

# THE CYCLOWAY OF BOGOTA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF OPENING THE STREETS TO CYCLISTS

July 2025

On December 15, 2024, the 50th anniversary of the Ciclovía of Bogotá (Colombia) was celebrated, opening its streets to pedestrians and cyclists.

The [Ciclovía of Bogotá](#) transforms Sundays and all holidays into a celebration of public space, offering 127.69 kilometers of interconnected paths to cyclists and city dwellers. From 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., citizens can enjoy a safe and recreational environment that promotes their physical and mental well-being. The Ciclovía of Bogotá has been consolidated as the largest linear park in the world, gathering 1.5 million users every week.



In 1974, with the support of the Administrative Departments of Traffic and Transport and District Planning, the ProCicla Organization called on more than five thousand people with the so-called: "Cyclists ... to the street!" "Tourists, workers, students and anyone with a bicycle will ask for cycle-ways, the press reported days before the demonstration. Thus, on December 15, the Carreras Séptima and 13, from 72nd Street to Jiménez Avenue, were opened for three hours for the enjoyment of cyclists, walkers, skaters, children, and people from all social sectors who demanded safe spaces for bicycle use and demonstrated against pollution.



The Great Pedal Demonstration marked a milestone in the recreational use of public roads. In 1976, with the support of the mayor and [the Secretariat of Traffic, Coldeportes institutionalized the initiative, making it one of the first of its kind in the world.](#)



The Ciclovía is managed by the District Institute of Recreation and Sports (IDRD), which, to ensure its success, implements every week a logistical and operational plan that aims to offer a good service to all users, ensuring their safety and well-being. In particular the IDRD implements the [Ciclovía Guardians program](#), which is prepared through a qualification process. Based on the [Resolución 1291 of August 30, 2024](#), IDRD selects suitable staff, prepared from the physical, intellectual, social point of view and with time to work every Sunday and holidays on the Ciclovía. The training process focuses on: Cycle Path Wardens, Bike Guides, Bike Mechanics, Road and Checkpoint Assistants, and Route Leaders.

The Bogotá Ciclovía has achieved important recognition for its impact on public health, sustainability and the promotion of active lifestyles in the city. In particular:





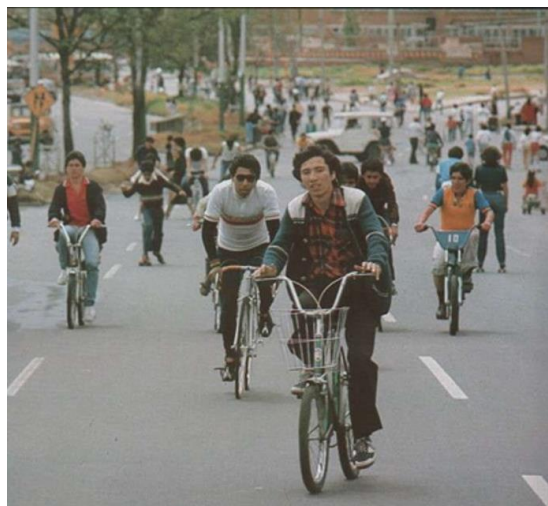
- **In 2003:** Recognized by the Administrative Department of the Public Service as the most successful program, and awarded by WHO and the Physical Activity Network of the Americas (RAFA/PANA) as the program that makes Bogotá the most active and healthy city in the Americas.
- **In 2005:** Bogotá hosted the foundation of the Recreational Cycleways of the Americas, at the first International Conference on Recreational Cycleways, organized in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the CDC.
- **In 2009:** The Council of Bogotá declared the Ciclovía to be of social, recreational and sporting interest through Agreement 386.
- **In 2014:** During the international Rio+20 Summit, the Ciclovía received the Global Urban Settlement Forum's sustainable culture award, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **In 2023:** The Ciclovía was awarded the United Nations World Bicycle Day Special Award, highlighting its leadership in promoting active mobility. It also received recognition from participants in Poland for its excellent organization, and was recognized as part of Bogotá's active and healthy routes on World Bicycle Day.
- **In 2023:** The Ciclovía was certified as Carbon Neutral, becoming the first of its kind to receive this recognition.

The celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Ciclovía have represented an opportunity to emphasize in Colombia and internationally the great contribution of this innovation in the use of public spaces, promoting the active participation of citizens in the improvement of health and the environment.

The article [“10 reasons to celebrate half a century of Ciclovía”](#) published by the website La Silla Vacía, gathers the opinion of a group of Colombian experts to summarize the advantages of this important innovation by the city. In particular, it emphasizes that among other functions “the Ciclovía helps supplement household income through sales of snacks, juices, fruits and other food; mechanical services; and sales of accessories for cyclists. Around the Ciclovía, green jobs are generated: dignified employment that contributes to the environment. Behind each day of Ciclovía are the officials of the District Institute of Recreation and Sports who work to make it a reality and, facing the public, there are hundreds of young “Guardians of Ciclovía” and students who provide their social service ensuring the proper functioning of the program and the safety of people. 280 rangers, 26 route leaders, 15 coordinators, a plant official and over a thousand students working on the Ciclovía”

In December 2024 the University of Los Andes organized the [International Forum Ciclovía 50 years: Past, Present and Future of Cities](#), convening an audience of academics, practitioners and citizens, national and international, with the aim of reflecting on the impact of recreational cycling in Bogotá and around the world; and the role they can play in addressing the urban challenges of the present and the future. The program of the Forum and its themes organized around six axes reflect the functions that the Ciclovía fulfills in the city of Bogotá and which may serve as an example for other contexts.

The World Economic Forum has participated in the celebrations by publishing on its website an important [article presenting the Bogotá Ciclovía](#). Several international organizations and





newspapers have also published articles emphasizing that the Bogotá Ciclovía has become a benchmark, [inspiring more than 400 cities to replicate similar programs](#).

Meanwhile, the city of Bogotá has also developed more than 600 km of cycle paths, facilitating safe travel for cyclists as part of daily transportation.

### To know more

[La ciclovía website in idrd.com](#)

[Mapa de la Ciclovía](#)

[Article in lasillavacia.com](#)

[Foro Internacional de la Universidad Los Andes](#)

[Article in biblored.gov.co](#)

[Article in weforum.org](#)

[Article in bogota.gov.co](#)

[Article in bogota.gov.co](#)

[Article in theguardian.com](#)

[Article in elpais.com](#)

[Article in vox.com](#)

[Article in urbancyclinginstitute.org](#)

[Fotos de la Ciclovía en Instagram](#)

[Article in spanish news.cn](#)

[Estudio en ResearchGate 2025 La Mundialización de la Ciclovía de Bogotá: De Experimento Urbano a Mejor Práctica Internacional](#)

[World Bicycle Day in Colombia](#)

