

AMAZING ATTRACTIONS



Nature's Mystic Angel

Angel Falls ranks among the most sought after amazing natural wonders of the world. In Pemon language, Angel Falls is called as "Kerepakupai merú" meaning "waterfall of the deepest place". Angel Falls used to be a holy site for the ancient Inca civilization and is still considered sacred by local Venezuelans.



Sir Walter Raleigh

Who discovered Angel Falls?

The discovery of Angel Falls has many variations. Sir Walter Raleigh, a famed English writer and explorer is said to have mentioned about the Falls. In 1933, American aviator Jimmie Angel brought the discovery into the world when he flew over them and hence the Falls are named as Angel Falls, after him. However, the local Indians, the Pemones, already knew it and called it 'Churun Meru'

What is unique about Angel Falls?

Angel Falls has the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall at 979 m (3,212 ft) with the tallest single drop in the world. At a high altitude like this, the water of the Falls gets vaporised by the strong winds and turns into mist, before reaching the ground. The base of the Falls joins the Kerep River. It further flows into the Churun River, which serves as a tributary of the Carrao River.

What makes Angel Falls a favourite with tourists worldwide?

Angel Falls is one among the top tourist attractions of Venezuela. But a trip to the Falls is an expensive ride. As the Falls are located in an isolated jungle region of Venezuela, a flight from the Venezuelan capital Caracas takes off for the Canaima camp. Canaima camp is the starting point for river trips to the base of the Falls. June to December is the usual season for these river trips.

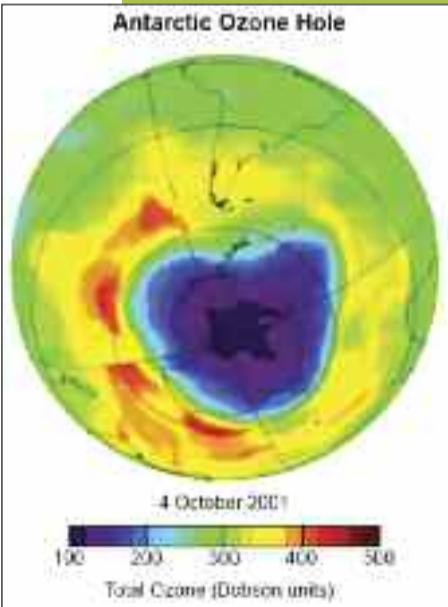
Factoids

- At a height of 2,937 feet, the Angel Falls are 15 times higher than Niagara Falls which is only 167 feet tall.
- Vaccination against Yellow Fever is a must for tourists visiting Angel Falls, as it is located in a tropical forest region.



Where is it located?

It is located in the Canaima National Park, in the Gran Sabana region of Bolivar State, Venezuela. This region is also known as Guyana Highlands, which is one of the five tropical zones of Venezuela.

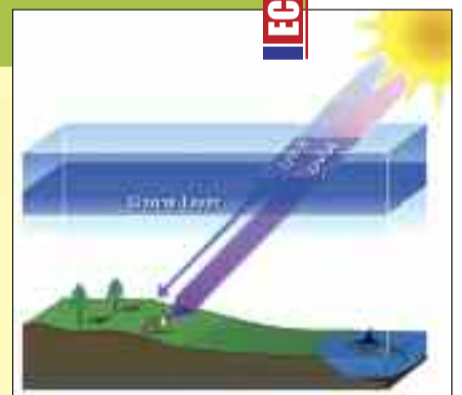


Ozone Depletion

Ozone depletion is slow, steady decline of the total volume of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere (ozone layer). Since 1970, due to varying seasonal changes, the rate of ozone depletion has been faster. This phenomenon is termed as Ozone Hole.

What consequences does it have on the life on earth?

Ozone depletion has many harmful effects on living beings. The direct exposure to the UV rays increases the risks of skin cancer, damage to plants, harm to flora and fauna in water bodies.



What factors cause ozone depletion?

CFC's i.e. Chlorofluoro carbons and other harmful substances are responsible for the high rate of ozone depletion. The ozone layer prevents most harmful Ultra Violet (UV) rays from passing through the Earth's atmosphere. This has generated worldwide concern leading to banning the production of CFCs as well as any related ozone depleting chemicals such as carbon tetrachloride and trichloroethane.



What steps are being taken at the world forum?

The Montreal Protocol on substances depleting the Ozone Layer is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. The treaty was opened for signature on September 16th, 1987 and came into force on January 1, 1989. It is believed that if the international agreement retains, the ozone layer would recover by 2050. As the treaty was signed on 16th September, the United Nations General Assembly voted to designate this day as "The World Ozone Day", to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol Treaty.

ECO TALK