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## From The Airport To Finca Bayano

When you enter Panama, at the international airport Tocumen (PTY), you'll get a tourist visa for six months. Vaccinations are not needed.

You may hire a car at the airport or in Panama City, however, I suggest to use public transport, especially if you want to stay at Finca Bayano for a couple of days, without using the car. Hiring a car is around 300 \$ per week. Going to Finca Bayano and returning to the airport by public transport costs about 120 \$.

If you intend to walk in areas where the grass is very high, or in the rainforest, you must be aware that there are poisonous animals. Scorpions and spiders don't have very powerful venoms, snakes, however, are dangerous. Most of our visitors never get to see those animals, as they are always hiding, but you must be aware that they do exist. For that reason, you should bring a pair of good shoes, or better, bring a pair of boots. I can help you with a pair of simple rubber boots, of certain sizes, if you want to avoid big luggage. Also, you can buy a pair of boots in Las Palmas. There are not too many insects in our area, but it's better to be prepared and carry some repellents. Malaria, or other dangerous diseases, do not exist. Otherwise, the temperature in the bus is very low, as bus drivers keep their air condition running at the maximum. For that reason, you should bring some warm clothing.

The airport is relatively small. The exit is on the ground floor where you will find a taxi with an airport license. They charge about 35 dollars for the trip to town. Taxis on the first floor of the airport have no airport license. Those drivers are only allowed to take passengers to the airport, but they are not allowed to pick up passengers. Therefore, they are far cheaper. If you wish, I can make a reservation for you at the Lisboa, or any other hotel. One night at the Lisboa is 38 \$. This is the link to book: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/pa/lisboa.en-gb.html>

On the night of your arrival, you should buy a Panamanian mobile phone chip down town. Ask at the hotel for the next Chino (Chinese), who sells telephones and accessories. They're open even on Sundays. Moreover, you should buy two or three phone cards, each with a balance of five dollars. If your cell phone does not work here, you can buy one for 25 dollars. Then, you can call me at 6538 6271 – an area code is not needed.

As soon as you are ready to come to Finca Bayano, take a taxi to the bus terminal of Albrook. It takes about half an hour from the center of the city - the taxi driver should not charge you more than five dollars. Tell him that you want to go to Santiago, so he will leave you close to the right entrance of the terminal. A bus to Santiago is leaving every 30 minutes at Albrook terminal - the ticket is nine dollars and it's a five hours ride. If you leave Albrook around 10 AM you will arrive in Santiago around 3 PM. In Santiago, look for a bus to **Las Palmas de Veraguas** at the same terminal. The price is 3.25 dollars - the journey takes about two hours. In Las Palmas you can take a taxi to Garnadera. If you don't speak Spanish at all... no problem. Just tell the taxi driver in English: Please, take me to the Gringos in Garnadera. There are only four taxi drivers in the village and they all know us. It's a ride of about 30 minutes - the price is eight dollars.