

Fundación Aldeas de Paz

VENEZUELA TRAVEL INFORMATION

Safety first

Venezuela is safer than other countries in the region

The Aldeas de Paz home base is in Santa Elena, the regional capital (25.000), located in the heart of the Canaima national Park on the southeastern border with Brazil. This is an extremely peaceful and safe region and town. Also the bus trip from Caracas to Santa Elena is safe and reliable. We hosted more than 600 volunteers in the past 7 years and never had any safety issues!

If you look for "Peace of Mind" on arrival at Caracas airport 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.

Your driver speaks perfect English and is extremely helpful, very friendly and patient. If your incoming flight arrives late, your driver will wait for you. He will bring you to the bus terminal for the same day bus-trip to Santa Elena or to the hotel if you plan to spend a night in Caracas and catch the bus the next day. On request your driver will be assisting you with the purchase of the bus ticket.

We suggest you book an international flight that arrives before 11:00am

If you take the direct bus at 15:30pm to Santa Elena or a connecting domestic flight to Puerto Ordaz/Ciudad Bolivar at 16:30pm you need time for transfer.

Best Pick-Up Services:

"Hans-Peter Zingg"; 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, **Prices:** Airport - Bus Terminal: US\$ 50,-; Airport - Caracas Hotel: US\$ 40,-; Airport - Nearby Hotel: US\$ 25,-; Caracas Hotel - Bus Terminal: US\$ 20,-;

"Nelson's Place": <http://www.nelson.com.ve>; nelven@gmail.com Tel: ++58+414-2319729

Nelson's Place is a cozy 50 meter apartment in a small family building in the heart of mid-town Caracas, the commercial-business-tourist area of Sabana Grande. Nelson, the manager, also has Nelson's Room, a room in an independent apartment next to Nelson's Place, ideal for up to two people, which offers the same great location. Nelson is on top of the arrival, making sure that all runs smoothly.

Services include: Pick-up service & transfers, Bus ticket purchase or reservation, accommodation. **Transfer Prices:** Airport - Bus Terminal: US\$ 60,-; Airport - Caracas Hotel: US\$ 50,-; **Accommodation Prices:** Nelson's Room (includes transfer): US\$ 80,-; If Nelson's Room is full, Nelson will accommodate you in alternative hotels under his supervision, and offer you his same supervised transportation services. **"All-in package":** Airport pick-up, transfer and one night accommodation, next-day transfer to bus terminal and assistance with purchase of bus ticket: US\$120

From Caracas to Santa Elena

Two alternative travel options:

- Direct Luxury Bus *Recommended!*
- Flight to Puerto Ordaz – connecting Bus to Santa Elena

Direct luxury buses to Santa Elena

After arriving at Caracas Airport you transfer to the bus Terminal “Terminal de Oriente” and take the direct overnight bus “Expresos Occidente” to Santa Elena. This is the fastest, cheapest and most convenient way to travel from Caracas to Santa Elena. (daily 15:30pm/ BsF 220,-) Luxury buses are equipped with

stretch reclining seats, air conditioning, bathroom, and DVD system. After a night on the bus you arrive in Santa Elena the next day. The trip passes by much faster than you would expect. 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. By the way you will have a beautiful view when you pass through the Canaima national park on your last leg to Santa Elena.

Two buses leave daily from Caracas to Santa Elena. While the 15:30pm bus travels directly from Caracas to Santa Elena, the night bus at 22:15pm will bring you halfway to Puerto Ordaz/ San Felix where you arrive the following morning. There you step over to the “Turgar” or “Expresos los Llanos” connecting bus (daily 09:00am/ BsF 120,-) to Santa Elena, where you arrive in the afternoon. Kelvis, our volunteer coordinator will meet you on the Santa Elena Bus Terminal and bring you to the Aldeas de Paz headquarters. Our local staff will ensure that all of your needs are met.



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 220,-	direct BsF 220,-	halfway BsF 120,-	halfway BsF 120,-
“Expresos Occidente”	3:30 pm	1:00 pm		
“Expresos Los Llanos”			10:15 pm	9:00 am

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

Arranging a domestic flight to Puerto Ordaz or Ciudad Bolivar (daily several flights – latest at 16:50pm/ 1h/ BsF 450 to 650,-) is an alternative option. From Puerto Ordaz you can catch the bus to Santa Elena (daily 20:15pm/ 8h/ BsF 120,-) or instead, book a small plane from Ciudad Bolivar to Santa Elena by “Rutaca” airline (various departures BsF 1800,- ow)

Airlines: We suggest you book your Venezuelan in-country flight in your home.

Aerpostal: <http://www.aerospotal.com> **Rutaca:** <http://www.rutaca.com> **Aserca:** <http://www.asercaairlines.com>

Avior: <http://www.avior.com.ve>