



Transport study tour to Bogotá, Medellín and Pereira, Colombia



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1. Transport Study tour to Bogotá, Medellín and Pereira



Despacio will be hosting a study tour to Bogotá, Medellín and Pereira in April 12-16 after the World Urban Forum, being held in Medellín. This document describes the activities of the study tour, a preliminary agenda, and key topics of discussion.

Despacio will provide assistance to international delegations interested in learning firsthand about Bogotá's BRT system, TransMilenio, and its cycling network. Despacio will also arrange field visits to the most relevant sites in Medellín and Pereira.

Bogotá's experience has served as a catalyst for further improvements in public space and transport systems in developing and developed cities, and now Medellín is also being observed as an example of good practices. The main purpose of the visit is that visitors have a positive experience while learning from the urban transport initiatives of Bogotá, Medellín, and Pereira firsthand, both by using the systems and by interacting with system managers, operators, and local experts. The visit has been structured in such a way that participants can gather experiences and lessons in order to plan and implement similar projects in their cities.

The tour will feature visits to the different transport modes of Medellín, Pereira, and Bogotá, accompanied by discussions with experts about the things that made these cities renowned examples of urban mobility and social integration. It will also provide the experience of enjoying Bogotá's Car-Free Sunday (Ciclovía). The visit to Medellín, Pereira and Bogotá will include:

- **Field visits to systems in operation** (Metroplus, Metro, Cable Car, Public Escalators, Transmilenio, Megabús)
- **Field visits to operators' depots, management control center**

- **Field visits to NMT** and complementary systems (Ciclovía and bikeway network in Bogotá)
- **Technical discussions** with local experts
- **Review sessions** of technical discussions
- **Supporting material** with technical information of projects and initiatives visited during the study tour.



The study tour is aimed at anyone who has an interest in learning details about urban transport improvements as linked to urban development. These include policymakers, planners, consultants, or students.

Despacio will be in charge of arranging the study tour activities and providing local transport to and from tour locations in Medellín, Bogotá, and Pereira. Travel and hotel costs must be paid directly by participants, but Despacio can provide suggestions.

2. About Despacio



Despacio (www.despacio.org) is a nonprofit organization created in 2011. One of its main objectives is to promote quality of life for people at all stages of life. Despacio works with all productive and educational sectors of society through applied research to improve the wellbeing of communities in general and people in particular.

Despacio has an interdisciplinary team that is known for its local and international experience working on issues related to sustainable urban transport. The team has worked on projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Despacio has worked to promote non-motorized transport, sustainable mobility, and demand management with international organizations such as UN Habitat, the Institute for Transport Policy and Development (ITDP), the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) among others. Despacio has also organized different technical visits to various BRT systems (Bogota, Pereira, Guayaquil, Curitiba) for delegations from South Africa, India, and China, as well as for other visitors.

3. More details

Details about Despacio's activities during and after the World Urban Forum, including this technical visit, are updated at www.despacio.org/wuf7 . If you are interested in taking part in the technical visit, please contact lmendoza@despacio.org by indicating your name, institution, email, and phone number. We will respond to you with more detailed instructions.



4. Background of study tour topics of interest

Bogotá



Bogotá D.C., founded in 1539, is the capital city of Colombia and the department of Cundinamarca. It is located at 2.600 m above sea level in the Cordillera Oriental of Andes in the interior of the country. It has approximately 8,000,000 inhabitants and some thousands more who live in the nearby municipalities but who work, study, and frequently have business in the city. The total area of the city is of 1775,98 km² of which 480 km² is urban. The geography of the city is defined by the mountains to the east, which are the most obvious physical barrier, and the watershed of the Bogotá River with expansive wetlands to the west.

Bogotá is a city composed of zones segregated by use. That is to say that the majority of its population lives in neighborhoods located on the periphery of the major centers of commerce, employment, and public life. The daily commute resembles the way that air moves through a lung: in the morning the people from the periphery flow to the center and in the evening they return to the outskirts of the city. With this in mind, the structure of Transmilenio is far more comprehensive than it would otherwise seem. The 9 existing corridors correspond to that dispersed demand, becoming denser in Bogotá's CBD.

Medellin



Medellín, founded in 1695, is the capital city of the department of Antioquia and is located in the Cordillera Central of the Andes. Medellín is also the main city of the metropolitan region of Valle de Aburrá, which is composed of 9 other municipalities that interact as a productive region. Historically this department has been involved in the development of both the nation's industrial and agricultural sectors. Currently Medellín has a population of approximately 2,800,000 inhabitants.

The city is located in a pronounced valley, and the poorest neighborhoods are mainly located in the surrounding mountains and hills. These neighborhoods began as self-constructed housing occupying land in informal settlements. Access to these neighborhoods is difficult due to the steep terrain as well as various social obstacles. The principal places of the city, including downtown, the administrative zone, and the main commercial and employment centers are located in the flat river valley at the center.

Pereira



Pereira is located in the coffee region of Colombia about 300 km away from Bogotá. UNESCO named the landscape of this region a Coffee Cultural Landscape. The city has a population of around 489.000 inhabitants with more than 410.000 people living in the urban area. It is among the regions with the most equitable distributions of wealth.

Pereira is located in a strategic place inside Colombia, since it is near the three main economic centers of the country (Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali). It is 1,400 meters above sea level, which results in Pereira having very nice weather year-round with an average temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

4.1. Urban regeneration



The cities of Bogotá and Medellín are well known for their investment in urban regeneration. Both municipalities made a great effort to invest in high quality public schools and libraries in poor areas of the city, as showcase of their interest in offering high quality places for their citizens. Two examples are the *Biblioteca España* in Medellín and *El Tintal* in Bogotá. Additionally, Medellín invested in the construction of large metropolitan parks where poor and wealthy people alike can enjoy the outdoors and have fun (i.e. Parque Explora).

The above examples were made possible by investments from both the private and public sectors in both cities, were realized during roughly the same time period, and were aggressively pursued by their respective municipalities. They can be seen as successful examples of public space regeneration because they create broader access to programs where citizens can learn and develop skills that result in greater economic opportunity. These new and improved spaces also promote better health through sports and outdoor recreation and create opportunities for more civic interaction in addition to supporting educational goals.

4.1.1. Key links to information about urban regeneration in Colombian cities:

- Empresa de Renovación Urbana ERU: <http://www.eru.gov.co/>

- Empresa de Desarrollo Urbano de Medellín EDU:

http://www.edu.gov.co/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=590

4.2. Non-motorized transport



Figura 1 Cycle-network Bogota

The city of Bogotá is well known in the region for its cycle network of more than 370 km. Trips by bicycle in Bogota grew from 0.5% of the city's modal split in 1998 to around 5% in 2013. In Medellín, the metropolitan region is orienting efforts to promote the use of cycling. As a matter of fact, they are developing studies for the Bicycle Master Plan for the Metropolitan Region. They are also planning to extend the network that is currently about 25 km. Medellín is also the only city in Colombia that has a public bicycle scheme. It started operation in 2011 and operates Monday through Friday.



Figure 2 Cycle-network Bogota

4.2.1. Key links to information about non-motorized transport:

- Urban Development Institute (IDU) <http://www.idu.gov.co/web/guest/inicio>
- Public Bicycle System EnCicla: <http://www.encicla.gov.co/index.php/es/>
- Pedalea por Bogotá IDRD on 7th Street in the historic downtown:
http://www.idrd.gov.co/pedalea_por_bogota/

4.3. Sports and recreation linked to cycling initiatives



Figure 3 Sunday car-free day

Ciclovía (Car-Free Day) is an event that started in Bogotá around 1976 with the closure of one street with general public support that continues to this day. Now a weekly event, Ciclovía extends over 120 km and operates on Sundays as well as official holidays. More than 1.5 million people go out every Sunday to enjoy the open streets to bike, jog, skate or just have fun. Medellín also has a Ciclovía that has been ongoing for more than 20 years and encompasses 46 km of open roads temporarily closed to cars. It connects different parts of the city as well as



other municipalities of the metropolitan region of Valle de Aburrá. It draws more than 85,000 users each week.

4.3.1. Key links to information about Ciclovía:

- Ciclovías recreativas de Americas: <http://www.cicloviasrecreativas.org/es/>
- Sports and Recreation Institute IDRD: http://www.idrd.gov.co/web/htms/seccion-ciclova_27.html
- Recreation and sports Institute in Medellín INDER: <http://www.inder.gov.co/>

4.4. Mass transit improvements

4.4.1. Transmilenio

Transmilenio is a BRT system that carries more than 1.9 million passengers every day and has transformed mobility in the city of Bogotá. Construction began on Transmilenio in 1998 during Peñalosa's term as mayor, but it was only in December of 2000 that it was inaugurated and began operation on the 18th of that month. Phase 1 and 2 have a total system length of 84 km, 114 operating stations, 1,263 buses (as of Feb. 2010), a commercial average speed of 27 km/h, and more than 80 feeder routes. Phase 3 has 36 km of trunk lines and 37 stations.

Mobility in Bogotá before Transmilenio was in the hands of private operators running separate uncoordinated services. Bus drivers competed in the "guerra del centavo" (war of the cent), which fostered violent behavior between bus drivers, users, and all other stakeholders. With Transmilenio, the roots of this war were abolished due to the formalization of transit services. Improved infrastructure has enhanced the general conditions provided for users and employees alike. For example, Transmilenio incorporates the use of segregated roadways which allows buses to run more consistently and efficiently. This translates to a decrease in the time that users in Bogotá expend every day traveling. This has changed the quality of life for the citizens of the city.

In terms of public space, the conditions in Bogotá were precarious. Many of the public plazas and squares were invaded by informal commerce. With the construction of Transmilenio, there was a significant effort to revitalize public spaces through physical investments where conditions had deteriorated, or by reclaiming the space entirely, as in the case of San Victorino Square.

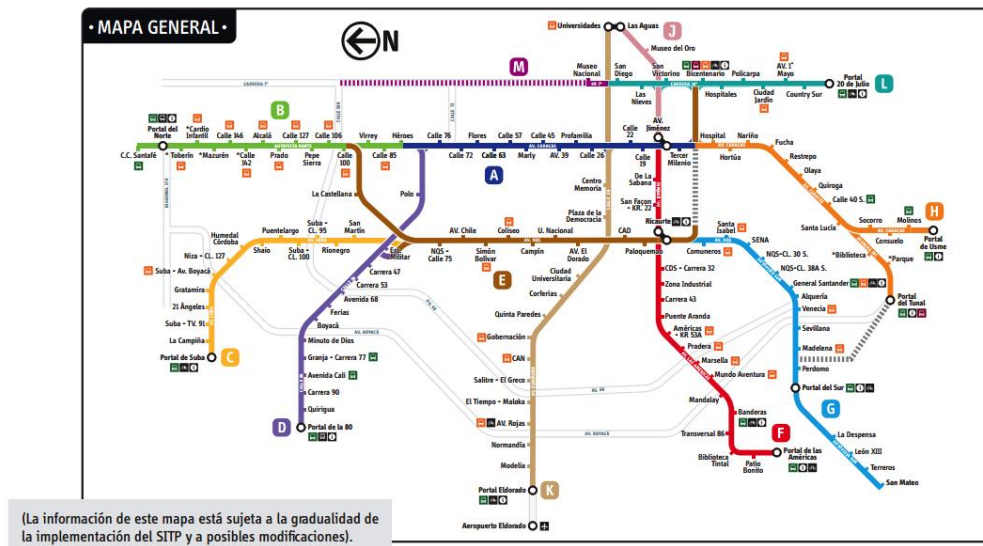


Figure 4 General map of Transmilenio Bogotá as of December 2013

Source: http://www.transmilenio.gov.co/sites/default/files/mpdv_27_de_diciembre_de_2013.pdf

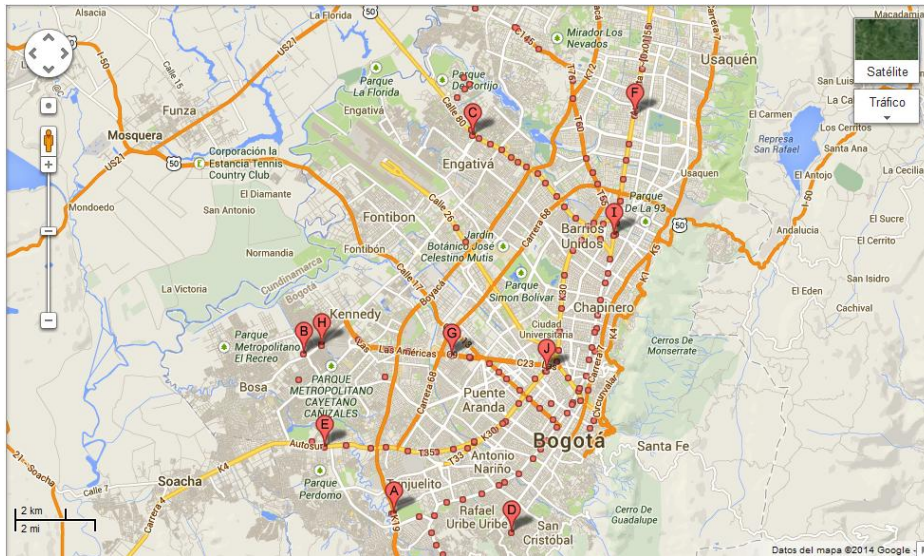


Figure 5 BRT network in Bogotá mapped geographically

Source: www.transmilenio.gov.co



Figure 6 BRT TransMilenio in Bogotá

Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

4.4.2. SIT-VA (Sistema Integrado de Transporte del Valle de Aburrá)

The metro system serves as the principal backbone of the SITVA in Medellín and the municipalities of Valle de Aburrá. Additionally, there is the cable car, BRT Metroplus, and the public bicycles that together make the SITVA.

- Metro. The metro has 55 stations in total and has been in operation for more than 15 years. Medellín is the only city in Colombia with a metro.



Figure 7 Cable Car Station

Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

- Cable Car. The main purpose of the cable car is to improve the mobility conditions of the poor people of the city and has direct connection with the metro. Mainly, the poor people in the city are located in the hills that surround it. Thus, the cable car is an important and strong mobility alternative for the people that live in those high places and must travel to the central valley plain on a daily basis.



Figure 8 Cable Car Medellín

Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

- Metroplus. Metroplus Is the city's BRT System. It started operating the 22nd of December 2011. It has a system length of 12.5 km of segregated roadway and moves around 52,000 passengers per day.

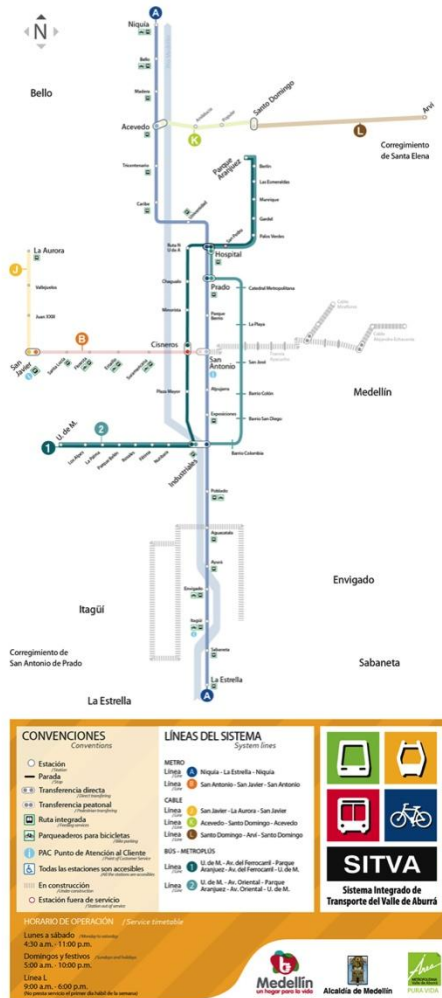


Figure 9 BRT Metroplus map in Medellín

Source: / <http://www.metroplus.gov.co/operacion/mapa>



Figure 10 BRT Metroplus Medellín

Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

- Escalators. In a particularly innovative project, public escalators were constructed in a poor neighbor sited on the side of a mountain. For the people living in this area, it was a very difficult task to access their homes. The neighborhood lacked sidewalks and in the rainy season, it was dangerous to go up because of the mud and water that flowed down the hill. The project helps people, especially the elderly and children, by giving them an easier way to go up to their houses.



Figure 11 Public escalators in Medellín

Source: Carlos A Moreno

4.4.3. Megabús

Megabús is the BRT System in Pereira. It was the first one to start operation in a mid-sized city in Colombia. Today it moves around 100,000 passengers per day, and many of the users rate Megabús as a very good and efficient system. Megabús operates between two different municipalities: Dos Quebradas and Pereira. The former has a population of around 191,070 inhabitants, and Pereira, as previously stated, has around 480,000. Both cities share similar basic needs.

Great investments were made to prepare and adapt downtown for Megabús. Private cars were removed from a large part of the center of the city thus giving space to the BRT system, while sidewalks were widened for people to walk more freely.



Figure 12 Megabús map

Source: www.megabus.gov.co



Figura 13 Megabús downtown Pereira

Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

4.4.4. Key links to information about Mass transit improvements:

- Transmilenio Bogotá's BRT official website: <http://www.transmilenio.gov.co/>
- SITP Bogota's official website: <http://sitp.gov.co/>
- MetroPlus Medellín's BRT official website: <http://www.metroplus.gov.co/>
- Medellín's Metro official website: <https://www.metrodemedellin.gov.co/>
- Megabus Pereira's BRT official website: <http://www.megabus.gov.co/>



Figure 14 South African delegation visiting Bogotá

Source: Carlosfèlpe Pardo



Figure 15 Operators visit from various developing city delegates

5. Languages of study tour

Despacio staff is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. Groups will be coordinated so that these languages are spoken during the study tour.

6. Basic agenda for study tour



Figure 16 International guests visiting TransMilenio. Source: Carlosfelipe Pardo

Below are logistical details and a basic agenda for the study tour.

Logistical issues:

Regarding topics of discussion: The agenda below is set, but additional meetings or activities may be arranged at other times if people feel they are relevant. Please ask Carlos about this at any point during the trip.

Regarding changing money: it is better to exchange currencies at the hotel front desk. You can also use ATMs (Maestro, Cirrus available) or pay with a credit card at most places. Exchange rates are approx. 2000 Colombian pesos (COP) per USD.

Regarding weather: The weather in Bogotá is 14°C average, so relatively cold. Since it is a city at 2,600 meters above sea level, it is strongly recommended to bring and use sun block.

In Medellín and Pereira there is a spring-like weather all year long. At night the temperature may be a bit lower, but nothing a simple sweater cannot manage.

Regarding internet and phone calls: Hotels generally have internet included in the room charge. Regarding calls, your cellphone's roaming should work but is rather expensive. Bogotá has many street vendors with the sign "minutos" and the cost of each minute of cellphone calls to any destination in Colombia. A typical minute costs \$200 COP (approx 10 cents USD). Phone calls from your hotel room are not included and will be expensive.



Figure 17 Colombian government staff on a bike ride. Source: Carlosfello Pardo

6.1. Suggested hotels and flights

Regarding hotels, Despacio will not coordinate hotel arrangements, but can provide information regarding suggested hotels.

Regarding flights, the following flights are suggested:

- **Avianca:** This is the main Colombian airline that has various flights to/from Medellín. Avianca flights will only arrive at the Jose María Córdova airport, 30 minutes away from the city but has a 24-hour schedule. www.avianca.com
- There is a second airport located inside Medellín, but only small aircraft arrive to this airport during daytime; the main airline is **Satena**.



6.2. Main study tour agenda: 12th– 16th April 2014

6.2.1. Medellín Schedule

Saturday 12th

09:00 – 17:00. SIT-VA: Metroplus, Metro, Cable Car, PBS EnCicla, Parque de los Deseos, Biblioteca España, San Javier (public escalators), Calle Carabobo (pedestrian street).

Flight to Bogotá (suggested flights: [AV 9337](#) departing at 19:30 or [AV 9343](#) departing at 20:03. Both flights depart from Jose Maria Cordova airport in Rionegro, 1-hour away from the city)

Travel from the airport to the hotel in Bogotá: it is strongly advised to use the official taxi queue from the airport, which may be long but is completely safe. Other taxis are illegal. Please take the hotel name and address with you in order to show the taxi driver. The fare should not be more than 27 thousand pesos (approx. 15 USD). Drivers may accept USD but you should ask in advance.

6.2.2. Bogotá Schedule

Sunday 13th

8:30AM Meet at Parque Virrey Plaza (Carrera 15 and Calle 87)

9:00 Meet Despacio team to go to the Ciclovía

9:30-13:00 Bicycle ride through the Ciclovía

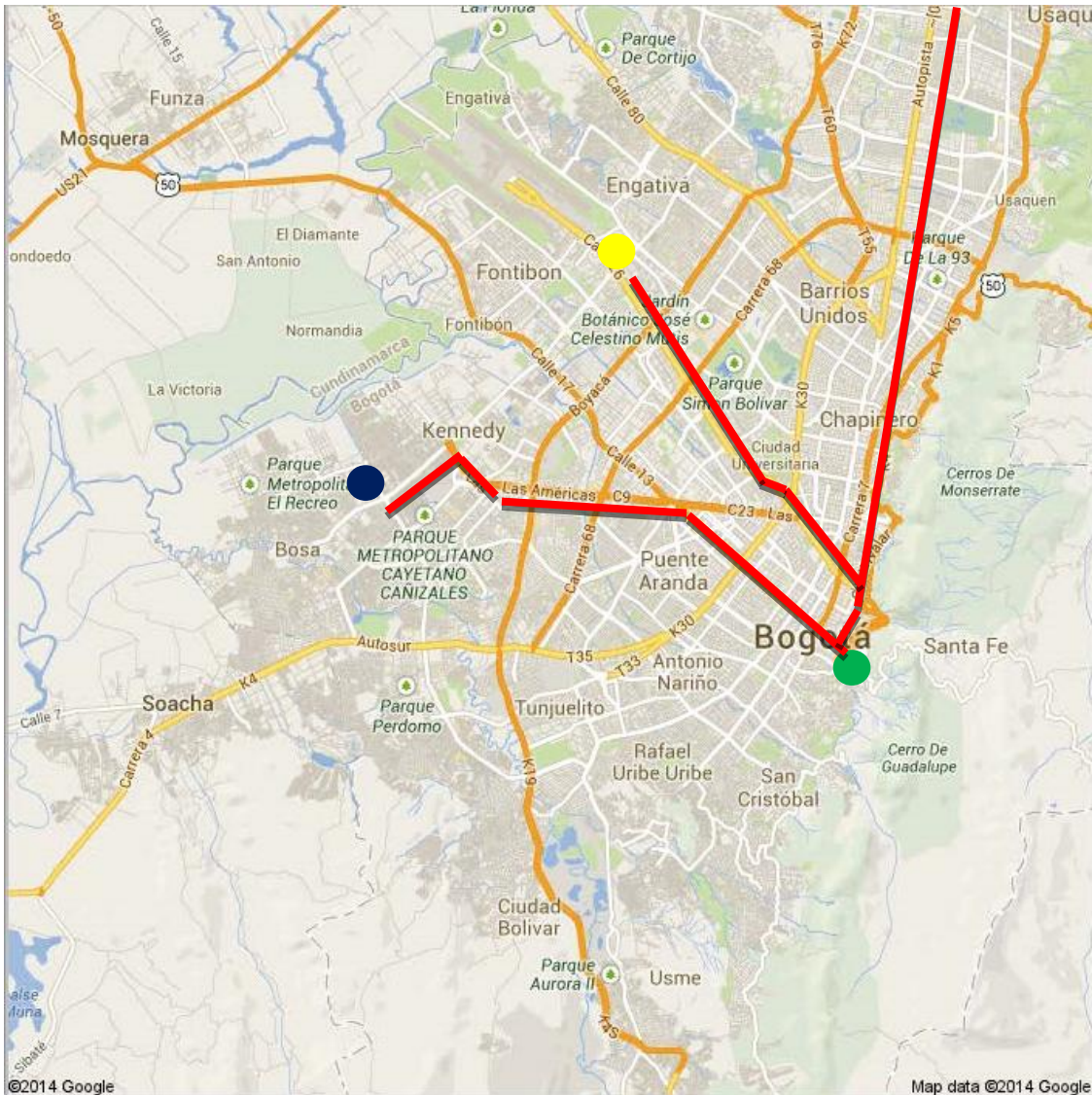
13:00 Return and general presentation about TransMilenio System and BRT planning in general

Monday 14th

9:00am – 12:00pm: Technical visit to North Depot and maintenance area, operators' offices (Fanalca - Ciudad Móvil, Calle 183 No. 51-55, Victor Cordoba +57.311.561.7986).

Lunch at Santafé shopping mall (adjacent to North Depot)

2:00 – 5:00 pm: TransMilenio ride. Suggested ride in figure below.



- Américas Terminal Station (Phase 1)
- Central Promenade and Historic Centre
- Portal El Dorado (Phase 3)



Tuesday 15th:

(suggestion: check out before leaving for the technical discussion and take luggage with you)

9:00am – 3:00 pm: Technical discussion with international experts on sustainable transport and its application in Bogotá. Venue: Camara de Comercio Chapinero, Bogotá.

3:00 pm – 5:00pm: Technical visit to TransMilenio control system and discussion with system manager (to be confirmed)

Suggested: free time at Gran Estación Mall (near the airport) It is suggested that you take your luggage and continue directly to airport.

Flight to Pereira (suggested flights: Avianca flights AV9803 departing at 19:08 or AV 9817 departing at 20:32. Both flights depart from El Dorado International Airport.)

6.3. Pereira

Wednesday 16th

9:00am – 12:00pm: Visit Megabus BRT System

2:00pm – 4:00pm Visit Control Centre and Megabus system operator

Local transport: transfer to Megabus Control Center.

5pm: closing discussion – lessons learned from study tour.



6.4. Optional activities and visits

As a country that is mostly Catholic, Colombia has holidays on Thursday the 17th and Friday the 18th of April (Holy Week). However, trips can be arranged for those who are interested in continuing onwards to other cities in the country for more technical study tours or tourism (or a mix of both). If you are interested in this, you must inform Despacio before February 28th in order to coordinate accordingly. Costs and logistical arrangements for these visits will be agreed upon based on group size and activities.

Cali: Cali is the third largest city in Colombia (after Bogotá and Medellín), and is located near the Pacific coast. It has a population of around 2.3 million. Its BRT System serves to improve the accessibility, quality, and security of public transport in the city. The BRT system called Masivo Integrado de Occidente (MIO) started operation in March 2009. The MIO has a system length of 243 km distributed as follows: 49 km of trunk corridors, 78 km of pre-trunk corridors, and 116 km of complementary corridors. It moves more than 250.000 passengers per day. MIO is operated by Metro Cali S.A., a decentralized local enterprise.

7. More details and queries

Information on the study tour is constantly updated at:

<http://despacio.org/en/2014/02/08/transport-study-tour/> If you have specific questions that are not covered in this document or in the Despacio website, please contact:

Laura Mendoza Sandoval

lmendoza@despacio.org

+57 3157656219

8. Other useful information

Places to visit in Medellín

Table 1 Some places to visit in Medellín

Places to visit	Description
Nutibara Hill and Paisa's little town (Calle 30A No. 55-64)	<p>Encounter an accurate replica of a typical paisa's little town. It was built in 1978 on Nutibara Hill. From the top there is a marvelous view of the city. You will also find the typical large white washed houses (casonas) that are accented with colorful windows, doors, and balconies. In this picturesque town, you can visit the places that you might find in the traditional towns of the region.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/cerro-nutibara-medellin/cerro-nutibara-y-pueblito-paisa)</p>
Botero Square (Carrera 52 con calle 52)	<p>Botero square, also known as the Park of Sculptures, is situated in one of the most historic and characteristic places of the city. This downtown square is also close to Berrio Park, the Museum of Antioquia and the Palacio de la Cultura. This makes the square not just a cultural and artistic center, but an everyday destination for people in Medellín.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/plazas-y-parques/parque-de-las-esculturas)</p>
Berrío Park (Carrera 50 No. 50-72)	<p>This is the central park of the city. It has born witness to the development, changes, and everyday life of the city and its inhabitants.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/plazas-y-parques/parque-berrio)</p>
Barefoot Park	<p>This is an oasis in the middle of one of the main places in Medellín, where the headquarters of EPM and other important enterprises are located. It is also near Plaza Mayor. The park was created in an effort to recover public space by proposing to the citizenship different ways to interact with their senses. From clean and transparent water placed in a sophisticated fountain to an arena made of sand where</p>

	<p>you can walk barefoot, you can enjoy the park or visit one of numerous restaurants that are located nearby.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/plazas-y-parques/parque-de-los-pies-descalzos)</p>
Lleras Park (Barrio el poblado, Calle 9 # 36)	<p>The most exquisite restaurants, bars, cafes, and nightclubs in the city are located in the Lleras Park area. Many of the restaurants and bars have happy hours. It is located in El Poblado neighborhood.</p> <p>(http://parquelleras.com/)</p>
Plaza de Cisneros (Calle 45, Medellín)	<p>In this plaza you will find an array of 300 freestanding columns. Each one is 24 meters tall and is surrounded by 7 lights. The 2.100 reflectors are able to simulate the moon phases. It is located in one of the most strategic zones in the city, near the EPM library, the Centro Institucional y Administrativo La Alpujarra, and Antioquia's old railroad station.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/plazas-y-parques/la-plaza-de-cisneros)</p>
San Pedro Cemetery Museum (Carrera 51 No. 68 – 68)	<p>Declared a museum in 1998, San Pedro's Cemetery is a delight to walk by. You can see the exquisite mausoleums as well as marble and bronze sculptures of important characters from literature, the arts, politics, and industry of the country.</p> <p>(http://www.cementeriosanpedro.org.co/)</p>
Jardín Botánico de Medellín (Carrera 52 73 - 298)	<p>In the middle of the city you can find its proverbial lungs. Breath fresh air in the 14 hectares planted with trees from different regions with gardens representing the lagoon, tropical forest, palm forest, and desert ecosystems.</p> <p>(http://www.botanicomedellin.org/)</p>
Exploration Park and Aquarium	<p>Enlarge your knowledge through activities and fun. Playful exploration at your own pace is the strategy in this place to teach visitors various things ranging from good habits to scientific facts.</p>

(Carrera 52 No. 73 - 75)	(http://www.parqueexplora.org/v2_base/)
Biblioteca España	<p>This library is a symbol of the social and cultural transformation that the city of Medellín has as a goal. It was designed by the architect Giancarlo Mazzanti. The Spanish Crown, from which it derives its name, gave resources towards its construction.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/bibliotecas/parque-biblioteca-espana)</p>
Planetario de Medellín (Cr 52 # 71-117)	<p>Open to the public since the 10th of October 1984, the planetarium teaches visitors through educational activities, interactive exhibits, and the arts. It is located in the north of the city.</p> <p>(http://www.planetariomedellin.org/)</p>
Museo de Arte Moderno (Carrera 44 No. 19A -100)	<p>The Modern Art Museum of Medellín MAMM, is the ideal space to contemplate the works of national and international artists with all your senses. It has 4 exhibition rooms, where you can see, listen to, feel, and enjoy art.</p> <p>(http://medellin.travel/a-donde-ir/museos/museo-de-arte-moderno) (http://www.elmamm.org/)</p>
Museo de Antioquia (Carrera 52 N° 52 – 43.)	<p>Is the perfect place to appreciate the arts from different times, from the Pre-Hispanic period through Republican and contemporary art, you can find works from domestic and international artists. It has 17 permanent exhibition rooms. (https://www.museodeantioquia.co/)</p>

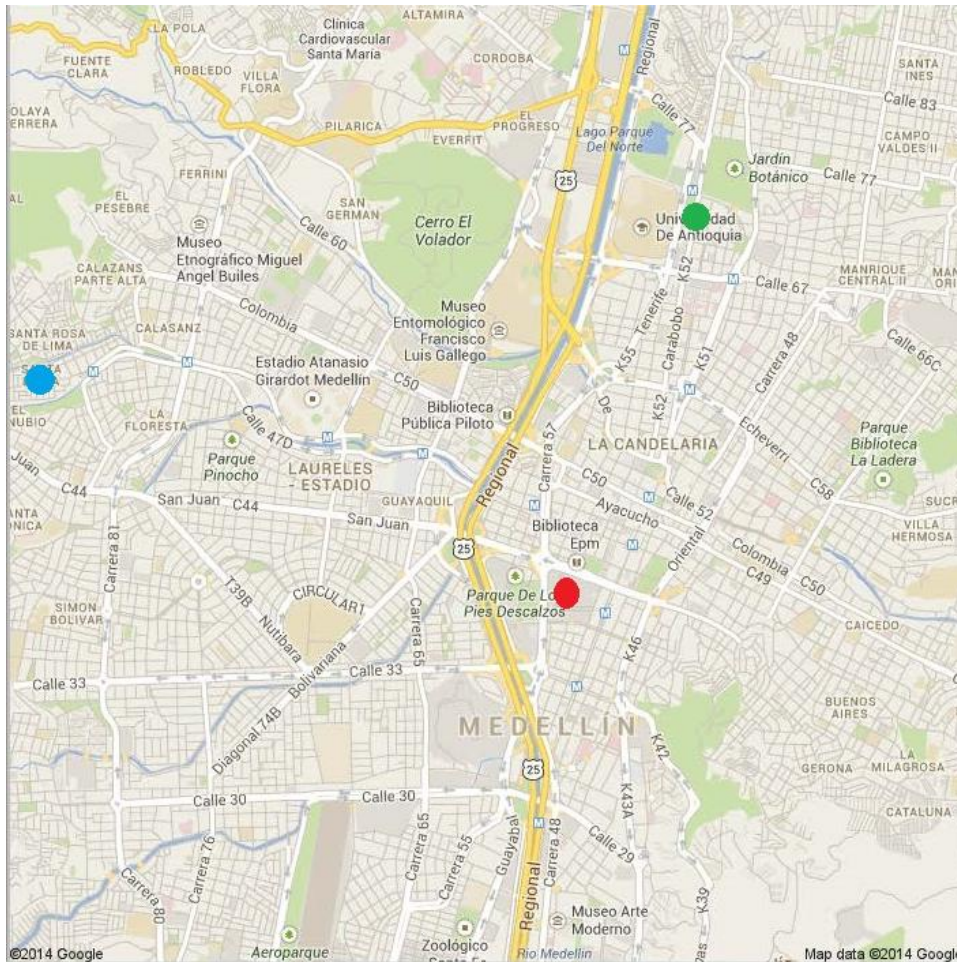


Figure 18 Medellín map

Source: Google Earth

- Plaza Mayor: Place where the WUF is taking place
- Public Escalators. Sited in the 13th Comuna in San Javier
- Parque de los Deseos. Sited in a new urban development near Parque Explora



Figure 19 Parque de los Deseos Medellín

Source: Carlos Moreno



Figure 20 Biblioteca España

Source: Carlos Moreno



Places to Visit in Bogotá

Table 2 Some places to visit in Bogotá

Places to Visit	Links
Historic Downtown -La Candelaria Neighborhood -Bolívar Square -Quinta de Bolívar	This neighborhood is rich with places significant to the history of the city and the nation. The colorful picturesque houses and colonial architecture may transport you to another time. Here you can find restaurants, libraries, cafés, museums, artists’ studios, and more. http://www.lacandelaria.info http://www.quintadebolivar.gov.co/En-us/Pages/default.aspx
Museums and cultural centers in downtown - National Museum - Gabriel García Márquez Cultural Center - Bank of the Republic Museum - Gold Museum -MAMBO (Bogotá’s Modern Art Museum) - Planetarium	The city has plenty of offerings in the cultural field. Many of the museums are located in the historic downtown of the city, and range from typical national styles of dress to contemporary arts. http://www.museonacional.gov.co/suvisitaenglish http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/en/gabriel-garc-m-rquez-cultural-center http://www.banrepcultural.org/gold-museum http://www.banrepcultural.org/museo-del-oro http://www.mambogota.com/mambo/index.php http://idartes.gov.co/index.php/escenarios/planetario-de-bogota
Monserrate	Monserrate is one of the highest points in the City. The Monserrate Church, several restaurants and a hiking trail with stone staircases are all located here. The view of Bogotá is spectacular. http://www.cerromonserrate.com/eng_files/index_eng.html
National Park	Built in the early 20 th century, this park is one of the few large green spaces in the city. It is located at the corner of 39 th Street and 7 th Avenue and continues up the mountains to the east. It is a nice place to walk, read a book, or just enjoy nature. http://www.bogota.gov.co/vis/parquenal.htm
Simon Bolivar Park	Parque Simon Bolivar is the main metropolitan park located in a very central place in the city. Many of the most important events in the city such as concerts, festivals, and fairs take place there. People also visit to practice high performance sports. http://www.bogota.gov.co/vis/public%20simon%20bolivar/parque%20simon%20bolivar.html
Restaurants and nightclubs	



<p>La Macarena y Bosque Izquierdo (restaurantes)</p>	<p>This is the bohemian and artistic center of Bogotá located near Independence Park (one of the oldest parks in Bogotá from the 19th century). Here you can find a wide range of dining and leisure options. (http://restaurantes-la_macarena-bogota_dc.xtodocolombia.com/)</p>
<p>Usaquén Neighborhood</p>	<p>In the past this was a small town near Bogotá. Nowadays, it is part of the city, but it still conserves the antique architecture typical of small towns in Cundinamarca. Around the main square there are plenty of restaurants and bars. Also, there is a significant and nice mall called Hacienda Santa Barbara, which was built inside of and around the mansion of the hacienda that used to be located there. (http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/en/usaqu-n-square) (http://www.pulgasusaquen.com/)</p>
<p>Zona T and 93 Park</p>	<p>These two places are famous for their fancy restaurants and bars. Also, you can find boutiques, malls, and other stores nearby. (http://www.bogotaturismo.gov.co/en/node/2120) (http://www.parque93.com/directorio)</p>
<p>Places Near Bogotá</p>	
<p>Nemocón Salt Mine and Zipaquirá Salt Cathedral</p>	<p>These wonders of the world are internationally recognized as such: two churches built deep below the surface of the earth in the vacant salt mines. You must see and experience the unique ambiance, the marvelous and detailed sculptural work, and the history behind the Salt Mine Churches. (http://www.colombia.com/turismo/sitio/nemocon/mina.asp)(http://www.catedraldesal.gov.co/)</p>
<p>La Calera</p>	<p>La Calera is a small town just outside the city that is located in the eastern mountains. On the road to La Calera there are many lookout points and restaurants from which you can enjoy the view.</p>

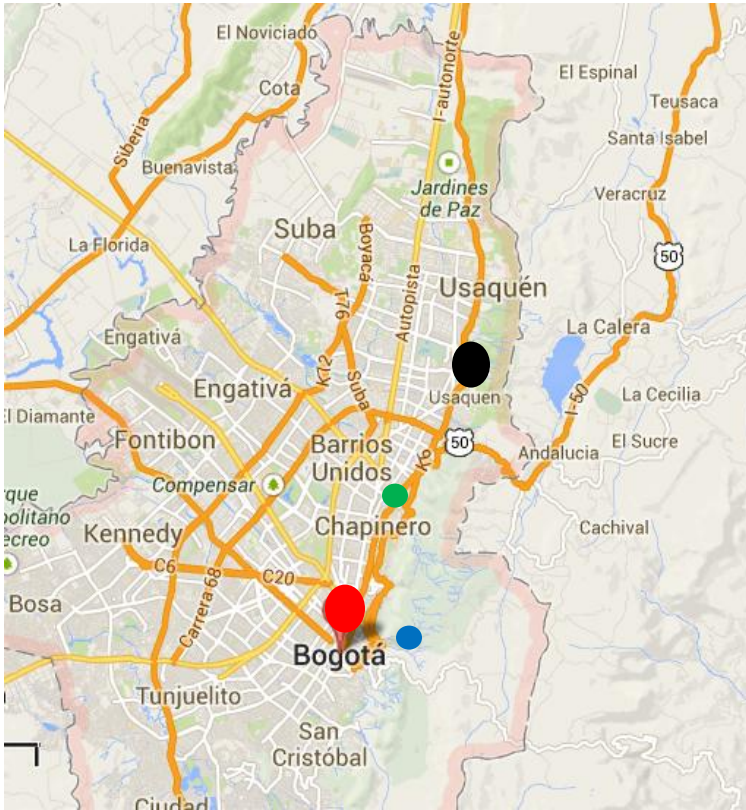


Figure 21 Map of Bogotá

Source: Google Maps.

-  Usaquén Plaza
-  Zona T and Park 93
-  Historic downtown
-  Monserrate



Places to visit in Pereira

<http://www.ejecafetero.com.co/home.php?lang=2>

Table 3 Some places to visit in Pereira

Places to visit	Links
Plaza Bolivar	Plaza Bolivar is the main town square. It serves as the political and commercial center of the city and has played an important role in the city's history. The city's most significant buildings such as the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Municipal Governor's office, and the Soratama Hotel are located around the square.
Ciudad Victoria	Ciudad Victoria is a sector in the city that was rejuvenated some years ago. It is located between 16 th and 18 th street and 10 th and 12 th avenue.
Lucy Tejada Cultural Center	The Lucy Tejada Cultural Center is located in Ciudad Victoria. It is the epicenter of cultural activities in the city and the department of Risaralda. The center hosts artists' exhibits, offers workshops, and holds various other events.
Barbas Bremen National Park	This sactuary for many threatened species was declared a national park in 2007. It has a total area of 9.651 ha.
Thermal Springs of Santa Rosa de Cabal	The thermal springs of Santa Rosa de Cabal are located 7 km away from the township of the same name. In addition to enjoying the thermal springs, you can observe local flora and fauna while hiking on nature trails.
Other cities of the Coffee region	
Armenia	Armenia is the capital city of the Quindío department. It is located in the southernmost part of the coffee region
Manizales	Manizales is the capital city of the Caldas department. It is located in the northern part of the coffee region



Figure 22 Pereira Map

Source: <http://free-downloadz.net/download/mapa%20de%20pereira&t=1>



Figure 23 Coffee region map

Source: <http://www.guiajecafetero.com/>