



NARCO TOURISM

THE GLORIFICATION OF A PROBLEMATIC



The so-called narco tourism has been a rising way of tourism in the city of Medellín. People from all over the world are attracted to the city, not only because of its beautiful landscapes, and its people's distinct accent, but because of its fame as a city with beautiful woman turned to prostitutes, and the many tales about this city drugs history.

There's not a concrete definition of what narco tourism is, but we're going to make it easy for you by using a similar concept,

called drug tourism, which is defined by Wikipedia as "The practice of crossing a national border to obtain a drug that is not sold in one's home country, or to obtain an illegal drug that is more available in the visited destination". So, using this definition of drug tourism we can start molding our own definition of what narco Tourism is. For this article's sake, we're going to define narco tourism as "a practice in which foreigner people (And some natives) go to a country in search of that country's drugs and drugs history".

This isn't something that only occurs in Colombia, countries like Amsterdam are also subjects of these practices. According to the site dualdiagnosis.com, "...two-thirds of tourists came to the city on drug tourism to taste the marijuana on sale". Other places in the world are also targeted by drug tourist due to their local drug policies, places like California and Colorado, are renowned globally for their legal cannabis and in the latter also for the legal mushrooms.

Even though is not a unique problematic, this practice has been in a rise in Colombia and the Botero's sculptures have found a new rival since the release of many narco TV Shows as "El patron del mal", "El cartel de los sapos" or the world renowned Netflix show "Narcos".

These shows have attracted a kind of tourist, that is amazed by the city's drug trafficking history, specially by Pablo Escobar's story. The international audience for this type of tourism changes with the release of each one of the narco TV shows, as Oscar Cantor, a spokesperson for one of the agencies that offers these kinds of tours, states in an interview with El Clarín "Tourists have been changing for ages. When the (Colombian) series 'El patron del mal' came out, those who came the most were Mexicans, Argentines, Chileans and Peruvians. Later, when Netflix's 'Narcos' began, Brazilians and Americans began to come, the latter are the ones who nowadays go on tour the most". Many of these tourists come to see the places where the bloodthirsty kingpin lived, the places he attacked, the place where he was incarcerated, and the place where he rests in peace. Like the controversial occasion when the famous rapper Wiz Khalifa smoked a joint while visiting Escobar's final destination.

The "Pablo Escobar tours" are just one of the narco tourism modalities. As some of the tourist that come to the city of eternal spring, are not coming only for the tours, but also for a little taste of the so-called "Colombian snow"; and the drug dealers are enjoying the flow of tourist that come into the city in search of its coveted products, as "Pitbull", a Bogotá drug dealer, explained it to us "We love the foreigners over here, not only be-»



cause they bring dollars or euros, but because they come expecting the highest drug quality, and they end up blindly paying exorbitant amounts of money for any kind of drugs". So drug tourists come to Colombia to buy drugs ¿so what?, well the problem is bigger than that because they come with the blind idea that they are just buying drugs and having fun. But the reality is much deeper, when a foreigner comes and pays for drugs, they are financing a problematic that Colombia has been trying to eradicate for years, and then they go back to their home country without knowing that they are contributing to this problematic.

There has been a fake imaginary around Medellín as a paradise of drugs and prostitutes. The latter being targeted by the many sex tourist that come into the city in search of the "beautiful Medellín prostitutes". This practice is accompanied many times by drug use, as the UNODC found when they did an investigation on drug and sexual tourism in the city. Another study found that many of these prostitutes go into this world as minors and continue to be on it throughout their adulthood. The clients are not really bothered by the age "In Spain, for example or in Europe, there's 21, 20 and 18 years old (prostitutes), here (Colombia) too, but there are also minors [...]. You go out, for example, in Spain with a minor giving you kisses, you are going to get detained. However here it is normal, because your culture is more familiar with that" as stated by one of the interviewees, who

are looking for underage prostitutes, in DMAX España YouTube video "La relación de Pablo Escobar y la explotación sexual infantil en Colombia El Mercado de la inocencia".

"In Medellín, foreigners rule, women prefer them because they pay more. They know that we get them whatever and whatever. Medellín is the city of drugs and whores" Interviewee from Revista Semana.

Colombia has a reputation in the international community as the drugs, narcos and prostitutes paradise. In a sense there's some sort of true to it, but it's not something that is benefiting the Colombian people, its kind of the opposite. As previously explained many of the money that is invested into buying drugs and soliciting prostitutes, is being used to feed up the drug trafficking and prostitution issues, while the country has been fighting to eliminate those problems from their society. So, if you are thinking about coming to Colombia for drugs or prostitutes, please, think twice before you become a subsidiary of these problematics.👤

