

The Northeast



Home to Venezuela's biggest holiday island, Isla de Margarita, the northeastern region sees many tourists both domestic and foreign, but most limit their activities to spending time on Margarita's beaches before flying out to Angel Falls, the Delta del Orinoco or the Andes. This makes some sense if you're doing a whistle-stop tour of the country, but if you have more time there are plenty of other areas to explore in the region, including the stunning beaches of the Península de Paria, many of which are vastly superior to the overcrowded and overdeveloped sands of Margarita. Other idyllic stretches of Venezuela's coastline include the dazzling islands and beaches of Parque Nacional Mochima and the ethereal landscapes of the rugged and remote Península de Araya.

The northeast isn't just about its pretty beaches, however. Inland there are lush mountains and verdant valleys to explore. This region also boasts Venezuela's most famous cave, and is home to fascinating wildlife, obscure hiking trails and a scattering of historical forts, towns and churches where the Spanish first conquered and settled.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Find an unknown beach on **Isla de Margarita** (p195)
- Explore the picturesque islands of **Parque Nacional Mochima** (p211)
- Enjoy the stunning hillsides and secluded beaches east of **Río Caribe** (p222)
- Truly escape from the crowds to the remote tropical beaches of **Isla La Tortuga** (p213)
- Be amazed by the nocturnal, whiskered birds of **Cueva del Guácharo** (p227)



