

**Inter-American Division
Mission Posts and Fast Facts
Third Quarter 2024**

Colombia

1. Colombia has 1,813 churches, 860 companies, and 295,836 church members. More than 50 million people live in Colombia, so that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 172 people.
2. The first Seventh-day Adventist came to Colombia in 1895. He was an American named Frank C. Kelly, and he sold Adventist books and magazines.
3. Although for many years Adventists suffered from persecution for their beliefs, the Colombian government passed laws in 1991 that protected people's freedom to worship the way they wanted to.
4. The first Adventist radio station in Colombia began to broadcast programs on October 26, 2019, and was called Esperanza (Hope) Colombia Radio.
5. About seven out of 10 Colombians are Catholic and two out of 10 are Protestant.

6. The capital and largest city of Colombia is Bogotá.
7. The official language of Colombia is Spanish.
8. The money in Colombia is called the peso.
9. More than 50 million people live in Colombia.
10. The name of the country comes from the last name of the Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus (*Cristoforo Colombo*).
11. Of all the countries in the world, Colombia has the second-highest number of different kinds of plants and animals.
12. The first European to come to Colombia was an explorer named Alonso de Ojeda in 1499.
13. The Spanish ruled Colombia for nearly 250 years. But the famous Venezuelan general and folk hero Simón Bolívar helped them defeat the Spanish and gain independence in 1819.
14. Colombia is called the "gateway to South America" because it sits in the area of the continent where South America connects with Central and North America.
15. Colombia is the fifth-largest country in Latin America and has the world's second-largest population of Spanish-speaking people.
16. Most Colombians are descended from three ethnic groups: native peoples, African people brought to Colombia to work as slaves, and European settlers.
17. Colombia's rare spectacled bears are South America's only bear species.
18. More emeralds are mined in Colombia than anywhere in the world.
19. Colombia's national flower is the *Cattleya trianae* orchid, and the national bird is the Andean condor.
20. There are more than 30 volcanoes in Colombia. The Galeras volcano is 14,000 feet (4,276 m) tall and erupted 10 times from 2000 to 2010.
21. Colombia has coastlines on both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
22. Colombia's highest mountain is the Pico Cristobal Colon, which is 19,020 feet (5,800 m) high.

23. Colombia has a river with three names: Caño Cristales (“crystal river”), River of Five Colors, or Rainbow River. The riverbed can be yellow, green, blue, black, or red, depending on the time of year.
24. Although soccer is the most popular sport played in Colombia, tejo is considered a national sport. Players throw a metal disk, called a tejo, about 60 feet (18.5 m) at small, exploding targets full of gunpowder.
25. The red-and-yellow colors of the Colombian flag come from the Spanish flag, and the blue stripe shows the ocean that separates Colombia from Spain.

Costa Rica

1. Costa Rica is part of the South Central American Union Mission, which has 546 churches, 319 companies, and 75,416 church members. In a population of 11,822,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 157 people.
2. Frank and Cora Hutchins were the first Adventist workers on the coast of the Central American Caribbean in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Frank worked as a dentist, colporteur, and pastor.
3. At that time, the best way to get around the area was by boat, so Frank rented a boat for his trips until he could afford to buy a missionary schooner, which he named the "Herald."
4. The first Adventist churches mainly formed along the Caribbean coast, and many small churches grew near train stops along the railroad.
5. In 1928, the Costa Rica-Nicaragua Mission was established with four churches and 152 members.
6. Fifty-two percent of Costa Ricans are Catholic, 25 percent are Protestant, 17 percent are of no religion, and 6 percent are "other."

7. San José is the capital city of Costa Rica.
8. Costa Rica's official language is Spanish.
9. Costa Rica means "Rich Coast" in Spanish.
10. The money used in Costa Rica is the colón.
11. In 1821, Costa Rica declared independence from Spain.
12. Coffee was first planted in Costa Rica in 1808 and was Costa Rica's main source of wealth well into the 20th century.
13. Costa Rica has coasts on the Caribbean Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It borders Nicaragua to the north and Panama to the south.
14. There are 14 known volcanoes in Costa Rica, and six of them have been active in the last 75 years.
15. On December 1, 1948, Costa Rica abolished its army. The money that once was used for the army is now used for hospitals and schools.
16. The guitar is popular in Costa Rica, especially when accompanying folk dances; but the national instrument of Costa Rica is the marimba.
17. Soccer is the most popular sport in Costa Rica.
18. Ticos is what Costa Ricans call themselves.
19. The main food of the original people of Costa Rica was maize (corn), and it is still used in many dishes. Tamales, originally introduced to all of Central America by the Aztecs, are served at nearly all celebrations, especially at Christmas.
20. Costa Rica's Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve is the largest cloud forest in Central America.
21. There are many brightly colored toads and frogs in Costa Rica, including the poison dart frog, whose skin secretions were used by indigenous peoples to poison the tips of blow darts.
22. The national flower of Costa Rica is called the purple country girl, or *Guaria Morada* in Spanish. There are more than 1,200 species of orchids in Costa Rica.

23. Nearly 90 percent of the butterfly species of Central America can be found in Costa Rica.
24. The Irazu Volcano is Costa Rica's highest volcano with an elevation of 11,259 feet (3,432 m) above sea level.
25. Chirripo Mountain is the highest peak in Costa Rica at 12,500 feet (3,810 m). The country's lowest point is 790 feet (240 m) below sea level in the caves of Barra Honda National Park.
26. Calypso music is an important part of Costa Rica's culture.
27. Every year Costa Rica has the *arribada* ("mass arrival"), when 100,000 Olive Ridley turtles come ashore on isolated beaches, and lay up to 10 million eggs.
28. A popular Costa Rican breakfast dish is called *gallo pinto*, which means "spotted rooster." It is made of rice and beans stir-fried together in a pan to create a speckled appearance, and it is the national dish of Costa Rica.

Dominica

1. Dominica is part of the Caribbean Union Conference, which has 636 churches, 93 companies, and 248,616 members. In a population of 3,873,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 16 people.
2. Christopher Columbus first saw Dominica on a Sunday in 1493, so he named it Dominica, which means Sunday in Latin.
3. In 1901, the first Sabbath-keepers came to Dominica from Antigua and started a small church.
4. In Dominica, there are three elementary schools (Ebenezer SDA Primary, Western District SDA Primary, and Temple SDA Primary), and two secondary schools (Dominica SDA Secondary School and Arthur Walden SDA Academy).
5. About 60 percent of the population of Dominica is Roman Catholic. Another 10–12 percent belongs to one of the denominations that worship on the seventh day, including Seventh-day Adventists.

6. Dominica's capital is Roseau.
7. The official language of Dominica is English, but many people speak Dominican Creole as well.
8. Dominica's currency is the East Caribbean dollar.
9. The people who originally lived on Dominica called the island Wai'tu kubuli, which means "tall is her body."
10. In the 18th century, France and Britain captured and recaptured Dominique (as it was then called) several times.
11. Dominica became a British colony in 1805 and was used as part of the Slave Trade until 1833, when Britain abolished the slave trade. Dominica became an independent country in 1978.
12. Dominica's area is 289.5 square miles (750 km²), and it is about 29 miles (47 km) long and 16 miles (26 km) wide.
13. Dominica is located in an area that has many hurricanes.
14. Dominica one of the only places you can find the rare Lesser Antillean iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*).
15. The Caribbean Sea around Dominica is home to many whales and dolphins, including sperm whales, spinner dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins, and bottlenose dolphins.
16. Most Dominicans are of African descent.
17. The Boiling Lake is found in a volcanic crater on the island of Dominica. It is 200–250 feet (60–75 m) across and is the second-largest hot lake in the world. The lake water takes on different colors depending on the local volcanic activity.
18. Dominica only has four amphibians, and one of the largest in the world, called the "mountain chicken," is only found in Dominica and Montserrat.

19. Dominica is home to the largest indigenous population in the East Caribbean. About 3,000 Kalinago (called “Caribs” by the colonists) make Dominica their home.
20. The rare sisserou parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) is Dominica’s national bird and appears on the Dominican flag. It is thought that there was only about 50 mature individuals left in the wild.
21. Cricket is a popular sport on the island, and Dominica competes in test cricket as part of the West Indies cricket team.

Trinidad and Tobago

1. Trinidad and Tobago is part of the Caribbean Union Conference, which has 636 churches, 93 companies, and 248,616 members. In a population of 3,873,000, that's one Seventh-day Adventist for every 16 people.
2. Adventist teachings were probably introduced to Trinidad by books and magazines sent from Adventists in England in the 1870s.
3. The first Seventh-day Adventist church in Trinidad was started in 1895 and had 28 members.
4. Around 63 percent of Trinidadians are Christian, 20 percent are Hindu, 5 percent are Muslim, and the rest are "none" or "other."

5. The capital of Trinidad and Tobago is Port of Spain.
6. Trinidad is the largest island of the country of Trinidad and Tobago. With an area of 1,841 square miles (4,768 km²), it is also the fifth-largest in the West Indies.
7. The original name for Trinidad and Tobago in the Arawaks' language was *Iëre*, which meant "Land of the Hummingbird." Christopher Columbus renamed it *La Isla de la Trinidad* (The Island of the Trinity).
8. Trinidad and Tobago was first a Spanish colony, from 1498 to 1797, and then a British colony until its independence in 1962. It became a republic in August 1976.
9. The economy of Trinidad and Tobago is largely based on oil and natural gas.
10. From 1845 to 1917, many people from India migrated to Trinidad and worked as indentured laborers on plantations.
11. Trinidad and Tobagonian food is known for its many seafood dishes, especially curried crab and dumplings.
12. The limbo dance originated in Trinidad.

Flags

Colombia

Color the large stripe at the top yellow. Color the middle stripe blue. Color the bottom stripe red.



Costa Rica

Color the top and bottom stripes blue. Color the wide middle stripe red. Leave the rest white.



Dominica

Color the four corners green. Starting at the top, color the stripes going across the flag yellow, black, and white. Starting at the left, color the stripes going up and down yellow, black, and white. Color the circle in the middle red and the stars green. Color the parrot's head and stomach blue. Color its wings and legs green. Color the branch yellow. Leave its eyes, beak, and feet white.



Trinidad

Color the middle stripe black but leave the narrow stripes on either side white. Color the rest of the flag red.



Crafts

Handprint Parrots

All the countries we are featuring from the Inter-American Division in this issue are home to many species of parrots.

To make a colorful paper parrot for yourself you will need:

Different colors of craft paper

A pen or pencil

Scissors

Glue

This parrot template

Instructions:

Trace the parrot template onto craft paper and cut it out. Use a pen or pencil to draw in the eye and beak details.

Trace your hand six times onto different colors of craft paper and cut them out.

Glue three of the hand cutouts together in a vertical line, with the fingers pointing downwards, to make the tail. Glue it onto the bottom of the parrot. Glue two more hand cutouts a little further up the body, fingers pointing toward the tail and slightly overlapping it. Glue one more hand cutout a little above and overlapping, but pointing towards the back of the parrot for its wing.

Recipe

Colombia

Watermelon Popsicles (Paletas de Sandia o Patilla)

10 cups fresh watermelon chunks (seeds removed)

2 tablespoons water

1 can sweetened condensed milk

Popsicle molds or small cups and wooden popsicle sticks

Instructions

In a blender, combine the watermelon and water and blend just until the watermelon has broken down. Add the condensed milk and blend until smooth.

Pour the mixture into the molds. If using cups, you'll need to insert wooden popsicle sticks. Freeze for about four hours, or until firm.

Game

The Caribbean

Dandy Shandy

Dandy Shandy is a ball game played in the Caribbean. It is similar to dodge ball, consisting of three or more players.

The game should be played outdoors in an open area, preferably on a grass field, but can be played indoors with a very soft ball.

Two pitchers stand on either end and throw the ball, trying to hit the players who are standing in the middle. The middle players have to run, duck, and jump to dodge the ball.

Traditionally, the game is played during lunchbreaks at school, and the “ball” is a paper juice box stuffed full of paper or other juice boxes, and the four corners rounded off. It made quite a hard ball, so there was extra incentive to dodge it!