



Specialist Orchid Expeditions

Travel the world to experience the exquisite beauty of orchids and their natural habitats.

Borneo Orchid Expedition

Malaysian Borneo

An intrepid adventure to explore Borneo's key orchid hotspots, diverse wildlife and scenery.

The island of Borneo is one of the world's great centres for orchid diversity. Concentrated on Borneo, there are at least 1,700 species of orchids, many of which are found nowhere else on earth.

This expedition focuses on visiting four locations to explore Borneo's amazing diversity of orchids; the Bako National Park (home to lowland heathforest orchids), Mount Kinabalu (for highland and ultrahighland orchids), Mulu National Park & Mount Api (for lowland rainforest, limestone growing and highland orchids) and Mount Trus Madi (for spectacular mossy cloud forests dripping with highland orchids).

Although orchids are central to this expedition, the itinerary is balanced with many of Borneo's other wildlife highlights, including a plethora of carnivorous pitcher plants, proboscis monkeys, vast caves, canoe trips through lowland rainforest and (with luck) open *Rafflesia* and *Amorphophallus* blooms.

Optional pre- or post-expedition add-ons that can be arranged include visits to offshore islands to observe turtle hatching (4 days extra) or an intrepid rainforest expedition to climb Mount Murud (5 days extra) in the highlands of central Borneo to see a wide diversity of highland orchids, pitcher plants, bird life, and remote villages.

COST: £2,000 per person for **16 days / 15 nights** (all inclusive from start point to end point).

START POINT: Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo.

END POINT: Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

EXPEDITION LEADER: Stewart McPherson (experienced field naturalist and Borneo expert).

DATES: Subject to demand, two expeditions will run in **2014:** July 11th – July 26th **and** July 28th – August 12th, and two expeditions will run in **2015:** July 12th – July 27th **and** July 30th – August 14th.

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

BORNEO ORCHID EXPEDITION **ITINERARY**

Day 1: We meet in Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo. We recommend that you fly to Kuala Lumpur or Singapore, then take a low cost AirAsia flight from either city onwards to Kuching, arriving by 8.00 am, or the previous day. At 10.00 am, we travel by small boat into the South China Sea, landing at the Bako National Park to explore trails through lowland heathforest, home to *Bulbophyllum* and *Dendrobium*, ant plants (*Dischidia*) and the carnivorous pitcher plants (*Nepenthes albomarginata*, *N. gracilis* and *N. rafflesiana*). Along mangrove boardwalks, we look for proboscis monkeys. We sleep in a hotel and dine in a local restaurant.

Day 2: We catch an early morning flight to Kota Kinabalu. Visit the De Villa Orchid Farm at Kundasang, and then the beautiful Kinabalu Park botanic gardens, home to hundreds of orchids, including *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* and *P. lowii*, often in bloom. We sleep in a hotel and dine in a local restaurant.

Day 3: We climb up Mt. Kinabalu, ascending through pristine cloud forest, filled with countless orchids (*Bulbophyllum*, *Calanthe*, *Coelogyne*, *Cryptostylis*, *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Habenaria*, *Liparis*, *Phaius* and *Stigmatodactylus*), tree ferns, mossy, stunted bonsai trees, as well as the carnivorous plants *Nepenthes villosa* and *N. tentaculata*. We overnight near the tree-line in a wooden chalet called Laban Rata with heating, beds and hot meals.

Day 4: We ascend to the summit of Mt. Kinabalu, exploring the incredible, exposed, granite plateau summit area, and look for ultrahighland orchid species, and take in the spectacular views across the Bornean rainforests below. We sleep again at Laban Rata with heating, beds and hot meals.

Day 5: We descend down Mount Kinabalu, following the seldom visited Mesilau trail, passing through lush, riverine cloudforest, home to highland orchids and carnivorous pitcher plants. We sleep in beautiful alpine chalets at Mesilau and dine in a local restaurant.

Day 6: We walk the Rajah Trail at Mesilau to explore the highland orchid gardens (looking for *Paphiopedilum hookeri*), and the biggest carnivorous plant of all, *Nepenthes rajah*, which has been known to trap prey as large as rats. We then transfer into vehicles and visit the Mamut Mine and/or Marai Parai spur to explore ultramafic orchid habitats, and visit a *Rafflesia* reserve at Poring Hot Springs to see a giant *Rafflesia* bloom in flower. We travel back to Kota Kinabalu and sleep in a hotel and dine in a local restaurant.

Day 7: We fly to Gunung Mulu National Park and, on arrival, explore the rainforest trails for lowland rainforest orchids. We explore the vast caves of Mulu by following an extensive boardwalk into the Deer Cave to explore grottos, and watch tens of thousands of birds emerge from the cave like smoke at sunset. We sleep in single-sex dorms and have dinner in a restaurant (optional upgrade to resort accommodation possible).

Day 8: We undertake a day trek to see the rare *Paphiopedilum sanderianum* growing on a spectacular, mossy cliff. We sleep in single-sex dorms and have dinner in a restaurant (optional upgrade to resort accommodation possible).

Day 9: We transfer into canoes to journey upstream to Mt. Api camp, stopping at a traditional village half way up stream to experience Sarawak culture, and buy traditional craftwork. The canoes stop at a riverside trail, and we trek for one and a half hours through the rainforest to reach camp, looking out for gigantic *Amorphophallus* flowers and lowland orchids. We sleep at the camp in stretcher hammocks and have hot food.

Day 10: After an early start, we trek up Mt. Api (a steep climb of 1.8 km) to reach the summit of the mountain to enjoy spectacular views of the towering, blade-like, limestone pinnacles. On the trail up Mt. Api, we find extensive populations of orchids (especially *Bulbophyllum* and other epiphytes) and the carnivorous pitcher plant *Nepenthes faizaliana*. Back at camp, there is the option of visiting a nearby population of the fanged pitcher plant (*N. bicalcarata*), its habitat is also home to heathforest orchids. We sleep at the camp in stretcher hammocks and have hot food.

Day 11: After a relaxed start, we return to the canoes and travel back downstream to the Mulu Park headquarters, looking again for giant *Amorphophallus* flowers along the way. We sleep in dorms and have a restaurant dinner, relaxing in tropical gardens (optional upgrade to resort accommodation possible).

Day 12: We fly from Mulu National Park back to Kota Kinabalu, and have a rest day, exploring the charming waterfront markets of the old-town. We sleep in a hotel and dine in a local restaurant.

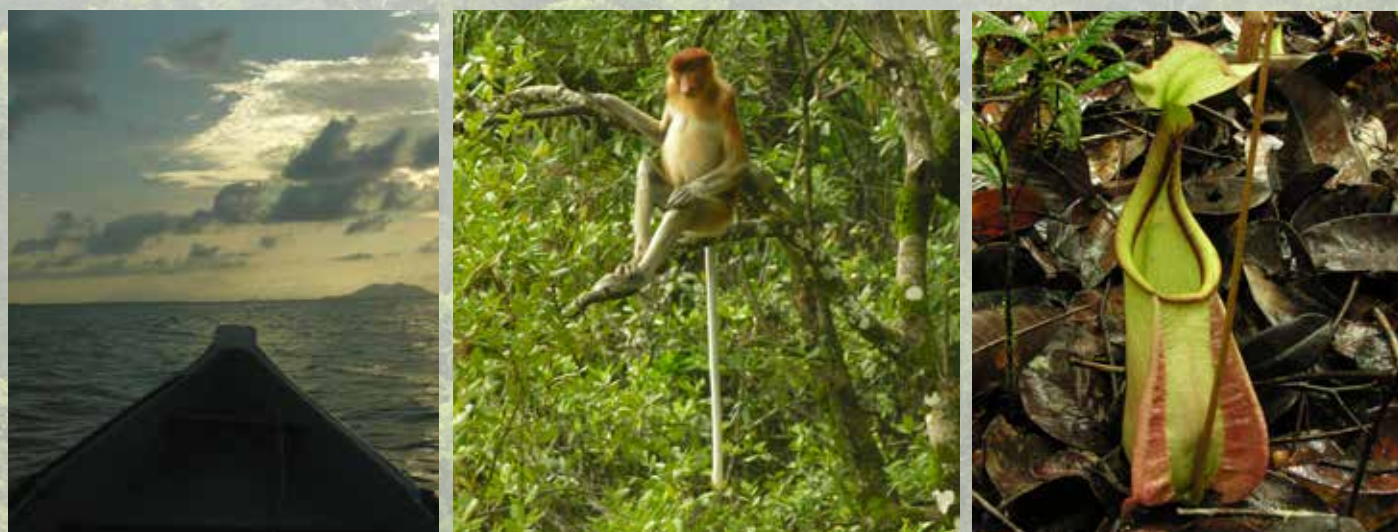
Day 13: We transfer into mini-vans and travel to Tambunan, to begin the ascent up Mt Trus Madi. We sleep in tents, and have hot, cooked food.

Day 14: We spend a day on the summit of Mt. Trus Madi, exploring some of Borneo's most beautiful mossy cloud-forest, totally festooned with orchids (particularly miniature epiphytes of the genera *Dendrobium*, *Dendrochilum* and *Bulbophyllum*, but also terrestrials of the genus *Corybas*), and home to the carnivorous pitcher plants *Nepenthes lowii*, *N. tentaculata* and *N. macrophylla*. We sleep in tents, and have hot, cooked food.

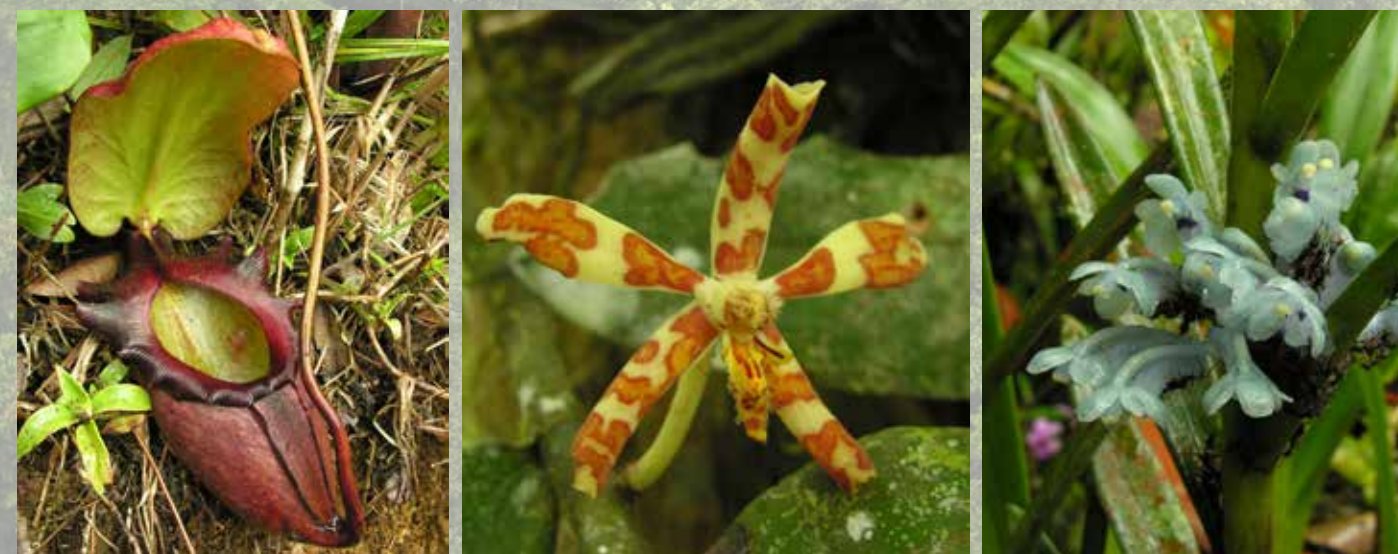
Day 15: We descend Mt. Trus Madi, returning back to the lowlands. We visit a reserve to see the diminutive, but beautiful, white-spotted *Rafflesia pricei*, sleeping for a final night in Borneo in tree houses in the rainforest.

Day 16: We transfer into mini-vans and return to Kota Kinabalu in time for departing afternoon and evening flights.

Highlights of the **Borneo Orchid Expedition**
Please visit: www.redfernnaturalhistory.com to see more images



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Orchids of Mount Roraima

Venezuela

An expedition to see Mount Roraima's amazing "lost world" of unique plants and animals, and some of the most spectacular and unearthly landscapes in South America

Note: this expedition is identical to the "Lost World of Mount Roraima" trip that we run, but is led by field botanist, Dr. Alastair Robinson, and has a focus on orchids throughout (see following pages).

Mount Roraima is South America's lost world - a gigantic tableland (locally called a tepui) encircled on all sides by vertical cliffs up to 700 m tall. Towering over the surrounding savannahs and rainforest like an immense fortress above the clouds, Roraima's summit has been isolated for millions of years; it directly inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's story, *The Lost World*. In reality, the mountain truly is home to one of the most striking assemblages of unique animals and plants found anywhere on earth, and many so-called "living fossil" relicts.

One of South America's greatest concentrations of orchids (see following pages), spectacular carnivorous plants (*Heliamphora* pitcher plants, *Drosera* sundews, *Utricularia* bladderworts, *Brocchinia* bromeliads and *Genlisea* corkscrew plants) abound, along with non-carnivorous bromeliads, airplants and bonsai-like cloud forest. Unique insects (including a primitive weta), endemic reptiles and numerous migratory birds and raptors live within Roraima's lunar landscape of wind-carved stone pinnacles and rock towers. During the ascent, we pass some of the most spectacular scenery in all of South America.

This expedition offers **outstanding opportunities** to photograph orchids, birdlife, mammals, insects, bromeliads, a plethora of carnivorous plants and some of the world's most spectacular scenery.

Optional pre- or post-expedition add-ons that can be arranged include a Scenic Flyover of the Eastern Tepuis in light aircraft (1 day extra) and/or a Scenic Flyover of Angel Falls in light aircraft (1 day extra)!

COST: £2,500 per person for **12 days / 11 nights** (all inclusive from start point to end point).

START POINT: Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, Caracas, Venezuela.

END POINT: Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, Caracas, Venezuela.

EXPEDITION LEADER: Dr. Alastair Robinson (experienced field botanist).

DATES: Subject to demand, two expeditions will run in **2014:** August 20th – September 1st **and** September 21st - October 2nd..

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

ORCHIDS OF MOUNT RORAIMA

The summit of Mount Roraima, and the cloudforest that flanks the plateau's sides are home to a spectacular diversity of orchids, especially the genera *Maxillaria*, *Epidendrum* and *Habenaria*. From big flowered *Cattleya*, to microorchids with miniature flowers the size of a pin (*Octomeria*, *Myoxanthus*, *Brachydonidium*). Some of the most beautiful are *Epidendrum* and *Maxillaria* with intriguing flowers and an amazing variation of colourations.

Terrestrial, epiphytic and lithophytic orchid species can be found on the tepui summits. Orchids are amongst the most species-rich families represented on the tepui summits. Their ability to obtain nutrients from exploitation of fungal mycorrhiza enables orchids to grow in the hostile, nutrient-poor sandstone soils of the tepui summits, even on barren rock - an ecological niche that is otherwise only filled by carnivorous plants. Their wind-blown, dust-like seeds, which are produced in their millions, enable them to colonise even the most remote tepui summits.

The following species are highlights among the long list species which are most likely to be encountered:

Cattleya lawrenceanum (cloud forest)

Cleistes huberi

Brachionidium brevicaudatum

Bulbophyllum roraimense

Epidendrum ulei (also called *E. dendroboides*)

Epidendrum secundum

Epidendrum nocturnum (below summit)

Epidendrum elongatum

Epidendrum montigenum

Epidendrum alsum

Epidendrum imthurnii

Epidendrum repens

Epidendrum violascens

Epidendrum saxatile

Habenaria roraimensis

Habenaria ernestii

Habenaria parviflora

Houlletia roraimensis

Octomeria flaviflora

Octomeria connellii

Octomeria dentifera

Octomeria monticola

Pleurothallis lansbergii (epiphyte, cloud forest)

Pleurothallis uncinata

Pleurothallis revoluta

Pleurothallis rhombipetala

Lepanthes unitrinervis

Malaxis maguirei

Maxillaria quelchii

Maxillaria nasuta

Maxillaria parkeri

Maxillaria aurea

Maxillaria auyantepuiensis

Maxillaria connellii

Maxillaria mapirensis

Myoxanthus unciantus

Prescottia carnosa

Restrepiosis tubulosa

Scaphyglottis modesta

Scaphyglottis grandiflora

Trichosalpinx roraimensis



Selected orchids of Mount Roraima

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ORCHIDS OF MOUNT RORAIMA ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet in Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, meet expedition leader, transfer to Hotel Catimar. Expedition brief over dinner in hotel restaurant. Money exchange service. Overnight in hotel.

Day 2: Early transfer to catch connecting flight to Puerto Ordaz. Transfer to van to travel to Santa Elena (8 hour journey through the Gran Sabana, stopping at viewpoints). Lunch and snacks en route. Dinner in restaurant in Santa Elena. Overnight in Posada (guesthouse hotel).

Day 3: Early breakfast then transfer into 4*4 vehicles for tour of the Gran Sabana. Sites to visit include Jasper Creek (waterfall made of semi-precious red gemstone), Agua Fria Falls, Yuruaní curtain falls, view point for the Eastern Tepuis chain and visits to local Pemón Amerindian villages. Lunch in San Francisco (Pemón village). Off-road journey (1.5 hour) to overnight in huts with beds at Paraitepui de Roraima (charming Pemón village). During the journey we look out for giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*).

Day 4: Sunrise views of Mount Roraima and the Eastern Tepuis chain on the horizon. Breakfast, then organise equipment, porters and guides, and registration at the National Park office. Hike from Paraitepui de Roraima to Kukenán River campsite (12 km, approx. 6 hours, relatively flat walking). Pass across open savannah with patches of rainforest. Dinner at campsite by beautiful river. Overnight in tents.

Day 5: Views of the immense cliffs of Mount Roraima. Early start after breakfast at campsite, followed by a hike from Kukenán River campsite to Base Camp, situated in mossy cloud forest filled with orchids, below the towering, sheer, vertical cliffs of Roraima (9 km, approx. 6 hours of steady uphill walking). Lunch along the way. Dinner at campsite. Overnight in tents.

Day 6: After breakfast we hike from Base Camp to the summit of Roraima (2.5 km, approx. 4-6 hours of steep, uphill walking). This is the hardest trekking day, but we take our time with frequent rests. Explore the summit area (spectacular rock formations, unique plant life and extraordinary animals), and trek to "Hotels" (Roraima's caves). Lunch along the trek. Dinner at campsite. Overnight in tents inside the caves.

Day 7: After a campside breakfast in the caves, we explore the summit of Mount Roraima. Our local guides lead us to the Valley of the Crystals, labyrinths of towering stone pinnacles, Lake Gladys, the Prow, Triple Point (the three way border of Venezuela, Guyana and Brazil) and the Oilbird Ravine (home to rare echo-locating oilbirds, *Steatornis caripensis*). The summit is the habitat for a plethora of orchids (*Epidendrum*, *Octomeria*, *Habenaria* and countless other genera), bromeliads (giant *Brocchinia*), airplants (*Tillandsia*), carnivorous plants (many *Drosera*, *Genlisea*, *Utricularia* and the spectacular carnivorous pitcher plants *Heliamphora nutans* and *Brocchinia reducta*), unique butterflies, and a black and yellow spotted lizard called *Riolama*. We can walk to see the little-seen *H. glabra* and *H. glabra x nutans*. A trek to La Ventana to catch breathtaking views of Kukenán Tepui bathed by the sunset is strongly recommended. Dinner at campsite. Lunch along the way. Dinner at camp and overnight in tents inside caves.

Day 8: Early start to walk to La Ventana to see spectacular sunrise views of Mount Roraima and Kukenán Tepui. Return to camp for breakfast, then exploration the El Carro view point to see the whole plateau, the Jacuzzis (crystal lined pools), the pit, the valley of a thousand columns, spectacular rock formations, and any sites not visited on the previous day. Lunch along the trek. We watch for the elusive South American coati (*Nasua nasua*). Campside dinner and overnight in tents inside caves. Another chance to see the sunset at La Ventana. Lunch along the trek. Dinner at campsite in caves.

Day 9: Early start after breakfast at campsite followed by descent from Roraima's summit to Tök River campsite (11.5 km, approximately 8 hours of downhill walking). Lunch at Base Camp campsite. Dinner at campsite. Overnight in tents.

Day 10: Early start after breakfast at campsite follow by hike from Tök River campsite to Paraitepui de Roraima (12 km, approximately 6 hours of relatively flat walking). Lunch in San Francisco de Yuruaní. Transfer into 4*4s at Paraitepui to return to Santa Elena, dinner at restaurant, overnight in Posada.

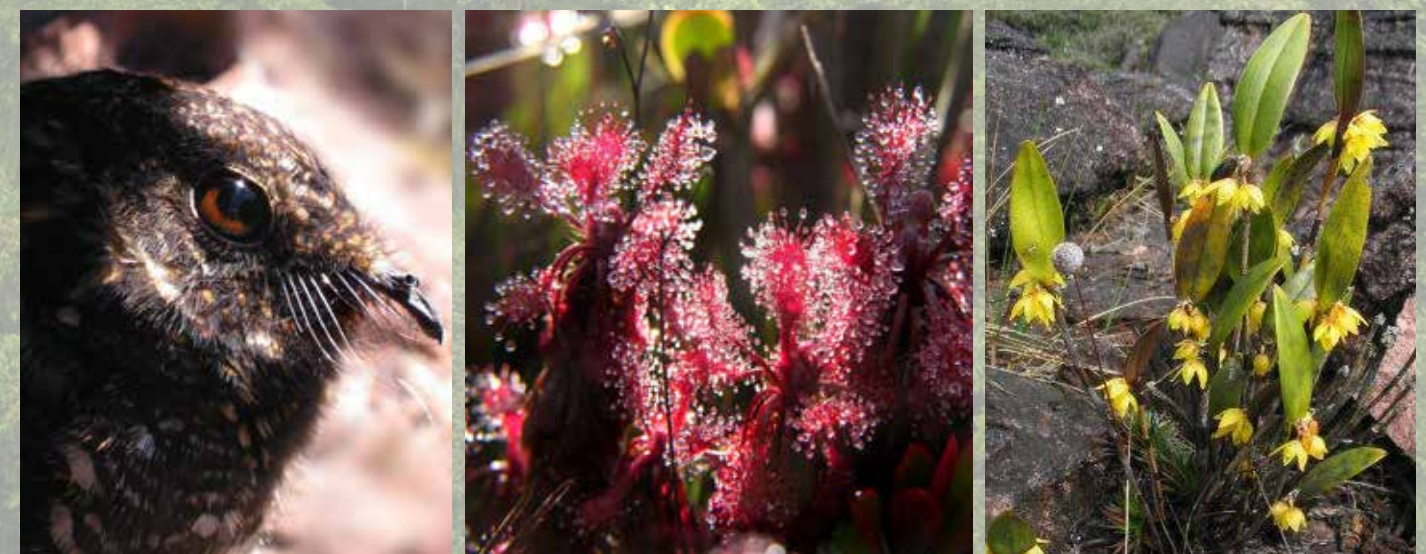
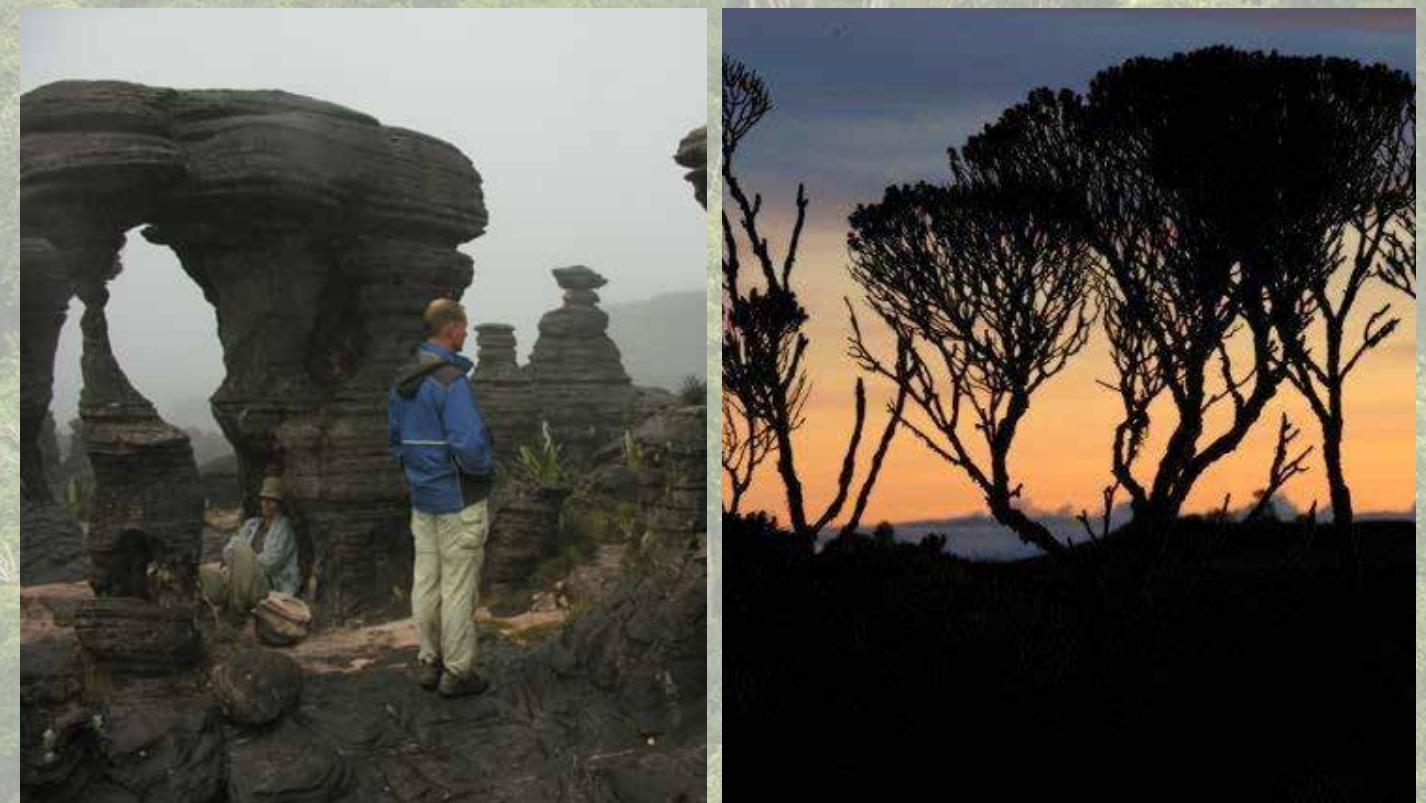
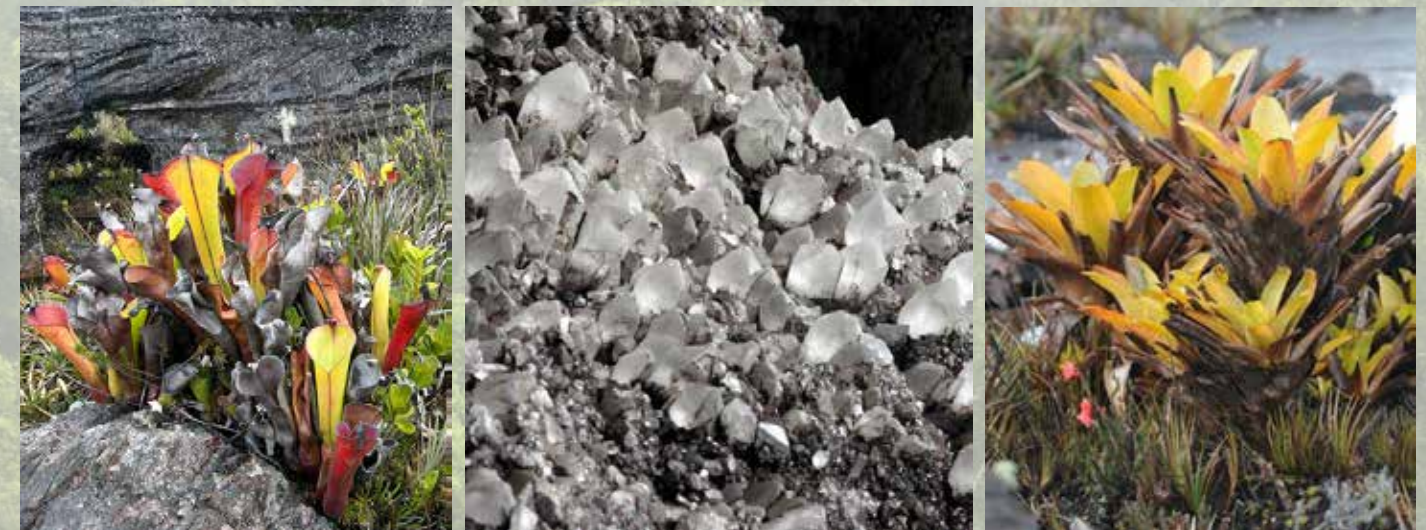
Day 11: Early start. Breakfast in Santa Elena, then van transfer to Puerto Ordaz (approximately 8 hours). Lunch along the way. Catch connecting flights from Puerto Ordaz to Caracas. Overnight at Hotel Catimar and dinner in hotel restaurant.

Day 12: Breakfast, then transfer from Hotel Catimar to Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport for departing flights.

Highlights of the **Orchids of Mount Roraima Expedition**
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Highlights of the **Orchids of Mount Roraima Expedition**
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Orchids of Auyán Tepui & Angel Falls

Venezuela

A journey to explore the unique wildlife and landscapes of Auyán Tepui, and canoe trip to Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall on the planet

Note: this expedition is identical to the “Lost World of Mount Roraima” trip that we run, but is led by field botanist, Dr. Alastair Robinson, and has a focus on orchids throughout (see following pages).

At 979 m tall, **Angel Falls** is nearly a vertical kilometre high. Twice the height of the Empire State building and fifteen times the height of Niagara Falls, this spectacular waterfall is the tallest in the world. Angel Falls plunges over the sides of the massive **Auyán Tepui**, falling into dense jungle below. Auyán Tepui is the largest plateau in the Gran Sabana, and much of its summit remains largely unexplored to this day. It is home to vast “rain desert” landscapes of exposed stone, in which oases of concentrated plants, animals and birds abound, many of which occur nowhere else on earth, not even on other tepuis nearby.

This **16 day expedition** begins with an ascent of the spectacular Auyán Tepui, retracing the route pioneered by explorer Jimmie Angel (namesake of Angel Falls). After reaching the summit of Auyán Tepui, we spend three days exploring the plateau’s top with the goal of reaching the lip of Angel Falls (dependent upon group speed and interests). Along the way, we explore the mountain’s amazing diversity of orchids, carnivorous plants, bromeliads, airplants, cloud forests, insects, amphibians, birds and mammals. We then descend and transfer by light aircraft to begin a canoe trip to the base of Angel Falls, and finally, we enjoy a scenic flyover of the colossal waterfall and some of the world’s most spectacular terrain.

This expedition offers **outstanding opportunities** to photograph orchids, birdlife, mammals, insects, bromeliads, a plethora of carnivorous plants and some of the world’s most spectacular scenery.

Optional pre- or post-expedition add-ons that can be arranged include a Scenic Flyover of the Eastern Tepuis in light aircraft (1 day extra) and/or a Tour of the Gran Sabana in 4*4 vehicles (1 day extra)!

COST: £2,500 per person for **16 days / 15 nights** (all inclusive from start point to end point).

START POINT: Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, Caracas, Venezuela.

END POINT: Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, Caracas, Venezuela.

EXPEDITION LEADER: Dr. Alastair Robinson (experienced field botanist).

DATES: Subject to demand, two expeditions will run in **2014:** August 7th - August 18th **and** September 3rd – September 18th.

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ORCHIDS OF AUYÁN TEPUI

The vast summit of Auyán Tepui, and the surrounding cloudforests of the plateau walls remain little explored by botanists. Well over one hundred orchid species have been identified from the plateau massif to date, including many of the most spectacular terrestrial and epiphytic orchids of Venezuela. As many of the orchids of Auyán Tepui occur nowhere else in the world, and because the landscape is very different from Mount Roraima, we recommend undertaking this expedition in conjunction with Roraima to experience the beauty of the tepuis.

The following species are highlights among the long list species which are most likely to be encountered:

Acineta alticola

Cattleya lawrenceana

Hexisea bidentata (epiphyte)

Elleanthus norae

Encyclia auyantepuiensis

Epidendrum nocturnum (below summit)

Epidendrum elongatum

Epidendrum imthurnii

Epidendrum saxatile

Epidendrum secundum

Epidendrum tumuchumaciense

Epidendrum ulei

Epidendrum violascens

Epidendrum ramosum

Epidendrum repens

Eriopsis biloba

Galeottia burkei

Habenaria roraimensis

Habenaria caldensis

Habenaria ernestii

Habenaria lehmanniana

Habenaria monorrhiza

Habenaria nilssonii

Habenaria parviflora

Houlletia odoratissima

Houlletia roraimensis

Lepanthes exilis

Masdevallia picturata

Maxillaria alpestris

Maxillaria aurea

Maxillaria auyantepuiensis

Maxillaria mapirensis

Maxillaria meridensis

Maxillaria quelchii

Mendocella (Zygopetalum) jorisiana

Mendocella burkei

Octomeria flaviflora

Octomeria nana

Ocotmeria parviflora

Oncidium nigratum

Oncidium warmingii

Pinelianne alticola

Pleurothallis floribunda

Pleurothallis imraei

Pleurothallis tepuiensis

Prescottia carnosa

Prescottia stachyodes

Prosthechea tigrina

Restrepiopsis tubulosa

Scaphyglottis grandiflora

Sobralia spec.

Stelis obovata

Stelis schomburgkii

Trichosalpinx spp.

Vargasiella venezuelana

Zygosepalum angustilabium



Selected orchids of Auyán Tepui

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ORCHIDS OF ANGEL FALLS & AUYÁN TEPUI ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet in Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport, meet expedition leader, transfer to Hotel Catimar. Expedition brief over dinner in hotel restaurant. Money exchange service. Overnight in hotel.

Day 2: Early transfer to catch connecting flight to Puerto Ordaz. Transfer to van to travel to Ciudad Bolívar (approx 1 hour drive). Lunch along the way. Dinner and overnight in Posada (guesthouse hotel).

Day 3: Early start, breakfast in the Posada followed by a 1.5 hour flight over Auyán Tepui in private charter light aircraft landing at Uruyén (a remote native Pemón Amerindian village). Lunch and refreshments in Uruyén, then organise equipment, porters and guides. Overnight in hammocks with mosquito nets.

Day 4: Early start, breakfast, then we begin the ascent of Auyán Tepui, trekking through the lowlands to Guayaraca campsite (14 km, approx. 6-7 hours walking). We pass through lowland savannah, look out for giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) and the black and yellow poison arrow frog *Dendrobates leucomelas*. Lunch along the way. Dinner in Guayaraca campsite. Overnight in tents. Near Guayaraca campsite there are extensive stands of the carnivorous bromeliad *Catopsis berteroniana*.

Day 5: Early start, breakfast at campsite. Hike from Guayaraca campsite to El Penon campsite within cave below the towering cliffs of Auyán Tepui amongst lush cloudforest (4 km, approx. 6-8 hours uphill walking). Lunch at Danto rock (half way). Dinner at El Penon campsite. Overnight in tents.

Day 6: Early start after breakfast at El Penon campsite, then we climb up a ledge in the enormous cliffs to the summit of Auyán Tepui, reaching the mountain top (2 km, approx. 6 hours steep uphill walking, but we take regular breaks). We camp at El Libertador, a flat area near the cliffs of Auyán Tepui surrounded by a plethora of orchids (*Eriopsis*, *Zygochloa* and countless other genera), bromeliads, carnivorous plants (many *Drosera*, *Genlisea*, *Utricularia* and the spectacular carnivorous pitcher plants *Heliamphora minor* var. *minor* and *Brocchinia reducta*). Lunch and dinner at El Libertador. Overnight in tents.

Days 7-9: We trek from El Libertador to El Oso campsite, a large cave lined with sand (6 km, approx. 4 hours relatively flat walking). Depending upon the interests and speed of the group, we can trek to the top of Angel Falls, to see the enormous cascade falling from the side of Auyán Tepui, and explore the unique landscapes, plants, animals, insects and reptiles of the plateau. Highlights include searching for the bizarre and recently named pitcher plant *Heliamphora minor* var. *pilosa*, bonsai-like *Vellozia* plants, ancient hard-leaved ferns, vast, rain-desert landscapes, orchid festooned *Bonnetia* cloudforests and epic scenery. Each night breakfast, lunch along the way and dinner at camp. We overnight in tents in caves.

Day 10: Early start after breakfast at El Oso campsite, then begin the descent from the summit of Auyán Tepui, reaching El Penon campsite (8 km, approx. 7 hours of walking). Lunch at La Paloma (half way). Dinner at El Penon. Overnight in tents.

Day 11: Breakfast at El Penon camp, then a descent to Uruyén (18 km, approx. 7 hours downhill and flat walking). Lunch at Guayaraca campsite. Dinner in Uruyén. Overnight in hammocks with mosquito nets.

Day 12: Early start after breakfast in Uruyén, then a flight over Auyán Tepui in private charter light aircraft landing at the Pemón Amerindian village of Canaima (30 mins flight). Transfer to motorised, 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 with mosquito nets.

Day 13: We breakfast in Angel Falls camp, and then cross the river in the canoes and then hike 1 km to the base of Angel Falls to photograph the gigantic cascade and to bathe in the cascading waters of Angel 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 with mosquito nets.

Day 14: After breakfast, we return by motorised canoe 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 in Canaima.

Day 15: Late breakfast, then scenic flyover Auyán Tepui and Angel Falls in light aircraft (weather dependent) to Puerto Ordaz. After lunch, we catch flights to Caracas. Overnight and dine at Hotel Catimar.

Day 16: Breakfast, then transfer from Hotel Catimar to Simón Bolívar Maiquetía International Airport for departing flights.



Highlights of the **Orchids of Angel Falls & Auyán Tepui Expedition**
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