

My time in Colombia was truly unforgettable. I spent two months in Ibagué, where I did an internship in the field of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, followed by 2.5 months of traveling across this fascinating country. Colombia is the richest country in biodiversity, and I was fortunate enough to experience its incredible range of ecosystems firsthand. From the dense Amazon rainforest to vast deserts, from the towering Andean peaks rising over 4,800 meters to mangrove lagoons and countless rivers - the natural beauty of Colombia is simply breathtaking. I even had the opportunity to see snow-capped mountains and witness the diversity of flora and fauna in various climates.

The city of Ibagué itself was the perfect base for my internship and travels. It was not only safe and friendly, but it was also surrounded by stunning mountain landscapes, offering excellent opportunities for hiking. The city had a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere, and the people were incredibly warm and open. The Universidad de Ibagué was an excellent place to work, with a vibrant campus culture that combined local students with international exchange students, which made settling in very easy for me.

During my internship, I was able to significantly improve my independent work skills and deepen my understanding of molecular docking and modeling techniques. This was an invaluable experience that helped me both professionally and personally. Additionally, I had the opportunity to improve my Spanish through daily practice. Learning the language was not only a practical benefit for the internship but also enriched my travels across Colombia. It allowed me to connect better with locals and immerse myself more fully in the culture.

Along the way, I met incredible, kind people who shared their homes and traditions with me. The culinary diversity of Colombia was particularly fascinating. From exotic fruits I had never encountered before to regional dishes - Colombian cuisine was a true adventure for my taste buds. It was especially exciting to visit local markets, talk to the vendors, and try fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.

For anyone considering an internship in Ibagué, I couldn't recommend it more - especially if you have the chance to travel afterward. Colombia is a magical country with so much to offer, from its breathtaking landscapes to its warm-hearted people and rich culture. It was the perfect combination of learning, adventure, and discovery, and I can't wait to return someday.