

# Venezuela classic

17 day nature and encounter trip - "Pabellón"



## Discover South America's natural paradise

- Mountain cloud forest of the Coastal Cordillera
- The Llanos - Serengeti of South America
- The Andes - alpine landscapes and colonial charm
- Caribbean coast - dream beaches and cocoa culture
- Caracas - vibrant capital with a heart
- Visiting local initiatives and projects

## Venezuela on an unforgettable round trip

Map with route



**Included services**

All transfers within the country

16x overnight stays in a double room in hotels / posadas; 16x breakfast, 16x dinner, 3x lunch

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 Europe cost less than 1,000 euros. We will be happy to help you book the flights).



**Dates & prices "Pabellón"**

Date from ... until	Price
01.10.2026 – 17.10.2026	3.250,- Euro
Single room supplement	360,- Euro

**Group size 6 - 14 people**

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## Our travel highlights at a glance

### 1. Mountain Cloud Forest of the Coastal Cordillera

Ecological flagship project: Visit the Eco-Posada Casa Maria, a sustainable retreat under German management.

Cocoa experience: Experience at the San Cayetano cocoa plantation how the finest chocolate is made from the bean - a treat for all the senses.

Unique ecology: Let Norbert Flauger explain the secrets of the mountain cloud forest to you.

### 2. The Llanos - the Serengeti of South America

Pure wildlife: Observe crocodiles, anteaters, pumas and the species-rich birdlife on exciting game drives.

Cultural encounters: Enjoy traditional music and dances while socialising with the locals.

Sustainable accommodation: Stay at Hato El Cedral, a place that combines nature conservation and hospitality.

### 3. The Andes - Alpine Landscapes and Colonial Charm

Sniff the mountain air: Take the world's highest cable car up to Pico Espejo (almost 5,000 metres).

Hiking in the Paramó: Explore the unique alpine landscape of the Andes.

Colonial flair: Visit charming Mérida with its colourful market and discover local projects that improve people's lives.

### 4. Caribbean Coast - Dream Beaches and Cocoa Culture

Pure relaxation: Enjoy palm-fringed beaches in Henri Pittier National Park.

In island life on the mainland: Visit Chuao, known for its high-quality cocoa, and experience the traditional production process.

### 5. Caracas - Vibrant Capital with a Heart

Cultural diversity: Discover colonial and modern Caracas as well as the vibrant cultural life of the poor neighbourhoods.

Panoramic view: Enjoy the view of the city from Ávila Mountain.

Evening programme: Concerts, bar visits and culinary delights round off your trip.

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### Why travel with Criollo?

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

Small groups: Maximum flexibility and individual support.

**Sustainability: We support local communities and ecological projects.**

## 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: Rum factory and visit to the bar

In the morning, we take our tour bus to the rum factory of the renowned Santa Teresa brand, where we take part in a cocktail workshop. From there, we travel on to Valencia, check into our posada in a beautiful colonial building and explore the old town on foot. In the evening, we visit a tango bar that is 100 years old.

Overnight stay in the historic centre of Valencia; cocktail workshop; breakfast and dinner

### Day 3: Off to the Llanos

We set off early today because we have a lot of distance to cover. After leaving Valencia, we quickly reach the sheer endless expanse of the Llanos. In the afternoon, we reach our destination, Hato El Cedral, which offers the best conditions for discovering the rich wildlife of the Llanos (wet savannah landscape): caimans, chiguires and crocodiles, anteaters, anacondas, pumas and countless birds. That same evening we go on a night safari.

Overnight stay at Hato El Cedral; breakfast and dinner; night safari

### Day 4: Get to know the country and its people

The life of the Llaneros (as the local inhabitants are called) is hard. Today we get to know their everyday life. We help out early in the morning when the cows are milked and are there when cheese is made by hand. In the afternoon, at least one safari is on the programme and in the evening we learn Joropo, the typical dance of the Llaneros, under expert guidance.

Overnight stay at Hato El Cedral; full board; at least one boat or bus safari

### Day 5: Nature observations in the Serengeti of South America

We set off on our morning safari before sunrise, which offers excellent opportunities for wildlife spotting. With a bit of luck, we might spot an anaconda. A small breakfast is served on the way. In the afternoon, we can go hiking or horse riding. Perhaps a visit to the crocodile breeding centre is possible.

Overnight stay at Hato El Cedral; full board; morning safari

#### **Day 6: Ascent into the Andes**

Today we drive from the plain into the Andes and enjoy spectacular views. At the Laguna de Mucubají at an altitude of almost 4,000 metres, we take a two-hour hike through the unique Paramó landscape. In the late afternoon, we reach Mérida, the commercial and tourist centre of the Andes region.

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

#### **Day 7: Colourful market bustle and coffee tasting**

We have breakfast at the market in Mérida and immerse ourselves in the rich and colourful range of regional products. We then set off to a small organic coffee finca to be shown the process from cultivation to harvest to the finished bean. The coffee from the high altitudes around Mérida is among the best in the world.

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

#### **Day 8: Up high with the cable car**

After a tour of the historic centre, we take the Mucumbarí cable car up to Pico Espejo, at an altitude of 4,765 metres. The ascent takes place in several stages, with obligatory breaks to adjust to the altitude. Short hikes can be undertaken from all (intermediate) stations. We will organise this according to your wishes.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Mérida; breakfast and dinner, cable car ticket

#### **Day 9: Visits to village projects**

We leave Mérida and cross the wild and pristine high mountain landscape on an open lorry. With a local guide, we visit projects in small Andean villages: a seed farm to preserve indigenous potato varieties, a women's cooperative that weaves woollen fabrics and the highest primary school in the country.

Overnight stay in Posada in Santo Domingo; breakfast, lunch and dinner; project visits

#### **Day 10: Endless expanses**

Today we will be travelling through the lowlands of the Llanos by bus, taking one or two longer breaks along the way: How about a refreshing dip in the largest natural outdoor pool in South America? Or a visit to the patron saint of Venezuela, the Virgin of Coromoto? We should reach our destination, the mountain cloud forest of the coastal cordillera, in the late afternoon.

Overnight stay in the Ecoposada Casa Maria (single room subject to availability); breakfast and dinner

**Day 11: Cocoa, hummingbirds and adventures in the mountain cloud forest**

In the morning, we visit the organic cocoa hacienda San Cayetano. There we will learn about the entire process "from bean to bar". In the afternoon we drive to the hummingbird station or alternatively to the Sanctuario, a piece of primary rainforest in the mountains belonging to the Ecoposada Casa Maria.

Overnight stay as on the previous day; breakfast and dinner; guided tour of cocoa plantation.

Excursion of your choice in the Ecoposada Casa Maria; Climbing tree platform (optional, extra fee).

**Day 12: Bathing on the Caribbean dream beach**

We set off early in the morning, because today we want to head to the Caribbean coast. On the way there, we cross the mountain cloud forest of the Henri Pittier National Park on one of the wildest routes in the country. We reach Choroní around midday and spend the afternoon on the beautiful, palm-fringed Playa Grande beach

Overnight stay in Posada in Puerto Colombia; breakfast and dinner

**Day 13: Boat trip across the Caribbean to the best cocoa in the world**

Today we are visiting the magical village of Chuao, an island on the mainland. You can only get here by lancha, the typical fishing boat of the Caribbean. The plantation, which is now run by the descendants of African slaves, produces the best cocoa in the world. We have the opportunity to take a guided tour. We get to know the village and its culturally rich traditions, and in the afternoon we take a refreshing dip in the river.

Overnight stay in Posada in Puerto Colombia; breakfast, lunch and dinner; boat trip

**Day 14: Return journey to Caracas bella**

After breakfast, we leave Choroní and cross the Henri Pittier National Park again. In the garden city of Maracay, we visit the country's largest (tree-lined) Plaza Bolívar. After arriving in Caracas, we have the opportunity to visit the Central University of Venezuela, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its Bauhaus architecture. In the evening, a visit to a bar or concert is on the programme.

Overnight stay in a city hotel in Caracas; breakfast and dinner; visit to a bar/concert

**Day 15: Caracas colonial and modern**

Today we will get to know different facets of city life: we will explore the historic centre and get to know the modern side of the capital. In the evening, we will immerse ourselves in the life of a barrio (poor neighbourhood). With a bit of luck, we will experience a concert with rousing live music.

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

**Day 16: Caracas from above**

Today we are going on an excursion with the experienced hiking guides from Acamparavila. In a genuine rustico jeep, we will climb the more than 2,000 metre-high Ávila, Caracas' local mountain. There we go on short hikes and visit the emblematic Hotel Humboldt. From up here, we enjoy the view of the city on one side and the Caribbean Sea on the other.

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

**Day 17: Return flight**

Unfortunately, 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

**Tour guide**

Jörg Bütetür 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 been working 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.



### **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 supplement.

### **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. We recommend a yellow fever-vaccination. Up-to-date information on travelling to Venezuela can be found on the website of the Venezuelan embassy in Brussels 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 varied and very flavoursome cuisine based on 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 at 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 that 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 your requirements, you should budget between five and fifteen US dollars 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.