



Yosemite Falls
California, USA



Havasu Falls
Arizona, USA



Angel Falls
Venezuela



Kaieteur Falls
Guyana



Iguazu Falls
Brazil



Victoria Falls
Zimbabwe



Gullfoss
Iceland



Baatara Gorge Falls
Lebanon



Weeping Wall
Hawaii, USA



Plitvice Falls
Croatia

WONDERFUL

WATER FALLS OF THE WORLD

by Molly Sanchez



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



HAVASU FALLS

Arizona, USA



We begin our journey at Hualapai Hilltop, where we will leave our cars and carry our heavy packs, making the 12.8-kilometer (8-mile) desert hike amid the majestic rock walls of the Grand Canyon until we arrive in Supai Village.

After hiking for an hour or so, we can hear the creek. There it is, up ahead! Let's take a dip in the cool blue-green water! Ahh! Doesn't it feel refreshing? The clear water looks a stunning blue-green color because of the calcium carbonate that forms the limestone that lines the creek. Notice the natural travertine formations! After about three hours, we have arrived at Supai Village where we can refill our water and buy snacks at a small convenience store before hiking 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) more to our campsite and the falls.

We finally arrive at Havasu Falls, the most spectacular of the five waterfalls along Havasu Creek. Its stunning cascade falls 29.8 meters (98 feet), cooling the air all around it. Its roar drowns out other sounds. The blue-green pool calls for us to get in and stay for a bit!





KAIETEUR FALLS

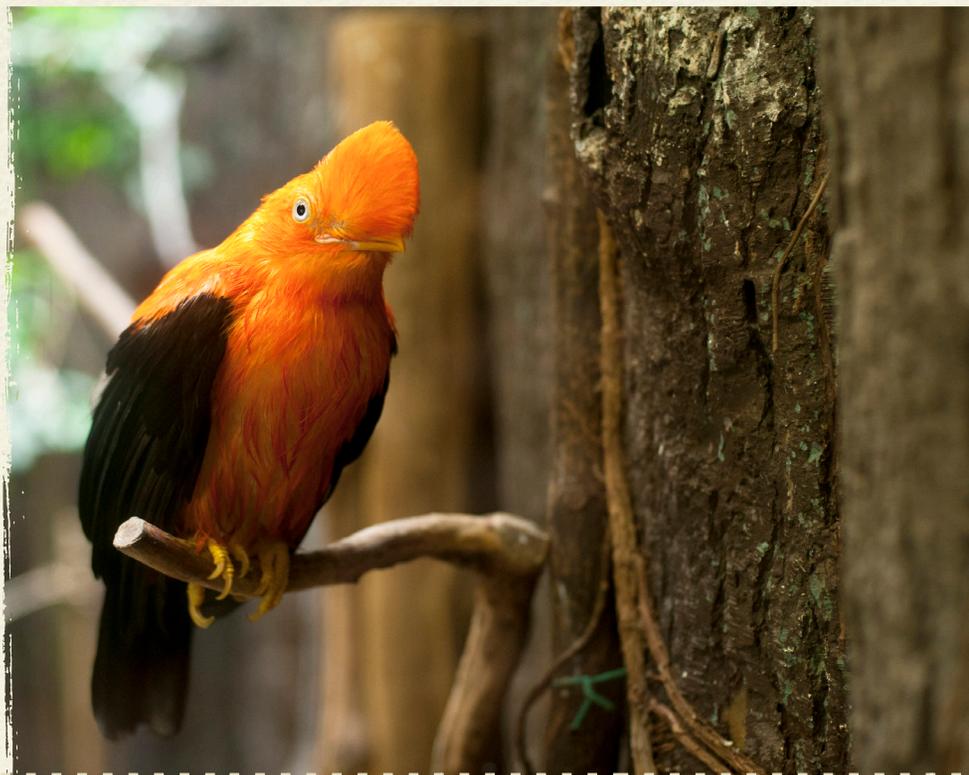
Guyana



We are at the airport in Georgetown, Guyana, a beach town on the northern edge of South America, just beyond the Caribbean Islands. Climb aboard the small plane that will take us into the Amazon rainforest! The hour-long

flight imparts to us the vast, green forest stretching out as far as we can see! It's a thick, leafy carpet with veins running through it. We spot the tranquil Potaro River. It scrawls a happy doodle through the lush verdure.

Arriving at the Kaieteur landing strip—which is a grassy field—we begin our 15-minute hike through dense jungle. We can already hear an ominous rumble. The heat and humidity send trickles down our backs. Look! Perched on a limb is a bright orange rock bird with its unique head fan.



FUN FACTS

- Kaieteur Falls is one of the world's largest waterfalls due to the combination of height and volume of water flow—an average of 663 metric tons (23,400 cubic feet) per second! It has 225.8 meters (741 feet) of unbroken falls and is 113 meters (371 feet) wide.
- Kaieteur means “Old Man Fall” in the dialect of the native Patamona Amerindians.
- You may spot the colorful endangered golden frogs that dwell at the base of the falls in the giant tank bromeliad plants—wide-leaf plants that grow 2.4 to 2.7 meters (8 to 9 feet) tall.
- If you look carefully, you may see the blue tarantula, known only to the Potaro Plateau area. It truly is a stunning cobalt blue!
- To reach Kaieteur Falls on the ground, it takes five days: travel eight hours by bus, then trek three days through the rain forest, camping along the way, to the base of Kaieteur Mountain. On the fifth day is a hike up the mountain, which is not for the faint of heart!



As we approach, the sound crescendos into a deafening roar. And there it is—the mighty Kaieteur Falls. The coffee-and-cream-colored water thunders over a majestic cliff! Rays of sunlight collide with the fine spray, creating a dazzling rainbow. The deluge tumbles in frothy torrents down, down, down, crashing over boulders, the mist drenching the mossy banks below. The sheer power and magnitude of the falls are mesmerizing.





FUN FACTS

- Iguazu Falls spans 2.7 kilometers (1.7 miles) and is made of 275 waterfalls. Iguazu means “big water.” The name doesn’t do it justice, nor do pictures. You have to be there to appreciate the magnitude of it! These falls are on a scale difficult to comprehend, even when you are surrounded by them.
- Iguazu River and Falls serve as the dividing line between Argentina and Brazil. The Brazilian side is excellent for photo shoot views of the falls. The Argentinian side takes you much more up close and personal with its walkways. Both offer boat rides up the middle of the falls.
- Located in the Atlantic Forest of South America, the falls have been wisely preserved by both Brazil and Argentina. The tropical, lush national parks surrounding it are teeming with wildlife, including 80 types of mammals, 400 bird species, and countless invertebrate and insect species. It is said that you may see toucans, monkeys, and even jaguars on your way to the falls.





BAATARA GORGE WATERFALL

Lebanon



From the small village of Balaa, we are hiking the Lebanon Mountain Trail for a brief five minutes into a valley, which opens to us an astounding sight! Tucked up against Mount Lebanon is a massive cave, complete with three natural limestone bridges, hanging one above the other. Down the center of the cold, stony cave pours a 99.9-meter (328-foot) cascade, which then continues into a 255.1-meter (837-foot) chasm to an underground lake beneath the mountain. New spring vegetation sprinkles the limestone with inviting color and invigorating new life as the waterfall energizes everything within sight and sound of it. The curious, splendid formation pulls us in, and we carefully walk across the middle limestone bridge, drawing closer to the falls, and peer down into the deep, stony cave below and up to the mouth of the cave and falls above. At the bottom of the cave, we can see the falls become a stream before disappearing underground.





PLITVICE WATERFALLS

Croatia



Let's go together to the beautiful natural kingdom hidden in Croatia. If Kaieteur, Iguazu, and Victoria Falls were the dramatic drums, crashing cymbals, and blaring brass instruments of a band, Plitvice (PLEET-veet-seh) Lakes and Falls are the gentle woodwinds, tinkling bells, sweet hum of violins, and deep mellow strokes of a cello in a long, enchanting symphony. Plitvice is a lush valley of 16 terraced lakes, linked together by miles of charming wooden plank pathways and laced with waterfalls. The boardwalk trail takes us across the middle of a turquoise lake and alongside a row of gurgling waterfalls. We can see large rainbow trout in the crystal clear water. As we walk down wooden steps, we discover a cave and then another lake and more tinkling falls.

The jutting mountains, the lush greenery, and the lakes, falls, and caves all combine to create an absolutely gorgeous world.

