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Akopan Expedition

The **Akopan** is really off the beaten tracks as far as tourists or hikers are concerned, there is no road to get there, being right in the middle of the Canaima National Park. It is part of the Chimanta massif, which has only, recently been explored and where endemic flora was discovered. These tepuys, unlike the Oriental ones, **Roraima** and **Kukenan**, which present a relatively flat, rocky surface, have a irregular surface, canyons and valleys, which makes their exploration more challenging. We will have a spectacular view of the surrounding tepuys, **Upuigma**, **Angasima** and **Apauray**.

Find costs under: http://www.kamadac.de/en/acopan-trek-en.html

Itinerary

Day 1. Santa Elena - Yunek

We will start our expedition either from Santa Elena or Ciudad Bolivar, flying over the Gran Sabana to a small Indian community called Yunek, in the hearth of the Gran Sabana. After meeting the local Pemon people we will install our tent camp in the village and prepare our equipment and organize our porters for the Acopan trek for the following morning. (- / L / D)

Day 2. Yunek - Rainforest

We start our trek in the early morning, first hiking through Savannah with an amazing view on the red colored walls rising on booth sides of the Yunek valley. Reaching the rainforest we follow our Amerindian guides that will open the way with their machetes through dense vegetation. After 4-5 hours walk and crossing several rivers we reach our camp place beside the Yunek river where we will build up our tents and enjoy a refreshing bath in this river. (B / L/D)

Day 3. Rainforest - El Inka

Continuing the trail we reach a ramp (non technical) which has to be to climbed to the top of the first plateau, where we will camp with the name "EL Inka" at the same river but 1000 metershigher. (B/L/D)

Day 4. El Inka - Top of Akopan

The landscape on this day is completely different. The forest is behind us and in front we have a canyon with innumerable massive rocks, and many waterfalls with red shiny water. We will

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walk up river over big rocks and water falls for 3-4hours until midday. After lunch we leave this canyon of paradise and ascent the final plateau to the top of Akopan Tepuy. At late afternoon we will build up our camp on black rocks in the middle of Acopan. (B/L/D)

Day 5. Exploring top of Akopan

We will spend a whole day exploring the surface of the tepuy, looking for endemic carnivorous plants, swimming in pools below waterfalls and having spectacular view to the surrounding tepuys. Most of Akopanis covered with a dense carpet of many plants. The border areas of Acopan Tepuy are composed by large stone labyrinths and deep cracks. We will overnight at the same campsite we used the previous night. (B/L/D)

Day 6. Akopan top - Valley of Yunek

After breakfast we descent to the valley and walk through the forest the same way we used the days before. Once we reach the savannah we build up our tents beside the river we enjoy a scenic view to the surrounding walls of Akopan and Chimanta. The red colored water invites us again to bath. (B/L/D)

Day 7. Yunek - Santa Elena

We wake up early and walk back to Yunek Village where at midday our plane will pick us up back to Santa Elena. (B / L / -)

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

Included

• Return flight Santa Elena – Yunek • High quality two person tents • Cooking gear • Cook • Porters for food and camping equipment • Mountain guide, English-Spanish speaking • 5x nights in tents • 6x breakfast, 6x lunch and 6x dinner

Not included

• Personal expenses and tips • Porter for the private luggage • Sleeping bag and isolation matt

• The arrival to Santa Elena

Packing list

Passport • Backpack • Sleeping Bag • Isolation matt • Insect repellent • Sun protection • Hat or cap with neck protection • Light clothing • Warm clothing (min temp.+4 with wind and mist)
Rain jacket or Poncho • Swim wear • Trekking boots • Water sandals or Sneakers • Pocket knife • Water bottle 1Ltr. • Water purification pills (Micropur or similar) • Large and small Plastic bags • Flashlight • Batteries. We recommend to bring not more then 12 kg.

General Remarks

This tour can be done all year long. It is possible to expand the tour to more days and spend more time on top. You can combine this tour easily with a tour to the **Gran Sabana**, the **Angel Falls** or the **Orinoco Delta**. If you wish we can organize you a personal porter for your private luggage (max. 15kg).