

Expedition 2016

Venezuela / South America



Accompany our JBL research team to the fascinating South American country Venezuela. Research under scientific supervision the habitats of our ornamental fish and terrarium animals. Experience the gorges of the tabletop mountains and the Orinoco Delta, the second largest river in South America.



Day 1:

We fly by scheduled flight from Frankfurt to Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. Participants from other countries than Germany can of course also directly fly to Caracas. From Caracas we take a connecting flight to Maturin, the tropical heart of the country. After a short bus trip to the Orinoco we continue by boat to the Orinoco jungle camp, which is situated in the midst of the Orinoco Delta, surrounded only by rainforest and the occasional Indio hut. Dinner in the camp. Overnight stay in open huts under mosquito nets. Toilets, showers and electricity are available. These days and nights in the rainforest will be so impressive and close to nature that you will never ever forget them! (Don't worry about the creepy-crawlies! Animals avoid direct contact with humans and the mosquito nets will keep the vermin away).



Day 2:

The large participant group will be divided into smaller teams, who will alternately explore the different habitats. Team 1 starts by exploring the surroundings of the camp with double canoes after breakfasting together. We will be able to start observing caimans and rare animals there because the camp is situated undisturbed by the river in the middle of the rainforest. Swimming and snorkelling are possible. Underwater visibility is extremely limited, however. Meanwhile teams 2-6 will be travelling to various sites in the Orinoco Delta and to visit the habitats there. Lunch boxes while travelling or in the camp. Dinner is always in the camp. Afterwards an evening lecture from a scientist on the relevant biological subjects around that day's field of research. An optional nocturnal canoe tour.



Day 3:

In all likelihood you will be woken up by howler monkeys at sunrise. After breakfast each of the 6 teams will drive to different biotopes again, where light, UV, temperature, humidity and water measurements will be carried out. In freshwater the programme will also cover water current and light measurements under water. Each participant will have the opportunity to catch fish and other animals to identify them afterwards (hatchet fish, cichlids, knife-fish, shrimps, lizards, spiders, snakes etc.). The animals will be released into their habitats afterwards. Anyone interested in ornithology will love the boat trips: parrots, red ibises, hummingbirds, hoatzins, toucans and weaver birds are there to observe every day. Meal and evening programme as the day before.



Day 4:

After breakfast at around 8am we're going for a walk in the jungle. The Indios will show us how to survive in the jungle: drinking water out of lianas; eating palm hearts from the inner parts of the trees, getting maggots out of the wood to eat them (if you like) and other mind blowing activities most people only see on TV. Furthermore we will drive by boat to a blackwater river, home to at least 4 piranha species. Here we can catch piranhas and go snorkelling (piranhas don't usually bite snorkelers). Visibility in blackwater is much better than in the main stream, so we will have the chance to observe many different fish species under water too. Meal and evening programme as the day before. Every evening 2 teams will have the opportunity to carry out a guided night expedition because the nocturnal fauna is at least as impressive as the daytime fauna. End of the Orinoco part of the expedition and packing for the second part "tabletop mountains" in the evening.





Day 5:
In the morning we will travel by boat, bus and plane into the deep south of Venezuela, where the famous tabletop mountains with the world's highest waterfall (Salto Angel) are situated. After our landing in Canaima we will have a 4.5 hour boat trip up the river through rapids, passing through sensational landscapes, heading deep into the gorges of the unbelievable tabletop mountains to Salto Angel. There we will spend the night in hammocks in a simple jungle camp (toilets, electricity for a few hours and water available) with a view of the impressive waterfall. Dinner in camp. Mosquito nets are not necessary here.



Day 6:
The first half of the 6 teams will take a walk lasting about 1.5 hours to the lake at the foot of the Salto Angel (strenuous walk with some climbing). In the lake lives a (unknown?) catfish species, which we will observe while snorkelling. The walk through the unspoilt jungle is another great experience. The view onto 1000 metres of free falling water is mind blowing. When we've spent enough time at the waterfall it's back to the camp again (about 1.5 hours). The other half of the team will explore the local biotopes of the surrounding camp area. Please take snorkel and diving goggles along because the water of the river is crystal-clear (and brown-coloured from iron). You will be able to observe cichlids, tetras and further species here like in an aquarium. Anyone planning to be out at night should definitely wear long rubber boots as protection against snakes, because this is the home of the likes of poisonous pit vipers, which will not be afraid of you. After dusk the participants can take part in night expeditions in the surrounding area in their teams.



Day 7:
Today we turn the program upside down and the teams swap destinations. They won't all meet up in the camp again until evening. This evening the teams will also have the chance to explore the jungle and the river in teams, at night and without supervision.



Day 8:
After breakfast we will start with the return journey. Downstream the boats are a bit quicker, so we will reach Canaima with its picturesque lagoon and waterfalls in about 3 hours. We'll go on a short hike behind the waterfalls at the lagoon and stay the last night in Canaima. Final presentation about the results of the expeditions and awarding of certificates to every participant.



Day 9:
On the departure day we'll have breakfast together before we fly back to Ciudad Bolivar (with a beautiful view of the Gran Sabana and the tabletop mountains) and onto Caracas before we catch the long haul flights to our home countries.



Travel period: mid to late April 2016

Duration of expedition: 9 days

Suitable for: all naturelovers, focus on freshwater and herpetology (no saltwater).

Features: a long walk to the world's highest waterfall (3 h both ways)

Overnight stay in hammocks (tabletop mountains) and open huts (Orinoco).

Costs: approx. € 1700.-. Precise travel price will be fixed mid 2015.

Number of participants: 50

JBL Expedition Venezuela

Application Form for the 12. JBL Expedition 2016 (Deadline: 01.08.2015)

By sending in this form you are formally applying for a place in the expedition. Should we receive more applications than there are places available, we will draw lots. All applicants will receive a written response by 15.08.2015. If you are accepted, the tour operator will contact you shortly afterwards. The tour operator will also give you the travel contract, and inform you about the exact flight times and the airfare. For important issues please contact the Head of Expedition Heiko Blessin +49 (0) 62 36-41 80 390, email: heiko.blessin@jbl.de

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Gender: _____ Date of birth: _____

Current occupation: _____

Street: _____

Post code and town: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Email: (important!): _____

Please stick your photo
here, with your name on
the back of it!

☐ I would like to fly from Frankfurt with the group. The price for the JBL expedition from Frankfurt is approx. € 1700
(the exact travel price will be fixed mid 2015).

☐ I would like to organize my flights myself. The price for the expedition without flights is available on request from the tour operator.

Not included in the travel price are: Tips, drinks, travel cancellation insurance, airport charges, National Park Canaima fee.

☐ I am aware that we will sleep in simple huts and hammocks.

My main interest is: ☐ Aquatics ☐ Terraristics (for putting together teams)

☐ I will have a valid passport on the day of departure with at least 4 free pages, and the passport will be valid for at least 6 months from the day of departure.

I speak the following languages: ☐ German ☐ English ☐ French ☐ other:

I am committed to finding out about any necessary vaccinations myself (Tropical Institute).

I am physically fit (6 km hiking tour) and don't have any cardiovascular problems: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I work in the pet shop industry, at as

☐ I don't work in the pet shop industry, but am interested in aquatics / terraristics

I have previously participated in the following JBL Workshop/Expedition:

I have previously been unsuccessful in my application for the following JBL Workshop/Expedition:

I would like to participate because ... (one sentence only!):

With my signature I commit myself formally to registering for the 12th JBL Expedition Venezuela 2016.

Place/date/signature: _____