

# Smells like Venezuela

16-day culinairc trip with master chefs Tobias Sudhoff and Eduardo Moreno  
„Reína pepiada“



## Travel highlights at a glance

Venezuela not only boasts diverse natural beauty, but also offers a wide variety of culinary delights. For several years now, the capital city of Caracas has been considered an insider tip among fine dining destinations. On our trip, we will explore the mountain cloud forest, the Caribbean coast and Caracas. We can look forward to cocoa plantations and chocolate producers, a cocktail workshop in a rum factory, visits to colourful markets and meetings with agricultural producers.

Our journey will be accompanied by Tobias Sudhoff, former head chef at the Westfälische Stube (Riesenbeck, 1 Michelin star, 3.5 FF), the visionary mind behind a new generation of German gastronomy. Awaiting us on site is top chef Eduardo Moreno, the creative pioneer of modern Venezuelan cuisine. The culinary highlight will be a joint menu created by these two exceptional artists at the stove.

**Tot he map**



## Our destinations at a glance

### 1. Caracas – Fine dining destination and cultural diversity

Cuisine: Experience creative gourmet cuisine in award-winning restaurants such as Moreno or La Isabela, where international haute cuisine meets Venezuelan flavours.

### 2. Santa Teresa – Visit to one of the best rums in the world

Quality and tradition since 1796: learn about the Solera process developed here.

### 3. Coastal Cordillera mountain cloud forest

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



### 4. Caribbean coast – dream beaches and cocoa culture

Pure relaxation and island life on the mainland: enjoy palm-fringed beaches in Henri Pittier National Park and visit Chuao, home to the world's finest cocoa.

### 5. Isla de Margarita

Natural treasures and Creole cuisine: explore the impenetrable mangroves of Laguna La Restinga and immerse yourself in a world of gentle contrasts.

#### Why take this trip?

Our small tour group offers maximum flexibility. We gain insights into everyday life and get authentic impressions of the reality of life for the local people. Our two top chefs make this trip a unique culinary experience.

**Sustainability: We collaborate with local communities and ecological projects..**

## Key data

### Services included

15 nights' accommodation in a double room; 15 breakfasts, 9 dinners  
All transfers within the country; drinking water during the trip in the country  
All domestic flights, entrance fees, boat trips and cable car ride(s) as per the itinerary  
Qualified German-speaking tour guide until day 16

### Not included services

Single room supplement 490,- Euro  
Flights from Germany to Caracas and back. (We are happy to assist with booking flights.)  
Other meals/drinks; tips



### Gourmet-Trip Venezuela „Reina pepiada“

Date from ... to	Price
23.07.2026-08.08.2026	3.450,- Euro
Single room supplement	490,- Euro
International Flight (bookable individually)	ca. 700,- bis 900,- Euro

### Group size 8–15 people

## Travel Itinerary

### Thursday evening: Departure from Germany

We depart from Germany in the early evening...

### Friday, Day 1: Arrival in Caracas

... and arrive in Caracas the following morning. In the afternoon, we take a short, relaxed tour of the city centre and visit a typical Spanish tasca in the La Candelaria district for dinner.

Overnight stay at Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range; dinner

(Transfer time by bus from the airport to the hotel approx. 30 minutes)



### Saturday, Day 2: Caracas bella

We continue exploring the city, visiting the Bellas Artes museum district and the Central University, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For dinner, we visit the Moreno restaurant, which was named Venezuela's best restaurant at the 2023 World Culinary Awards.

Overnight stay at the Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range; breakfast included.

### Sunday, Day 3: Visit to the Santa Teresa rum factory and trip to the cloud forest

We leave Caracas early and reach the Santa Teresa rum factory after a 90-minute drive. There, we will be welcomed with a short tour and cocktail workshop. We continue via La Victoria, the country's first provisional capital, to the mountain cloud forest of Canoabo.

Overnight stay at the upscale Ecoposada Casa Maria; breakfast and dinner included.

(Total travel time by bus: 4 hours)

**Monday, Day 4: Hummingbirds and tropical gardens**

In the morning, you can explore the extensive gardens of our accommodation. Not far from the main house, a viewing tower offers a beautiful panoramic view of the mountain landscape of Canoabo. With a little luck, we may spot a sloth or two. In the afternoon, we drive up to the hummingbird station in mini jeeps – ideal for photographers. In the evening, Xiomara will conjure up a menu with the flavours of the Amazon.

Overnight stay at the Ecoposada Casa Maria, upscale category; breakfast and dinner included.



**Tuesday, Day 5: Cocoa and adventure in the mountain cloud forest**

After breakfast, we visit the ecological cocoa hacienda San Cayetano. There we learn about the process 'from bean to bar'. In the afternoon, we go on a discovery tour in the mountain cloud forest, home to pumas and other big cats.

Overnight stay at the Ecoposada Casa Maria, upscale category; breakfast and dinner included.

**Wednesday, Day 6: Swimming in the Caribbean**

We have breakfast at a neighbouring coffee hacienda that is over 200 years old and then set off for the Caribbean coast. We cross the mountain cloud forest of Henri Pittier National Park on a wildly romantic route. We spend the afternoon at the famous Playa Grande beach. In the evening, a Caribbean menu with fish and seafood awaits us.

Overnight stay at the Posada Arakemo, mid-range to upscale category; breakfast and dinner included.

(Total travel time by bus: 4 hours)

**Thursday, Day 7: Boat trip across the Caribbean to the best cocoa in the world**

Today we visit the magical village of Chuao, an island on the mainland. It can only be reached by lancha, the typical Caribbean fishing boat. The plantation, run by the descendants of African slaves, now produces one of the best cocoa beans in the world. Back in Choroní, we end the evening to the rhythm of drums on the Malecón.

Overnight stay at the Posada Arakemo, mid-range to upmarket category; breakfast and dinner included.

**Friday, Day 8: Return trip to Caracas bella**

After breakfast, we leave Choroní and cross the Henri Pittier National Park again. After a stop in the garden city of Maracay, we reach Caracas in the afternoon. We fortify ourselves with typical Venezuelan street food before setting off on our little bar tour.

Overnight stay at Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range; breakfast included.

(Total travel time by bus: 4 hours)



**Saturday, Day 9: Discover Caracas' culinary diversity**

We start with a homemade organic breakfast at Casa Bistro and, thus fortified, head into the hustle and bustle of the markets of Los Palos Grandes and Chacao. After lunch, we discover the combination of cocoa flavours with Amazonian spices and fruits in a chocolate workshop with Maria Evans from Pasteleria Azú. In the evening, we dine at the award-winning Peruvian restaurant 'Negro con Sazón'.

Overnight stay at Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range; breakfast included.

**Sunday, Day 10: To the Pearl of the Caribbean**

Today we will have a Chinese breakfast and then take a guided tour of the Club Social Chino in Caracas. Around midday, we will drive to Maiquetia Airport and board our plane to Isla de Margarita, the pearl of the Caribbean. There we will take up residence on the four-kilometre-long, palm-fringed sandy beach of Playa El Agua.

Overnight stay at Casa de Pedro, mid-range category; breakfast and dinner included.

(Total transfer time by bus approx. 90 minutes; flight time approx. 45 minutes)



**Monday, Day 11: Isla de Margarita – Nature and colonial history in the north**

On our tour, we will experience colonial history in La Asunción, marvel at the Virgen del Valle and enjoy the picturesque bay of Juan Griego. We will explore an old Spanish fort, relax on secluded beaches and end the day with a romantic beach dinner in Pedro González at sunset.

Overnight stay at Casa de Pedro, mid-range category; breakfast included.

(Total travel time by bus: 2 hours)

**Tuesday, Day 12: Isla de Margarita – vibrant diversity in the east and south**

Early in the morning, we immerse ourselves in the colourful hustle and bustle of the fish market in Porlamar, where freshly caught seafood fills the air with its aroma. After a coffee in the chic Costazúl shopping centre, we continue on to Playa El Yaque beach, which is popular with windsurfers.

Between the pink salt flats of Pampatar and the historic lighthouse, we end the evening with a menu prepared by chef Eduardo Moreno.

Overnight stay at Casa de Pedro, mid-range category; breakfast and dinner included.

(Total travel time by bus: 2 hours)

**Wednesday, Day 13: Isla de Margarita – the wildly romantic west side**

Today we explore the almost deserted desert landscapes of the west side of Margarita, Macanao. Early in the morning, we glide through the emerald green labyrinth of Laguna La Restinga in small fishing boats. Afterwards, we immerse ourselves in the Caribbean underwater world at the Museo Marino before letting the desert wind blow through our hair at the secluded Playa Punta Arenas. We end the evening at the Casa de Rubén with seafood delicacies.

Overnight stay at the Casa de Pedro, mid-range category; breakfast included.

(Total travel time by bus: 3 hours)

**Thursday, Day 14: Caracas – colonial El Hatillo**

After our return flight to Maiquetía, the transfer takes us to the hotel. In the afternoon, we explore picturesque El Hatillo with its colonial streets and art galleries. Our day ends perfectly at the iconic El Cine restaurant, where we enjoy modern Venezuelan fusion cuisine in a spectacular setting.

Overnight stay at Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range; breakfast included.

(Total transfer time by bus approx. 90 minutes)

**Friday, Day 15: El Ávila, the local mountain,  
the green lung of Caracas**

We travel to the national park by jeep or cable car and experience nature and history up close: we hike along old stone steps between fragrant coffee plantations, strawberry fields and banana plantations. We meet organic farmers and learn what makes this rugged landscape and its people so special. In the evening, Eduardo Moreno and Tobias Sudhoff create a joint Venezuelan-German menu for us.

Overnight stay at Hotel Sebas 202, mid-range category; breakfast and dinner included.

**Saturday, Day 16: Departure**

**(and return flight – not included)**

Unfortunately, it is time to say goodbye to one of the most beautiful and diverse countries in the world.

Breakfast; transfer to the airport.



**Sunday, Day 17: Arrival in Germany**

In the morning, our plane lands in Germany after a short stopover in Madrid or Istanbul. Now you have time to process your impressions and plan your next trip to Venezuela.

## Food and drink

Venezuela has a diverse and very tasty cuisine based on European, African and indigenous influences. Typical foods include corn, manioc, plantains and beans. There is a wide selection of fish, seafood and meat (beef, chicken, pork). Fresh fruit and salads enrich the menu. Freshly squeezed juices and the usual soft drinks dominate the beverage selection, while beer, wine and rum are the most common alcoholic beverages. Coffee is usually drunk for breakfast. If you prefer tea, please bring 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 can accommodate 30 people, so we will have plenty of space. 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 typical low-cost travel destination. Prices, especially in Caracas, are comparable to those in the United Kingdom. The tour price includes half board. Depending on your preferences, you should budget between five and fifteen pounds for lunch. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the tour price; a small beer costs from one pound upwards, and a glass of wine around five pounds.

## Organisational matters

Due to local conditions, changes to the itinerary may occur.

If the minimum number of 6 participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the trip up to four weeks before departure. If all interested parties agree, the trip can be carried out with a small group surcharge.

## Physical requirements

A trip with easy hikes lasting up to an hour. A head for heights is not required. Light hiking or sports shoes are required; if you are unsure of your footing, we recommend the use of hiking poles.

## Formalities

To enter Venezuela, you only need a passport that is valid for at least six months. Vaccinations are not mandatory, and malaria prophylaxis is not necessary for most trips. Current information on entry requirements can be found on the website of the Venezuelan Embassy in Berlin at:

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



## Accommodation

We stay in typical local accommodation of medium to upper class. The number of single rooms may be limited in some locations (see detailed itinerary). If single rooms cannot be provided in individual accommodations, we will refund the single room supplement on a pro rata basis.

## Tour guide

Jörg Bütefür has a degree in geography and, until recently, lived in Venezuela for six years, travelling throughout the entire country. He has organised and led several trips to Venezuela. Languages: German, Spanish and English.



**Criollo Travel is member of**