

Fundación Aldeas de Paz

TRAVEL INFORMATION for Venezuela

From the Airport to the Bus Terminal in Caracas:

Safety

Venezuela is by far safer than other countries in the region. The Aldeas de Paz home base is in Santa Elena which is located on the south eastern border with Brazil, an extremely peaceful and safe region.

IMPORTANT:

If you look for "Peace of Mind" you may want to hire a professional airport Pick-Up Service: After passing through Immigration and Customs your driver will be waiting for you with a board in his hands showing both your name and the name of his company, Drivers speak perfect English and are extremely helpful and patient. They bring you to the bus terminal "Terminal del Oriente" or to the hotel of your choice. "Hanspeter Zingg" even buys the bus ticket in advance on request and brings the client to the bus.

- 1) "Hans-Peter Zingg"; peterzingg@movistar.net.ve; hpzingg@hotmail.com (Tel: (++58 +414-3228798) This excellent Service company is run by Swiss born Hans-Peter Zingg. Well known Tour-operators use his services and excellent contacts. **Services include:** Airport Pick-up & transfers, Help at bus terminal with ticket purchase, Hotel reservation & transfer. **Prices:** Airport - Bus Terminal: US\$ 40,-; Airport - Caracas Hotel: US\$ 40,-; Airport - Nearby Hotel: US\$ 20,-; Caracas Hotel - Bus Terminal: US\$ 15,-;
- 2) "Nelson's Place": <http://www.agelvis.com>; nelven@gmail.com; nelsoneas@hotmail.com (Tel: (++58 +414-2319729) Nelson's place is the name international travelers, educators, writers, conference speakers and others have given to a nice and cozy 50 meter suite style apartment in a small family building in the heart of mid-town Caracas, Venezuela, the commercial-business-tourist area of "Sabana Grande". Nelson is on top of the arrival, making sure that all runs smoothly.. **Services:** Pick-up service & transfers, Bus ticket reservation, accommodation. **Prices:** Airport - Bus Terminal: US\$ 40,-; Airport - Caracas Hotel: US\$ 40,-; Nelson's room is forty dollars US\$ 40,- for up to two guests "All-in package": Airport pick-up, transfer and 1 night accommodation, transfer bus terminal and purchase bus ticket: US\$ 110,-

From Caracas to Santa Elena

2 Options:

1. Direct Luxury Bus **Recommended!**
2. Flight halfway – Bus halfway



1. Direct luxury buses to Santa Elena

The fastest, cheapest, and most convenient way to travel from Caracas to Santa Elena is by bus. Luxury buses are equipped with new, stretch reclining seats, air conditioning, a bathroom, and DVD system. Several companies operate ultra-modern buses to Santa Elena. Please keep in mind that these buses are much more sophisticated and comfortable than buses in Europe or North America, for example. You can easily relax: the seats are very comfortable and can be turned into sleepers. Movies are regularly shown, and the buses frequently stop for snacks and meals along the way.

The bus trip from Caracas to Santa Elena is absolutely safe and reliable and Santa Elena itself is a very safe town. The town has 25.000 inhabitants and is the regional capital and the heart of the Gran Savannah region which consists of a protected and well guarded national park with numerous security checkpoints all the way through it. **We hosted more than 500 volunteers in 7 years and never had any safety related issues!**

#

Bus Departure - Timetable				
Destination:	Caracas to Sta Elena	Sta Elena to Caracas	Caracas to San Félix or Puerto Ordaz	San Felix or Puerto Ordaz to Sta Elena
Name of Bus Company:	direct BsF 210,-	direct BsF 210,-	halfway BsF 110,-	halfway BsF 110,-
"Expresos Occidente"	3:30 pm	1:00 pm		
"Expresos Los Llanos"			10:15 pm	9:00 am

2. Domestic flight to Puerto Ordaz or Ciudad Bolivar and bus to Santa Elena

Arranging a domestic flight to Puerto Ordaz or Ciudad Bolivar (1 hour/ BsF 250,-/ 16:50pm daily) is a alternative option. From these towns, you can catch the bus to Santa Elena or instead, book a small plane (but only from Ciudad Bolivar) to Santa Elena by Rutaca (BsF 1300,- ow) **Airlines:** We recommend you book your in-country flight in your home country with your travel agent or through the internet. **Aeropostal:** <http://www.aerospotal.com>, Tel.08002846637; **Rutaca:** <http://www.rutaca.com> **Aserca:** <http://www.asercaairlines.com>; **Avior:** <http://www.avior.com.ve>

On arrival in Santa Elena

Aldeas de Paz staff will welcome you

We will meet you on the Santa Elena Bus Terminal and bring you to the Aldeas de Paz headquarters. We will ensure that all of your needs are met - from a safe and comfortable place to stay, to unparalleled access to volunteer opportunities and perspectives and insight about the local culture.

Need more Travel Information?

If you need more travel details please [let us know](#) and we send you an extensive Travel Info File (pdf)

General Travel Tips

Money

The currency of Venezuela is the Bolivar (BsF) It comes in notes of BsF 50,- 20,- 10,- 5,- 2,- It is best to change about \$ 100,- into Bolivar before traveling. Strict currency controls remain in place in Venezuela and the actual changing rate is BsF 4.30 for \$ 1,-. Bolivar can be obtained through banks and some travel agencies in your country. (You may need to order Bolivar in advance from your local bank) This will enable you to have cash to pay for your bus ticket and to purchase food. In most towns and all major Venezuelan cities, credit cards are accepted in shops and hotels.

Travel Tip

If you do need to use your card, especially in an ATM, put your card into the machine and press cancel to make sure you get it back before going on to enter your PIN. If it is safe to proceed, cover your PIN so there is no chance of anyone or anything seeing it. Official rates apply: \$ 1 = 4.30 BsF.

Water

The water at our foundations grounds is okay to drink. However, if you are planning on doing Excursions or going camping, it is advised that you bring water purification tablets or drops.

Clothing / Footwear

The Cooperative Living House is located on the side of a mountain, about half an hour walk from downtown Santa Elena. With this in mind, please pack appropriate clothing and footwear. (Mountain bikes are freely available at the foundations grounds)

Work Schedule

Each volunteer's work schedule is self determined and depends on what type of experience each person is looking for. All programs are ongoing throughout the year, thus enabling each volunteer to choose what they are interested in and create their work schedule accordingly.

Climate

In Venezuela, the rainy season and the dry season are not defined any more due to climate changes. No matter the season, the days are warm. At night, it can get fairly cool, so remember to pack one or two sweaters and a couple pairs of pants.