

# New international terminal opens at Cali, Colombia Airport

By **Ronnie Lovler** on July, 12 2017 | Airlines & Airports



A new international terminal is now open for business at the Alfonso Bonilla Aragón Airport in Cali, Colombia.

The expansion means it is now possible to travel directly from Cali to Miami, New York, Madrid, Panama City, San Salvador and Lima among other destinations.

Avianca, Colombia's national carrier with the largest presence in Cali, is offering the most flights from that city as well as a new VIP lounge for frequent travelers. Other carriers providing direct flights from Cali to international destinations include American Airlines and Copa.

At present, there are at least 10 recurring direct international flights using that the new terminal

Antonio Silva, manager of Aerocali, which operates the airport told local media that the updates have modernized the facility and given it the capability to handle more passengers used to the conveniences of international travel.

"We have state-of-the-art technology, state-of-the-art boarding bridges, an x-ray system, passenger information," Sliva said. "Everything has been checked and tested."

Luis Fernando Andrade, president of Colombia's National Infrastructure Agency also praised the new terminal in local press reports, pointing out that it was built in a way to allow seamless future growth if the need arises.

"The building was constructed in such a way that it may be extended in the future according to the needs of the region and the country," said Andrade. "It is a development that will allow efficient and secure modular growth."

Expectations are that with the new terminal, the airport will be able to handle up to 10 million passengers a year. The facility itself is 19,600 square meters in size.

Duty free offerings are also a part of the package with international operator Attenza Duty Free already on the scene. Colombian travel retailers such as Leonisa, In Bond Cali, In Bond Licores de Colombia, Filigrana Momposina, Etnia Artesanias and El Market are also present, according to the airport website.

The expansion in Cali, Colombia's third largest airport, is another indication of anticipated growth in Colombia tourism industry. Last year, the government put a \$2.9 billion plan into place to upgrade numerous other airports around the country in Bogota, Medellin, Barranquilla and Cartagena, among

others.

The airport projects are one more aspect of Colombia's preparations for more economic growth and investment -- as well as more visitors -- as a peace agreement takes hold between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).