



The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

(GMT - 4 hours)

Geographic Overview: Venezuela is located on the north coast of South America and is bordered by Colombia, Guyana and Brazil. It is a country of striking natural beauty, which ranges from the snow, capped Andean peaks in the West, through the Amazonian jungles in the south, to the beaches of the north. Venezuela has some of the world's largest proven oil deposits as well as huge quantities of coal, iron ore, bauxite and gold.

Area: 916,445 sq km

Capital City: Caracas

Languages: Spanish (Official) indigenous languages

People: Mestizo (67%), Caucasian (21%), Black (10%), Indigenous (2%). Colombians form the largest expatriate community (1.6million)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Currency: Bolivar (VEB)

Major Political Parties: Movimiento Quinta República (MVR), Patria Para Todos (PPT), Podemos, Un Nuevo Tiempo, Acción Democrática (AD), the Comité de Organización Política Electoral Independiente, (COPEI), Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), Primero Justicia (Justice First), Proyecto Venezuela.

Government: Federal Republic comprising 22 States, one Federal District and 72 islands which are Federal Dependencies. The executive dominates the four branches of government: the legislature, the Consejo Moral Republicano (CMR, Moral Republican Council), the judiciary and the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE, the National Electoral Council).

International Direct Dialling Codes

Venezuela 00 58; Caracas 00 58 212

Fixed Date National Holidays

1 January, 6 January, 19 April, 1 May, 29 May (*), 19 June (*), 24 June, 29 June, 5 July, 24 July, 12 October, 1 November, 8 December, 25 December

(*) These days may be moved - refer to local press websites for details

Variable Date National Holidays

Carnival 3 & 4 March, Easter 17 & 18 April Easter

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British Embassy (Venezuela)

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British Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce (Venezuela)

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Anglo-Venezuelan Society

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<http://www.angloven.org>

Venezuela Newspapers

<http://www.el-nacional.com> - El Nacional

<http://www.el-universal.com> - El Universal

<http://www.infoven.net> - Venezuela Online News

<http://www.ultimasnoticias.com.ve/> - Ultimas Noticias

<http://www.elmundo.com.ve/> - El Mundo

<http://www.panodi.com/> - Panorama

<http://www.el-carabobeno.com/> - El Carabobeno

Venezuela - other useful contacts

<http://www.ddex.com> - Export Trade Directory

<http://www.ine.gov.ve/> - National Institute of Statistics

<http://www.bcv.org.ve/EnglishVersion/> - Central Bank of Venezuela