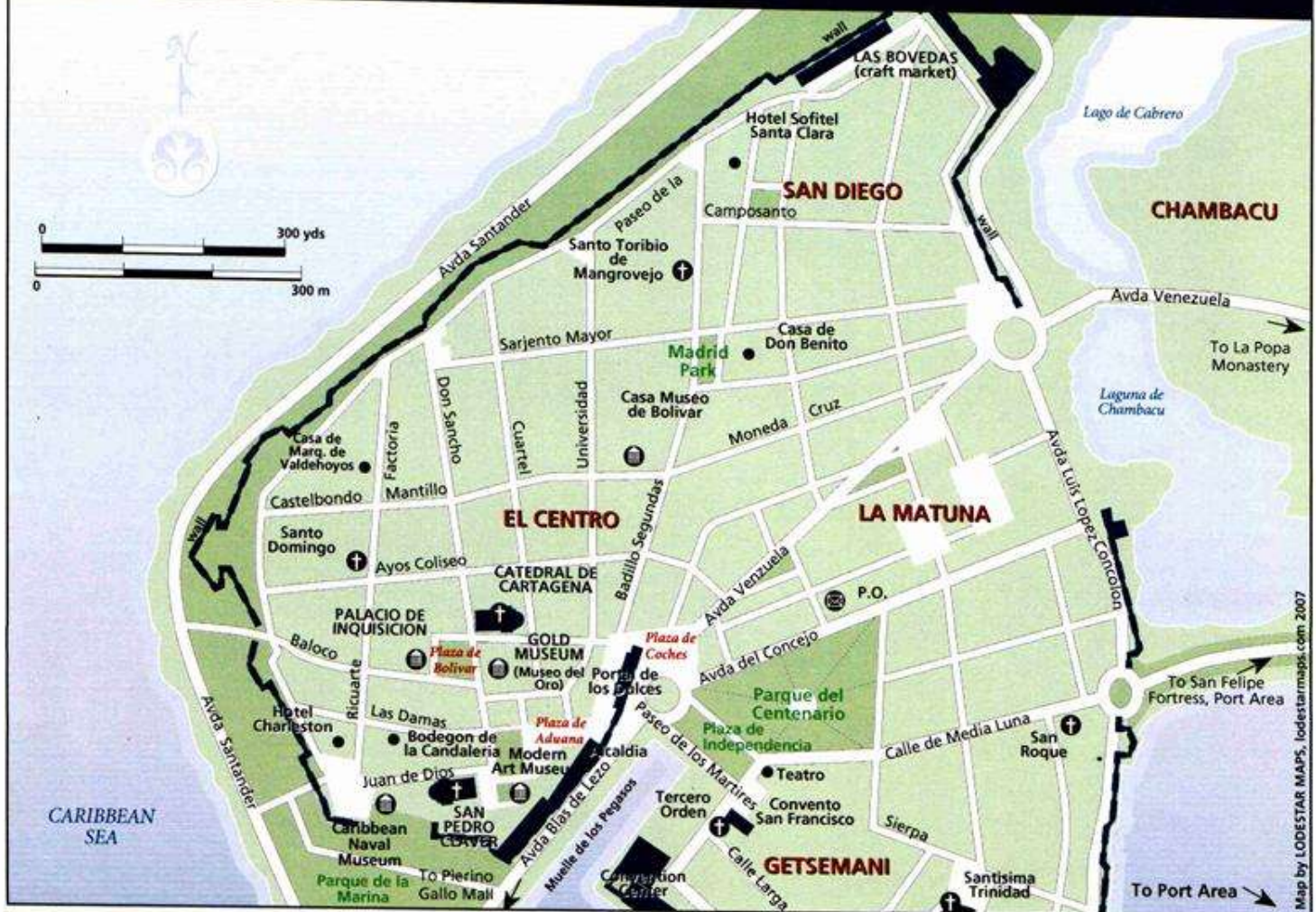


Port Description

Cartagena, Colombia



Docking location:

Crystal Symphony is scheduled dock in Cartagena, Colombia.

Distance to town:

The driving distance to downtown is approximately five miles.

Local Crystal Cruises' Port Representative:

Eduardo L. Gerlein S.A. La Matuna, Edif. Comodoro, Piso No. 8.
Cartagena, Columbia. (011) 57-5664-3232/ 3232/ 4890/ 8175

Exchange Rate:

The local currency is the Colombian Peso. Please check the daily reflections for the updated exchange rate.

Shopping:

Shopping is available in the terminal building where you will find a duty free store, and a variety of handcraft and souvenir stores. The main shopping area is approximately four miles from our docking location.

Shuttle Bus:

Please refer to your daily Reflections for up to date Shuttle information.

Taxis:

Taxis are available outside the terminal building and are not metered; please make sure to agree on a price before starting your journey. Taxi drivers have limited English-skills.

Charming Cartagena is one of the most fascinating towns in South America. The old city, almost completely surrounded by lagoons, bays and the Caribbean Sea, is still girded by its 17th-century fortifications. Once these guarded the gold and treasures of the New World bound for Spain; now they shelter ornate churches and convents, the dramatic Palace of the Inquisition and other historic gems.

Downtown

Downtown is undoubtedly the heart of the city and the most evident testimony of its history. It has a varied architecture, mainly of a colonial style, but there are also republican and Italian style buildings, such as the Cathedral's bell tower. The official entrance to downtown is through *Puerta del Reloj* (Clock Portal), which comes out onto *Plaza de los Coches* (Carriages Square). A few steps from there you will find *Plaza de la Aduana* (Customs Square), next to the mayor's office. Nearby are *Plaza San Pedro Claver*, and his namesake's church, as well as the *Museum of Modern Art*. Further on, you will find *Plaza de Bolívar* (Bolívar's Square) and the *Palace of the Inquisition* to one side.

San Diego

The district of San Diego was named after San Diego Convent, nowadays the *Beaux Arts School Building*. In front of it you will find the *Convent of the Nuns of the Order of Saint Claire*, now the beautiful *Hotel Santa Clara*. In the surrounding area you will find *Santo Toribio Church*, the last church built in the Walled City, and next to it, *Fernández de Madrid Square*, in honor of Cartagena's hero *José Fernández de Madrid*, whose statue can be seen here. Inside the Old City, you have to go to *Las Bóvedas* (The Vaults), a construction attached to the walls in the *Santa Catalina Bastion*. From the top of this construction you will be able to view the Caribbean Sea.

Bocagrande

Bocagrande (Big Mouth) is the most modern area of the city, with many hotels and restaurants. It forms part of a land extension delimited by *Cartagena Bay* to the east and the *Caribbean Sea* to the west, where you will find *El Laguito* (The Little Lake) and *Castillogrande* (Big Castle), two renowned neighborhoods. Its particular appeal is the beaches and nightlife. All over *Avenida San Martín* (Saint Martin Avenue), which is the backbone of the area, you will find several restaurants and hotels.

Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas

Designed by *Antonio de Arevalo* and begun building in 1639 it was not completed for 150 years. Visitors now can walk the battlements, stroll through a maze of underground passages and wonder at the labor that went into building this magnificent fortress. Very interesting are the steep angled arrangement of the battlements.

Located at Avenida Pedro de Heredia at Carrera 17 the opening hours are daily from 8:00am until 5:30pm.

Palacio de la Inquisicion

A Baroque limestone doorway marks the entrance to the *Palacio de la Inquisicion*, the headquarters of the repressive arbiters of political and spiritual orthodoxy who once exercised jurisdiction over Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. The ground floor contains implements of torture and architectural models of bygone Cartagena.

Located at Carrera 4 No. 33-26 the opening hours are daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Museo del Oro y Arqueologia

The Gold and Archeological Museum displays an assortment of artifacts culled from *The Sinus*, an indigenous group that lived in the region 2,000 years ago.

Located at Carrera 4 No. 33-26 the opening hours are Tuesday till Friday from 8:00am until 12:00noon and from 2:00pm to 6:00pm and on Saturdays' from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Closed on Sunday and Monday.

Beaches

Cartagena is nearly surrounded by the Caribbean Sea. Small, coral stone protected beaches can be found only a few meters outside of the ancient Walled City. *Bocagrande* and *Laguito* are popular beaches because of their nearness to the cities hotels. The beach sand is brown because there are no nearby offshore coral reefs feeding the beaches with white "sand" which actually is the tiny fragments of shells and coral which make up the reefs eco system.

Shopping

Colombia is renowned worldwide for its world-class emerald jewelry and the finest of mild Arabica coffees. They are of course sourced only in Colombia, as are the magnificent leather goods that you find here. And then there is contemporary art, antiques, and women's wear. *Pierino Gallo Shopping Plaza* is located just beyond the *Caribe Hotel* and is a two-story structure easily recognized by its bright multicolored awnings and shops that offer that offer handicrafts', emeralds, leather goods and pre-Colombian art, coffee and of course hand rolled cigars. **Please be advised when venturing of independently in Cartagena to be cautious of your surroundings do to the fact that pick pocketing is a very common in this part of the world.**

Port Descriptions are provided to our guests compliments of the Crystal Adventures shore excursions staff. Information is intended as a guideline only and cannot be guaranteed by Crystal Cruises in any way.