

Auyán Tepui and Angel Falls Adventure

Venezuela

Auyán Tepui is one of the largest and most spectacular of all of the tepui mountains, known as South America's "lost worlds". This gigantic tableland is encircled on all sides by vertical cliffs up to 1,000 m tall. Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall on Earth flows over its cliffsides, and the summit of Auyán Tepui is home to a unique world of endemic wildlife, including plants and animals found no where else on Earth.

This expedition offers you the opportunity to trek up Auyán Tepui to explore the mountain's summit. The trek does not require any technical skills. It is a great adventure walk up the slopes of the mountain to a crack in the plateau's immense cliffsides. Stepping onto the summit is like landing on another planet. You'll discover a weird, unearthly landscape of black stone (very different to Mount Roraima), carnivorous plants, orchids, bromeliads, amazing ferns, golden tannin-infused rivers, as well as amphibians, insects and birds.

Auyán Tepui is heaven for carnivorous plant enthusiasts. We will see trees clothed with the carnivorous bromeliad *Catopsis berteroniana* as well as literally countless *Brocchinia reducta*. You'll see the beautiful pitcher plant *Heliamphora minor* var *minor*, and the Redfern Team will take you to little known locations on Auyán Tepui to see the recently described *Heliamphora minor* var *pilosa* (differentiated by its amazing, hairy leaves). We'll see many species of sundews including *Drosera roraimae*, *D. communis*, *D. felix* and others. Lastly, we'll see more than a dozen species of bladderworts (*Utricularia*) and corkscrew plants (*Genlisea*). The mountain is also home to a really wide range of orchids and airplants (*Tillandsia*).

The scenery of Auyán Tepui is breath-taking. The mountain is much larger than Mount Roraima and overs vast, open, dramatic, rocky plains and vistas. Auyán Tepui has far fewer rock formations and crystals than Mount Roraima but much higher cliffs, more dramatic canyons and epic views. It is a photographer's paradise.

We will spend several days exploring the summit of Auyán Tepui then have the option of trekking across the summit to view Angel Falls from the top of the plateau (close to where it flows over the mountain's cliffsides).

As an optional extra, we can also organise charter flights in light aircraft for aerial photographic flyover trips above Angel Falls, or we run adventurous canoe trips to the very base of the gigantic cascade.

COST: £3,450 (British Pounds). Personal porters can be hired at extra costs (contact us for details).

START POINT: Boa Vista, Brazil

END POINT: Boa Vista, Brazil

GROUP SIZE: 6–10 (on double/twin room basis - single room supplement available).

DATES: Redfern Adventures will run four trips this year: **Trip 1** in April, **Trip 2** in June/July/August, **Trip 3** in September/October and **Trip 4** in November/December. Please email us for the exact dates. We will finalise the group of participants, then finalise the exact dates for each trip to best fit everyone's schedules.

BESPOKE TOUR: If you do not wish to join a group tour, we can customise a private trip to suit your dates and interests. Please email us for details.

Email sales@redfernadventures.com for more information and to make bookings.



ITINERARY

Getting there: Although this expedition takes place in Venezuela, we will start and end this trip in Boa Vista, Brazil (which is easier and safer Caracas).

Participants can fly to Manaus (which is a major hub for international flights) and catch domestic flights to Boa Vista, e.g. Azul (www.voegazul.com.br) and search LATAM.

Participants have the advantage that they can spend a day or two before the expedition exploring Manaus' fascinating colonial heritage in the heart of the Amazon. There are also countless locally operated tourist trips to explore the Amazon River and the Rio Negro, including trips to see pink river dolphins, wildlife excursions and visits to indigenous communities nearby.

Day 1: Meet in Boa Vista at **7.00 am**. Transfer in private charter vehicles to the Venezuelan border (approx 4 hours driving time). We cross the border, and arrive in Santa Elena, Venezuela. Lunch and snacks en-route. Dinner in restaurant in Santa Elena. Overnight in local hotel. We recommend that you arrive in Boa Vista at least the night before.

Day 2: After breakfast, we catch a charter flight in a cessna aircraft to the Pemón Amerindian village of Kavak in the Gran Sabana close to Auyán Tepui. The views from Kavak are absolutely spectacular. We meet our guides and trek to Guyaraca Camp (trees festooned with *Catopsis berteroniana* plants are all around the camp site). Camp-side dinner and overnight in tents.

Day 3: We trek up the slopes of Auyán Tepui, through wetlands home to *Drosera*, *Utricularia*, *Genlisea* and *Brocchinia*. We can see the iridescent blue fern *Elaphoglossum wurdackii*. The trek is uphill, and takes approximately 6–8 hours. Lunch en-route. Camp at El Penon camp.

Day 4: Today, we trek through misty, lush cloudforest, to a gigantic crack in the cliffsides which forms our staircase to the summit. We climb through layers of mossy vegetation, through *Bonnetia* forest and groves of giant bromeliads and treeferns. The views across the surrounding lowlands are spectacular. Below the ledge, we see flowering *Utricularia* and *Genlisea* (including usually *U. humboldtii*). The climb up the ledge takes 4–5 hours. We then reach the summit and step into a bleak, barren landscape of blackened stone. Immediately, we see the pitcher plant *Heliamphora minor* var. *minor*. The trek today is steep and uphill pretty-much the whole way. No technical skills needed - but it is steep. A good level of fitness and high stamina is needed.

Day 5, 6, 7 and 8: We explore the summit of Auyán Tepui. Note: we can decide the itinerary of our time on the summit as a group, depending upon everyone's interests, the weather, and how much trekking we (as a group) would like to undertake. Recommended highlights include visiting "El Oso" (a rock that looks like a bear), gigantic *Brocchinia* fields, several beautiful view points, valleys rich with stunted *Bonnetia* trees, pitcher plants and orchids.

The Redfern team will guide the group to a little known site with large numbers of the rare *Heliamphora minor* var. *pilosa*, and a spot where on a previous trip, we found pink flowered *Drosera roraimae* (a totally unique population!)

During our stay, we look out for the elusive South American coati (*Nasua nasua*). Campside dinner and overnight in tents inside caves.

NOTE: we can spend more days on the summit to trek to the top of Angel Falls, or return on Day 9 and do an optional add on to do a fly over Angel Falls or canoe trip to the base of the immense cascade. We will discuss this as a group and adjust the itinerary accordingly.



ITINERARY

Day 9: After breakfast, we descend down the ledge of Mount Auyan Tepui and return to Guyaraca Camp.

Day 10: We trek from Guyaraca Camp back to Kavak and overnight at this beautiful Amerindian village.

Day 11: A cessna picks us up. Note: we can (1) return to Santa Elena and travel back to Boa Vista tomorrow (standard itinerary). (2) add an optional extra charter flight over Angel Falls (cost of flight time to be confirmed) then return to Santa Elena and travel back to Boa Vista tomorrow. (3) add 3 days to the itinerary and fly to Canaima for a canoe trip up the Devil's Canyon to the base of Auyan Tepui. The standard itinerary (included here) is we fly back to Santa Elena. Dinner in restaurant in Santa Elena. Overnight in local hotel.

Day 12: Transfer in charter vehicles to the Venezuelan border with Brazil, and onwards to Boa Vista, Brazil. End of Tour.

INCLUDED:

- All entrance tickets and permits to visit national parks, including all local guide fees.
- All accommodation and food.
- All ground transportation and return charter flight to Kavak.
- Professional tour leader.

NOT INCLUDED:

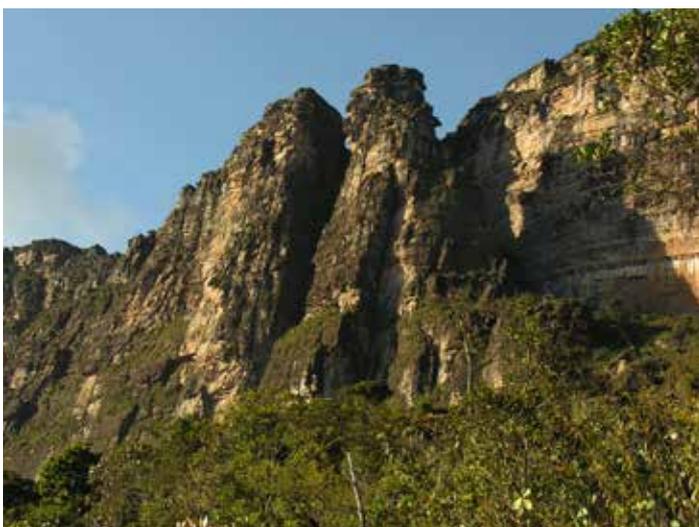
- Tips (optional).

TO ENTER VENEZUELA, YOU MUST HAVE:

- Travel Insurance (bring documents).
- Covid-19 vaccinations (bring certificate).
- Yellow fever vaccination (bring certificate).



Visit: www.redfernadventures.com for further information
or email sales@redfernadventures.com to register your interest.



MAP USED WITH PERMISSION AND PROVIDED BY

Google Earth



SIMPLIFIED ITINERARY

Trekking



Flight Transfer



Start Point / End Point
Santa Elena

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Canoe to Angel Falls Adventure

Venezuela

Angel Falls is the tallest waterfall on Earth. At 979 m in height (nearly a vertical kilometre high), this immense cascade is twice the height of the Empire State building and fifteen times the height of Niagara Falls - it is one of the great natural spectacles of our world.

Standing at the base of Angel Falls and looking up at the tallest cascade on Earth is one of the world's great experiences! This trip offers an adventurous and fun (but safe and enjoyable) canoe trip past towering plateaus to camp opposite Angel Falls, and then trek to the very base of the beautiful waterfall!

Please note: we organise canoe trips to Angel Falls as an optional add on extra to our Auyán Tepui and Mount Roraima expeditions, or as private, bespoke tours. Please email us for details and a quote.

Day 1: Meet at Puerto Ordaz Airport, Venezuela for 8.00 am departing flight to Canaima (the start point for our trip to Angel Falls). On landing, we transfer to motorised, traditional Pemón dugout canoes (curiaras) and travel upstream to Angel Falls camp (4 hrs in the canoes). Angel Falls camp is on the bank of the river opposite the mighty Angel Falls. We watch the sun set on the tallest waterfall on the planet. Dinner at Angel Falls camp. Overnight in hammocks.

Day 2: Breakfast in Angel Falls camp, and then cross the river in the canoes and then hike through the rainforest for 1 km to the base of Angel Falls to photograph the gigantic cascade and to bathe in the cascading waters of the falls. We have lunch at a scenic look out point, and then return to Angel Falls camp. Dinner at Angel Falls camp. Overnight in hammocks.

Day 3: After breakfast, we return by motorised canoes back to Canaima. After lunch in Canaima, we explore Canaima lagoon with a walk to Sapo Falls and, depending on water levels, either a walk behind the thundering curtain of water of Sapo Falls or Hacha Falls. Dinner and overnight in a posada (local hotel) in Canaima.

Day 4: Breakfast, then transfer in light aircraft back to Puerto Ordaz.

ANGEL FALLS - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC FLYOVER

Seeing Angel Falls from a light aircraft is an unforgettable experience, and the possibility to capture spectacular photographs of this beautiful waterfall. We organise flyover trips on request. These work well at the end of our Auyán Tepui expeditions (as it is a short flight from Kavak to Angel Falls enabling this trip to be very cost effective). Alternatively, we can organise flyover trips to fit your dates. Note: views are weather dependent and cannot be guaranteed.

We fly directly to Angel Falls. Prior to departure, participants can decide how much flying time they use circling over Angel Falls (which impacts the trip cost). We recommend at least 40 minutes flying time in situ, this will allow approximately four passes over Angel Falls (two for each side of the plane), giving all participants opportunities to photograph the beautiful cascade. Depending on your onward plans, we then fly to Santa Elena, Canaima, Puerto Ordaz or Ciudad Bolivar. Please email us to discuss options and to receive a quote.



Visit: www.redfernadventures.com for further information
or email sales@redfernadventures.com to register your interest.

