

GLOBAL EXCHANGE REALITY TOURS

Global Exchange Venezuela Program

Democracy, Development, and Regional Integration

SAMPLE ITINERARY

****Expect Changes****

Day 1: Arrivals all day

Arrival into Caracas, Maiquetia International Airport.

Transfer to lodging and dinner near hotel.

Day 2

Breakfast near hotel

Morning Orientation Meeting: Participant introductions; presentations by trip leaders and a review of GX codes of conduct and expectations.

Political Tour of the City: Leave for Downtown, visit Simon Bolivar's birth place, the national tomb of famous leaders, Llaguno bridge, Miraflores Presidential Palace, and Altamira Square.

Lunch

Afternoon Visit with **independent journalist** for a overview and discussion of recent developments in Venezuela and the political rise of Hugo Chavez

Dinner View *Venezuela and the Fourth World War* – excellent documentary about recent history in Venezuela, made by independent media collective Calle y Media.

Day 3:

Breakfast near hotel

Morning Visit to **Barrio 23 de Enero**, popular poor neighborhood organized into autonomous collectives. Visit to health and educational missions in the neighborhood. Meet with local activists to speak about neighborhood organizing and political participation.

Lunch

Afternoon Visit to PDVSA , the national oil company, to learn about the oil industry and an overview of petroleum diplomacy and regional integration.

Or: Visit with **Eva Golinger, author of "The Chavez Code"** and researcher of United States intervention in Venezuela.

Dinner

Day 4:

Breakfast near hotel

Morning Visit to **Radio Primero Negro**, and independent radio station located in the barrio Pinto Salinas to discuss the role of community-based radio and the grassroots media movement in Venezuela.

Lunch

Afternoon Meet with **CATIA TV**, a community based television station. While supportive of the political process, they are also critical. They are very grassroots based and amongst other things, have a program to give ordinary people of the barrio the skills to produce audiovisual materials.

Dinner

Day 5:

Breakfast near hotel

Morning **Ban Mujer**: The Women's Bank is an organization supported by the government that supports women and women's lives. Set up principally as a women's financing institution, the Women's Bank gives micro credits to women of the country, often times without collateral and with very low (if any) interests rates.

Lunch

Afternoon **Provea**: A human rights organization known to have both pro and anti government sentiments amongst the people working there.

Dinner

Day 6:

Breakfast near hotel

Morning **Primero Justicia**: A civil organization that represents the opposition, who has received money from NED (National Endowment for Democracy) since 2003. They have been very involved in campaigns against the government, especially the recall referendum in 2004. They also supported the boycott of the national assembly elections in December of 2005

Afternoon Depart for Barlovento – Lunch on the way
Check In Hotel Rio Chico & Free Time

Evening Dinner and Meet **Luis and Lilliana Perdoma** – Local Activists in the Afro-Venezuelan Network. Introduction on the Afro-Venezuelan Experience in Venezuela with Luis, a leader in the Afro-Venezuelan Network.

Day 7:

Breakfast at Liliana Perdoma's home

Morning Visit **Cooperativa MUDEBAR**: Cooperativa MUDEBAR is a women's sewing worker run cooperative consisting of 193 women and one man, in Barlovento. They make garments of many kinds, including uniforms, pants, intimate apparel, baby clothing and sheets.

Lunch

Afternoon Visit To **Mission Sucre**, a social program named after General Antonio José de Sucre, ally of Simon Bolivar during the independence struggle. This is an education program that is similar to a community college.

Dinner at Liliana Perdoma's home

Day 8:

Breakfast at Liliana Perdoma's home

Morning Visit **Mango de Ocoyta**: Mango is a small village in the heart of Barlovento famous for being a *cumbe*, an area where slaves would go to be safe. It is a place that survives primarily on cacao farming and many of the families there have organized themselves into a cacao cooperative, part of the **Vuelvan Caras Mission**. The government recently finished construction of a cacao processing plant there, so that they can sell not only the raw cacao but also such processed products like chocolate. When we visit there we general get a tour of the town, hear about the history, meet with cooperative members and visit a woman who make delicious products from cacao, including sweets and liquor.: We will visit a **Barrio Adentro** free medical clinic, a social program in collaboration with Cuba in which Cuban doctors staff most of the clinics. In exchange, Cuba receives cheaply priced oil.

Lunch at river

Afternoon Cultural Performance at **Casa de Cultura** in San Jose and discussion of Afro-Venezuelan traditions and culture.

Dinner at Liliana Perdoma's home

Day 9

Breakfast at Liliana Perdoma's home

Afternoon Visit **Cooperativa "Chocolate Doña Petra"**. See the chocolate making process and have a chance to purchase locally made chocolate products.

Free Time at Beach

Return to Caracas

Day 10:

Morning- Free time

Meet with Greg Wilpert of Venezuela Analysis. V.A. is an editorially independent website produced and disseminated by individuals dedicated to reporting news and analysis in English about the current political situation in Venezuela.

Wrap-up meeting and planning for steps to take back home

Day 11: Farewell!

Return to Maiquetía International Airport in Caracas for departures.