



Jakera Venezuela Agent Manual 2012

**Learn Spanish and
Experience Real
Adventure!**



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2 Summary of Programs & Prices

	Euro	USD	GBP
2.1 Intensive Spanish* (20 hours per week)			
Start Dates: Every Monday Merida**	€225	\$345	£175
Volunteering only	€135	\$215	£105
* prices for all Jakera programs includes accommodation, breakfast & dinner			
** Intensive Spanish also available from Playa Colorada from Travelling Classroom Start Dates ONLY			
2.2 Travelling Classroom			
5 Week Travelling Classroom	€1,475	\$2,250	£1,230
8 Week Travelling Classroom	€2,295	\$3,495	£1,925
12 Week Travelling Classroom	€2,995	\$4,595	£2,550
24 Week Travelling Classroom	€4,995	\$6,995	£4,225
Start Dates 2012: Jan 16th, Mar 12th, 7th May, 2nd July, 30th Jul, 8th Oct, 3rd Dec			
Start Dates 2013: Jan 14th, Mar 11th, 6th May, 1st July, 29th Jul, 7th Oct, 2nd Dec			
2.3 Learn Spanish & Volunteer			
5 Week Learn Spanish & Volunteer	€695	\$995	£575
8 Week Learn Spanish & Volunteer	€1,390	\$1,995	£1,250
Start Dates: 1st and 3rd Monday every month Merida*			
* Learn Spanish & Volunteer also available from Playa Colorada from Travelling Classroom Start Dates ONLY			
NB for Volunteer Placement at The Warao School Orinoco Delta please add for transport			
	€80	\$120	£65
NB add for PADI Open Water Scuba			
	€270	\$420	£215
2.4 Learn Spanish & Dive			
10 weeks including 2 PADI scuba dive qualifications plus 8 week Travelling Classroom	€3,025	\$4,695	£2,340
Start Dates 2012 & 2013: Two weeks prior to Travelling Classroom – see dates above			

2.1 Intensive Spanish

Students may enrol in this program at either our Posada in Merida (*start date every Monday*) in the foothills of the Venezuelan Andes, or our Caribbean Lodge on Playa Colorada in Mochima National Park (*start dates Travelling Classroom start dates ONLY*).

The program is the same at each location and features 20 structured lessons per week tailored to your ability. Each morning Monday-Friday you will receive 4 hours intensive general Spanish tuition comprising four 45 minute sessions with 15 minute breaks.

Our teachers have been carefully selected after considering their qualifications, experience and enthusiasm - and an ability to create a friendly atmosphere where the students have the confidence to communicate, express themselves and learn. Classes focus on developing communication skills so that students are able to put their knowledge to practical use as soon as they step outside the classroom.

Our teaching method enables students to develop four basic skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. The idea is to learn Spanish in a natural and spontaneous way, just as students have learned their mother tongue. Our students speak Spanish right from the very first day, using it in typical real-life situations: the basic syllabus is supplemented by special exercises, such as role-play, situational dialogues and work projects. Outside the classroom the learning process continues as you are immersed in Spanish language and culture.

The price of the program includes accommodation Monday through Sunday, Spanish lessons and course materials as well as breakfast and dinner. There are many local and inexpensive options for lunch including making a sandwich at the Posada/Lodge!

As for all our programs students are welcome to arrive a day or more before the program commences - there are lots of interesting things to do where we are located or you can just chill and acclimatise after long haul flight... the daily rate for accommodation, breakfast and dinner is USD \$30 or EURO €20.

2.2 Travelling Classroom

Our award winning travelling classroom program is a unique blend of learning Spanish and travelling adventure. Based in a beautiful country of huge diversity with golden palm fringed beaches, exotic jungles, spectacular and mysterious mountains, ancient indigenous cultures and the beat of exotic Latino! Based at our Caribbean Lodge on one of Venezuela's best beaches, Playa Colorada (the coloured beach!), in Mochima National Park, you take adventure travel expeditions while learning Spanish.

There are approximately 60 hours (5 week program), 100 hours (8 week program), 150 hours (12 week program) and 180 hours (24 week program) of Spanish classes. The program includes jeep safaris to the amazing Gran Sabana, walk to the top of Roraima (The Lost World), and leisurely sea kayaking amongst pristine Caribbean islands and the exotic Orinoco Delta Jungle, and remote untouched areas.

We will introduce you to the culture of the Warao and Pemon indigenous Indians, and you will live in lush primary jungle and savannah terrain. Your Spanish classes won't be in stuffy classrooms but in the 'open air' of the real South America!

You don't have to be super fit – just have a sense of adventure and want to experience life! All trips, accommodation, breakfast and dinner (plus lunches when travelling)*, pickup from Barcelona airport and transfer to Caribbean Lodge upon arrival, and more are included in the program price. See detailed Timeline below:

* Students have use of kitchen facilities at Playa to prepare own lunches and snacks...



Weekly Itinerary	Location	Culture	Activities
Week 1-2	Jakera Lodge, Playa Colorada (Base Camp!)	Intro to modern Venezuela with emphasis on etiquette and safety. "Cassava" preparation	Intensive Spanish classes. Trips to islands, waterfalls and neighboring villages. Introduction to local cooking and culture including Salsa and Merengue dancing. 3-day Kayaking expedition and Dolphin encounter. Introduction to rock climbing/abseiling.
Week 3	Caripe. Camping in tents	Coffee plantations and local fruit and veg farming culture	Intensive Spanish. Trip to Caripe including Study of Guachero cave and its inhabitants. Visits to coffee plantations, fruit and veg farms, and local markets. Mountain trekking to waterfalls, caves and camping.
Week 4	Orinoco Delta Kayaking expedition. Sleeping in hammocks	Ancient Warao Indian culture	Kayak expedition deep into the Orinoco Delta. Visiting remote Warao families and settlements. Exploring the waterways, jungles and sabanas, and there amazing abundance of wildlife and flora. Fishing, gathering and indeed traveling and living as the Warao have done for over 20,000 years. Learning how to survive in the jungle as the Warao do.
Week 5*-6	Jakera Lodge, Playa Colorada	History and Culture of Venezuela	Intensive Spanish and history and culture classes. Beach volleyball tournaments with locals. Cooking classes. Snorkeling and visits to the islands. Visits to historical sites in Cumana.
Weeks 7-8*	Gran Sabana and Roraima. Camping in tents	Ancient Pemon Indian culture	Jeep Safari to the Mystical highlands of Venezuela, visiting various indigenous settlements, and finally a week hiking to the top of Roraima. Spanish classes for first week only.
Week 9-12*	Jakera Lodge, Playa Colorada	Volunteer Work Experience Program	This month we dedicate to working on a community project. Working with local people we try to give something back to our host in this underdeveloped country. Spanish classes in the morning, volunteer project in the afternoon.

Week 13-20	Various Options	Volunteer Work Experience Program	Students can choose two programs for 4 weeks each from the following; teaching English, National Park Programs, photography, tour guiding, adventure sports training, journalism, tourism, bar, restaurant and hotel management, building and construction and many more. You will live with a host family or in a camp/Posada.
Week 21-22	Canaima / Angel Falls	Pemon culture and Modern Venezuela	Hiking trip to Canaima from La Paragua stopping at isolated villages along the way and sleeping in the wilderness. Optional day trip to see the world's highest waterfall. Flight back to La Paragua.
Week 23-24*	Jakera Lodge, Playa Colorada		Time to work on your suntan and polish of your Spanish skills before going home. Plenty of fun on the beach and farewell parties.

* Students can book Travelling Classroom for 5, 8, 12 or 24 week durations as outlined in Summary of Programs & Prices.

Scuba diving is available at extra cost upon request through our PADI registered dive provider!



2.3 Learn Spanish & Volunteer

Another award winning program! This program involves combining the Intensive Spanish program (above 2.1) for week 1 (of the 5 week Learn Spanish & Volunteer Program) or weeks 1-4 (of the 8 week Learn Spanish & Volunteer Program) with an additional 4 weeks of Volunteer Work in either Merida or Playa Colorada (depending on location of work placement – see below).

Students may enrol in this program at either our Posada in Merida (*start date every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month*), or our Caribbean Lodge on Playa Colorada (*start dates Travelling Classroom start dates ONLY*).

Prices include: Intensive Spanish lessons (20 hours per week) PLUS 10 hours additional Spanish lessons per week during volunteering weeks, volunteer placement and support, accommodation in either Merida or Playa Colorada for length of program, breakfast and dinner*

* Students have use of kitchen facilities at to prepare own lunches and snacks...

For 2012 we are offering the following Volunteer Work options:

- 2.3.1 "Street Kids" Fundación Don Bosco** (based in Merida) aimed at helping kids from particularly difficult circumstances. Many are street kids – and the aim is to get them off the streets and into a safe supporting environment. There are three-stages to this difficult task: Stage 1 "Off the street" - The school provides food, clothes and shelter. Stage 2 "Making a Connection" – Helping educate the children, including: social education, elementary school curriculum, physical education, art and craft classes and extra activities. Stage 3 "The Next Step" - Foster homes. Eventually the children are offered the opportunity to return to family life. A variety of chosen families are ready to take kids into their homes and a new life.
- 2.3.2 ABANSA** (based in Merida) is a charity association for the assistance of abandoned children established in 1985. A Christian Organization focused on being an efficient alternative in the prevention of juvenile delinquency and maladaptation of tomorrow's grownups, providing assistance to orphans, abandoned children, children living under precarious circumstances or needing

special attention. The Association was created understanding the importance of such assistance as cities grow and with it the number of people living in extreme poverty increasing the number of abandoned, mistreated and sexually abused children.

For more information see: www.abansa.com

- 2.3.3 Zoo/Animal Sanctuary** (based in Merida). This was initially a zoo created as a tourist attraction but has now developed into an animal sanctuary helping injured and sick wild animals. All injured and sick animals are cared for with the ultimate goal of returning them to their natural, wild habitat.
- 2.3.4 "Jakera Club"** (based in Playa Colorada). This was started in 2002 and is based in the fishing village of Playa Colorada where our Caribbean Lodge is situated. Projects include replanting of trees in the surrounding hillside (to help prevent landslide), marine conservation at La Piscina and working in a wild animal sanctuary. We work closely with the local community to make Playa Colorada a fun place for all to enjoy – we also organize games and events and help to keep the beach and recreational areas clean and safe. One off projects have included building a small base ball stadium, volley ball court and help maintain the football pitch. Local volunteers and students, tackling a different theme each day of the week, work together to make this a very rewarding and successful program.
- 2.3.5 Warao Indian School in the Orinoco Delta** (program starts in Playa Colorada) – teaching assignments based in Orinoco Delta Lodge. This School was started up to give the children of the families living in the vicinity of, and working at the lodge, a better chance to integrate into our society, and also to teach them their own Warao culture. Students assist local teachers in the daily activities and lessons. In addition students are expected to help out in the lodge in the evenings. This placement is not suitable for everyone as it is in a remote location without access to internet, nightlife and Jakera colleagues!



2.4 Learn Spanish & Dive

Earn two PADI scuba diving qualifications, dive in some of the best diving spots in the world, learn Spanish, explore the Orinoco Delta by kayak, live with 'Warao' Indians, climb Mount Roraima, visit historic sites, go on a jeep tour to the mystical highlands, relax on Venezuelan beaches, climb and abseil down waterfalls...

This program builds on our popular 8 week Travelling Classroom program based at Playa Colorada. Students arrive two weeks prior to the scheduled Travelling Classroom start date to commence scuba diving before joining the Travelling Classroom. During these two weeks complete beginners and novice divers will complete PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water qualifications and enjoy some amazing dives in the neighbouring warm Caribbean waters.

This program suits divers of all abilities as you may select two PADI certified programs and a set of pleasure dives basis your experience, as follows:

If you have PADI Open Water you will learn:

PADI Open Water Advanced
PADI Rescue Diver
Plus have ten pleasure dives.

If you have PADI Advanced Open Water you will learn:

PADI Rescue Diver
Plus have 15 Pleasure dives

Please note: To complete the Rescue Diver course you will need to complete the Emergency First Response (EFR) course in your home country before coming to Venezuela.

If for whatever reason it is not possible to complete the full diving program during the two weeks prior to commencing the 8 week Travelling Classroom, then there will be plenty of opportunity to reschedule these diving activities during the Travelling Classroom part of the program!

Prices include: All diving instruction by PADI registered dive school and qualified instructors, course materials, 100 hours intensive Spanish lessons and activities listed, accommodation at Caribbean Lodge on Playa Colorada, breakfast and dinner (plus lunches when travelling), Barcelona airport pickup and transfers.



3 Accommodation

3.1 *Jakera Posada, Merida*

The capital of the state of Mérida sits above an expansive mesa at 1,625 meters above sea level at the foot of the highest mountain in Venezuela. The intellectual atmosphere that emanates from this university-town of 30,000 students is reflected in many of the restaurants, cafes, theatres and cultural institutions of the city. The Andean people of this region live a simple traditional way-of-life still using ancient farming methods.

Downtown in the peaceful Andean university town of Merida, our Andes operation is conveniently located for hiking, horse riding, rafting and mountain biking and we have the world's longest cable car ride on our doorstep.

The Posada is where most of your classroom based language tuition will be provided and is a three storey building located on the main square. Renovated in 2003, Jakera Posada provides bright and comfortable accommodation, classrooms and recreational space.

This is a 'pseudo' home stay in a small (exclusively for Jakera) Posada (similar to a small family run hotel) that is run by a Venezuelan family that also live on the premises. The family only speak Spanish. Meals etc are taken with the family. This is a perfect mix of the freedom of having your own place, and all the advantages of having a home stay environment. There are 6 student rooms, and students normally share with one or two other students of their choice.

There is cable TV, and a huge covered terrace. The Posada is very quiet – but step outside and Plaza Las Heroínas is a central meeting place for many people, and also a centre for festivals and events.

The Posada is located on one of the two main squares in Merida, only 30 metres from the Merida Teleferico – the longest and highest cable car in the world going to a height of 14,000 feet!

For a short video clip see:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCYk8E5rrR4&feature=youtube_gdata

3.2 Jakera Lodge, Playa Colorada, Mochima National Park

Located alongside the beautiful beach of Playa Colorada in the heart of the Mochima National Park our palm fringed Caribbean base is amongst a procession of sandy beaches from where we explore the myriad of deserted offshore islands by kayak whilst interacting with dolphins. Snorkelling, fishing and diving opportunities are excellent.

Spanish classes are held daily and Jakera Lodge is our 'staging post' for expeditions to the Orinoco Delta, Gran Sabana and other exotic destinations around the country.

The Lodge has been developed over a number of years and the main accommodation and recreational space comprises a magnificent 'Chawata' (in the style of a Warao Indian commune). Students have a choice of sleeping in specially designed sleeping hammocks (recommended as it is hot here!) or in beds.

This is a stunning location and a stunning traditional styled lodge with many open, communal areas – all in traditional tropical gardens. It has a 12 metre high climbing wall and is a front line property to the beach.

Time to top up your tan! For a short video clip see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UfDzHVLEGE>



4 Venezuela Visa Requirements

Who requires a visa?

Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa to study in Venezuela for stays of up to 90 days (a tourist-card will be issued upon arrival Caracas instead):

Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Nevis, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay.

Depending on course length, a student visa may be required; contact the nearest Consulate for further information.

In the event a visa is required the following documentation will be required:

- A passport with at least 6 months validity remaining
- A recent front view colour photograph, 2in x 2in size
- A completed application form
- Statement of financial support for the duration of trip

It usually takes two days to issue a visa and validity is 12 months.

5 Public Holidays

Despite Public Holidays NO Spanish lessons will be lost. Instead they will be rescheduled by mutual agreement between teacher-students.

01/01/2012 New Years Day	01/05/2012 The worker day
15/01/2012 Professor day	24/06/2012 Battle of Carabobo
20/02/2012 Carnival	05/07/2012 The independence day
21/02/2012 Carnival	24/07/2012 Simón Bolívar´s birth
05/04/2012 Maundy Thursday	12/10/2012 Indigenous Resistance Day
06/04/2012 Maundy Friday	25/12/2012 Christmas Day
19/04/2012 Independence movement	

6 Notes for 2012

6.1 Jakera Tours is a fully registered **Travel Agency**. We can assist in booking flights and other travel related services within Venezuela for students (see www.jakera.com for details). We suggest that students arrange their international flights to Venezuela through their local travel agent in their home country, while Jakera can book internal flights and travel upon request.

6.2 **Program Changes** have been minimised. However, a big change this year is to streamline our operations at our Caribbean Lodge on Playa Colorada. All programs will commence on Travelling Classroom start dates only, i.e. Learn Spanish & Learn Spanish & Volunteer programs (also available in Merida) will commence on set Travelling Classroom start dates. This change does not affect Merida where Learn Spanish will continue to be offered *EVERY* Monday, and Learn Spanish & Volunteer will continue to be offered *EVERY* 1st & 3rd Monday of the month.

Also, students continue to be welcome to arrive Playa Colorada for any program a few days early if this helps with booking of international flights (up to two free extra nights in staying for more than 5 weeks!)

6.3 We are happy to book **internal flights** for all students upon request*. Students can either pay us in cash upon arrival. Ideally we need 1 week advance notice to arrange this. The prices are the actual price of the flight and therefore vary on availability and season (the more warning, normally the cheaper we can get them) and are also non commissionable.

The price of internal flights varies but is approximately – one way flight USD 100 to Merida (El Vigia airport), and USD 70 one way to Playa Colorada (Barcelona airport).

* we recommend the following airlines:

Barcelona: www.avior.com.ve

Barcelona: www.asercaairlines.com

Merida: www.conviasa.aero

Merida: www.laser.com.ve

6.4 At Caracas International Airport, upon clearance Passport & Immigration Control and Luggage Collection there is a secure corridor – well signposted – linking the

International Airport to the National Airport from where flights to El Vigia (Merida) and Barcelona depart. Students should make their way down this corridor and present themselves to be checked in at the appropriate airline desk.

Once we have been advised local flight arrival details Barcelona airport, Jakera will arrange for students going to Playa Colorada to be met by a Jakera representative in the Arrivals Hall for transfer to our Caribbean Lodge. Students going to Merida should take a local taxi outside El Vigia airport to Merida – they should ask for the main square in the old town. Our Posada is easy to find being located across from the famous Teleferico (longest cable car in the world!).

6.5 Students normally arrive the day before programs start. However, due to international flights etc Jakera is happy to receive students before this for \$30 pp/pd (EURO €20) including dinner and breakfast (one day per month of stay is free of charge).

6.6 If students arrive later than 17:00 to Caracas they may not have sufficient time to make same day **connecting flights to Merida or Barcelona**. On request we will book either, a local Hotel for them (the price is about \$70 USD per room (sharing is permitted and reduces pp price)). The hotel will arrange to pick up students at Caracas International Arrivals and transfer to Hotel, and return to the National Airport next day for onward flight.

6.7 **Jakera prices** are very inclusive. They include Spanish lessons, accommodation, breakfast and dinner*, and the many activities related to the program. **Not included are flights from/to Caracas and Merida or Barcelona (Playa Colorada)** though all other internal transfers by bus or jeep ARE included. Also please note that lunch IS NOT included though kitchen facilities are available for students to prepare their own lunches. Also public transport and taxis are not included for students who have to travel to their Volunteer Work Placements.

* and lunch while travelling on the Travelling Classroom programs.

6.8 Please note that **students should bring** certain gear with them to be able to participate in adventure activities, including water proofs, good walking/hiking shoes/boots, head torch, mozzie net, towel, day back pack, fleece or warm top, 15 – 20 litre dry bag... these items are easy to source from any high street and all adventure students should bring these items.

6.9 **Exchange controls** are in operation in Venezuelan and students should be aware of the practical implications when considering in what form they should bring spending money (we advise USD cash where possible) – see <http://wikitravel.org/en/Venezuela#Buy>

5.10 We have posted on our <http://www.learn-spanish-in-latin-america.com/> student website a **photo gallery** with high resolutions images. Just click the link to our Photo Gallery on **flickr** from our homepage. See link below for some footage of Jakera jeep safari adventures recorded for Omni Film now being syndicated around the world...

<http://www.wordtravels.tv/episodes.php?episodeno=3>

In Autumn 2010 for three months Jakera crew were in the Gran Sabana helping **Discovery TV** film an exciting 8 part series called '**Out of the Wild**'. This involved 9 people exploring this stunning area – starting with Mount Roraima (one of the destinations for the Travelling Classroom program) and continuing across Sabana and rivers to find their way 'out of the wild...' Discovery TV selected Jakera as their in country partners for this exciting production because of our expertise, knowledge of the area, connections with indigenous peoples, excellent safety record and respect for the local habitat. That said – the cast had a pretty rough time... rest assured we look after our students better!! For more information see:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/out-of-the-wild-venezuela/>



All the staff at Jakera Venezuela
thank you for your continued
support

iViva la Vida!

LANGUAGE
TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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The 'Language Travel Magazine' Star Awards include the following nominations for Jakera:



Shortlisted
Innovation of the Year 2008



Shortlisted
Work Experience Provider 2008



Shortlisted
LTM Star Spanish Language School 2007

Thank you for helping to make it happen!



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