

Venezuela

Continent: South America

Languages Spoken: Spanish

Population: 28,000,000

Currency: Venezuelan bolívar (VES)

Area: 916,445

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Angel Falls', 'writeup': "The world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, located in Canaima National Park."}
- {'name': 'Mérida Cable Car', 'writeup': 'The longest and highest cable car in the world, offering panoramic views of the Andes.'}
- {'name': 'Los Roques Archipelago', 'writeup': 'A national park known for its pristine beaches and rich marine biodiversity.'}
- {'name': 'Plaza Bolívar', 'writeup': "Historic central square in Caracas named after Simón Bolívar, the country's liberator."}
- {'name': 'Morrocoy National Park', 'writeup': 'A coastal park famous for its cays, coral reefs, and diverse wildlife.'}

Head of State / Government:

Nicolás Maduro (President)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Carnaval', 'writeup': 'A vibrant pre-Lenten festival featuring parades, music, and dancing across the country.'}
- {'name': 'Feria de la Chinita', 'writeup': 'An annual festival in Maracaibo honoring the Virgin of Chiquinquirá with religious and cultural activities.'}
- {'name': 'Festival de Teatro de Caracas', 'writeup': 'A major theater festival showcasing national and international performances.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Venezuelan cuisine features arepas (cornmeal cakes), pabellón criollo (shredded beef with rice and beans), hallacas (corn dough stuffed with meat), and empanadas, reflecting indigenous, African, and Spanish influences.

Brief History:

Originally inhabited by indigenous peoples, Venezuela was colonized by Spain in the 16th century. It gained independence in 1821 under Simón Bolívar. The 20th century saw oil-driven economic growth and political instability. Recent decades have been marked by economic crisis and social challenges.

Important People:

- Simón Bolívar - Liberator and founding father
- Hugo Chávez - Former president and leader of the Bolivarian Revolution
- Nicolás Maduro - Current president

- Andrés Bello - Renowned Venezuelan humanist and poet

- Rómulo Gallegos - Influential novelist and former president

Current Conflicts:

Venezuela faces political and economic crises, including disputes over presidential legitimacy, hyperinflation, shortages of basic goods, and mass migration. International sanctions and internal unrest continue to impact stability.

Youtube Links:

- Venezuela Travel Guide - Top Things to Do & See

- The Crisis in Venezuela Explained

- Exploring Angel Falls - The World's Highest Waterfall

- Venezuelan Food Tour - Traditional Dishes to Try

- History of Venezuela - From Independence to Present