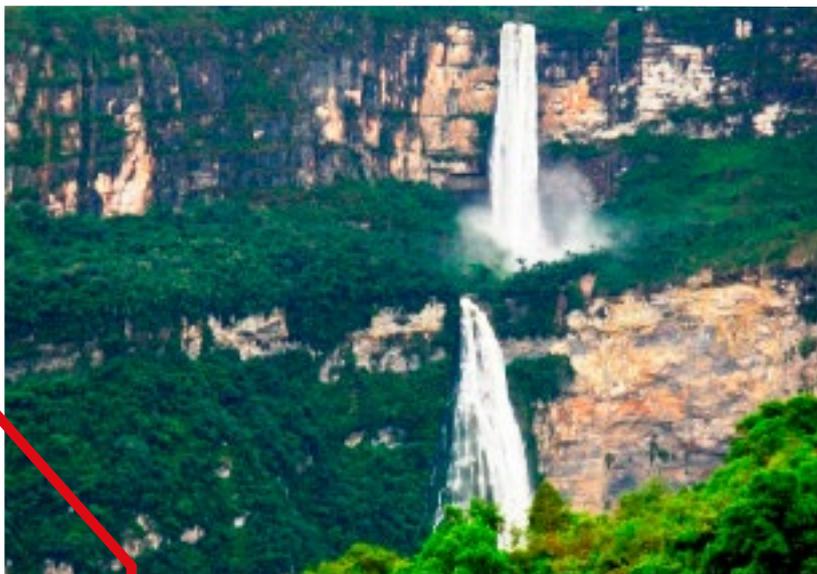


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## Gocta Cataracts

Gocta (Spanish: Catarata del Gocta) is a perennial waterfall with two drops located in Peru's province of Chachapoyas in Amazonas, approximately 700 kilometres (430 mi) to the northeast of Lima.



It flows into the Cocahuayco River. Although the waterfall had been well known to locals for centuries (it is in full view of a nearby village), its existence was not made known to the world until after an expedition made in 2005 by a German, Stefan Ziemendorff, with a group of Peruvian explorers.

At the time of the discovery Ziemendorff successfully persuaded the Peruvian government to map the falls and to measure their height. On 11 March 2006, following his third expedition to the falls, he held a press conference, the contents of which were published by several of the world's wire services. He stated that the total height was measured at 771 metres (2,530 ft), which ranked Gocta as the third tallest free-leaping waterfall in the world after Angel Falls in Venezuela and Tugela Falls in South Africa. However, this was apparently based on outdated and incomplete information gleaned from the National Geographic Society, and Ziemendorff's comments as to the waterfalls' ranking have since been widely disputed. Citing various encyclopedias, reference books, and webpages accessible through Google, Gocta Cataracts are unofficially listed as the world's fifth-tallest, after adding Ramnefjellsfossen (Norway) and Mongefossen (Norway). Furthermore, The World Waterfall Database ranks Gocta as the 16th tallest.

The waterfall, which can be seen from kilometers away, has been christened Gocta Falls, after the name of the nearest settlement.

The daily *El Comercio* said that the impressive waterfall had remained unknown to outsiders until now, because local people feared the curse of a beautiful blond mermaid who lived in its waters, if they revealed its whereabouts. "The falls are supposed to be protected by a white haired mermaid like spirit whos hair can be seen flowing down the massive U shaped walls at the bottom of the falls." [2]

On 13 March 2006, the Peruvian government announced to the press that the area surrounding the falls would be developed as a tourist attraction, with a target date for sometime in mid-2007. A small hotel was built 6- miles from the base of the waterfall, with all rooms having views of the waterfall. Tourists can now hike the trails by foot or horse to the misty base of the waterfall. The nearby town of Chachapoyas is located at an altitude of 2235 meters (7657 ft). The waterfall is at a slightly higher altitude and thus clouds can be seen to occasionally eclipse part of the view.

*Any further information you wish to obtain such as pictures of high resolution you can contact us. Contact person for expeditions within Peru and guided tours in 4x4 expeditions please write to us under: [mharbaum@mac.com](mailto:mharbaum@mac.com) / [mharbaum@domiruth.com](mailto:mharbaum@domiruth.com). Information on tours are available in following web sites: [domiruthperutravel.com](http://domiruthperutravel.com) / [peru4x4adventures.com](http://peru4x4adventures.com)*

