

Between mountain peaks and colonial charm – discover Mérida
Bocado „Uchuva“



Mucumbari – by cable car to almost 5,000 metres

- Explore the lively centre of the cosmopolitan student city of Mérida
- Take the world's highest cable car up to the peaks
- Hike in the unique Páramo with its peculiar Frailejón plants
- Let hummingbirds flit around you and discover the sacred forest
- Enjoy relaxation in the natural thermal springs of Musui
- Immerse yourself in the colourful markets and enjoy with all your senses

Breathtaking panoramas with rugged peaks and gentle valleys

To the map



Services included

4 nights in a city hotel on the beautiful Plaza Milla. Rooms with private bathroom and air conditioning, 4x breakfast, 1x lunch.

Extensive excursion package with cable car ride (VIP ticket).

Domestic flight from/to Caracas.

Services not included

Additional meals; alcoholic beverages, personal expenses, tips. Additional services. Extension days and/or paragliding can be booked optionally.

**Package Bocado „Uchuva“**

Duration	Price per person
5 days / 4 nights	980,- Euro
Single traveller supplement	170,- Euro
Activity: Paragliding	140,- Euro
Extension day 'Rural projects'	190,- Euro
Extension day 'Coffee'	190,- Euro
Availability	All year round

Bookable up from one person

Welcome to Mérida, the heart of the Venezuelan Andes

Founded by the Spanish in 1558, Mérida is the ideal starting point for your exploration tour. A lively student city with around 300,000 inhabitants and a well-developed tourist infrastructure, it combines colonial charm with modernity. The city itself is located at an altitude of around 1,600 metres, making it the ideal place to acclimatise for the adventures ahead.

Nestled in breathtaking scenery, surrounded by the highest peaks of the Venezuelan Andes, Mérida offers countless possibilities. From here, you can set off on excursions into the uniquely bizarre world of the páramo, to the highest cable car in the world or to the emerald green lagoons of the region. Your unforgettable Andean adventure begins in this unique city, where cosmopolitan joie de vivre meets traditional charm.



Day 1: Arrival in Mérida

Your adventure begins with a flight from Caracas to El Vigía, at the foot of the Andes. Here you will be met and picked up. The transfer will take you directly to the city of Mérida, located at an altitude of 1,600 metres. After checking into your hotel, you can soak up the unique atmosphere of this city with a leisurely stroll through the colonial old town. The historic centre, Plaza Bolívar with the cathedral, is only a few blocks away. There is a lively atmosphere here. In front of the cable car station stands the impressive sculpture 'Las Heroínas' – a monument to the courageous women and their role in the struggle for independence. Plaza Milla, where your hotel is located, is a little quieter. Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; domestic flight Caracas – El Vigía, transfer El Vigía – Mérida

Day 2: From the páramo to the magic of hummingbirds

After breakfast, you will set off on your full-day tour to Páramo La Culata. There, you will begin with a hike through this unique highland plateau. Afterwards, you will immerse yourself in the enchanted Bosque Sagrado, the sacred forest, where intricate wood carvings of forest spirits and ancestors create a mystical atmosphere. The perfect end to the day is a visit to the Casa de Colibrí, where you will have the magical experience of being surrounded by dazzling hummingbirds that will eat out of your hand – an unforgettable experience.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast; excursion to the Andean landscape, entrance fees

Day 3: High mountain lagoon, hot springs and Andean legends

As on the previous day, your full-day tour begins after breakfast: today, your excursion takes you to the emerald-green Laguna de Mucubají, picturesquely situated in the highlands of the Páramo. After a short hike there, pure relaxation awaits you in the soothing Aguas Termales de Musui. Another highlight is the Capilla de Piedra, a unique chapel built entirely of stone.

You will visit the picturesque Andean village of Mucuchíes and encounter a local legend in the form of the 'El Perro Nevado' monument – the faithful dog that accompanied Simón Bolívar's army across the Andes. A day spent among natural wonders and moving history.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast; excursion to the Andean landscape, entrance fees

Day 4: To the roof of the Andes – Mucumbari, the highest cable car in the world

After breakfast, your most spectacular adventure begins: a ride on the Teleférico de Mérida, the highest cable car in the world. The ride is divided into stages, with stops along the way that give you the opportunity to gradually acclimatise to the altitude. If you like, you can also take short or long walks here.

At the penultimate station, Loma Redonda, at an altitude of 4,045 metres, you can take a mule or horse ride to the picturesque village of Los Nevados (not included) and immerse yourself in the world of the high Andes. Allow four to five hours for this. From the highest station, Pico Espejo, at an altitude of 4,765 metres, you can enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the summit.

Note: It is cold at this altitude and it may even snow. Dress in layers so that you are prepared for all temperatures. Enjoy an unforgettable day at dizzying heights.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast; ride on the Mucumbarí cable car.

Day 5: Farewell with culinary and artisanal treasures

Right after breakfast and packing your bags, head to the colourful Mercado Municipal. Here you will be immersed in a feast for the senses: taste traditional sweets such as dulce de leche, try the famous Andean coffee and sample chocolate made from local cocoa. Browse the wide range of handicrafts on offer at fair prices – the perfect souvenir. Lunch in a typical market restaurant, for example with trout (trucha), the regional speciality, rounds off your tour.

Afterwards, the transfer will take you to El Vigía Airport, where your domestic flight to Caracas will conclude your journey to the Andes.

Overnight stay at a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast and lunch; visit to the market; transfer to El Vigía, domestic flight to Caracas

Extension option 'Rural projects'

After breakfast, we leave Mérida and embark on a special adventure: accompanied by a local guide, we immerse ourselves in the everyday life of the rural population in the small Andean village of Gavidia. We start with a visit to a women's cooperative. Here we learn how coloured blankets and garments are made from raw, unwashed wool in several steps (washing and cleaning the raw wool, drying and combing, dyeing, spinning and winding, and finally weaving). After a light lunch in a mucuposada, a simple, family-run guesthouse, we continue to the highest primary school in the country. Here we are given an insight into the lives of children in this remote region. Our tour ends at a seed farm that is successfully dedicated to preserving indigenous potato varieties. An unforgettable day off the beaten tourist track.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast and lunch; visit to rural projects.



Extension option 'Coffee'

This day takes you to the green valleys of the Andes to meet extraordinary people and visit remarkable places. The focus is on a visit to Thomas Walter's small organic coffee farm. The German political activist went into hiding in the 1990s to escape prosecution by the German authorities and found a new home in Venezuela, where he was granted political asylum. On a small piece of land in the mountains near Jají, he grows organic coffee and teaches young people the craft of carpentry. From here, we visit the colonial gem of Jají. Stroll through the cobbled streets of the historic town centre, which is over 400 years old, and soak up the unique atmosphere of this well-preserved Andean town.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast and lunch snack; visit to a coffee finca.

Tandem paragliding activity in the Andes

Experience the incomparable feeling of gliding over the Andes. The flight takes place in a tandem paraglider with a professional pilot who controls all manoeuvres – from take-off in Tierra Negra to landing in the Río Chama valley. Enjoy breathtaking views of the landscape. This activity is suitable for young and old alike; the only requirements are a body weight between 35 and 100 kg, sports clothing and a warm jacket.

Organisational matters

There is no minimum number of passengers required. Adverse weather conditions (such as heavy rainfall) may necessitate changes at short notice.

Entry and health

To enter Venezuela, citizens of the European Union only need a passport that is valid for at least six months. Vaccinations are not mandatory, but we recommend a yellow fever vaccination. Please ensure that you have valid international health insurance and ask your insurance company to confirm this in Spanish for entry into Venezuela. Up-to-date information on entry requirements can be found on the website of the Venezuelan Embassy in Berlin at: <https://alemania.embajada.gob.ve/>

Physical requirements

All activities require average physical fitness. Temperatures in the city of Mérida are around 24 degrees Celsius all year round, but temperatures drop at higher altitudes. If you have had problems with high altitudes in the past (altitude sickness), we advise against taking the cable car to excessive heights. Please ask us for an alternative programme if necessary. Oxygen and medically trained personnel are available at all cable car stations.

Unfortunately, this trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

Accommodation facilities

The friendly Stadthotel Milla, located on the green square of the same name, welcomes you with spacious and bright rooms, each with its own bathroom. From this central yet quiet location, Plaza Bolívar, the university and the cable car station are within easy walking distance.

Food and drink

Your stay includes a daily breakfast, which you can enjoy according to your preference: choose between a typical 'Desayuno andino' or an American breakfast.

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

Transport

The trip includes return transport from/to Caracas.

Equipment

Lightweight, long-sleeved clothing, a thin rain jacket, headgear, sturdy footwear and swimwear are recommended. Sun cream (SPF 50) is essential due to the high altitude (all personal care products should be biodegradable). A torch and a refillable water bottle are also useful.