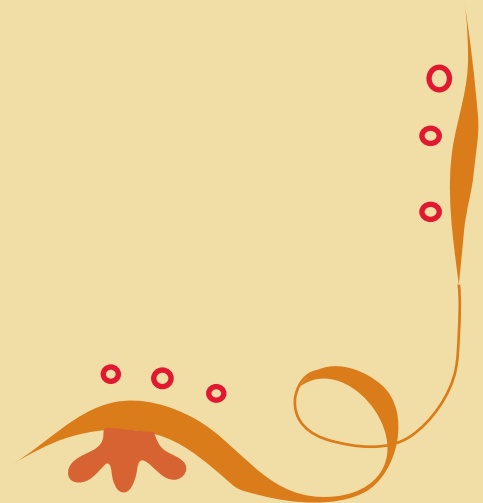




La Gran Sabana

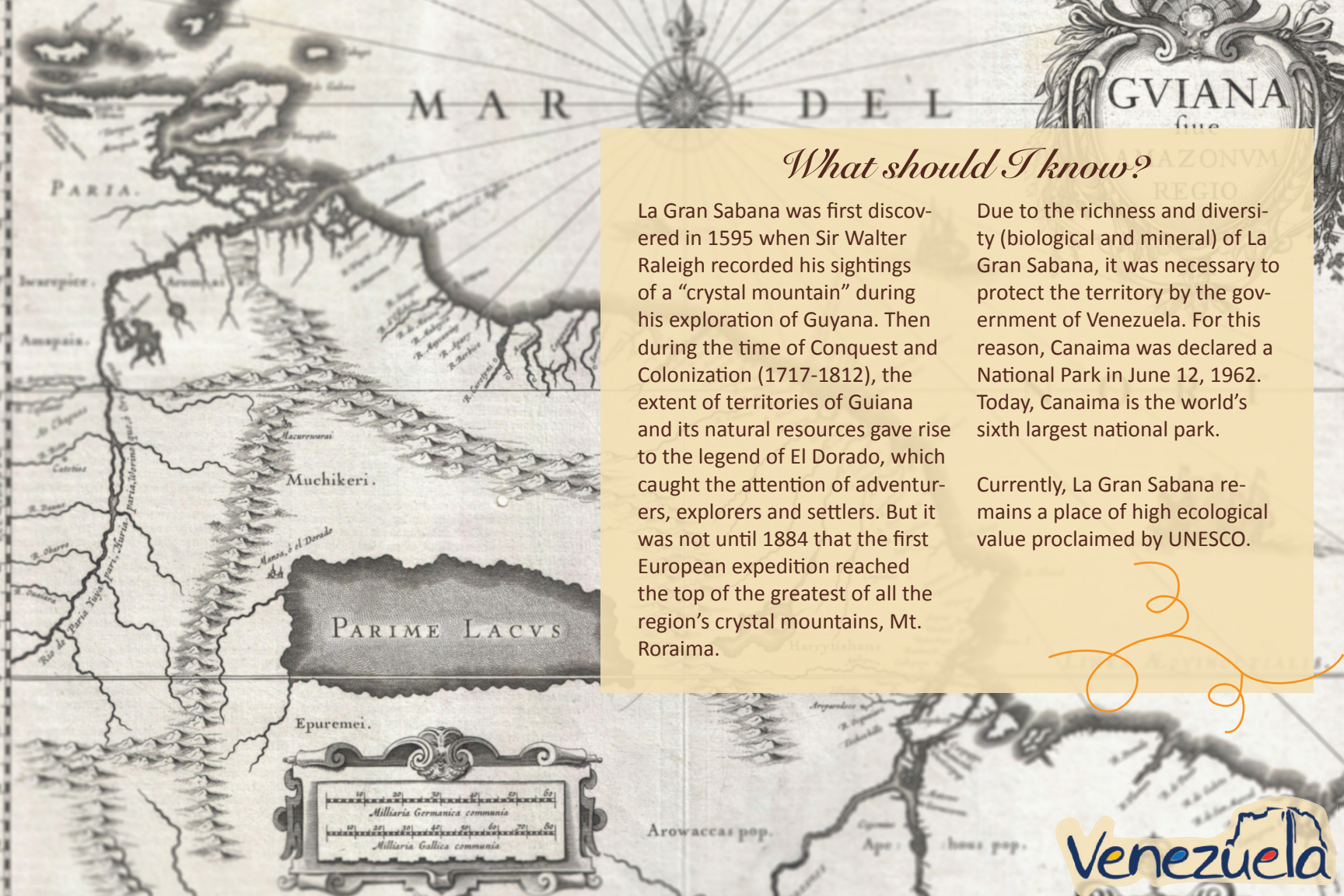




Welcome to La Gran Sabana

La Gran Sabana (The Great Savanna) is a region located in southeastern Venezuela. The savanna spreads itself majestically and wildly southwards, down to the Brazilian border. Its magnificence became a shelter for legendary indigenous tribes, such as that of the Pemón. It has 10,820 square kilometers and is the second largest national park in Venezuela, the Canaima National Park.

The location of the park offers one of the most unusual landscapes in the world with rivers, waterfalls and gorges, deep and vast valleys, jungles and savannas that host large numbers and varieties of plants, fauna and the plateau known as tepui (table-top mountain) or 'island above the rainforest.'



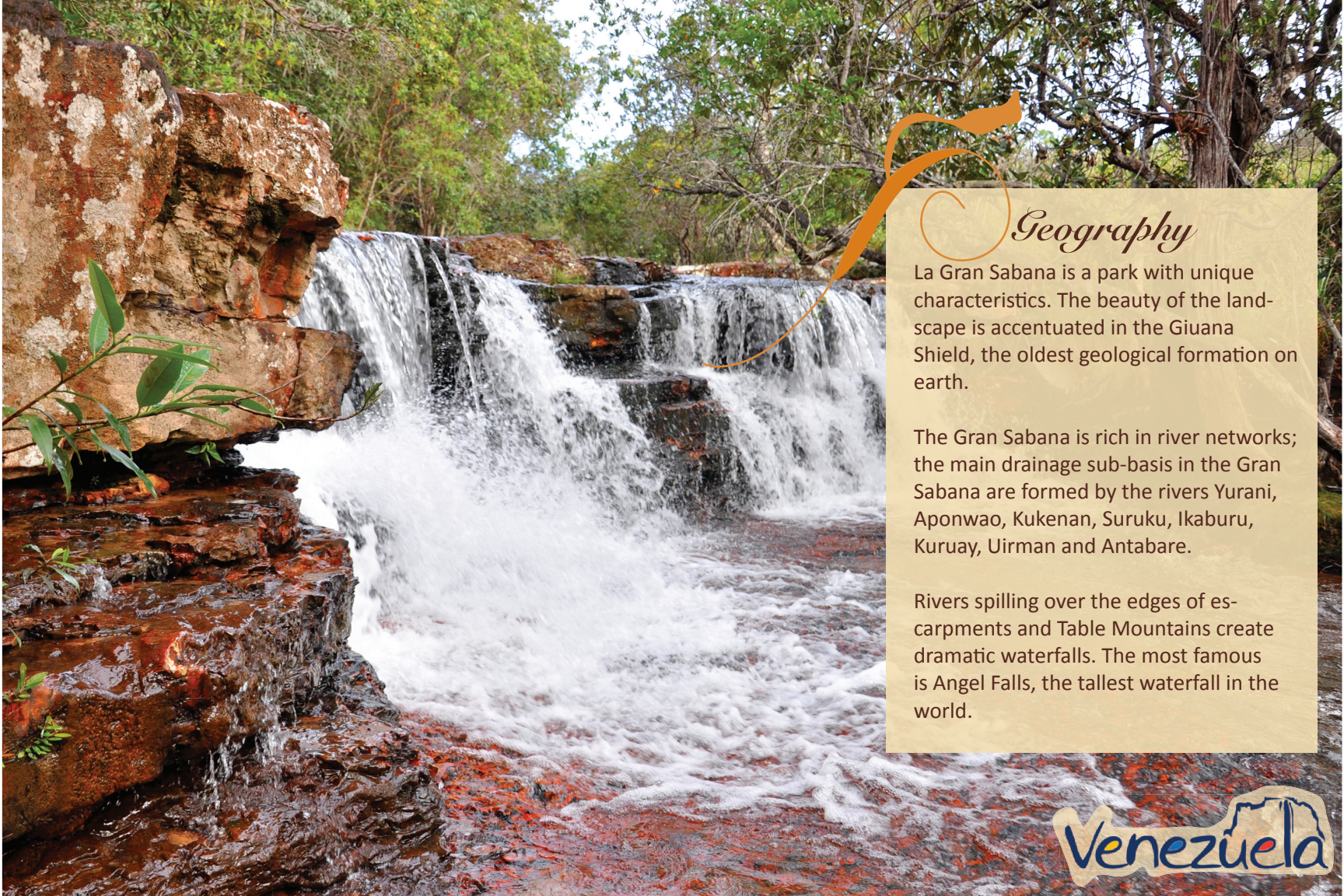
What should I know?

La Gran Sabana was first discovered in 1595 when Sir Walter Raleigh recorded his sightings of a “crystal mountain” during his exploration of Guyana. Then during the time of Conquest and Colonization (1717-1812), the extent of territories of Guiana and its natural resources gave rise to the legend of El Dorado, which caught the attention of adventurers, explorers and settlers. But it was not until 1884 that the first European expedition reached the top of the greatest of all the region’s crystal mountains, Mt. Roraima.

Due to the richness and diversity (biological and mineral) of La Gran Sabana, it was necessary to protect the territory by the government of Venezuela. For this reason, Canaima was declared a National Park in June 12, 1962. Today, Canaima is the world’s sixth largest national park.

Currently, La Gran Sabana remains a place of high ecological value proclaimed by UNESCO.





Geography

La Gran Sabana is a park with unique characteristics. The beauty of the landscape is accentuated in the Guiana Shield, the oldest geological formation on earth.

The Gran Sabana is rich in river networks; the main drainage sub-basis in the Gran Sabana are formed by the rivers Yurani, Aponwao, Kukenan, Suruku, Ikaburu, Kuruay, Uirman and Antabare.

Rivers spilling over the edges of escarpments and Table Mountains create dramatic waterfalls. The most famous is Angel Falls, the tallest waterfall in the world.



How is the weather?

The climate of La Gran Sabana is tropical humid with lush herbaceous vegetation and forests. Much of La Gran Sabana is influenced by the equatorial climate with high rainfall distributed throughout the year. Between the months of January to March there is a drought period, especially in the eastern sector of the Gran Sabana. Average temperatures Canaima National Park are between 09 ° C (48F) and 22 ° C (70F), varying with respect to altitude and winds.



The fauna of La Gran Sabana is varied and depends on the height and type of vegetation. The savannas occupy undisputed first place in the diverse range of ecosystems that developed in the region.

The summits of the tepuis contain many endemic species that have evolved in isolation and are found on perhaps one mountain only.



*What about flora
and fauna?*



Venezuela





This land is the home of the Pemón people, who are farmers, hunters and fishermen. They live in small communities, notable for their practical egalitarianism and tolerance. Their word for mountain is tepui, by which the Gran Sabana's table mountains are commonly known.

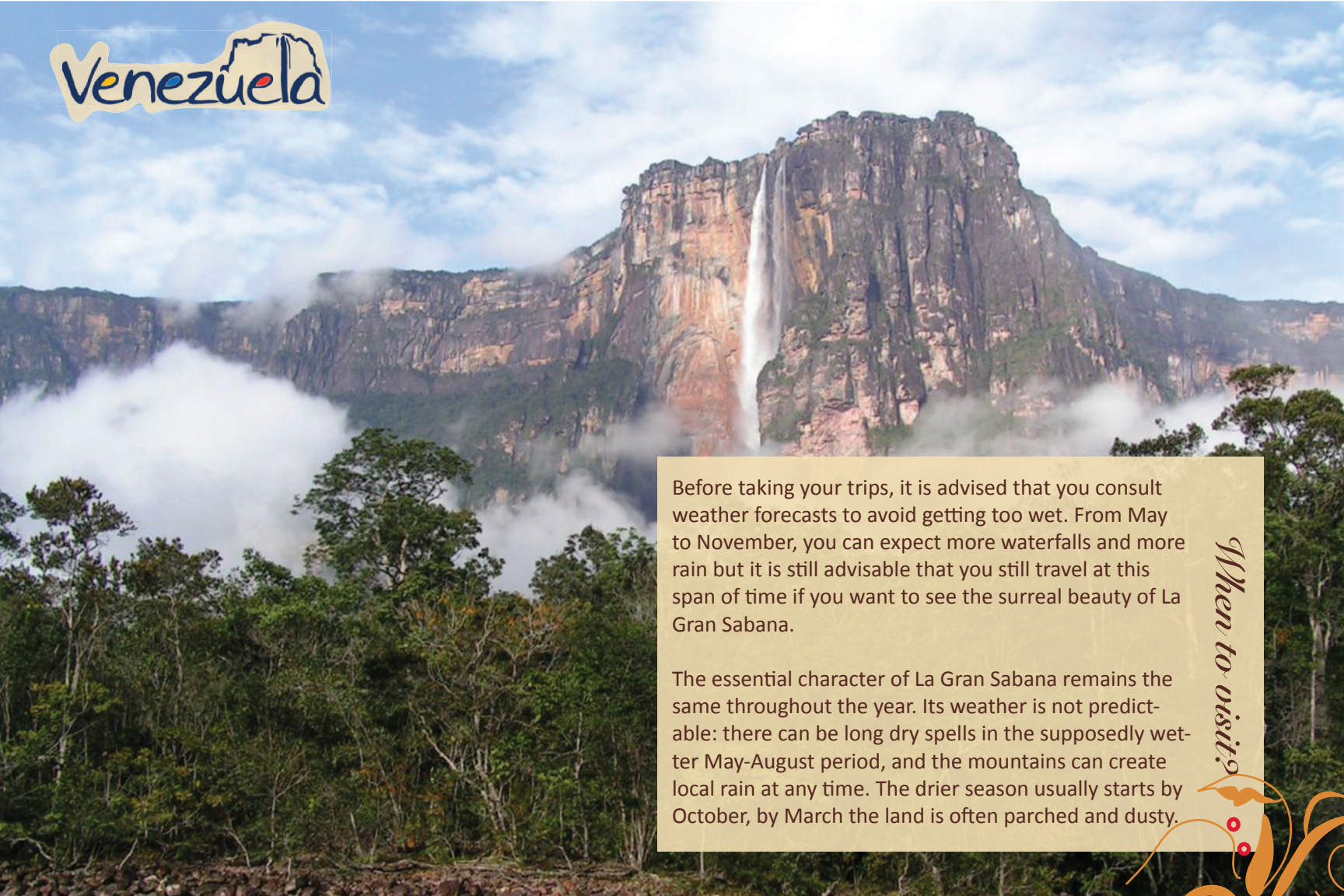
Today there is a communication centre in El Pauji making it easier for this community to communicate dynamically with the outside world. It is a very peaceful and calm place to take a tour, where you can find lodging, experienced guides, and plenty of tourist attractions in and around the area.

Is there an ethnic group?





Venezuela



Before taking your trips, it is advised that you consult weather forecasts to avoid getting too wet. From May to November, you can expect more waterfalls and more rain but it is still advisable that you still travel at this span of time if you want to see the surreal beauty of La Gran Sabana.

The essential character of La Gran Sabana remains the same throughout the year. Its weather is not predictable: there can be long dry spells in the supposedly wetter May-August period, and the mountains can create local rain at any time. The drier season usually starts by October, by March the land is often parched and dusty.

When to visit?





What shouldn't I miss?

Spectacular waterfalls, a tour to the Angel Falls and trekking around the Tepuis is something that you should not miss if you want to explore beautiful tropical wildlife.

What can I do there?

The area includes the following activities:

- Paragliding,
- White water rafting,
- Body rafting,
- Eco-friendly tours,
- Adventurous and scientific tours.

Remember..

La Gran Sabana is officially under protection by Canaima National Park. All tours done should be guided and they should have permits from the officials to avoid having any problems.

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Venezuela

