

Venezuela



Language and Religion

About 40 languages are spoken in Venezuela. However, Spanish, the country's official language, is the most common.

More than 90% of the population is Roman Catholic.

Social Customs

Venezuelans are proud of their country and heritage.

Their flag is a national icon and is respected and admired.

There are four separate public holidays that commemorate independence, during which time flags are flown outside private houses as well as public buildings and there are street parades.

A firm handshake, with direct eye contact and a welcoming smile are the standard greeting. When shaking hands, always use the appropriate greeting for the time of day - **'buenos días', 'buenas tardes', or 'buenas noches'**.

Since this is a formal culture, address people by their academic or professional title and their surname until invited to move to a first- name basis.

Gifts are generally opened when received.

Always send a handwritten thank you note as it marks you as a person with class.

Celebration

Carnival is by far one of the liveliest Venezuelan traditions. This holiday falls on the three days prior to Ash Wednesday (in the Catholic calendar).

It normally means a holiday exodus from Caracas and other cities to Venezuela's Caribbean coast and even to Trinidad (an island off the northeast coast of Venezuela), which is famous for its Carnival celebrations. In the coastal towns Carnival means general partying with lots of drinking and dancing, parades with drummers and people in costumes.

Please note: Each of the families attending your school are unique. While it is so important to educate ourselves about cultures other than our own, it is equally important to avoid grouping students into a single category or make assumptions about a student based on what you know to be true of his or her culture. Learning the history and background of students is just one piece of understanding your students. If you would like to learn more about the culture present in Venezuela please connect with your families at your school and take a look at the attached websites.

[Countries and Their Culture - Venezuela](#)

<https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/venezuela-guide>