



Country Profile: Venezuela

Venezuela is a medium income country whose economy is dominated by a substantial oil industry. The political climate in Venezuela is highly polarized and volatile. Violent crime is a continuing problem. Assaults, robberies, and kidnappings occur throughout the country. Scheduled air service and all-weather roads connect major cities and most regions of the country. Venezuela's tourism infrastructure varies in quality according to location and price. For an in depth country description of Venezuela, please read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Venezuela.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Venezuela
Continent:	South America
Capital City:	Caracas
Boundary Countries:	Brazil, Colombia, Guyana
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	C.A. Esculapio (Valencia), Caracas Adventist Dispensary, Centro Clinico Cientifico Esperanza Paraco (Anzoategui), Centro Clinico Leopoldo Aguerrevere (Caracas), Centro Clinico Maria Edelmira Araujo (Trujillo), Centro Medico de Caracas, Centro Medico Mazzari-Rey (Anzoategui), Centro Medico Nueva Esparta (Isla de Margarita), Centro Medico Paraiso (Zulia), Centro Medico Paso Real (Miranda)
Main Cities:	Caracas, Maracaibo, Maracay, San Cristobal, Ciudad Bolivar, Barcelona, Amuay, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, San Fernando, Valencia, Barquisimeto, Puerto Ayacucho, Ciudad Guayana
Country Size:	912,050 sq km
Population:	26,414,816

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Spanish (official), Numerous indigenous dialects
Currency:	Bolivar (VEB)
Predominant Religions:	Nominally Roman Catholic 96%, Protestant 2%, Other 2%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 5 July (1811)
Economic Status:	Venezuela remains highly dependent on oil revenues, which account for roughly 90% of export earnings, more than 50% of the federal budget revenues, and around 30% of GDP. Emboldened by his December 2006 reelection, President Hugo CHAVEZ, in 2007, nationalized firms in the petroleum, communications, and electricity sectors, which reduced foreign influence in the economy. Although voters in December 2007 rejected CHAVEZ's proposed constitutional changes, CHAVEZ still has significant control of the economy and has indicated he intends to continue to consolidate and centralize authority over the economy by implementing "21st Century Socialism."
Security:	National Armed Forces (Fuerza Armada Nacional, FAN): Ground Forces or Army (Fuerzas Terrestres or Ejercito), Naval Forces (Fuerzas Navales or Armada; includes Marines, Coast Guard), Air Force (Fuerzas Aereas or Aviacion), Armed Forces of Cooperation or National Guard (Fuerzas Armadas de Cooperacion or Guardia Nacional)

US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Caracas F St. and Suapure St. Urb . Colinas de Valle Arriba Caracas, Venezuela 1080 Phone: +58 (212) 975-6411
Major Airports:	Airports: 44, Airports w/paved runways: 37 Maiquetia, Venezuela, Edo Vargas, Maiquetia, 1161, VENEZUELA Tel: +58 (0)212 303 1329, +58 (0)212 303 1330 Fax: +58 (0)212 355 1224 Email: info@aeropuerto-maiquetia.com.ve Website: www.aeropuerto-maiquetia.com.ve Maracaibo Airport, Venezuela, Maracaibo, Edo Zulia, VENEZUELA Tel: +58 (0)261 78979

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