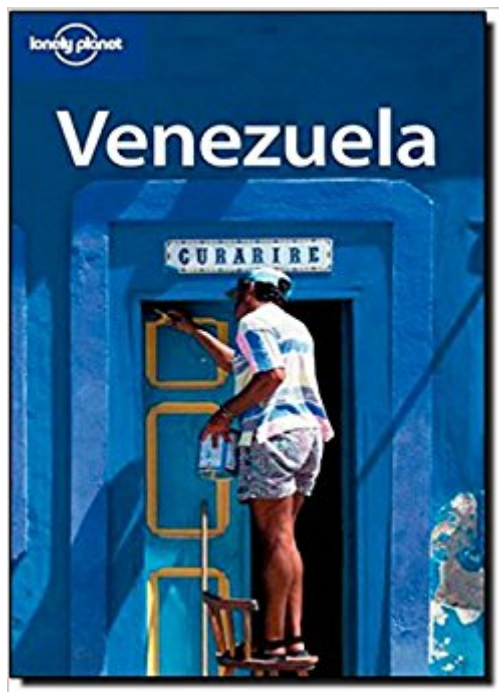


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Lonely Planet Venezuela



Synopsis

Discover Venezuela Get drenched by nearly 1km of cascading water beneath the world's highest waterfall. Sink your toes into sugar-white sands on an uninhabited island in Archipelago Los Roques. Crunch on chocolate-coated hormigas culonas - deep-fried ants with big, juicy rear ends. Hear howler monkeys roar as you cruise the wildlife-rich channels of the Delta del Orinoco. In This Guide: Five authors, 187 days of in-country research, 495 arepas, 52 detailed maps, one paragliding accident. You asked for it, we delivered: more off-the-beaten-path coverage of the Andes and Los Llanos. Expanded focus on sustainable travel helps readers plan environmentally and socially responsible adventures. Content updated daily - visit lonelyplanet.com for up-to-the-minute reviews and traveler suggestions.

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Customer Reviews

Lonely Planet guides are a must-pack --Toronto Star, February 2006

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear

or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

What ever happened to South America on a shoestring? Dydynski often sounds like he holds Venezuela in disdain as a dirty, dangerous, and messy little Third World backwater rather than someplace somebody might actually want to visit. He comes off like a gringo snob, and his personal hotel preferences obviously lean towards the five-star end of the spectrum. Missing here are all the excellent low-cost, unique, and out-of-the-way options I used to turn to Lonely Planet to find. No descriptions of night life or fun things to do, heavy on the historical landmarks. Here and there the book waxes useful when the location in question is someplace Dydynski seems to have liked, the rest of the descriptions are not helpful. Also: many of the phone numbers I have tried from the book are incorrect. I haven't compared this book to other Venezuelan guides, so can't truly make a comparison -- but I suggest you start with another guide first.

I can't believe the price! it arrives pretty soon

This guide has superb maps that are invaluable in a country that does not believe in signs. Unfortunately, that is about all the positive press I can give it. First, it is out of date and many of the hotels and restaurants it recommends no longer exists. Second, the index is horrifically inadequate. Third, many of the descriptions are down right wrong. The Hotel Colonial in Ciudad Bolivar, for example, was called "Old World" and the "the best in town". Hardly, the places is overpriced and poorly decorated. The "Gran Hotel as", however, in Puerto Ayacucho, which is most likely the most beautiful hotel in Venezuela and only 20 per night for a double, is hardly credited a mention. The coverage of the and the Gran Sabana is much better in the Bradt guide, especially if you are taking a car. In the absence of a solid Venezuela guide, we recommend a combination of Lonely Planet and either the Bradt or another guide. One last note, this book, like all Lonely Planets is quite well made and can be trusted not to fall apart, not something that can be said of most budget travel guides.

Book was as advertised - in good shape at a reasonable price. Jill

My first complaint was that the prices, especially for hotels, were off by as much as 50%! I later checked in to it and found that price indexes had risen in Venezuela by nearly 30% so I guess I can't

blame Krzysztof, but other things were way off. He failed to mention the new bus West bound station in Caracas. The old one has been completely demolished and it took me about 30 minutes an hour to figure out that the book had no idea what it was talking about. Also his suggestion that tour guides in Merida would give you hiking maps of the nearby mountains was completely untrue. I tried for almost a full day to just get several tour companies to at least tell me where a trail started... In part I understand they're reluctant because they're in business to sell tours but the book said they would be more than happy to give out maps. There's more but I can't list all of it here. Unfortunately I think the Lonely Planet is despite its many faults still the best one out there on Venezuela. If you plan to go to Venezuela (and you should it's a wonderful and exciting country) don't count on The Lonely Planet being very accurate.

We normally swear by Lonely Planet guides (to southern Africa, Central America, SE Asia), but this one to Venezuela is far and away the most inadequate: Sometimes I wondered if the author had even set foot in the country, or if he just called up his buddies who in turn passed along 2nd-hand information. For starters, many of his write-ups are meant for people traveling in private cars; this is by no means a "back-packer's" guide. Sometimes, for example, we'd be interested in a particular place the author described, only to be disappointed that the place was accessible only by private vehicle or you could walk to it but had to cross 6-lane highways (quite common in Caracas). Furthermore, this guidebook provides nothing that other guidebooks on the country provide: in sum, Lonely Planet Venezuela rides on the otherwise strong LP reputation; it's of no merit and could actually be the source of a lot of headaches. I hope for the upcoming edition the author actually visits Venezuela! LP should know better...

No- I did not buy this book. I bought and read two others on travel to Venezuela. If I had, I would not have been the victim of pickpocketing in Caracas. As a fellow traveller in Venezuela pointed out, this book describes verbatim my experience of "being setup" at an escalator in one of the metro stops specifically mentioned. For whatever reasons other reviewers may have for you not to buy this book, I can simply say: this book was right-on regarding crime in Caracas. The price of this book may save you \$500 in cash, \$1300 in fraudulent credit card charges and a lot of bad feelings toward a vacation you should not miss.

The Lonely Planet guide to Venezuela had a lot of inaccurate information! The prices quoted in the book were way off. The budget hotels they recommended were very dirty and usually had a "bad

reputation" amongst the locals. I would not recommend this book to people traveling to Venezuela. There are better guidebooks out there. Basically, we threw out the book after 3-4 days as everything in it seemed to be outdated or grossly inaccurate. For very general information, it's ok - but take it with a grain of salt.

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