 3909 Fax: 663 3643 (Standard call out charge \$45 mil)

NEEC Ltda. Transversal 40, Cristante Luque, Bosque Fax: 672 2424 & VHF 16

Laboratorio Electronico Aleman Manga, Avenida Jimenez, Calle No. 26-18 B19, Tel/Fax: 660 422. More general than above but local.

15. ENGINEERING

Ignacio Sierra Calle de la Guirmalda, Bosque 53-16, Tel. 669 4202 Well equipped shop for marine fabrications

16. STAINLESS STEEL & ALUMINUM

WELDING & TUBULAR FABRICATIONS

Aluminios Marinos, Avenida Pedro Velez 51-70, Bosque, Tel: 674 0058, 669 4719 Mauricio Villega. High quality work, speaks English. Make sure he can schedule your job to be completed on time. Expect to pay around 50% US prices.

Tapizados Marinos Bosque Diagonal 19, Tel: 674 2168, 662 4873, Jaime and Jorge Not well known at Club Nautico but they seem capable of high quality 'tower work'.

Ferremar, Bosque Diagonal 21, Tel: 662 2663, 662 1101, Jorge Garcia, propietario & avid sailor

Todomar Marina, Ana Clea, High quality work if available

Megayate Less qualified than either Mauricio and Ana Clea (above) but price may better suit your pocket. Via Ferrocem

Feliz and William Torres Tel: 662 1441

17. WELDING SUPPLIES

Soldar Ltda. Bosque, Diag. 21, opposite gas station, beside Coko Rico Pollo chicken restaurant

18. FOUNDRY, BRONZE & ALUMINUM

(When preparing molds be aware that shrinkage can be a problem!)

Fumeco Ltda. Bosque, Diagonal 20 Av. Pedro Velez, #52-14, Tel: 669 4835

Eliceo Asebedo Getsemeni Calle Pedregal.

19. GLASS

Todo Bidrio Av. Escallon Villa Calle 11 de Noviembre, near Plaza de Toros, Tel: 669 8130. Windshield repair and installation.

20. GALVANIZING

Hot dip galvanizing can be obtained from Barranquilla, about a 2 hour drive away. Contact Alberto Vasquez @ Club Nautico for more info. They do tumble chain and the work seems of good quality with plenty of zinc.

21. BATTERIES

Several stores on Pedro de Heredia have D8 and D4 truck batteries at good prices.

Masemoto Solar Getsemeni Calle Larga #86 55 local 103. Trojans and Kyocera solar panels. Import/export company.

Pelaez Hermanos s.a. Lo Amador, Calle 32 No. 20E-15, Av. Pedro de Heredia, Tel: 666 1514, Fax: 666 4531.

22. PAINT & PAINTERS

Acripinturas del Caribe Ltda., Av. Pedro de Heredia, No. 18-A-25, sector Espinal, Tel: 666 3289. for DuPont Paints.

Hempel Mamonal km. 5, Zona Industrial, Tel: 668 6583

Pintuco Bosque, Av. Buenos Aires, Diag. 21A, No. 51-70.

Pinturas Pinturas Cra. 54 No.21B-91, Tel: 669 1515. For International Paints.

For polyurethane & gelcoat hull refinishing there are various options but quality control vigilance is important. Don't take anything for granted and keep a close eye on your project. Given these essentials an excellent job should be your reward at about 25 - 30 % US prices.

These men can do excellent finishing work. Contact them through Alberto at Club Nautico:

Manuel Francisco Ramirez, "El Curo". Ask for him at Club de Pesca-excellent references.

Jorge Garcia Galvis Tel: 662-4873. Painting and fiberglass repair. Excellent references.

23. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cartagena Yacht Services Tel: 315 722 0925. If you would rather not do your own contracting, Steve Meadows, s/v MOTLEY, will oversee all of your projects for \$50 US a day plus parts and labor.

24. HARDWARE

Besides the many smaller hardware stores throughout town, don't miss:

Home Mart Cl.32 21-128, Avenida Pedro de Heredia, Tel:666 4585

Substantial and modern "Home Improvement" style hardware store, conveniently located next to a large Olympica grocery.

Ignacio Sierra, Calle Largo, Getsemeni, on the way to the Convention Center Stainless Steel / Bronze / Aluminium Hardware: Bolts, Screws, Valves , Zincs, Cutlass bearings, Prop Shafts.

Torhefe Av.Pedro de HerediaSector, Lo Amador, Tel: 666 1753 Stainless steel fastenings only. Also have machine shop in Barranquilla

Ferremar Bosque, Diagonal 21, 40-75, Tel: 662 2663, 662 1101 General boat hardware including stainless steel cable and anchor chain.

25. O-RINGS, GASKETS, HOSE FITTINGS

Multi-Caucho,Popa Cl 32, Av. Pedro de Heredia, Tel: 666 1773, Fax: 666 4839

Multi Rodamientos Ltda. Next to Mult-Caucho, above, for bearings.

Recorres y Mangeras Pie de la Popa, La Subida, Avenida Pedro de Heredia. Hose fittings.

26. FILTERS

Solofiltros Pie de la Popa Cl.32.21 C.134, Avenida Pedro de Heredia, Tel: 666 0808

27. DIVE TANKS & STORES

Todomar Marina Take your dinghy up to the dock opposite the Convention Center where power boats are stored 3-high. Walk through the yard to the other side and you will find a compressor. 7000 pesos for a fill.

La Tortuga Dive School Bocagrande, Edit. Marina del Rey, Calle 1 No. 2-23, Local No.4 Av. Del Retornol Tel/Fax:665 6995, 665 6994.

Caribe Dive Shop Hotel Caribe at Bocagrande. Cra la No. 2-87 Local No. 9. Tel: 665-3517. Both stores have limited stock.

28. WOODWORKING

Pilot houses, hard dodgers, interior repairs and remodeling

Jose Cazanova

Alvaro Castro, "El Cura"

'Tuti', has done excellent wood and glass work for many cruisers. He knows how to use most tools so if you have a router (which he doesn't) you could trust him to use it. A minor legend amongst the cruising fraternity.

29. WOOD SUPPLIES

PLYWOOD:

'Formaplac' is an exterior grade plywood with a waterproof glue.

Jhon Mejia (John is commonly spelled 'Jhon' in Latin America)

Pie de la Popa, La Subida, Avenida Pedro de Heredia

HARDWOODS:

'Abarco' is a resistant straight grained hardwood used in wood boat construction. Available everywhere. Sometimes, depending on how it is cut twists a little on drying. Used on Club Nautico's dock..'**Ceba Rojo**' Mahogany-like appearance. Resistant, particularly against termites. Takes an age to dry. More scarce than Abarco. '**Cedro Rojo**' Select carefully. A nice wood used for furniture.

'Roble' (Oak) Not as hard as American white oak but seems consistently resistant.

'Teak' Generally teak is in very limited supply and not of the best quality.

Escaleras de Columbia Tel: 662 8392, Javier Camacho owns a teak farm. Good quality.

Maderas Ramos, Getsemeni

Maderas Carillo Getsemeni, Cr 10 B 25 -70 Plaza del Pozo, Tel: 664 2802

30. FIBERGLASS REPAIR & MATERIALS

Hull repair, modifying chainlockers, propane tank boxes, etc.

'Tuti'

Alvaro Castro, "El Cura" Ask for him at Club Nautico.

Juan Cisnero

Jorge Garcia Galvis Tel: 662 4873 A technically well-equipped and experienced team.

Good painters. If you're thinking of major haulout work he may be your best choice.

You might need help with presenting a logical quotation. Get the deal settled before work begins and you should not be disappointed. Nevertheless all such contracted teams should be monitored to maintain standards, deadlines etc.

Resinas y Pinturas Near Ron Tres Esquinas, Bosque

Resinas Y Pinturas Cristante Luque

Etonador Mercado de Bazurta. Paint and resin/glass supplies. If you're timid take a 'hand' with you. This area is where the poor do they're bargaining.

32. OUTBOARD MOTORS

Yamaha Market Manga, Ave. Miramar 2 blocks from Club Nautico. Spare parts and service.

33. REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING

Hermanos Malos Avenida Pedro Romero 29-130 Tel: 669 3782. Experienced team.

(Fairly inexpensive portable airconditioners, \$200-ish, can be purchased from Vivero, HomeMart, and the Olympica next door to HomeMart.)

34. SAIL REPAIR

Benjamin and Victor Herrera Bosque, Calle Nuevo Granada, 21^a90, facing the TCC, Tel
Cel: 655 4739 Good strong sail repairs and canvas work

Alvaro Herazo

Tapizados y Talabarteria Perez Popa Cl 30 18 A- 254 Calle Real, Tel: 666 3784.
Saddle making etc. Substantial machines for heavy work.

35. RIGGING

There are no rigging specialists although Fabian Arcilo on TERCERO and Alvaro Herazo, captain of KATANA, are capable. You can order rigging items through Jorge Garcia, 662 4873, at Ferremar for reasonable prices.

36. FABRICS & CANVAS WORK

Calypso Avenida Daniel Lemaitre, near Vivero supermarket just inside old city wall.

Tel: 664 4582 Fax: 664 0777 Good supply of upholstery and outdoor fabrics, foam rubber and Styrofoam. No Sunbrella.

Sara Carro Calle de la Media Luna 9 – 58, Fax: 660 2544. Dinghy covers, flags etc.

Leandro Torices Sector San Pedro, Calle Aurora # 1807, Tel: 656 0811, 666 1228

Tapizados Marinos Bosque, Diagonal 19, Tel: 674 2168, 662 4873, Jaime & Jorge

37. COMPUTER REPAIR

There are several around town.

U.S. Computers Manga, Km 15 No. 26-76. Tel: 660 4080. Rodrigo Pretelt Lemaitre-Gerente, speaks English.

38. CLEANING

GENERAL BOAT CLEANING:

Mavis, Club Nautico, (Sra. Candelaria's sister), can clean boats for roughly \$15US, labor only, for a full 8 hr. day. See the office if you need alternatives.

CARPET CLEANING:

Lavamos C.H. Manga, Avenida Jimenez No.20-55, Tel: 660 4020, Sr. Cesar Herrera

DRY CLEANING:

Lavatodo Manga, Avenida Rafael Calvo, Diagonal Puente Roman, Tel: 660 6468.

Lava-seco Manga, Calle Real No.21-23, Tel: 660 6131

Costamatic Centro, Avenida Daniel Lemaitre, Cl 32 No.9-60, Tel: 664 6488 beside Banco del Estado multistory building)

39. CHARTS

Escuela Naval Hydrographic Dept. CIOH, Manzanillo, Tel: 669 4104

Port Captains Office BCH building 5th floor (Multi story office building facing Parque Centenario), La Matuna, Avenida Daniel Lemaitre Center.

For the Islas de Rosario chart, go to the Club Nautico office.

40. COPIES

Copy Eventos Ltda. Centro. Calle de Ayo 4-32. They can copy charts.

41. RADIO NETS & WEATHER

David Jones Weather 0730 local time on 8104.0, 0800 local time on 12.365

Herb at 1430 local time on 12.359.

Caribbean Weather Net (Ham) at 2230 & 1030 GMT on 3.815.

Panama Connection Net at 1330 GMT, 0830 local time, on 8107.0

BBC World News airs in the morning on 15.190 @0630 local time.

Try www.cioh.org.co + Dimar for the local forecast in Spanish.

www.meteo.an/meteo2/weerkamer/marineforecast.htm Good Netherland Antilles forecast including the Colombian coast.

42. IMPORTING INTO COLUMBIA

Javier Hoyos, son of Club Nautico's Administrator, Sr. Jesus Hoyos, can be contacted for receiving mail and importing goods for yachts in transit. Tel: 731 9614, Fax: 660 6715. Javier has made importing into Cartagena comparable to services available in Panama. Javier works out of Club Nautico. Check with office for current situation. Fedex is also fine for urgent deliveries, getting credit cards, etc.

43. MEDICAL

A full range of medical facilities are available in Cartagena. Pharmacies are everywhere and you will find most of your prescription needs available and reasonably priced. Dental work is an excellent value with the most up-to-date equipment and well trained dentists, many having been trained at the University of Cartagena with its national reputation as a center of excellence. Cosmetic surgery and skin cancer treatment are good, as is Lasik eye surgery,

which corrects near sighted eyes in an operation that barely lasts 10 minutes and burns a surprisingly small hole in your pocket! Usually there is at least one fellow cruiser around to quiz on his or her experience. The Lasik clinic in Bogota has an international reputation but will end up costing at least double the Cartagena price.

GENERAL:

Dr. Jaime Ambrad Bechara Clinica AMI s.a., Pie de la Popa, Cr21 30, Calle de la Candelaria, Tel: 656 2854, 666 2760. A Pennsylvania trained physician who specializes in cardiovascular and thoracic complaints, Jaime is a fellow-sailor who keeps his race boat at Club de Pesca.

Maria Auxiliadora Clinica de la Mujer, Alcibia, Avenida Pedro de Heredia, Tel: 662 4954

DERMATOLOGISTS:

Luis Miguel Ceno Segre Bocagrande, Centro Medico, Avenida San Martin 9 –96, Tel: 665 1719, 665 1518

DENTISTS:

Sonria Av. San Martin, Tel: 665 0222, 665 4831 Heavily advertised, hi-tech.

Ramirez Acosto Ricardo Centro Medico Los Ejecutivos, Consultorio 201, Tel: 661-3455. Spanish speaking only. Meticulous work.

Alicia Najera Pereira Clinica Ami, Pie de Popa, Tel: 666 3230, 660 5582 Speaks English & German. Alicia is Manfred's, the ship's agent's, wife.

Dr. Gaston Martinez Bocagrande, Calle 5 #4-10, Ste. 102, Tel: 665 1982.

OPTOMETRIST:

Optica El Laguito El Laguito, Edificio Antares, Tel: 665-0261.

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY:

Hospital Bocagrande Bocagrande, Calle 5 & Cra. 6

Clinica Urgencias Manga, Avenida Jimenez, Tel: 660 4588 24 hr. emergency clinic

Clinica de Fracturas Manga, Calle 26 No. 15-73 across the street from Clinica Urgencias. Tel: 660 5652, 660 6011. Emergencies, x-rays, reconstructive surgery, lab.

LASIK EYE SURGERY:

Clinica Oftamologica de Cartagena Pie de La Popa, Calle 30, Tel: 656 0290, 656 0291, Email: clinoftaletgred.net.co, Drs. Rolando Bechara & Carlos Alfonso.

PHYSICAL THERAPY:

Ericka Zabaleta Puelto Manga, across the street from Clinica de Fracturas, Tel: 660-6164.

44. VETERINARY CLINICS

Note! Heartworm is alive and well in Columbia! Be sure your pet is treated monthly. Also, ticks are plentiful here. "Frontline", an effective topical flea and tick medication that is applied every six weeks or so, is readily available at vet clinics and pet stores.

Mascotas Manga, Av. 4a #18, B 03, Tel: 660 5026, 660 6344. Excellent clinic open 24 hrs. for emergencies with on-site lab and x-ray.

Pets Cetera Manga, Av. Jimenez No. 28-19. Luis Roberto Saenz, speaks English. Lovely pet supply store w/ high quality food and medicines.

45. TELEPHONES

Public telephones are everywhere. Phone cards can be purchased in the marina office, grocery stores and from boys on the streets wearing advertisement aprons. A call to the U.S. using one of Columbia's long distance direct-dial companies (005+1+area code+number) runs about 80¢ a minute. A cell phone can be purchased from BellSouth (in Carulla grocery and other locations) for a reasonable price. Prepaid cell phone cards can then be purchased from the same offices or the street boys so no monthly contract is necessary. AT&T card access number: 018009110010.

46. INTERNET CAFES

There are many internet cafes in Manga and Centro. To name just a few:

Discos Cartagena Manga, Calle Real No 19-89, just past the Carulla grocery. Uses Linux. \$4000 pesos per hour. Closed Sundays.

Red Columbia Manga, Av. Jimenez Edif. Ana Teresa, Local 2. Diagonal to Davivienda. Machines with Linux and Windows. Scanner available. \$2500 an hour. Open everyday.

CaribeNet Centro, Calle Santo Domingo No.3-19 . Large, comfortable. Coffee and snacks are available. \$2200 pesos per hr.

47. POST OFFICE

There is a post office down the road from Vivero just opposite Calipso. Telecom & Avianca offices sell stamps at the same rate. The Avianca office in Plaza Bolivar posts letters for your convenience. You're always safe to carry US or UK stamps and find someone leaving to take mail out for you.

48. HISTORY & SIGHTSEEING

The following books are recommended reading on the History of Cartagena:

Cartagena de Indias, City of a Thousand Wonders A tourist guide that can be found in small shops selling tickets for boat rides and in racks at newspaper and magazine stands.

A Brief History of Cartagena, by Eduardo Lemaitre. The green copy is in English and available from EL Palacio del Inquisicion in Plaza Bolivar. An excellent, readable short history of the city from it's discovery through it's era of colonization with it's gold, pirates, independence, and days of the republic.

You can spend weeks exploring this fascinating city and don't forget to carry your camera! The narrow streets, flowered balconies, and colonial Spanish architecture are beyond stunning. While every church is worth exploring, make a point of visiting San Pedro Claver in Plaza de San Pedro Claver, and the Cathedral in Plaza Bolivar. Here are some of the historical highlights that should not be missed:

Museo Naval Located in Plaza Santa Teresa, just behind Iglesia San Pedro Claver. Iris is an excellent English-speaking tour and can explain the many interesting displays.

Museo de Oro Plaza Bolivar. With more than just gold, the museum has interesting models of Indian communities and an historic overview of the Zenu society and their amazing flood control, gold and weaving. You can ask for an English overview of each of the 3 exhibit rooms. Closed Mondays.

Palacio de la Inquisicion Plaza Bolivar. Fascinating and gruesome.

Castillo San Felipe The largest fort in the city, this makes for a great early morning walk. Beautiful view of the city. An advantage to seeing this on a "cruise ship day" is that you can tag along and have a guided tour! Bring a flashlight—it's riddled with tunnels!

Museo de Arte Moderno Plaza de San Pedro de Claver. Beautiful gift shop next door featuring fine quality Colombian craftwork.

Teatro Heredia Check Events(along with Centro Convenciones)

El Convento de la Popa For it's history and panoramic view of the city, La Popa is a must! A taxi can take you up, the drive is breathtaking!

Casa de Pedro de Heredia

49. SPANISH LESSONS

Amaury Martelo Tel: 662 8658 12 mil per hour. Amaury will come to the Club or to your boat. Private or semi-private lessons. He translates English, German, and French.

Jorge Ortiz Tel: Office, 656 2197, Home, 658 1806. Both teachers highly recommended!

50. HAIRCUTS

Mascara's Manga, across the street from Carulla Grocery. Full service including facials, manicures, pedicures.

Barbaria Rex Centro, Calle Estanco on the corner of Calle Coliseo.

Capelli Studio Matuna, Cl 32 Comercios La Matuna L-7. Tel: 664 5678 Close to the Centennial Park. Frederico. Fabulous.

51. VIDEO RENTAL

Blockbuster Video Bocagrande, Avenida San Martin & Calle 10. You can open an account with your passport, telephone and local reference, someone else with an account. Most movies are in English with Spanish subtitles.

52. SWIMMING

Feeling land-locked in the marina? Fortunately, for you water-lovers, there are some options!

Hotel Santa Clara Centro, Plaza San Diego. Santa Clara's beautiful pool is open to the public, but is mainly used by their paying guests. This is a very upscale facility so please dress appropriately and be a good representative of the cruising community.

Hotel Charleston Centro, Plaza Santa Teresa. The hotel welcomes cruisers to enjoy their fabulous rooftop pool—talk about a view! Again, an upscale facility, and they appreciate your patronage to the poolside bar or restaurant in exchange for a locker and towel. Showers are also for your use.

Hilton Hotel Bocagrande. The Hilton has several beautiful swimming pools and a very nice section of private beach. \$12US will buy you a day's access to their recreational facilities.

La Boquilla You can spend a great day at the beach. Also Bocagrande.

53. HOTELS

By the way, hotel tour offices are a good way to book a day trip or week-long getaway...

Hotel Caribe Bocagrande, Tel: 665 0155, 665 9199, "the Grand Dame" of Cartagena's hotels, it has 40's charm with modern facilities. Unique grounds with caged animals and birds.

Hilton Resort & Convention Center Bocagrande, Tel: 665 0666. Modern and lovely with exclusive beaches.

Hotel Charleston Centro, Plaza Santa Teresa, Tel: 665 0666. Beautifully restored 17th century convent in the old walled city with state-of-the art services. Excellent location. Ask for rates in pesos, rather than dollars.

Hotel Santa Clara Centro, Plaza San Diego, Calle de Toro, Cr 8 #39-29 Tel: 664 6070. Another exquisitely restored convent with fabulous grounds and services. Don't miss at least *seeing* the bar with tombs down the stairs!

Hotel DeCameron Bocagrande, Cr.1 #10-80.Tel: 665 4400. All-inclusive, part of a chain.

54. THEATER & MOVIES

Teatro Heredia Centro, Cl 323 Plaza de Aduana. Check the local newspaper, Universal, for concerts, dance and ballet. This elegant theater is located in a lovely part of the old city. The shows are often very special and worthy of a stylish night out.

Cinema Bocagrande Bocagrande on Avenida San Martin. One screen.

Multiplex Cinema Castellano, 15 minute cab ride away, 4 screens. In the mall.

55. RESTAURANTS

Where do we begin? With such a variety of restaurants in Cartagena—Chinese, French, Italian, Spanish, Middle Eastern and more, deciding to eat out poses a problem--- "Which restaurant tonight?" Most restaurants here charge a 15% tax and the standard 'propina', or tip, is 10%. At many restaurants the propina will already be added onto the bill. It is your responsibility to check to make sure. And like restaurants in other Latin American countries, it is necessary to ask for 'la cuenta', the bill, in order for it to be brought to your table when you have finished your meal. Don't plan on eating dinner much before 7PM as many restaurants don't even open till then or later, and you'll likely be the only occupied table at that time! Small restaurants throughout town advertise 'comida corriente'. This is typical Columbian fare, usually a complete meal including soup, rice, patacones (fried plantain) and meat, chicken or fish, for a very reasonable price-- \$2-3 US. Great for lunches! Following is a very brief listing of some favorite restaurants among cruisers and locals. Each '\$' symbol represents approximately \$10 US per dinner **including** wine. "Buen provecho!" (And yes, you can drink the water!)

RESTAURANT GUIDE

- \$ Arabe Express** Manga, Calle Real 17-65, near Club Nautico. Tel: 6605416. Will deliver to the marina. Delicious middle eastern food. Huge portions.
- \$ Pelikanos** Corner of Calle Santo Domingo & Castelbondo. Tel: 660-0086. Fixed price US \$9. 4 appetizers, main course, dessert and coffee. Unlimited wine. A favorite among cruisers.
- \$ Café del Santísimo** Calle de Santísimo, #8-19. Reservations: 664-3316. Fixed price US \$12. Gourmet food with a flair, prepared by a Cordon Bleu chef! Menu has much more variety than Pelikanos. Includes non-stop wine/liquor. You won't believe the value!
- \$ Club Nautico Marina** From comida corriente to sizzling steak, Club Nautico offers good food and friendly service.
- \$ Crepes and Waffles.** Bocagrande, Calle 3 No. 4-76, Tel: 665 2680. If you're in the mood for a gourmet ice cream sundae, this is the place. Wonderful selection of main course crepes, dessert crepes, blintzes, entrée salads. Cruisers' favorite and extremely reasonable.
- \$ Pazza Luna** Centro, Plaza San Diego, facing Hotel Santa Clara. Thin crust pizzas at their best! The 3rd floor is great at night with a lovely view.
- \$\$ San Pedro** Centro, Plaza San Pedro Claver across from the Iglesia San Pedro Claver. Tel: 664-5121. Elegant restaurant with outdoor seating and lovely outlook onto the plaza. Sushi, Thai, Mexican, Indonesian, all superbly prepared. Very popular.
- \$\$ Carbon de Palo Restaurante Parilla** Centro, upstairs on the corner in Santo Domingo Plaza. Specializing in meat. Fun to look out over the square.
- \$\$ Donde Olano** Centro, Calle Santo Domingo #33-08. Bistro with outstanding ambience. Friendly with reasonable prices.
- \$\$ El Meson de Maria y Mulata** Calle Arsenal #8-13, on the waterfront road before the Convention center. Tapas Bar.
- \$\$-\$\$\$ Enoteca** Centro, Calle San Juan de Dios #3-39, near Hotel Charleston in Plaza Santa Teresa, Tel: 664-3806, 664-3793. 3 Italian restaurants around a lovely courtyard. Pizza and pastas, good Italian wine selection.
- \$\$ Dragon de la Marina Calle de Porvenir** Elegant Chinese in a beautiful colonial setting.
- \$\$\$ El Mar de Juan** Centro, Plaza San Diego, Calle del Torno, Tel: 664 0004. Excellent seafood restaurant with lovely ambience and live music.
- \$\$\$ La Barchessa** Centro, Calle Santo Domingo #35-367. The "high chair" restaurant! Good pasta.
- \$\$\$\$ Club de Pesca** Manga, Fuerte del Pastillito, Tel: 664-4594. Spectacular setting overlooking the yacht club and bay with elegant food & excellent service.
- \$\$\$\$ Hotel Santa Clara** Centro, Plaza San Diego. A super Sunday brunch buffet starts at 11:30. Very good food. \$18.00. Take your swimsuit and towel and spend a day at the pool afterwards! The Santa Clara also features a stunning bar and three restaurants: French, Italian, International.
- \$\$\$\$ La Fragata** Cabrero, Calle Real del Cabrero, Tel: 664 8734. "The yellow mansion" with the best view of the city wall and San Felipe Castle. A Cartagena dining tradition.
- \$\$\$\$ La Vitrola** Centro, CI 23 #2-01 Calle Baloco Tel: 664 8243. Live Cuban background music. Excellent service, fine food, delightful ambience.

CATERING:

Lucho Cote, experienced cruise ship chef and former chef at Del Lucho Restaurant in the city, will prepare exquisite and delicious food and bring it to your boat! He has menu suggestions and will do appetizers-only for a cocktail party or a 4-course meal for less than the cost of going out! Speaks English. Tel: 660 5309, ask for Teresa.

56. NIGHT LIFE

In Cartagena, the night is young at 11PM, so if you partake of the night life, plan on staying up late! (And if you do, use good judgement and take a taxi back to the marina. Do not walk back from town at night!) Bocagrande is the place to be for your tourists' bars and discos. In Centro, the old city, you will find many off-beat places that cater to the large student population here.

Baluarto de San Francisco Centro, Plaza Santa Teresa with a beautiful view on top of the wall across from the Hotel Charleston. A great spot to enjoy an after dinner drink, live music and Spanish dancing.

Tu Candela Centro, Plaza Portal de Los Dulces, Cra 32-25, Tel: 664 8787. Faces the clock tower at the entrance to the old city center. A 'wine bar' style disco. Often crammed. Not cheap.

La Tarzana Centro, Plaza de los Coches. 100% Salsa Club.

Quiebra Canto Café Galeria Getsemani, Cra 8B25-110, Edificio Puerta del Sol. Tel: 664-1372. Beside the old Teatro Cartagena facing the avenue between Parque Centenario and Muelle Pegasus. Typical salsa bar. Plenty of local color and a good mix of people. Nice view from the balcony.

Avenida del Arsenal Playa The street along the waterfront on the way to Centro has many clubs, bars, and eateries.

57. EXERCISE CLASSES

There are a surprising number of opportunities to join an exercise class within walking distance to your marina! Call for times as they may change.

Yoga 4 Callejon de Manga #27-82. Tel: 660 0690. M-W-F 9AM and 9PM. T-Th-S 5:30AM.

T'ai Chi 4 Callejon de Manga #27-82. Tel: 660 0690. M-W-F 5:30AM. 1 hr.

Marathon Gym Club Manga, 3a Ave. Hrs: 5AM-noon & 3PM-9PM. \$50 mil for one month. Aerobics M thru F: 5:30AM, 6:30AM, 8AM, 5:30PM, 6:30PM, 7:45PM. Sat: 8AM, 4PM.

Aerobics Aerobic class outside at the south end of the malecon, weekdays at 5AM.

Walk the Wall! If you're an early riser you can make the perimeter of the entire old city before it gets too hot! Later in the day, wait until about 4pm. The walk from Manga, around the wall, and back is approximately 8 miles. The wall alone is 4 miles.

58. SHOPPING

There are simply too many fine stores to list in depth, and discovering them on your own is part of the fun. Following are some shops that have been recommended more than once by cruisers. **Buyer beware!** *When the cruise ships start rolling in (September, October....) prices around town start going up, up, up!*

LOCAL ARTS & CRAFTS:

Las Bovedas Centro. A huge "mall of stalls", somewhat repetitive but there are some fine things to be had... avoid cruise ship days.

Fegali Joyeros Centro, Calle San Juan de Dios, between the Hotel Charleston and San Pedro de Claver. Finer quality gifts and artifacts. Interesting inventory.

Palenque Artesenias Centro, Plaza San Pedro Claver, No. 403.

Art Gallery : Agua de Lluvia Calle del Santisimo No. 8-19. Excellent & unusual high quality crafts, fabrics pottery, woodwork.

Gallery del Cano Centro, Plaza Bolivar next door to the Gold Museum. Finely crafted true Columbian crafts. Also beautiful copies of pre-Columbian jewelry. There is a very nice coffee house upstairs with a balcony overlooking the square. (Bill Clinton was there!) A smaller store is located in the Hotel Santa Clara.

Clavia Bocagrande, Pierno Gallo Shopping Center, 2nd floor, Tel: 665-5408. Probably the best and most authentic collection of Columbian artifacts.

CIGARS:

Cava del Puro, Calle San Juan de Dios 3-106, near the Hotel Charleston. Careful! What you see being sold on the streets is NOT what you get! For real Cuban cigars come here. Try their Columbian cigars. Very good & reasonably priced.

CLOTHING:

The street running between the Charleston Hotel and Plaza Santo Domingo has a variety of fine women's boutiques. You will find good clothing in all price ranges throughout the city.

COFFEE:

Coffee And.... Bocagrande, Pierino Gallo Shopping Center, Upstairs. Proprietor Lee Miles, who also owns Greenfire and Convi Travel, and publishes Destination, Cartagena, is a sailor who has lived in Cartagena for 25 years. He caters to the cruise ship business and has a wealth of information to share about the city, and his coffee is terrific!

**Remember, you're in Columbia! Good coffee is not hard to find! And by the way, there really IS a Juan Valdez!*

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Best selection seems to be **HomeMart, Olympica** (next to HomeMart), & **Vivero**.

SALVAGED ANTIQUE BOAT PARTS:

CoMarCa, Ltda. Centro, Plaza Santo Domingo No. 3-16, Tel: 664 9960. A fabulous collection of fascinating boat artifacts dating back to who-knows-when! A true treasure trove for the 'old salt' in you!

59. EMERALDS

You won't get far walking down the streets in Old Town without being approached by someone who has, by far, without question, the absolutely very best buy on emeralds! AND, he'll probably promise you a "special price today!" The fact is, emeralds are a great buy in Cartagena. But you need to do some homework. Some of the jewelers will take time with you and explain what you should look for. They may also be honest enough to show you varying qualities of emeralds, and the prices should reflect that. Don't rush, and enjoy the shopping experience.

Andorra Jewelry Factory Centro, Plaza Santa Domingo, Calle de Ayoa, #4-24, Tel: 64 6136. Good reports on information given, quality and prices. Juan V. Gomez.

Casa Blanca, Fabrica de Joyas Centro, Calle Ayoa No.4-20, down the street from Paco's off Plaza Santo Domingo., Email: indujoyas@hotmail.com Tel: 664 6793. Jesus Ocampo, proprietor, has an excellent reputation among cruisers of honesty and integrity. He wholesales to the public and if you price jewelry around town, it will be obvious. He has no jewelry on display as everything is made to order: custom, copies, pre-Columbian copies, whatever you desire. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

Lucy's Jewelry & Emerald Store Centro, Calle Domingo & Calle de la Iglesia #3-77. Tel: 660 0973. Email: lucysjewelry@hotmail.com, www.lucysjewelry.cartagenainfo.com Lucy has established a reputation among cruisers for her warm personality and very considerate and professional business ethic. Ask for Lucy personally and you will be treated with respect and patience.

Joyeria Caribe Bocagrande, Calle 5 #2-51. With several smaller stores in the city, the Bocagrande location shows an instructional video on mining and cutting emeralds, as well as having emerald cutters on-site. A good place to go for an "emerald primer".

60. TRAVEL AGENCIES & AIRLINES

Convi Travel Ltda. Getsemani, Calle Larga #10-70, Tel: 664 2653, 665 8311, Fax: 665 2383, Email: convi@ctgred.net.co. Patricia speaks English and her agency specializes in cruises, tours (Columbia, Amazon, Peru, etc) & locating apartments for visitors.

Contactos Bocagrande, Av. San Martin, Centro Comercial, 2nd floor. Tel: 665 1300, Fax: 665 2327. Good prices on tickets. Monica speaks English.

Mar y Mar Centro, Calle de la Factoria #36-17, Tel: 664 2964, 664 3843, Fax: 664-2964. 'Nestle' speaks English.

Circular de Viajes Manga, Calle Real #20-37, Tel: 660 6139, 660 6140, Email: circularctg@hotmail.com. Shirley Rojas Ruiz speaks some English

Aces Airlines Bocagrande, Av. San Martin No. 9-58, Tel: 665 0407.

Aviatur Airline Bocagrande, Pierino Gallo Shopping Center, upstairs, Tel: 665 0101

Avianca Airlines Bocagrande, Cra. 3 No. 8-129, Tel: 665 1950.

Copa Airlines Centro, Calle Castelbondo No. 2-107, Tel: 664 8289.

61. OUT-OF-TOWN

If you are planning to travel within Columbia, it is important to keep in mind that while Cartagena is safe, traveling any distance from one city to another is extremely dangerous! Even locals here will advise you that it is definitely safer to fly, and/or make arrangements with a tour operator!!!

Islas de Rosarios If you don't want to sail to these beautiful islands yourself, boats are available for hire from the fishing dock just outside the clock tower, for day trips. A popular stop there is the Sea Aquarium. The **Santa Clara Hotel** owns **Hotel San Pedro de** Majagua-- beach bungalows in the Rosarios-- and travel arrangements and reservations for that facility can be made at the hotel in the city.

Horticultural Gardens Turbaco. Day excursion a taxi ride away.

Santa Marta The town is a 3 to 4 hour long bus ride away. Museums, beaches, restaurants. Gets you out of the hustle and bustle of Cartagena.

Mud Baths & Volcano This is a weird 50' cone of mud with a bubbling mud bath on top. It is apparently very healthy and the massage you get while floating in the mud is terrific. Take a change of clothes, towel and sandals. A taxi will take you there, wait several hours, and bring you back to town for approx. \$60. The fee for the baths is \$2 US, propina for the masseuses, \$10+ and tips are also in order for the ladies who rinse you off. Very crowded on weekends. "Not everyone's cup of tea!" Lunch, sodas and beer available.

Isla Palma Hotel DeCameron sponsors a launch to their private all-inclusive resort in San Bernardo Islands. (2 hr. Trip) Approx. \$145 per night per couple w/ all meals and drinks included.

Villa Babilla Ecological tour, ½ day trip, reported to be well worth the effort! Contact Juan Carlos Lopez, tour guide. Tel: 663 9068, 663 9058.

62. TOUR GUIDES

There are many knowledgeable tour guides eagerly awaiting your business. As "personality" factors into the success of a trip, be it a half day city tour, eco tour, or emerald buying spree, we feel it's best to advise you to ask others who "have done it", who they used and how they fared. Be sure you clearly state your desires—exactly what you have in mind, and settle on the price before leaving. Again, hotels are a good source for arranging for professional guides. Please report your experience with any tour guides, positive or negative, to the office at Club Nautico so that other cruisers might have references. Thanks!

This guide was compiled by Cindy Robinson, s/v ANGEL, with assistance from John Halley, dock master. The disk for this document is in the office at Club Nautico. Please make updates and additions to this guide as necessary to help others in your wake enjoy their stay. You may download this and other cruising guides from www.deckersailing.com.

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