



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Nature of Guyana

Tour Duration – 14 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Adventure ●●●●● | Culture ●●●○○ | History ●●○○○ | Wildlife ●●●●○

Tour Highlights

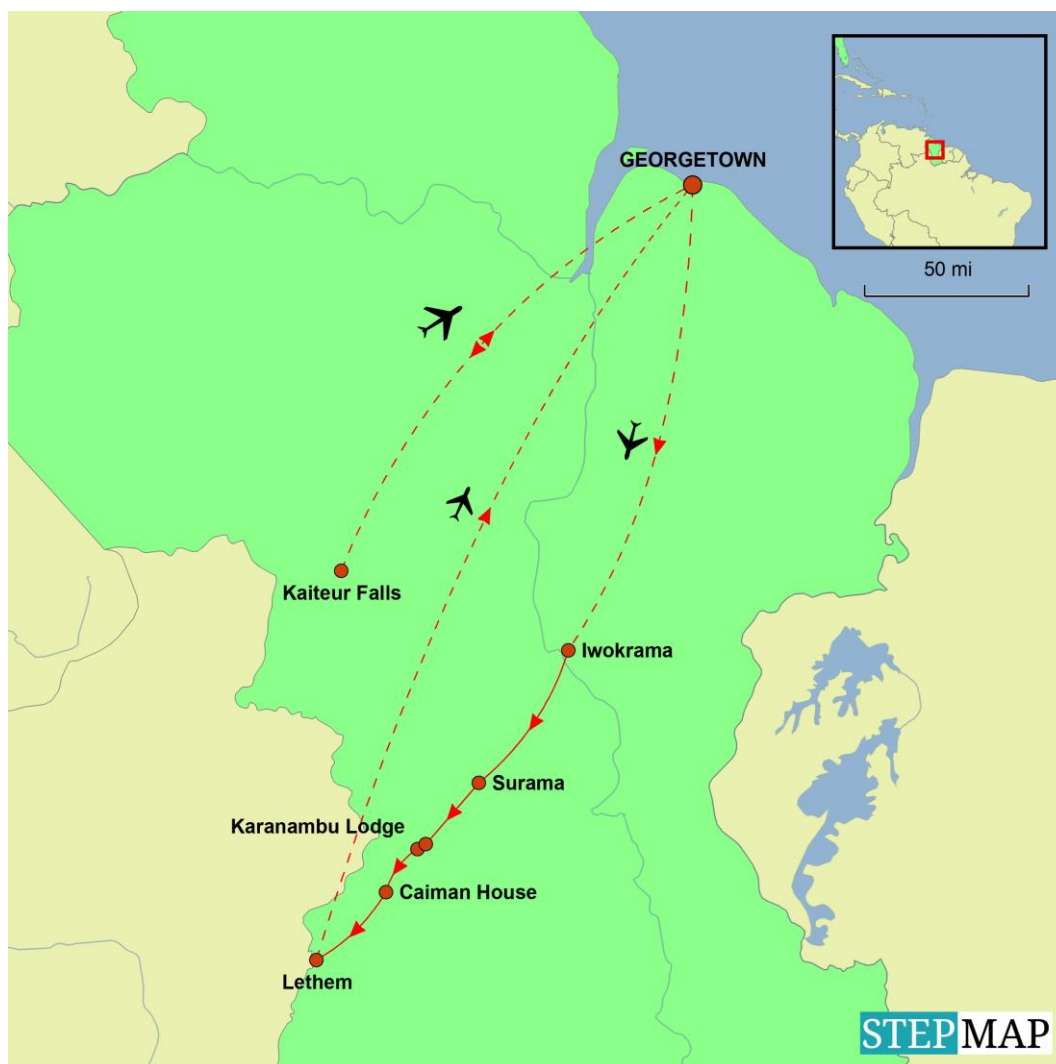
- ✓ The flight over Kaieteur Falls, the highest free-falling waterfall in the world
- ✓ The opportunity to spot some of the many birds and animals that inhabit Guyana.
- ✓ The pristine rainforest of Iwokrama
- ✓ The varied landscapes and natural beauty of Karanambu with the possible opportunity of seeing Giant River Otters and Giant Anteaters





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Map



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Simple but comfortable jungle lodges and hotels
Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
Group Size: Maximum of 10 (you may be joined by travellers from companies other than Undiscovered Destinations)
Start Point: Georgetown
End Point: Georgetown
Transport: 4WD, motorboats and domestic flights with strict luggage allowances (see tour notes)
Country Visited: Guyana



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Nature of Guyana

Guyana is an irresistible combination of fascinating and breathtaking natural beauty, pristine rainforests, immense waterfalls and amazing wildlife all blended with a vibrant indigenous culture, rich heritage and some of the most hospitable and friendly people in the world. On this trip we travel deep into the rainforest to Iwokrama and gain a unique perspective of the forest from its amazing canopy walkway, as well as visiting the Amerindian village of Surama to learn more about the lives of Guyana's indigenous people. After experiencing nature walks and canoe trips to spot the flora and fauna of the region we travel to Rock View Lodge, where you can hike in the nearby mountains. Finally, we head to Karanambu Lodge with its landscape ranging from savannah to wetlands and forest where we take trips on the river, look for birds, monkeys and Giant Anteaters, and experience the overwhelming hospitality that characterises this part of the country. This is a truly unforgettable trip through a stunning land that no serious lover of the wild should miss.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All our guides used on the tour are from Guyana. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representatives who are responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. On this tour you will have local guides at each property to enjoy the wonderful flora and fauna of Guyana. You will not be accompanied on this tour between destinations by a tour leader.

Itinerary

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrive in Georgetown

Arrive in Georgetown, Guyana's capital, and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at Cara Lodge or similar. No meals nor guided arrangements are included today.

Note – The main international airport is approx. a 1 – 1.5-hour journey into central Georgetown depending on traffic levels.

Georgetown

Located on the coast, Georgetown is Guyana's largest city and has a distinctly Caribbean feel to it, interspersed with its colonial British, French and Dutch heritage. The city was founded in the 18th century but did not become the capital until it was captured by the French in 1782, only to fall into British hands thirty years later. It owes its existence to the fertility of its soil – early settlers found this to be an ideal region for establishing plantations, and reclaimed what had been floodplains through the building of dykes and canals. Georgetown's streets are laid out in a grid pattern and contain many interesting historic buildings dating back to the 19th century, as well as some colourful markets.

Day 2: Georgetown - Kaieteur Falls – Georgetown (Domestic Flights)

Enjoy an early morning birding tour in the city Botanical Gardens. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Later take a flight over the forest and visit the spectacular Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall, where the Potaro River drops impressively 741 feet into the gorge below. Afterwards we return to Georgetown for





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

the evening. Please contact us if you would be interested in an option evening experience (additional cost), sampling the atmospheric nightlife of the seawall area in Georgetown. Overnight at Cara Lodge or similar. (B)

Notes: On occasion the visit to Kaieteur Falls may need to be re-scheduled due to unfavourable weather conditions or other uncontrollable extenuating circumstances. Note you are required on arrival at the airstrip at Kaieteur to be able to walk to various viewpoints of the falls. The walking is generally straightforward but there is some uneven ground. The authorities have restricted travellers going right up to the edge of the drop off for obvious safety reasons,

Kaieteur Falls

Kaieteur Falls is a spectacular site, five times higher than Niagara Falls, and one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world. First seen by Europeans in 1870 it was known to indigenous people before this – the legend is that it was named after a great chief. Although there are taller and wider falls, Kaieteur's distinction comes from its combination of both volume of water and height.

Day 3: Georgetown – Iwokrama (Domestic Flight)

Take a breathtaking flight over Guyana's rainforest to the Rupununi, from where we transfer by 4WD to Iwokrama, an incredible region of rainforest with a breathtaking diversity of species. Iwokrama is the most likely place to see Jaguar on this tour, although due to the density of the forest, chances are always slim. This afternoon is free to explore the trails with a local ranger, and later we take a night boat trip to look for Caiman and other nocturnal creatures. Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge. (BLD)

Note: Please read the notes on luggage under "Preparing for your Tour".

Iwokrama

Iwokrama Forest covers nearly a million acres and is home to a bewildering array of different species. Its name means 'place of refuge' in the language of the Makushi Amerindians, who retreated here to avoid the predations of the slave trade. Iwokrama was established as a centre for the study of the rainforest and has been set aside to promote sustainable tourism within the region. Wildlife here includes Jaguar (rarely seen), Caiman, Howler and Spider Monkeys, rodents such as Pacas and Agoutis, and Peccaries among numerous other species. The birdlife here is equally spectacular, with Toucans, Macaws, Hummingbirds and the sought after Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock.

Day 4: Iwokrama - Turtle Mountain

Take a morning boat ride on the Essequibo River to spot wildlife, followed by a boat journey for the hike to Turtle Mountain, where we walk to the summit (approximately 2 hours) for spectacular views over the forest canopy. The area is home to Red Howler Monkeys, Black Spider Monkeys, and five different eagles. For those who feel that the walk may be too strenuous, an alternative boat ride can be taken to Stanley Lake to search for Giant River Otters and Black Caiman. Afterwards we visit Kurupukari Falls with their prehistoric Amerindian rock arts (dependant on the river level). Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge. (BLD)

Note – Hiking in the Rupunini involves walking in hot and humid conditions. We recommend that to enjoy hikes in Guyana, you are a regular hiker, used to walking on uneven terrain and in warm/hot conditions. Travellers who feel the hike may be too much, are welcome to enjoy the surrounds of the lodge. Good footwear is essential as conditions can be slippery after rain which is common at any time of year.

Day 5: Iwokrama and Atta Rainforest Lodge

Our day starts with a dawn wildlife walk, and afterwards we will transfer to a 4WD vehicle to travel along one of the best trails for seeing Jaguar. Sightings are rare and cannot be guaranteed but travellers have been lucky in the past, so it is best to keep a keen eye out and you may see one of Guyana's most elusive



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

creatures. We then head to the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, situated close to Atta Rainforest Lodge 35 metres up into the canopy, for a different perspective of the forest. Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)

Note – The walk to the Canopy Walkway involves initially a flat walk through the forest until then a series of steps to the beginning of the walkway. Once at the walkway you will need to cross hanging bridges between platforms at height. Those who suffer from vertigo, may not wish to take this excursion, and can bird watch from the lovely grounds of Atta Lodge. Good foot wear is essential.

Day 6: Iwokrama – Atta Rainforest Lodge

Enjoy a full day exploring the delights of the forest around Atta Lodge, and the clearing around the lodge, where you will have an excellent chance of spotting the Crimson Fruit Crow. Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)

Day 7: Iwokrama - Surama

Experience the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway before setting off for the Amerindian village of Surama, stopping on the way at a spot known for sightings of one of Guyana's most intriguing birds, the Cock of the Rock. We then continue to Surama, where a local guide will give us a tour of the forest and the village, with an opportunity to visit some of the houses and the local school. This evening we head out to experience the forest at night. Overnight in the basic accommodation at Surama Eco Lodge. (BLD)

Note – The walk to try and observe the beautiful Cock of the Rock can be hot and humid and involves walking across uneven terrain and up and down slopes which can be slippery in wet weather so good footwear is essential.

Surama

Surama is a small Makushi village on the savannah with inhabitants still following time-honoured traditions and relying on the jungle for their livelihood. This isolated and idyllic location offers an escape from the concrete jungle to a serene and peaceful existence with nature. Dawn hikes, led by Surama guides across the savannah and up Surama Mountain, reveal a multitude of birds and fantastic vistas. The guides have lived their entire lives in the rainforest, and have an incredible understanding of nature and how to utilise its resources.

Day 8: Surama Mountain – Rock View Lodge

Rise before dawn and walk across the savannah in the cool morning air to climb Surama Mountain. This is not a technical climb but can be arduous, and for those who prefer, the local guides can arrange alternative walks. After lunch back at the village we set off this afternoon departing by vehicle to Rock View Lodge in Annai. You can see how cashew nuts are roasted and observe some local handicrafts, finishing off with a dip in the swimming pool. Overnight at Rock View Lodge. (BLD)

Rock View Lodge

Rock View Lodge is located where the savannah meets the forest covered foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains. With its tropical gardens and flowering trees, the lodge resembles an oasis in the savannah, and attracts many species of birds, particularly nectar feeders. Nearby light patches of forest are home to certain ant birds and flycatchers, and the grasslands support their own species.

Day 9: Karanambu Lodge

We will take a dawn hike in the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains on the Panorama Trail with spectacular views across the savannah. After breakfast we travel south to Ginep Landing from where we take a boat on the Rupununi River, to Karanambu Lodge which was established by the late Diane McTurk. Towards the evening we take a boat out on the river to look for Giant River Otters and other species. As dusk falls we continue by boat to the ponds to see the giant Amazonia Regis water lily which blooms at this time of day. On



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

the boat ride back a spotlight will be used to search for Black Caiman and other night animals. Overnight at Karanambu Lodge. (BLD)

Note – During times of high-water levels it may be more difficult to spot larger mammals such as giant River Otters and Caiman.

Karanambu Lodge

Karanambu Lodge is situated where the north savannah grassland, swamp and flood forest meet on the Rupununi River and the horse flats stretch towards the Pakaraima Mountains and into Brazil. The settlement has the flavour of an Amerindian village, with its clay brick and palm thatched cabanas set in a compound between the bush and the open range. The lodge accommodates guests in five cabanas with verandas; twin bedded rooms and en-suite bathrooms. Meals are served around a large dining table in the open hammock-swagged living room of the main ranch house. Outstanding tropical freshwater fish and teeming bird life abound. The area is also a last refuge for the Giant River Otter and the river reveals Black Caiman and for the lucky, the huge Arapaima, the world's largest fresh water fish.

Day 10: Karanambu Lodge

This morning travel out to an area of rolling grassland which is home to a population of Giant Anteaters There is a good chance of seeing some of these remarkable looking creatures. During the afternoon you can explore the area around the river to glimpse some of the many birds, and in the evening, walk along the airstrip for the chance to spot some of the seven species of Nightjar that live there. Overnight at Karanambu Lodge. (BLD)

Note – You have a good chance of seeing the Giant Anteater, but it cannot be guaranteed. If you do not see one on the first outing, the local staff will make efforts to take you out again for a second opportunity.

Day 11: Caiman House

This morning transfer by boat, looking for birds along the way, to the Amerindian village of Yupukari and Caiman House. Tonight, enjoy a foray on the Rupununi River from Caiman House Field Station. As a guest you have the unique opportunity to support and participate in an ongoing field study of the Black Caiman, the largest member of the Alligator family, and an endangered species. If the water level is low enough you may be invited to accompany the indigenous crew as they search for and capture these magnificent reptiles on the river. Overnight at Caiman House. (BLD)

Day 12: Caiman House - Lethem – Georgetown (Domestic Flight)

After breakfast transfer to the frontier town of Lethem for your flight to Georgetown. On arrival enjoy a city tour of the capital and in the evening, enjoy a fantastic local culinary experience, visiting the Backyard Café for dinner, where you will enjoy delicious Guyanese dishes, all freshly served from Delven and the team. Overnight at Cara Lodge or similar. (BD)

Note - It is possible to extend your trip with a stay at Waikin Ranch. This is a particularly good option if you enjoy horse riding or just relaxing in a remote off the beaten track working farm environment, with good food, plenty of birdlife, big skies, and a refreshing local swimming hole.

Day 13: Georgetown – Departure from Guyana

For those that wish to explore more of Guyana's superb nature, a trip on the Mahaica River is an early morning option (additional cost), where you may be able to spot coastal endemics such as Guyana's national bird the Hoatzin (also known as the Stinkbird), and perhaps Blood Coloured Woodpecker amongst others. For those that wish to relax, enjoy your final hours at leisure until your transfer to the airport for your flight home. You will be able to keep your room until your departure transfer. (B)



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Inclusions / Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers if arriving on the first day of the tour and departing on the last day of the tour
Domestic flights as shown in the itinerary with strict luggage restrictions – see notes below
Ground transport throughout, mixture of small boats, small planes, and road transport
All accommodation – rustic and basic, but comfortable jungle lodges in the Rupunini
Services of English-speaking local guides – please note that you will have a different guide in each place on the itinerary, rather than the same guide throughout the trip – the tour is not accompanied by a tour leader
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas if applicable
Drinks
Tips (Discretionary)
Items of Personal Nature

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FCDO). We will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At present there are no warnings against travel to Guyana. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

On this tour most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 4pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis, please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour you will be staying in simple rustic but comfortable accommodation. Rooms will be en-suite, with private bathroom and the jungle lodges have a communal dining area. Beds in jungle lodges are equipped with mosquito nets that are treated by lodge staff before you turn in for the evening. Note that jungle lodges DO NOT have air conditioning. The lodges are designed to maximise natural airflow and therefore it is impossible to keep all jungle creatures from accommodation. Contact the lodge staff if you have concerns about any jungle creatures in your accommodation. Remember Guyana is a hot and humid country, and you should be prepared for this.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drinks

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch £6 / Dinner £11

Drinks

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of Beer (Imported) £1.70 / Water (1.5L) £1

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practice in Latin America. Jungle lodges have a tipping box at the properties, where you can deposit a tip if you feel. Tips are divided amongst lodge staff including cooks, guides etc.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: Available in Georgetown

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Credit and debit cards not widely accepted for payments, even in larger towns and cities, and they are not accepted at the lodges



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Local Currency: Guyana dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars

Where to Exchange: Georgetown

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Joining Your Tour Abroad

For customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements airport transfers are included if arriving on the first day of the tour and departing on the last day of the tour. In order that the transfers can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

Visas are not required by many nationalities, including UK and US citizens, and citizens of some European countries. However we recommend that you check with your nearest embassy for the most up to date details.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Latin America, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. The use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended, and we recommend that you take professional advice about malaria prophylactics.



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Under International Health Regulations, a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over 9 months of age arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

As Guyana is situated just above the equator, it enjoys year-round warm/hot temperatures with an average in the high twenties (Celsius), with high humidity. Some people who are not used to heat may find the climate in Guyana oppressive. It is generally slightly cooler at the coast than in the interior. The interior experiences two wet seasons – the main one from May to September and a shorter rainy period in December. However, with climate change it is impossible to predict weather patterns in the tropics of South America. What was once traditionally the drier time of year, may now receive lots of rain and high-water levels and vice versa.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is essential to protect from the strong sunlight, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy. Guyana is warm or hot all year round and so there is no need to bring masses of heavy clothing, although a light fleece or something similar may be appreciated in the evening if the wind gets up for those that feel the cold more and when travelling on the river. For excursions in the jungle, we recommend lightweight long sleeves shirts and trousers to avoid being bitten by insects. Note that lodges in the Rupunini provide a laundry service without charge, so even more reason to pack light.

Equipment

Suncream/sunblock is a must – please ensure you bring enough as it may not be available locally. Insect repellent, including a robust bite spray will also be useful to have. You should also bring binoculars if you have them – these will greatly enhance your possibilities of viewing spectacular birds and other wildlife. A head torch is a good idea for when walking around the jungle lodges at night which have minimal lighting to avoid disturbing nature.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots with ankle support are essential and should be waterproof if possible as you will be climbing into and out of boats. At times of high water levels, you may be required to wade through water, if the vehicle is not able to safely navigate the channel.

Luggage on tour

Passengers travelling on internal flights within Guyana are allowed a total free luggage allowance of 20lbs/9.1kgs per person. If this is exceeded charges will apply, but the additional baggage allowance can only be confirmed by the airline, on the day of travel. If you wish to ensure that you are able to travel with extra luggage you can consider purchasing an additional seat on the aircraft (please contact us for rates). Also note that our local team in Georgetown can securely store luggage until your return to the city.





Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Wildlife Expectations

Guyana is a biodiversity hotspot with an amazing array of flora and fauna. It is also one of the most densely forested countries in the world. Of course, this means that wildlife that does not want to be seen, can often remain elusive. Please kindly travel to Guyana with realistic expectations and treat whatever nature presents as a bonus. You will most certainly see spectacular birdlife. It is also likely that you will see different primates. Larger mammals such as Jaguar and Ocelot, whilst present, are seldomly seen by travellers. Even guides situated at jungle lodges may only encounter such creatures a handful of times in their lives. Giant Anteaters are often seen on the savannah, but again cannot be guaranteed. Water levels often dictate sightings of Black Caiman and Giant River Otter. When rainfall has been low, these species are more easily seen. The beauty of Guyana is to be immersed in an increasingly rare pristine wilderness.

General expectations of Guyana

Guyana is an amazing nature destination, but one that is best suited to travellers who are intrepid and willing to put up with some levels of discomfort. Travel in destinations such as Guyana that are happily still far removed from mass tourism, can sometimes be difficult. Sometimes things do not always go according to plan. For example, flights into and out of the Rupunini may be delayed. Roads in the Rupunini can be sometimes be bumpy and uncomfortable or may be impacted by adverse weather. Travelling by river is done in small boats, not large luxury vessels. Accommodation offers reasonable comfort, but without the facilities of mid to high end Western hotels. Jungle lodges do not have hot water provision. To most this is no problem, as the climate is hot and humid anyway. Please kindly travel with an open mind. Guyana is not a luxury safari destination, but one which will delight and amaze those who yearn for a taste of the wild.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Plugs are generally of the three pin, American style variety.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated 14 June 2023.