

# Following Humboldt's footsteps

17 day nature and encounter trip "Cazón"



## Follow the Polymath through Tropical Paradise

- Caracas - entry into cultural diversity
- Barlovento - cocoa and the Caribbean
- Cumaná - Where Humboldt set foot on South American soil
- Carúpano - rum, chocolate and dream beaches
- Orinocodelta - In a labyrinth of water and forest
- Caripe - Humboldt Cave and coffee
- Mochima National Park - Caribbean paradise
- La Guaira - closing in the historic harbour

**"God! What flora, birds of beautiful plumage, forests of mahogany, ebony and brazilwood, cedars, palm trees! What fragrances... living colibris, flamingos, 30 kinds of papaguayas", enthused Alexander von Humboldt in 1799 in a letter to a couple he was friends with in faraway Germany.**

**Map with route**



**Included services**

16x overnight stays in a double room; 16x breakfast, 16x dinner, 1x lunch

All transfers within the country; Drinking water while travelling in the country

All entrance fees, boat trips and cable car ride(s) according to the description

Qualified English-speaking tour guide until day 17

**Services not included**

Single room supplement 360,- Euro; Other catering / drinks; Tips

International flights to Caracas and back. (If booked in good time, flights from Germany cost less than 1,000 euros. We will be happy to help you book the flights).



**Dates & prices "Cazón"**

Datum von ... bis	Preis
06.11.2025 - 22.11.2025	3.450, - Euro
15.01.2026 – 31.01.2026	3.450,- Euro
14.05.2026 – 30.05.2026	3.450, - Euro
Single room supplement	360,- Euro

**Group size 6 - 14 people**

## **Our travel highlights at a glance**

Experience Venezuela, one of the most diverse countries in the world, in the footsteps of the famous naturalist Alexander von Humboldt. This trip combines breathtaking natural wonders, cultural encounters and historical insights to create an unforgettable adventure.

### **1. Caracas - an Introduction to Cultural Diversity**

Historical centre: Explore the colonial and modern Caracas, where Humboldt once met Simón Bolívar. Cultural insights: Visit a barrio and get to know the life of the locals.

### **2. Barlovento - Cocoa and the Caribbean**

Traditional cocoa cultivation: Visit one of the oldest cocoa plantations in Venezuela.

Boat trip on the Rio Unare: Observe the species-rich birdlife in unspoilt nature.

### **3. Cumaná - Where Humboldt set foot on South American soil**

Colonial flair: Discover the oldest Spanish city in South America with its restored old town and imposing fort.

### **4. Carúpano - Rum, Chocolate and Dream Beaches**

Caribbean feeling: Enjoy palm-fringed beaches and visit a chocolate factory.

Culinary delights: Sample the region's world-famous rum.

### **5. Orinoco Delta - In a labyrinth of Water and Forest**

Jungle experience: Explore the delta by canoe, observe wild animals and get to know the indigenous Warao culture.

### **6. Caripe - Humboldt Cave and Coffee**

Humboldt Cave: Marvel at the 130-million-year-old stalactite cave and observe the fat swallows.

### **7. Mochima National Park - Caribbean Paradise**

Island and beach experience: Relax on palm-fringed beaches and explore the offshore islands.

### **8. La Guaira - Finish in the Historic Harbour**

Historical centre: Enjoy the restored flair of the old harbour town.

Last sunset: Say goodbye with a breathtaking view from the Spanish fort.

### **Why this journey?**

Sustainability: We support local communities and ecological projects.

Authenticity: Encounters with locals and insights into their daily lives take centre stage.

**Small groups: Maximum flexibility and individual support.**

## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Caracas

After landing in Maiquetia, the airport of Caracas, you will be taken from there to our city hotel. Depending on your individual arrival time, you can take a few first steps in the city. We will get to know each other as a group over dinner.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Caracas; dinner

### Day 2: Immerse yourself in history

Today we explore Caracas, following in the footsteps of Alexander von Humboldt and the liberator Simón Bolívar. In the colonial centre of the capital, we immerse ourselves in the country's history before getting to know the modern side of the capital in the afternoon. Depending on what is on offer, we will visit a bar or attend a live concert in the evening.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Caracas; breakfast and dinner

### Day 3: Cocoa and the Caribbean

It's an early start because we want to visit a cocoa plantation in the Barlovento region in the cool morning hours. In this region, it is mainly small farmers who grow cocoa using traditional methods. After a guided tour of the plantation and chocolate production, we drive on to the wild and romantic Caribbean beach of Boca de Uchire.

Overnight stay in a beach posada in Boca de Uchire, breakfast and dinner; cocoa tour

### Day 4: Boat tour with birdwatching

On a boat tour in the early hours of the morning, we marvel at the rich birdlife of the coastal region. We arrive in Clarines, which is famous for its murals. In the late afternoon, we reach Cumaná, the oldest city founded by the Spanish on the South American mainland. It was from here that Alexander von Humboldt and his companion Aimé Bonpland set off on their voyage of discovery through South America.

Overnight stay in a colonial posada in Cumaná; breakfast and dinner; boat tour on the Rio Unare

### Day 5: To the desert peninsula of Araya

We cross over to the desert peninsula of Araya, which is famous for its historic salt works. Humboldt visited Araya in August 1799 and investigated the phenomenon of bio-luminescence that is widespread here. We have the opportunity to bathe on a crystal-clear sandy beach beneath the Spanish fort completed in 1665 and will marvel at the sunset over the salt pans.

Overnight stay in a posada in Araya; breakfast and dinner; boat trip from Cumaná to Araya

### Day 6: Along the Gulf of Cariaco to the colourful Carúpano

In the morning, we leave Araya and take our bus along the clear Gulf of Cariaco to the cheerful little town of Carúpano. Our accommodation is located directly on the beautiful, palm-fringed beach of Playa Copey. We can spend the afternoon there and enjoy the sunset.

Overnight stay in a posada on Copey beach; breakfast and dinner; boat trip from Araya to Cumaná

**Day 7: Carúpano: city tour and rum tasting**

Today, we will get to know the beautiful Carúpano better as part of a city tour. Of course, we will take the opportunity to taste the excellent Carúpano rum. The sugar cane required for rum production has been cultivated on the fertile soils around Carúpano since the mid-16th century. In the afternoon, we relax on the beach.

Overnight stay in a posada on Playa Copey beach; breakfast and dinner; city tour and rum tasting

**Day 8: Paria Peninsula: cocoa plantation and dream beach with palm trees**

After breakfast, we set off for the nearby Paria Peninsula. On the way, we visit the Chocolates Paria cocoa museum. In addition to delicious chocolates, 100% cocoa chocolate is produced here. Late in the afternoon, we reach our destination for the day, the palm-fringed dream beach of Playa Medina, and immerse ourselves in a postcard paradise.

Overnight stay in a cabaña on Playa Medina beach; breakfast and dinner; visit to Chocolates Paria

**Day 9: Boat tour to the beaches of the sea turtles**

Venezuela's most beautiful dream beaches are located here on the Paria Peninsula. We take a fishing boat to visit some secluded beaches in the surrounding area, which are used by sea turtles as egg-laying sites. Don't forget your sunscreen.

Overnight stay in a cabaña on Playa Medina beach; breakfast and dinner; boat tour

**Day 10: Trip to the water labyrinth of the Orinoco Delta**

We leave the Paria Peninsula and head into the Orinoco Delta, a labyrinth of water and forest the size of Belgium. This transitional landscape between water and land is a paradise for animal lovers. Ibises, toucans, parrots, river dolphins and caimans frolic here. If you're lucky, you might spot the extremely shy ocelot.

Overnight stay at Eco-Orinoco Camp; breakfast and dinner

**Day 11: Pure rainforest romance**

In addition to extensive jungle explorations and trips in the dugout canoe, today we learn about the life of the Warao people, who still live mainly from what the jungle and the 80 river arms of the delta offer them: Wood and palm leaves for their wall-less pile dwellings, manioc, medicinal plants, fish and game.

Overnight stay at Eco-Orinoco Camp; breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Day 12: The natural wonder of Humboldt Cave**

Today we leave the delta and drive into the mountains of Sucre, where the world-famous Humboldt Cave awaits us. The cave system, which is over ten kilometres long, is home to around 18,000 fat birds, which use ultrasound to orientate themselves in a similar way to bats. Like in a Hitchcock film, the shadows of the cave dwellers flutter past us, accompanied by caws and clicks.

Overnight stay in a posada in Caripe; breakfast and dinner; entrance to Humboldt Cave

**Day 13: Coffee and the deep blue Caribbean**

The region around Caripe is also known for the extremely fine and high-quality highland coffee that is grown here. We visit a small coffee plantation and are introduced to the secrets of further processing. We then set off for the Mochima National Park, which impresses with its deep blue waters. After our arrival, we go for a swim on a nearby beach.

Overnight stay in a posada in Mochima National Park; breakfast and dinner; coffee tour

**Day 14: Mochima National Park: attractions above and below the water**

We explore the water worlds in Mochima National Park by fishing boat. The beaches and islands with crystal-clear, warm water over undisturbed coral reefs make swimming and diving an unforgettable experience. The coastal waters are an ideal habitat for dolphins, octopus, moray eels, sea turtles, trumpet fish, rays, starfish and other marine life.

Overnight stay in a posada in Mochima National Park; breakfast and dinner

**Day 15: Caracas me encanta**

We drive back to Caracas along the beautiful coast. In the afternoon, we visit the Teresa Careño Music Theatre and the Fine Arts Museums before immersing ourselves in the nightlife of San Agustín. This barrio (poor neighbourhood) is known for its rich cultural life and the outstanding musicians it has produced.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Caracas; breakfast and dinner

**Day 16: Caracas from above**

Our programme includes a very special excursion: we take a genuine rustico jeep up the more than 2,000-metre-high Ávila, Caracas' local mountain. There we go on short hikes and visit the emblematic Hotel Humboldt. We enjoy the sunset from one of the Spanish forts above the historic harbour of Caracas. In the evening, we stroll through the lovingly restored colonial centre of La Guaira.

Overnight stay in a boutique hotel in La Guaira; breakfast and dinner; guided hike

**Day 17: Return flight**

Today it's time to say goodbye to one of the most beautiful and diverse countries in the world.

Breakfast; transfer to the airport and return flight to Europe



### **Organisational matters**

Due to local conditions, there may be changes to the itinerary.

If the minimum number of 6 participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the trip up to 21 days before the start of the trip. If all interested parties agree, the trip can be organised with a small group surcharge.



### **Physical requirements**

Trip with easy to moderate hikes with walking times of 2 to 3 hours. Partly with stony routes and sometimes cross-country. Moderate inclines with differences in altitude of up to 600 metres. A head for heights is not required. Light hiking boots are required, we recommend the use of hiking poles if you are unsteady.

### **Formalia**

A passport valid for at least six months is all that is required to enter Venezuela. Vaccinations are not mandatory and malaria prophylaxis is not required for most journeys. Up-to-date information on travelling to Venezuela can be found on the website of the Venezuelan embassy in Berlin at:

<https://belgica.embajada.gob.ve/>

**Accommodation**

We stay overnight in typical local accommodation in the medium to upper category. The number of single rooms may be limited locally (see detailed itinerary). If no single rooms can be provided in individual accommodations, we will reimburse the single room supplement on a pro rata basis.

**Food and drink**

Venezuela has a diverse and very flavoursome cuisine based on southern European, African and indigenous influences. Typical foods are maize, manioc, plantains and beans. There is a large selection of fish, seafood and meat (beef, chicken, pork). Fresh fruit and salads enrich the menu. Drinks are dominated by freshly squeezed juices and the usual soft drinks, with beer, wine and rum being the most common alcoholic beverages. Coffee is usually drunk with breakfast. If you prefer tea, please take a few tea bags with you

Note: Please inform us of any allergies or intolerances in good time before the start of your trip.

**Transport**

Our tour bus offers space for 30 people, so we can comfortably spread out with our small group. The bus is air-conditioned (the air conditioning is switched on or off depending on the outside temperature) and has a music system.

**Pocket money**

Venezuela is not a classic budget holiday destination. The price level, especially in Caracas, corresponds to that in Germany. The tour price includes half board. Depending on requirements, between five and fifteen US dollars should be planned for lunch. Alcoholic drinks are not included in the tour price, a small beer costs from one, a glass of wine around five US dollars.

**Tour guide**

Jörg Bütelfür has a degree in geography, lived in Venezuela for six years until recently and has travelled the entire country himself. He has organised and conducted several trips to Venezuela. Languages: German, Spanish and English.

Rodrigo Capriles Mazzei studied Human Sciences in Caracas and Sustainable Development in Madrid. He has worked as a tourist guide for fifteen years and is on the board of the Venezuelan association for sustainable tourism "Ahete Red de Turismo Sostenible". Languages: Spanish and English.