

# A Tribute to Jimmie Angel

## The overland route by Ruth Robertson to Angel Falls

Special Expedition • 8 days / 7 nights  
June 27 to July 4, 2015

The "A Tribute to Jimmie Angel" expedition to Angel Falls is arranged by [www.angel-ecotours.com](http://www.angel-ecotours.com) based out of New York City. Angel-Eco's President, Paul Stanley and Karen Angel, niece of Jimmie Angel and President of the Jimmie Angel Historical Project (JAHP) [www.jimmieangel.org](http://www.jimmieangel.org) will co-lead the trip. Ms. Angel will share her knowledge about Jimmie Angel and Ruth Robertson as we follow Robertson's route all the way to Angel Falls.



Morning at Angel Falls • Churún Vena • Salto Angel  
©Photo: Paul Stanley, 2012

Cascading from a cliff more than half a mile high in the exotically beautiful Venezuelan jungle south of the Orinoco River is Angel Falls • Churún Vená • Salto Angel, Earth's tallest waterfall, 15 times higher than Niagara Falls. Its first drop is 2,648 feet; its total 3,212 feet. The world's tallest waterfall is named after American aviator-explorer James "Jimmie" Crawford Angel (1899-1956). Angel first saw the waterfall 18 November 1933 while flying solo in the Churún Canyon (also known as Devil's Canyon) in the heart of the vast tabletop mesa known as Auyántepeui (Devil's Mountain). He remarked in his pilot's log book, **"FOUND MYSELF A WATERFALL."**

Carlos A. Freeman photographed Angel Falls from Jimmie Angel's Hamilton airplane 1 May 1939. It and a companion photo of Angel Falls were the first

published photographs of the waterfall appearing in *"Exploración de la Gran Sabana," Revista de Fomento, No. 19, December 1939*. Freeman was a Venezuelan mining engineer and one of four leaders of the Venezuelan Ministry of Development's 1939 Gran Sabana Expedition. Jimmie Angel was the pilot-guide for the expedition which worked in the field for five months. The first base camp for the expedition was near the Pemón village of Kamarata which is located in Canaima National Park.

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Angel Falls • Churún Vena • Salto Angel

©Photo: 1939 Carlos Freeman Archive/Jimmie Angel Historical Project

The waterfall was officially named **Salto Angel** (Angel Falls) in December 1939 by the Venezuelan government in honor of Jimmie Angel's exploration of the Gran Sabana during the years 1933-1939. His ashes were scattered over the waterfall 2 July 1960.

**Churún Vena** is the indigenous Kamarata Valley Pemón's name for the waterfall. **Churún Merú** is their name for the lower portion of the waterfall. The Spanish **Salto Angel** translates to **Angel Falls**.

In 1947, American photojournalist Ruth Robertson saw Angel Falls while flying in an unconverted C-47 in Churún Canyon (Devil's Canyon). During that first flight, Robertson shot more than a dozen Kodachromes and resolved to enter the canyon on foot to photograph Angel Falls from below and to determine its exact height. In May 1949 she led the first expedition inside the Churún Canyon. Her photographs as well as her account of the journey were published in National Geographic, November 1949, and the falls' height announced to the world: the drop of 2,648 feet; the total 3,212 (939 meters)

*"How beautiful the scene from the camp that afternoon, with the Churún River in the center, framed on both sides with trees in the background, the magnificent waterfall... Here the falls were solid, immovable, real..."*

*-Ruth Robertson*

For many years Ruth Robertson's Expedition was mostly overlooked in official chronicles of the history of Angel Falls, but contemporary writers Karen Angel, documentary filmmaker Isabel Barton, and entomologist Jorge González. Ph.D. are helping through their writings and filmmaking to make the public aware of her contributions to exploration.

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Mr. Stanley will share his experiences as President of **Angel Conservation** [www.angelconservation.org](http://www.angelconservation.org), an organization he founded to work with and preserve the culture of the indigenous Kamarata Valley Pemón and the flora and fauna that gives them life.

**About Our Trip to Angel Falls:** This trip is, in part, a fund raising benefit for the Jimmie Angel Historical Project (JAHP), a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in California, EIN: 68-0372407. Please see Page 5 for details.

Ruth Robertson's epic expedition started in Caracas on 23 April 1949; she reached Angel Falls on May 11<sup>th</sup> and Mayupa Rapids on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Our expedition will take only eight days!

**Itinerary from San Francisco / Los Angeles (or other international destinations):**

**Day 1: June 27 - Caracas**

Arrival Caracas' Maiquetia International Airport (CCS). Airport assistance and hotel transfers included. Overnight at a local hotel in Caracas. **(No meals)**

**Day 2: June 28 - Caracas & Uruyén**

Early morning transfer to airport. Fly to Puerto Ordaz. Transfer to a light plane for two hour flight to Uruyén, landing on the same landing strip where both Jimmie Angel and Ruth Robertson set up base camps before their respective expeditions. Spectacular overflight of Angel Falls included (weather permitting). Afternoon hike to Yurwan Canyon and stunning local waterfalls with Pemón guide. Special cultural evening. Overnight at the Pemón lodge of Uruyén in beds. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 3: June 29 - Uruyén & Kavak**

Transfer to Kavak by jeep, or hike through the savannah and rainforests visiting local Pemón villages and the school children of Santa Marta enroute. Afternoon hike to the sacred Kavak Canyon and its majestic waterfalls with Pemón guide. Special cultural evening. Overnight at Kavak Lodge in beds. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 4: June 30 - Kavak & Arenal**

Early morning transfer to Kamarata port for riverboat expedition (curiaras) to Angel Falls. First stop is the village of Kamarata to visit the school or homes of the local Pemón. Kamarata was the location of the Gran Sabana Expedition of 1939 and the home of Jimmie and Marie Angel's adopted son Jose Manuel Angel who passed away in 2001. We may have the opportunity to meet Jose Manuel's children. Overnight in hammocks at Arenal camp on the bank of the Carrao River with spectacular views of the river and the tabletop mountains of Wey-tepuí and Auyántepeui. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 5: July 1 - Arenal & Angel Falls**

We take to the river early morning for the penultimate leg of our expedition. Entering the awe inspiring "Devils Canyon" on the Rio Churún we have our first glimpse of the mammoth falls – a sight never to be forgotten. We trek through the rainforest and hike up the lower level of Auyántepeui to "Laime's Lookout Point" – a stunning lookout point at the base of the falls, so close that we are sprinkled by its roaring waters – the same point where Ruth Robertson stood in May 1949 to photograph the falls. Alexander Laime was her expedition guide. Finally, conditions permitting we swim in the pool below the first drop of the falls, a once in a lifetime experience. Overnight at Ratoncito Island camp in hammocks with spectacular views of Angel Falls. **(B, L, D)**

**Please note: The trip by river from Kamarata to Angel Falls may be replaced by a direct flight to Canaima, an extra night in Canaima and a trip by river to and from Canaima.**

**Day 6 July 2 - Angel Falls**

We will spend an extra day at Angel Falls to enjoy our surroundings. You may wish to hike near the base of the Angel Falls, take photographs, draw, botanize, or just relax. Conditions permitting, we will again swim in the pool below the first drop of the falls. Overnight at Ratoncito Island camp in hammocks. **(B, L, D)**. **Please note:** This date is the anniversary of the scattering of Jimmie Angel's ashes over Angel Falls, 2 July 1960.

**Day 7: July 3 - Angel Falls, Canaima & Ciudad Bolívar**

Early morning, back down the river to Canaima Lagoon along the Churún and Carrao rivers. We pass close by Mayupa airstrip where Ruth Robertson finished her epic journey on 17 May 1949. One last adventure - before bidding farewell to our Pemón crew – Sapo Falls beckons. Walk behind the gushing curtain – one of seven waterfalls unloading its raw energy into Canaima Lagoon with great vistas from the top of the falls. Lunch in Canaima. Airport assistance and transfers to Ciudad Bolívar where Jimmie Angel's Flamingo airplane *El Rio Caroni*, a Venezuelan National Monument, is exhibited at the

airport and where Ruth began the second leg of her expedition to the interior in 1949. Overnight in Ciudad Bolivar at a local hotel/posada. **(B, L)**

**Day 8: July 4 - Ciudad Bolívar & Caracas**

Early morning transfer to Puerto Ordaz for flight to Caracas. Or an optional extra – City Tour of Ciudad Bolívar (formerly known as Angostura). Airport assistance and transfer to the international airport or to a local Caracas hotel. End of service. **(B)**

**The 2015 trip price is \$1,999 USD per person based upon double occupancy plus supplements.**

**Single supplement: \$150 per person.**

**Price Includes:** English speaking tour leaders Paul Stanley and Karen Angel, flights within Venezuela, as well as all meals and services as listed in the trip itinerary.

**Price Excludes:** international air fares, national airport taxes - national park fees – alcoholic beverages and some soft drinks. Tips to the local guides and staff are not required, but are much encouraged.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Round trip transfer and assistance, hotel accommodations and transfer are available in Caracas as an optional extra – see below:

Accommodation in Caracas: Using Hotel Avila as an example - approximate rates \$65 per person based upon double occupancy – transfers included.

Single supplement (\$65). Additional airport transfers and assistance - \$35 per person.

International air – The most popular airline from the U.S. to Caracas is American Airlines. Continental/United and Delta are also options but with fewer flights available. Angel-Eco may be able to offer advice regarding less expensive flights/itineraries from the USA or elsewhere to Caracas. If you are able to use frequent flyer miles we consider American Airlines to be the most competitive as they require fewer miles than other airlines.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Paul Stanley, President  
Angel-Eco Tours, Inc.  
Tel/fax: (212) 656-1240  
[stanley@angel-ecotours.com](mailto:stanley@angel-ecotours.com)

or Karen Angel, President  
Jimmie Angel Historical Project  
Tel: (707) 476-8764  
[kangel@humboldt1.com](mailto:kangel@humboldt1.com)

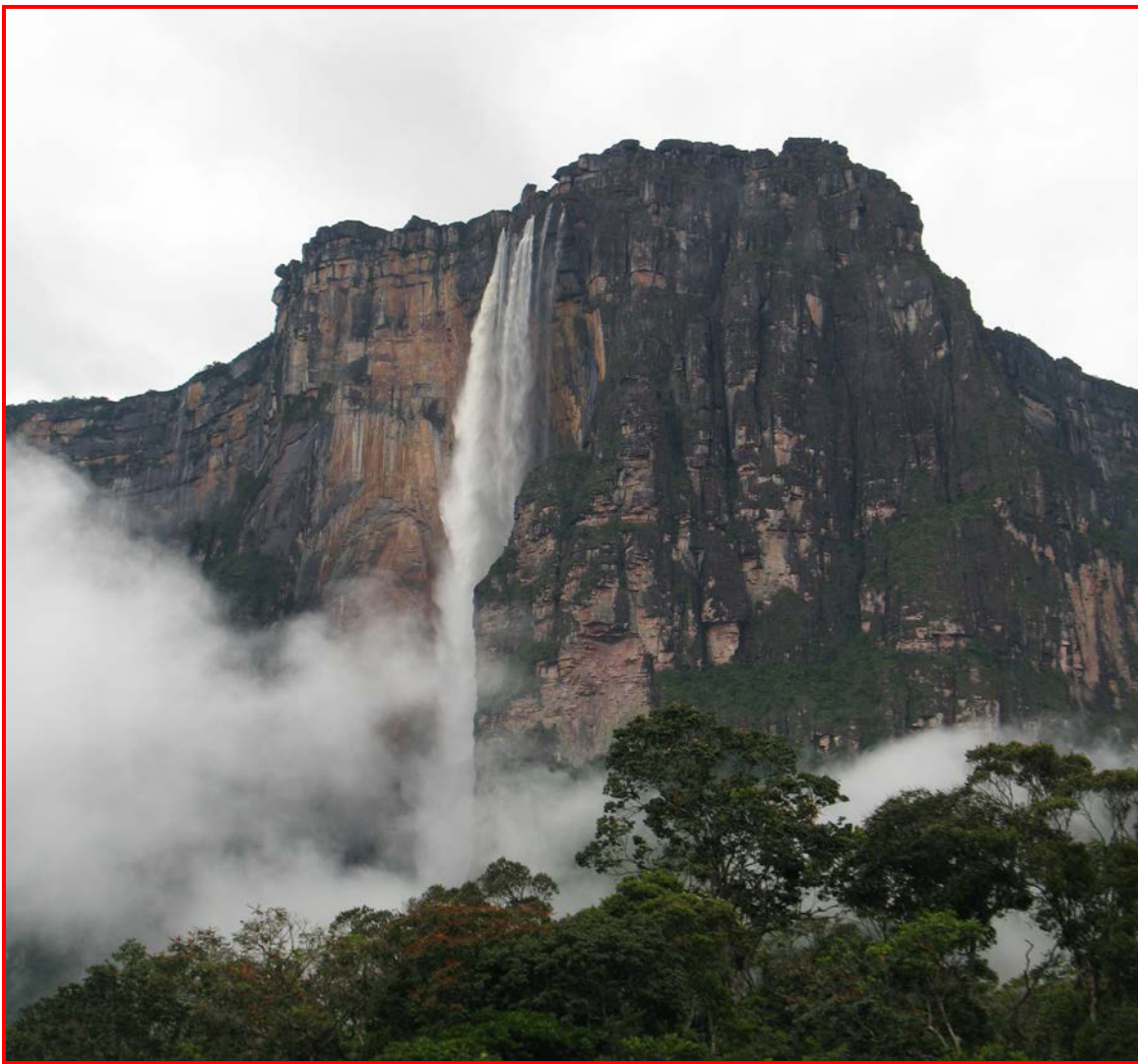
**Fund raising benefit for the Jimmie Angel Historical Project (JAHP), a 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in California, EIN: 68-0372407. You may deduct a portion of your trip expense from your income taxes.**

After all of the Venezuelan air, ground and river expedition expenses are paid, the portion of your \$1,999.00 registration fee that remains will be the figure you may use as an income tax deduction. The figure varies from \$200 to \$400 depending upon the value of the Bolivar and US Dollar. You will receive

a letter from the JAHP verifying the amount of your contribution. Your tax consultant may advise you regarding the deductibility of any of your other expedition expenses.

**About the Jimmie Angel Historical Project (JAHP):** The JAHP was founded in 1996 with the mission of fostering research, providing accurate information about Jimmie Angel and his colleagues and their era of exploration with an emphasis on Venezuelan exploration during the 1920s – 1940s. The JAHP maintains an archive of photographs and documents for writers, filmmakers, journalists, museum curators, teachers and students. The JAHP intends to publish a Jimmie Angel photobiography. It also supports the proper conservation of his airplane *El Rio Caroni* which is on display at the Ciudad Bolívar Airport. Karen Angel, Vittorio Assandria, Isabel Barton, John de Coup-Crank, Jorge González, Jon Pegg and Paul Stanley are JAHP board members.

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