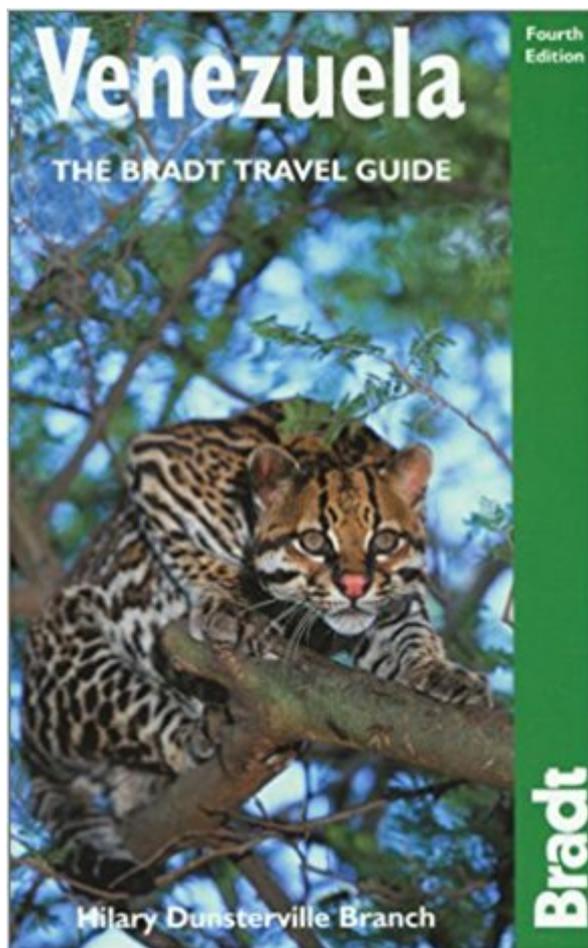


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# Venezuela, 4th: The Bradt Travel Guide



## Synopsis

Emphasizing ecotravel, this guide describes the wide-ranging opportunities for travelers exploring a country easily accessible from the United States. Possessing nearly 100 species of hummingbird alone, Venezuela has a fantastic array of wildlife--capybara, tapir, sloths, anteaters, armadillos, and vampire bats are just a few of the animal species which can be observed in their natural habitats, while a host of birdwatching locations are detailed. Find an impressive 43 national parks, including the marine parks of offshore islands, and 20 natural monuments including table mountains, with suggestions for hikes through cloudforests to Andean glaciers and the chance of spotting rare orchids. Take a trip to Angel Falls, travel to the Orinoco Delta wetlands where the river meets the Atlantic Ocean, visit the region where the Warao "canoe people" live, or try out a wide range of sports: from caving, climbing and cycling to diving, sailing and windsurfing. Margarita Island--the "Pearl of the Caribbean"--and a good range of beaches are also covered for the traveler wanting to follow in the footsteps of Robinson Crusoe and enjoy desert-island seclusion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Information which is vital to the newcomer or prospective traveler is all here"--Royal Automobile Club, UK

Deeply beautiful and readily accessible, Venezuela makes a great destination for visitors of all budgets. Away from the highly populated north are vast tracts of untouched wilderness, and this guide shows you how to explore them thoroughly and responsibly. Take a river trip to Angel Falls or

a hike through cloudforest to the glaciers of the Andes. Watch birds in the wetlands, search for giant anteaters in the national parks or relax on a desert island retreat. Bradt's Venezuela provides details on these activities and more, together with practical information to ensure your visit is memorable for all the right reasons. Inside you will find: detailed coverage of national parks and natural history; information on adventure sports, including caving, climbing and diving; essential Spanish, with Venezuela-specific usage; over 80 clear maps and town plans.

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 Choroni, 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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