



HELPS
LATAM EXPERT

VENEZUELA SITUATIONAL REPORT AUGUST, 2024



COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

4,47/5

89,52%

VULNERABILITIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

THREATS

Terrorism

Organized Crime

Protestors

Common Crime

Medical

Environmental

Cybercrime

GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT

94,28%

RANGE

05 Severe

04 High Risk

03 Elevated

02 Guarded

01 Low

The First part of our proposed methodology focuses on the assessment of vulnerabilities and threats across the country. This approach is comprehensive and multidimensional, encompassing political, economic, sociocultural, technological, ecological, and legal aspects. Furthermore, it considers specific threats such as terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, and medical threats.

Data collection is carried out using official government sources, national and international media, and individual testimonials in each country. This approach ensures a broad and diverse view of the region's situation. Data is collected over a 30-day period, allowing for real-time analysis and its progressive evolution. Once the information is gathered, it is classified into different categories of vulnerabilities and risks. Each category is evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest level and 5 being the most severe. This scale allows for a quantitative assessment, facilitating comparison between different categories.

The purpose of this methodology lies in the need to understand and measure vulnerabilities. Countries are diverse and complex, with a variety of challenges and opportunities. By providing a quantitative assessment, it offers tools for evaluation and decision-making, research, and understanding of the situation in each country.

Lastly, the methodology is dynamic and adaptable. By collecting data from a variety of sources and updating the information every 30 days, it can keep up with rapid changes in the political, economic, and social environment. This is especially important in a region like Latin America, where conditions can change quickly.

The second part of our protective intelligence framework is used to assess and quantify the probability of general risk to any individual or organization in a context, by evaluating the vulnerabilities and threats within the designated area.

The scores help in understanding the severity of deficiencies (General Vulnerabilities) and capabilities (General Threats), which then are used to calculate the overall risk probability.

1. General Vulnerabilities (measured by the inadequacy of controls)

1.1 Deficiencies in the System (PESTEL) - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

1.2 Deficiencies in Response Capacities: Police, Armed forces, Disaster Management and, Emergency & Medical- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

2. General Threats (measured by capabilities)

2.1 Resources: Personel, Weapons, Equipment, Transportation- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being nonexistent, 2 being low, 3 being medium, 4 being high, and 5 being unlimited (or unknown).

2.2 Information about: Type of crimes, Criminal Resilience, surveillance and Intelligence capability, Ability to co-opt internal staff - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being unlimited, 2 being high, 3 being medium, 4 being low, and 5 being nonexistent (or unknown).

3. General Risk in the context (Average between CRP, IC, GTC)

In this part of the methodology, a comprehensive evaluation of the overall risk in a specific context is conducted. This evaluation is based on the average of three key components. The first component is Inadequate Controls (IC), referring to security or preventive measures that may be insufficient or not functioning correctly. The second component is the General Threat Capability (GTC), which assesses the potential dangers that threats might pose in each scenario due to their capabilities. The third and final component is the Country Risk Probability (CRP), which considers the inherent risk level in the country based on PESTEL and TOPCMEX measures. By summing these three components, we obtain the General Risk Probability in the Context in the context, providing a comprehensive measure of the risk level to which an individual or entity may be exposed.

GENERAL VULNERABILITIES (INADEQUANCY CONTROLS)

95,83%

SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

RESPONSE DEFICIENCY

Police

Armed forces

Disasters management

Emergency & medical

RANGE

05

Totally ineffective

04

Very poor

03

Poor

02

Certain inconsistencies

01

Adequate

GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY

GENERAL THREATS (CAPABILITIES)

97,5%

INFORMATION

Type of crimes

Criminal Resilience

Surveillance and Intelligence Capacity

Ability to Co-opt Internal Staff

RESOURCES

Personel

Weapons

Equipment

Transportation

RANGE

05

Unlimited (or unknown)

04

High

03

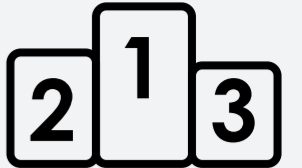
Medium

02

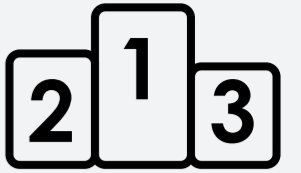
Low

01

Nonexistent (or unknown)



VULNERABILITIES	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
POLITICAL	Maduro's controversial victory deepens Venezuela's political crisis amid fraud claims.	On July 28, 2024, Nicolás Maduro's controversial presidential victory amid fraud allegations worsened Venezuela's political crisis. The opposition, led by Edmundo González and María Corina Machado, protested with international backing. The National Electoral Council's lack of transparency fueled suspicions and isolated Venezuela internationally. Repression followed, with over 2,000 arrests, increasing tensions and migration issues. Venezuela's ties with Russia and BRICS+ participation challenge Western sanctions, while Maduro's cabinet changes, including Diosdado Cabello as Minister of Interior and Justice, signal a hardline stance, risking further repression and instability.	5.0
ECONOMIC	U.S. interest rate cut impacts Venezuela's economy, highlighting infrastructure weaknesses.	The U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate cut could raise oil prices and boost Venezuela's revenues. However, Venezuela's crumbling oil infrastructure and political instability limit these benefits. Reliance on foreign companies like Chevron, coupled with sanctions, hampers production. Electoral controversy and U.S. tensions complicate relations and economic cooperation. A weaker dollar may worsen import costs, hyperinflation, and shortages. Venezuela's alliances with Russia and BRICS+ aim to counter sanctions but also pose risks, affecting its economic trajectory amid geopolitical tensions and internal instability.	4.0
SOCIOCULTURAL	UN reports increased repression in Venezuela with over 100 minors detained.	In August 2024, the UN reported over 100 adolescents detained in Venezuela amid post-election protests, reflecting increased government repression. The detentions, including charges of terrorism and incitement to hatred, violate international law and heighten social tensions. The persecution of journalists, with at least 12 detained, underscores the erosion of press freedom. Mass detentions, including 1,780 people and vulnerable groups like indigenous communities, further undermine social cohesion and risk escalating violence and instability.	5.0
TECHNOLOGICAL	Venezuela intensifies censorship by blocking major websites amid election tensions.	Since July 2024, the Venezuelan government has intensified website blocking, affecting 30 platforms, including media and NGOs, during the presidential election campaign. This reflects ongoing censorship to control the narrative. Blocking sites like Disney+ and The Wall Street Journal through Conatel highlights the government's large-scale censorship efforts, impacting information access and daily activities. The August 2024 blocking of social network X (formerly Twitter) further restricts information flow, especially for the opposition. Power outages, blamed on "terrorist" attacks, reveal the fragile and mismanaged electrical system.	5.0
ECOLOGICAL	Lake Maracaibo faces severe ecological crisis due to algae proliferation and pollution.	Since August 2024, Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela has faced a severe ecological crisis due to algae and cyanobacteria, known as "verdin," highlighting high pollution and environmental degradation. Rising temperatures have worsened the issue, impacting local communities, especially fishermen, due to poor water quality. Despite the 2023 Presidential Commission for the Rescue of Lake Maracaibo, no significant progress has been made. The crisis threatens aquatic biodiversity, creates dead zones, and poses health risks from harmful microcystins, with chemical pollution from oil spills further worsening the situation.	4.0
LEGAL	Anti-Fascism Law in Venezuela raises concerns over increasing state control and repression.	On August 28, 2024, Venezuela's National Assembly reviewed the Anti-Fascism, Neo-Fascism, and Similar Expressions Law, aiming to strengthen state control amid political tension. Critics argue it could criminalize opposition and restrict freedoms, including provisions for social media regulation. The law's broad definitions might lead to arbitrary judicial power, impacting free expression and fostering self-censorship. Additionally, the August 16, 2024, law regulating NGOs and the Special Contributions Law raise concerns about transparency, restricting NGO activities and centralizing funds in the National Treasury.	5.0
AVERAGE SCORE		VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE	
4,67		93,33%	



THREATS	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
TERRORISM	OAS condemns Venezuela's "state terrorism" following controversial July elections.	On August 28, 2024, OAS experts condemned Venezuela's "state terrorism," citing human rights abuses by Maduro's regime after the July elections. Repression tactics, including arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances, erode public trust and could lead to civil disobedience and armed resistance, inviting international sanctions and worsening the humanitarian crisis. Meanwhile, the ELN's expansion, controlling eight states and engaging in illegal activities, undermines state sovereignty and security, exacerbating violence and organized crime.	5.0
ORGANIZED CRIME	Paramilitary collectives increase control, undermining Venezuela's security and stability.	In Venezuela, paramilitary collectives supported by the Chavista government have increased control over urban and peripheral areas. Originally defenders of the "Bolivarian revolution," these groups have become key players in organized crime. By August 2024, they control essential services, food distribution, and gasoline supply, intensifying repression and territorial control post-July elections. Their power undermines security and stability, with extortion and corruption replacing the rule of law, challenging efforts to restore order.	5.0
PROTESTORS	Political tensions escalate post-election, risking violence and prolonged governance crisis.	One month after the controversial July 2024 Venezuelan presidential elections, political tensions have intensified. The Chavista regime celebrates Nicolás Maduro's re-election, while the opposition, led by the Democratic Unity Platform (PUD) and Edmundo González Urrutia, protests the judicial validation of disputed results. Protests have led to arrests and injuries, with state security forces and armed collectives responding with force. The Chavista response, marked by celebratory marches, exacerbates polarization, raising risks of escalating violence and prolonged crisis.	5.0
COMMON CRIME	Common crime in Venezuela threatens security, stability, and social cohesion.	Common crime in Venezuela, driven by criminal organizations, impunity, and state complicity, severely threatens public security and social stability. The rise in crime undermines the economy and social fabric, leading to distrust in institutions and the perception of a failed state. Groups like Tren del Llano use extortion and violence, while drug trafficking and kidnapping remain prevalent. This culture of fear impacts daily life and economic activity, risking further social fragmentation and potential state collapse.	5.0
MEDICAL	Venezuela's Mpox response reveals health system weaknesses amid ongoing crisis.	On August 19, 2024, Venezuela announced a surveillance plan at airports and ports due to the Mpox virus threat. However, the plan reveals a poorly managed effort constrained by the health system's crisis. Measures like mandatory traveler forms seem symbolic, as the healthcare infrastructure is in disarray. With insufficient supplies, underpaid staff, and decaying facilities, the plan's effectiveness is doubtful. Resource shortages and lack of transparency raise concerns, and a Mpox outbreak could worsen the humanitarian crisis and further isolate Venezuela internationally.	3.0
ENVIRONMENTAL	Tropical Wave No. 33 exposes Venezuela's infrastructure vulnerabilities amid intense rains.	Tropical Wave No. 33, moving through central Venezuela, has triggered meteorological alerts due to intense rain forecasts. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (Inameh) predicts variable precipitation across states from Zulia and the Andes to Bolívar and Essequibo. Heavy rains, expected in the afternoon and evening, pose risks due to lightning and fragile electrical infrastructure. Rainfall up to 50 millimeters could overwhelm Venezuela's flood management, risking landslides and urban flooding, especially in Caracas.	3.0
CYBERCRIME	Cyberattacks by Anonymous disrupt Venezuela's transportation systems, exposing tech vulnerabilities.	In August 2024, the Venezuelan government reported that the hacktivist group Anonymous cyberattacked the country's transportation systems, including Conviasa's website and Caracas Metro's fare collection. These attacks, amid high political and social tension following the controversial July elections, disrupted essential services and exposed weaknesses in Venezuela's cybersecurity. The government's failure to prevent these attacks highlights the fragility of its technological infrastructure, creating uncertainty and distrust, and underscoring the need for robust cybersecurity to protect national infrastructure.	4.0

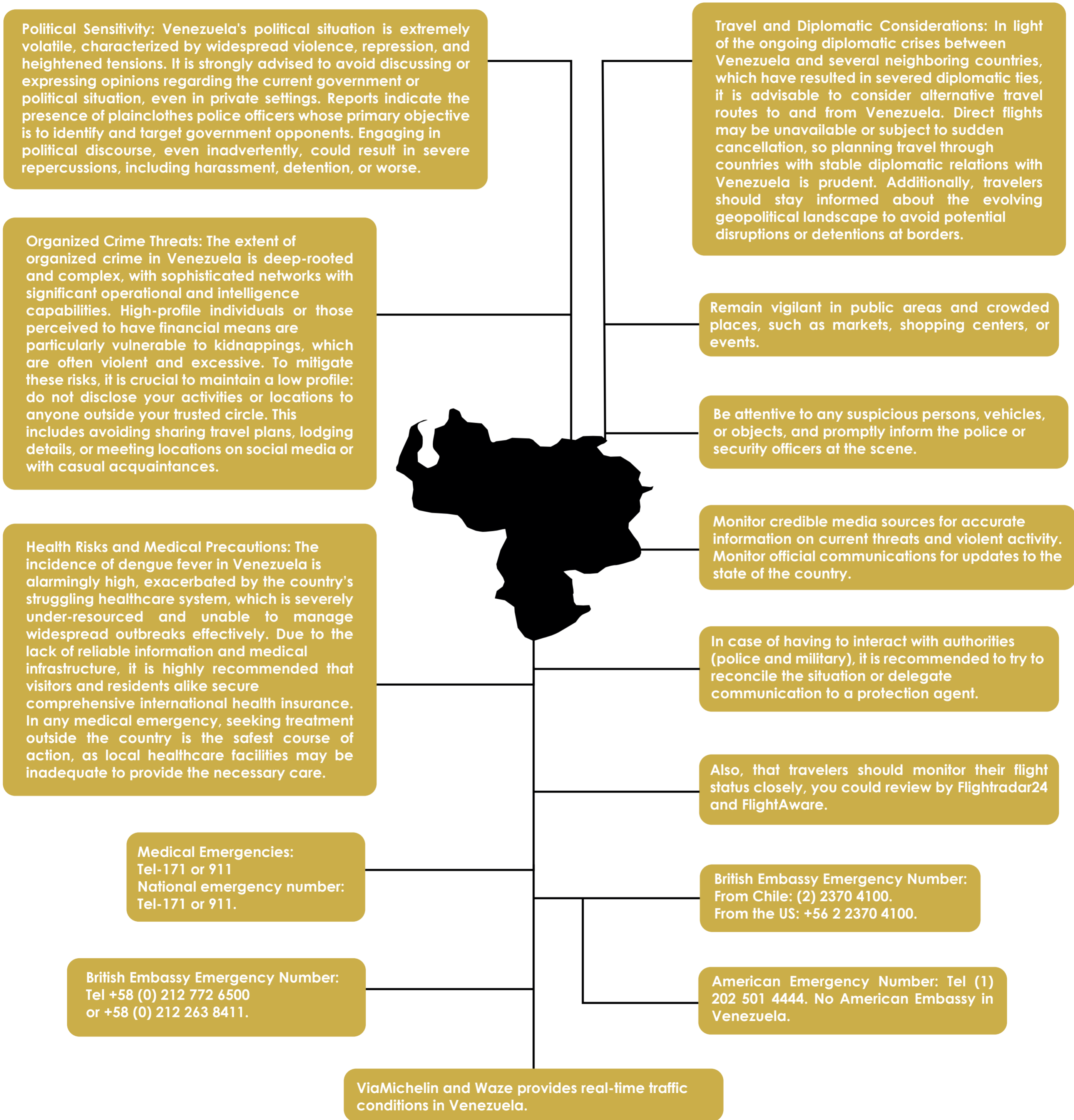
AVERAGE SCORE

4,28

THREATS PERCENTAGE

85,71%







AIRPORTS

Airports in Venezuela have been operating under certain restrictions. The Venezuelan government has prohibited the passage of Argentine flights in Venezuelan airspace. This is a retaliatory measure against Argentina's decision to hand over to the United States justice system a Boeing 747-300 aircraft from Emtrasur, which is involved with the Iranian regime.

The temporary suspension of flights between Venezuela and Panama, as well as with the Dominican Republic, has led to significant operational changes at Venezuelan airports and has impacted travel options for affected passengers. Copa Airlines, the largest operator of weekly flights between Panama and several Venezuelan cities (including Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, Barcelona, and Barquisimeto), is currently in a holding pattern, awaiting updates on the situation.

The nation is home to more than sixty airports, of which fifty are public, three are private, and three are reserved for military use. The Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, which accommodates the country's most significant air traffic volume, has been conducting its operations without any hindrances.



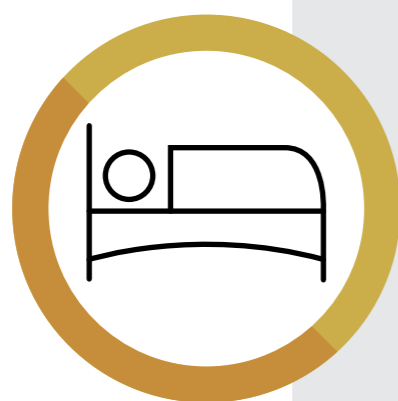
HOSPITALS

Although hospitals are operating normally, medical conditions in the country are challenging. There have been reports of poor infrastructure, a shortage of emergency supplies, and a lack of available beds. However, in the capital, Caracas, the Caracas Clinics Hospital stands out as an institution that offers high-quality health services.



ROADS

Although the country's roads are operational, there are several challenges for land mobility. Fuel shortages can make route planning difficult, and the 70% of the vehicle fleet is out of service, which complicates the search for optimal and safe vehicles for transport. In addition, 20% of the road communication networks are unpaved. The network of roads and highways has a total length of 96,189 km. However, traffic in Venezuela is considered very dangerous, with an average of 11,041 traffic fatalities per year.



HOTELS

Due to the Easter holiday, a hotel occupancy rate of 35% was estimated during the holiday, which was a 5% increase compared to the same period in 2023. The destinations with the highest demand are from the north-coastal region which includes Caracas, Miranda state, Carabobo, La Guaira, and Margarita Island. In Caracas, it is recommended to stay at the JW Marriott Hotel Caracas, Meliá Caracas, and Hotel Eurobuilding, due to their location and security levels. On the other hand, in Maracaibo, the recommended hotels are Inter Maracaibo Hotel, Hotel Kristoff, and Crowne Plaza.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

On July 29, 2024, Venezuela severed diplomatic relations with seven Latin American countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. These countries demanded a "complete review of the results" of the Venezuelan presidential elections with the presence of independent observers. In response, the Venezuelan government decided to withdraw all its diplomatic personnel from missions in these countries and demanded that their diplomatic representatives be immediately withdrawn from Venezuela.



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+593 99 810 4457



admin@latam.expert



www.latam.expert