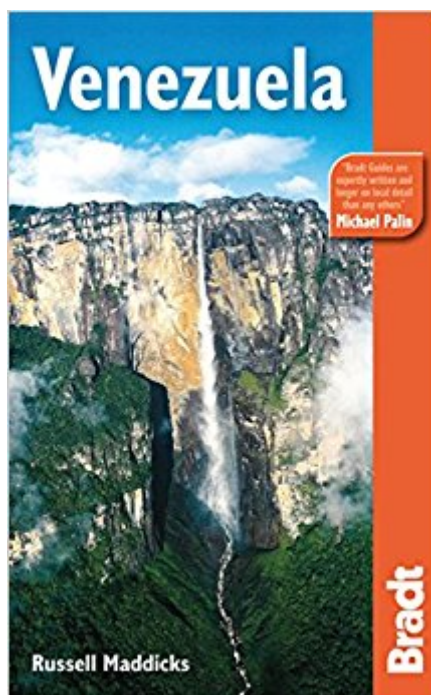


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Venezuela: The Bradt Travel Guide



Synopsis

Venezuela is a long-overlooked paradise for backpackers, adventure travellers and also hikers, climbers, rafters and birders. From horse-trekking in the Andes to choosing a desert island on which to be marooned, travellers will find everything they need in this new edition. Packed with unparalleled information on hotel and restaurant options, Bradt's Venezuela pays particular attention to national parks and wild areas, but includes plenty of hip urban information too.

Book Information

Series: Bradt Travel Guide

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides; Fifth Edition edition (February 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841622990

ISBN-13: 978-1841622996

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,605,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Travel > South America > Venezuela #641 in Books > Travel > South America > General

Customer Reviews

'Bradt Guides are the favourites of travellers who wish not merely to see but to understand.' Dervla Murphy

Venezuela is the most accessible country in South America, with cheap flights available from both Europe and the USA. Away from the highly populated north, great tracts of wilderness beckon visitors of all budgets. The Bradt guide to Venezuela describes a wide-reaching array of opportunities, from river trips to Angel Falls and wildlife watching in the Llanos, to hiking through the cloudforest to the glaciers of the Andes and backpacking in national parks. And then there's simply lazing on Caribbean beaches... No matter what your interests, this is the guide to help you make the most of your trip! (5 5/16 X 8 7/16, 440 pages, index, maps, color photos, black-and-white illustrations) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Everything you need to know , in this environment the old fashioned book was perfect albeit a bit wet by the end of the trip.

Great map

This is a good guide, I suppose, but it was flat. There were no recommendations and no special details that would allow you to choose one hotel, one place to visit, or one tourist attraction over another. Having never been to Venezuela before, we really felt lost with the plain data, and decided to order a different guide in hopes that it would be a little more personal, or enthusiastic about something.

Venezuela is a long-overlooked paradise for backpackers, adventure travellers and special interest visitors like hikers, climbers, rafters and birders. The same size as neighbouring Colombia, but with half the population, Venezuela's natural environment is in good shape. The north of the country harbours 90% of the population, leaving the huge southern states of as and Bolivar with one of the lowest population densities in America. Indeed, without roads or railways, this area forms part of the world's largest tropical wilderness. Add to that the largest area under protection of any country in the Western Hemisphere, 43 national parks (two of them over 30,000 sq. km) and one of the top ten largest protected areas in the world (the 84,000 sq. km Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve) and you can see why Venezuela is an exciting place to visit. It is fifteen years since the first edition of the "No Frills Guide to Venezuela", written by Hilary Branch and published by Hilary Bradt. Since then, this book has been at the forefront of travel guides to Venezuela. The key to its success is simple: the author lives in Venezuela and regularly travels to the places she describes. The book is therefore much more accurate - and more exciting! - than say the rival Lonely Planet or the Footprint Guide. This 2003 edition stretches to 538 pages, yet it is still compact enough to be portable. The text is succinct and readable. Hilary distils her experience into the every section of the book from an expanded treatment of Caracas to detailed information on hiking in Roraima and travelling up the River Caura. There are plenty of maps to help the visitor too. A strong conservation focus is welcome, with information about wildlife and habitats, environmental issues, conservation projects and NGOs. Definitely the book the discerning visitor should acquire for a successful trip to Venezuela.

Hilary Dunsterville Branch's guide to Venezuela is the best guide out there in the market. I've just

got back from a month backpacking around the country and I wish I'd bought it before I left the States. As it was I was lucky enough to bump into a French couple that gave me their copy in Merida in the Venezuelan Andes. After three days traveling with Branch's book I dumped my Lonely Planet Guide in the trash. Not only does she give you the practical details on off the beaten track beaches like Choroní, Santa Fe and Morrocoy but she gives you the run down on the cheapest places backpackers can stay. The history was good and easy to read. She got me up to the top of Mount Roraima and her section on the Rio Caura is excellent. What can I say. Thanks to this guide I now know that a month isn't long enough to spend in this incredible tropical country. I'm going back again next year and I'll be taking Branch with me.

I usually travel with Lonely Planet. This was the first time that I bought another book for my travel. But after reading the reviews on this site I decided to try. I have to admit that I was very sceptical, but... the purchase was worth the money. I am very happy that I didn't bought LP... I had the opportunity to compare the two books in Venezuela and I can say that this is deffinitely a better gude to Venezuela. For example LP doesn't even mention the port La Guaira. I usually travel with Lonely Planet. This was the first time that I bought another book for my travel. But after reading the reviews on this site I decided to try. I have to admit that I was very sceptical, but... the purchase was worth the money. I am very happy that I didn't bought LP... I had the opportunity to compare the two books in Venezuela and I can say that this is deffinitely a better guide to Venezuela than Lonely Planet. For example LP doesn't even mention the port La Guaira. Which is near the international airport. I suggest to buy it.

My wife and I have retired in Venezuela for two years. The Insight Guide has beautiful pictures and is great to read, like a paperback coffee table book. The Footprint guide is fair, but not always well organized. So when we really want information about something specific, we go to our Bradt guide.

The guide contains a lot of details on where to go and how to find things. Opening hours are not always as given in the guide. You might find places open at other times and closed at the times indicated. Not many pictures but very good information on sites i.e. historical background, ...

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