



Guyana
Wildlife and Adventure Journey

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary

15 Days • 14 Nights

Guyana • Wildlife and Adventure Journey

Georgetown – Botanical Gardens – Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama River / Forest – Rupununi River – Seawall – Karanambu - Rew River - Georgetown

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chefs tour of vibrant Georgetown market and rum tasting
- Marvel at the world's highest free flowing waterfall
- Jaguar spotting in the jungle
- Visit home of Diane McTurk in search of giant river otters
- Learn how indigenous tribes survive in paradise setting

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Specialist Adventure
Tour Start	Georgetown
Tour End	Georgetown
Accommodation	Lodges, Hotels
Included Meals	13 Breakfasts, 11 Lunches, 10 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium / Difficult

Guyana wildlife And adventure



From this tree top vantage, you can sometimes see Red Howler and Black Spider Monkeys. At ground level giant river otters play hard to spot as their silky fur blends in with their river reflections. Stay in the spectacular riverside setting of Rewa Village in the North Rupununi and experience subsistence living at it best. The community of approximately 220 persons is predominately Macushi families of the Wapashana and Patamona tribes.



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Stable Cottage • Chydyok Road • Chaldon Herring • Dorchester • DT2 8DN

t 01202 798922 • e info@pioneerexpeditions.com

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Overview

Guyana is one of the least-known corners of South America and truly off the beaten track with both a rich culture and a pristine environment. There are nine Amerindian tribes in Guyana and exceptional community tourism experiences. Visitors stay in community-run lodges rather than international chain hotels and can immerse themselves in village life. Guyana has excellent wildlife guides and wildlife-watching opportunities including the chance to see: Jaguar, giant anteater, giant river otters, black caiman, tapir, 8 species of monkey, tiny frogs, turtles, snakes and over 800 species of birds including the Harpy Eagle which is one of the world's largest eagles. On this trip, we will visit Kaieteur Falls which is the world's tallest single-drop waterfall and 5 times the height of Niagara Falls at 741 feet.

Why Pioneer Expeditions?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel, which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel. Alternatively, our small group tours have a maximum of 11 people, making it a much more personal experience.



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Itinerary

DAY 1: GEORGETOWN

Pickup and transfer from Cheddi Jagan International Airport to Georgetown and your selected hotel.



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Travel

DAYS 2: GEORGETOWN

This morning we make an early start to have breakfast at one of the local stands with our host, guide and culinary master, Chef Delven Adams who will guide us around Bourda Market, the largest of the four markets in Georgetown. We will start our tour at the Guyana Shop which has all the locally packaged products, before heading over to the market where we will meet some of the vendors who Chef buys from daily.

We will visit the fish market, the meat section and the haberdashery section - where one can find anything you can think of from thread to bolts of all kinds of fabric. A stop at the bush medicine stalls is always educational. Heading outside you can see, touch and taste a variety of local fruits and vegetables unique in this part of the world. Chef will make his purchases with your suggestions of what you would like to try and will then head home to start preparing while we continue on a tour of the city of Georgetown with an experienced guide who will give you the history, rumour and facts on Georgetown and its citizens.

During your visit to Georgetown, there are a number of interesting sites that should not be missed such as the National Museum, which contains a broad selection of our animal life portrayed in taxidermy in beautiful old glass cases, and the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, which houses a wonderful collection of artefacts and explains history and lifestyle of our indigenous peoples.

On this mix of vehicle and walking tour, enjoy the views of other historic buildings along this promenade such as the Public Library, City Hall, the Victoria Law Courts, St. Andrews Kirk, Stabroek Market - once described as a "bizarre bazaar, and St. George's Cathedral, which is one of the world's tallest free-standing wooden buildings.

We will also visit a pond in the National Park to feed the endangered West Indian Manatees.

After our city tour, we will go to the Backyard Café for lunch. This, as the name suggests, is a backyard that Chef has turned into an exclusive little hidden gem of a restaurant. If you are interested, Chef will welcome you to join him as he prepares a wonderful meal prepared from the fruits and vegetables we bought in the market in the morning. Or you can just sit under the arbour and sip unique blends of juice or enjoy a cold beer, while taking in the sounds and smells of a delicious meal in the making. Once he is ready, we will start eating our way through the courses, remember to pace yourself as you will want to try it all.

Optional Service:

Rum Tasting – El Dorado

Your rum experiences includes:

- **Rum-tasting guide**
- **Single shots of El Dorado 7-year, 12-year, 15year, 21-year-old award-winning rums**
- **Rum-tasting snack**
- **Your own miniature bottle of El Dorado rum and El Dorado rum glass as a souvenir of your experience**
- **VAT**



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Details at the end of the itinerary



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B,L



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAYS 3: GEORGETOWN - KAIETEUR FALLS

0545hrs pickup and transfer to the extensive and beautiful [Georgetown Botanical Gardens](#) where, if we are lucky, we will have views of the Blood-colored Woodpecker. This colorful Veniliornis is found only in the Guianas and even there almost wholly limited to the narrow coastal plain. The gardens host Snail Kite, Gray Hawk, Pearl Kite, Carib Grackle, Red-bellied and Red-shouldered Macaws and the rare festive parrots. We will walk on trails in the back of the gardens and may see Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Black-crested Antshrike, Silver-beaked Tanager, Buff-breasted Wren, Golden-spangled Piculet and Ashy-headed Greenlet. You may even want to take a break from birding to feed some manatees in one of the nearby ponds.

Return to your hotel.

Pickup and transfer to Eugene F. Correia International Airport.

From the Eugene F. Correia International Airport take a scheduled flight over the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers and hundreds of miles of unbroken tropical rainforest to land at Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall.

Kaieteur which was first seen by a European on April 29, 1870 is situated in the heart of Guyana on the Potaro River, a tributary of the Essequibo. The water of Kaieteur flows over a sandstone conglomerate tableland into a deep gorge - a drop of 741 feet or 5 times the height of Niagara Falls.

There are no other falls in the world with the magnitude of the sheer drop existing at Kaieteur. Amerindian legend of the Patamona tribe has it that Kai, one of the tribe's chiefs (after whom the falls is named), committed self-sacrifice by canoeing himself over the falls. It was believed this would encourage the Great Spirit Makonaima to save the tribe from being destroyed by the savage Caribishi.

Kaieteur supports a unique micro environment with Tank Bromeliads, the largest in the world, in which the tiny Golden frog spends its entire life and the rarely seen Guiana Cock-of-the-rock nesting close by. The lucky visitor may also see the famous flights of the Kaieteur Swifts or Makonaima Birds which nest under the vast shelf of rock carved over millions of years by the black water of the Potaro River.

Condition of Sale:

Flights to Kaieteur Falls are operated on chartered aircraft and all flights have a minimum passenger restriction. Therefore, any booking to Kaieteur and Orinduik Falls is subject to a minimum of 12 passengers being available to travel. In most cases we are able to fill flights, especially if scheduled for a weekend. However, in the rare case that we cannot meet the required numbers, we will reschedule the trip to another day during your stay, if this is possible. Wilderness Explorers retains the right to reschedule a flight as a first option. If we cannot reschedule the flight Wilderness Explorers will guarantee a flight, with a minimum of 2 passengers, to Kaieteur Falls only. If a flight is cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, such as weather, we will endeavour to reschedule the flight during your itinerary. If this is not possible, then a full refund on the flight will be made.



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Pickup and transfer from Eugene F. Correia International Airport to Georgetown.



Overnight:
Carara Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 4: IWOKRAMA RIVER LODGE

Pickup and transfer to Eugene F. Correia International Airport.

Board schedule flight for journey over hundreds of miles of tropical rainforest to land at Fair View Airstrip.
(Check in time 0730hrs, Departure 0900hrs)

Pick up from Fair View airstrip and transfer to Iwokrama River Lodge.

Explore the trails around the lodge with an Iwokrama Ranger. Iwokrama is home to many bird species including Capuchin bird, Black Nunbird, Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper, Amazonian Antshrike, Brown-bellied Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Todd's Antwren, Spotted Puffbird, Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Red Cotinga, Pompadour Cotinga, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Bronzy Jacamar, Chestnut & Waved Woodpecker, Gray Antbird, and Strong-billed Woodcreeper. Three other Neotropical species in the Iwokrama forest of high interest are White-winged Potoo, Rufous Potoo, and Rufous-winged Ground-cuckoo.

The forest is also home to many mammals and you may see Red-rumped Agouti and various species of monkey including Red Howler, Black Spider and Wedge-capped.

After dark we'll set out on the river, in hope of finding one or another of its four species of caiman, and listen for night birds such as Spectacled Owl, White-winged Potoo, Rufous Potoo, Long-tailed Potoo, Zigzag Heron or Blackish Nightjar. Using our flashlights we will look for the eyeshine of snakes including Cox boa, tree frogs and if lucky maybe some mammals.

The Iwokrama Rainforest is a vast wilderness of one million acres. This protected area was established in 1996 as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. The Iwokrama Forest is in the heart of one of four last untouched tropical forests of the world - The Guiana Shield of North-Eastern South America. Iwokrama was established as a living laboratory for tropical forest management.

From research to business, Iwokrama ensures local economic and social benefits from forest use and conservation. The forest is in the homeland of the Makushi people, who have lived here and used the forest for thousands of years.



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The Iwokrama River Lodge is set overlooking the Essequibo River. Accommodation is offered in eight spacious timber cabins with en suite and verandas overlooking the river. Electricity is provided by a combination of solar and diesel generator systems, and wireless internet access is provided for free in the main building. Meals are served buffet-style in the Fred Allicock dining hall.



Overnight:
Iwokrama River Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Wildlife

DAYS 5: IWOKRAMA RIVER LODGE

Making an early start, we'll embark on the Essequibo and circumnavigate nearby Indian House Island, before returning to the River Lodge for breakfast.

Leave the lodge by boat, birdwatching along the way, for the hike to Turtle Mountain. A well-maintained trail winds through the forest before an exhilarating climb up the mountain to its summit at 935ft (approx. 360m). It takes 1 3/4hrs to walk up the mountain, but the effort is more than worth it for the breathtaking views over the forest canopy when you get there and chances of Green Aracari, White Bellbird or a fly-by of one of five types of eagles. This trail is also a great location for seeing Black Spider and Red Howler monkeys. If you think this hike may be too strenuous you can take an alternative boat trip to Stanley Lake to search for Giant River Otters and Black Caiman.

As the afternoon cools you set out on a boat trip to visit Kurupukari Falls to see the Amerindian petroglyphs (dependent on the water level).

Late this afternoon take drive through the forest in an area known for Jaguar sightings. This elusive cat is on the top of everyone's wildlife list and whilst not guaranteed there is a reasonable chance you could be fortunate and have a sighting. Apart from Jaguar there are other wildlife opportunities along this corridor.



Overnight:
Iwokrama River Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 30min drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 6: IWOKRAMA RIVER LODGE – ATTA RAINFOREST LODGE

Explore the trails around the lodge with an Iwokrama Ranger.

Transfer by 4 x 4 along the trail that is one of the best places to see the elusive Jaguar. No promises, but many have been lucky! Along the road, we will watch for the myriad of bird species that frequent the forest edge. This road is the only north – south access in Guyana and links the country to Brazil. Even so traffic is only very occasional and wildlife is often seen along the road, such as Agouti, Tayra, Tapir and Black Curassow. The journey concludes at the Atta Rainforest Lodge, home of the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

The Iwokrama Canopy Walkway is situated near the southern boundary of the Iwokrama Reserve in central Guyana. The walkway has four suspension bridges leading to three platforms, the highest of which is over 30 metres above the ground.

Another area where we will want to spend some time is the clearing around the lodge, as this is one of the best places to see another of Guyana's "must see" birds, the Crimson Fruitcrow. The clearing is also a reliable site for Black Curassow as there is a large and growing family party which has become habituated to people and regularly passes through the clearing.



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Atta Rainforest Lodge is 500 metres from the base of the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, offering comfortable private-room accommodation with ensuite bathrooms, delicious home-cooked meals, and traditional Amerindian hospitality. The communal building houses the bar, dining area and kitchen and is open sided with views across the gardens to the towering forest, which completely surrounds the lodge. Hammocks and outdoor benches enhance the lovely gardens which include varieties of heliconias that attract over ten different hummingbirds, close enough for the perfect photo.



Overnight:
Atta Rainforest Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Trekking

DAY 7: IWOKRAMA CANOPY WALK - BRIDWATCHING

Before dawn we will return to the canopy where we can birdwatch easily and may see Rufous-throated Sapphire, Green Aracari, Pygmy Antwren and Guianan Streaked-Antwren. With some luck Guianan Toucanet, Pompadour Cotinga, Buff-cheeked Greenlet and a host of crown specialists may come within our view. From this tree top vantage, you can sometimes see Red Howler and Black Spider Monkeys.

Apart from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway itself you can enjoy wildlife and birdwatching walks on the trails around the area. Many bird species, stunning insects, noisy amphibians, and playful primates make the surrounding forest their home. Deer, Tapir and agouti are also regular visitors to the lodge. Serious birders will want to search the undergrowth for the rarely seen Rufous-winged Ground-cuckoo.

As darkness falls on the canopy walkway, you may see the White-winged Potoo. Night walks are also possible and something interesting or new always seems to pop on to the scene including one of the six different cats to be found along the transnational road near the lodge.



Overnight:
Atta Rainforest Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 8: IWOKRAMA FOREST – RUPUNINI RIVER

Welcome the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway and then return to the lodge for breakfast before departure.



Transfer from Atta Rainforest Lodge through the rainforest to Corkwood in the Iwokrama Forest. Here there is a comparatively short trail to hopefully see the amazingly brilliant Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. This trail is through interesting and pristine rainforest and the guides can explain how the plants are used for medicine and other purposes. Continue to Kwatamang Landing.

Enjoy lunch at Rock View Lodge before continuing your journey.



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Travel by boat along the Rupununi River with opportunities to see wild Giant River Otters and Black Caiman. You will pass locals fishing and bathing in the river until you reach the Rewa River and the Amerindian community of Rewa. Journey is approximately 50 miles by river and can be as short as 2 hours and as long as 4 hours depending on the water level.

Rewa Village is located where the Rewa River runs into the Rupununi River in the North Rupununi. The surrounding area is rainforest, mountains and oxbow lakes and teeming with wildlife birds and fish. The community of approximately 220 persons is predominately Macushi with a few families of the Wapashana and Patamona tribes. Villagers practice subsistence farming, fishing and hunting with little opportunity for cash employment.

In 2005 the community constructed the Rewa Eco-lodge so that they could establish a sustainable eco-tourism business that is owned and operated by the village. The lodge itself is situated on the river bank overlooking the Rewa River with views down river to the Rupununi River. Along the river bank tables and benches offer a relaxing location to enjoy the river. The grassed clearing in the rainforest houses three benabs and six cabins. The largest benab is the kitchen and dining area, with an outlook to the river. Accommodation is in two benabs each with two bedrooms and a large patio with hammocks for relaxing with shared bathrooms; and six individual cabins.



Later this afternoon take a short boat ride from the lodge to the opposite bank on the Rupununi River. Hidden after a five-minute walk from the boat is a lovely oxbow lake. The magical setting is enhanced with a wooden deck out over the pond, allowing close-up views of the Victoria amazonica, the world's largest waterlily and the national flower of Guyana. The leaves that float on the water grow up to 3 metres in diameter with a submerged stalk of 7 to 8 metres. The flowers which bloom at dusk are white on the first night. By the third night, they change colour to pink and also change to a male flower. The golden colours across the pond at dusk combined with birds coming into roost provide a lovely nature experience.



Overnight:
Rewa Eco-Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 9: RUPUNUNI RIVER

Enjoy breakfast at dawn overlooking the river.



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Then head out by boat along the Rupununi River, into an oxbow lake to begin a hike up Awarmie Mountain. The climb is steep in a few sections but in general not too difficult. Along the way, you may see lots of birds and perhaps good close-up views of Black Spider Monkeys.

There is good birding along the trail with White Bellbirds calling both from the scrubby woodland at the beginning of the trail and again from the forests far below you when reach the summit. Other species you may see include Ornate Hawk-eagle, Black Curassow, Red-fan Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Todd's Antwren, Spotted Tanager and Bay-headed Tanager. The area also has a high density of macaws including Scarlet, Blue-and-yellow and Red-and-Green Macaws.

There is a small plateau on the top of the mountain and in one direction, there are uninterrupted views back to the Rupununi River, some patches of Savannah and across to the distant Kanuku Mountains. In the other direction, there is a near vertical drop of at least 200m and the view is across great swathes of undisturbed forest to the distant Iwokrama Mountain and much closer, Makarapan Mountain. Makarapan is the oldest mountain in South America if not the world clocking in at an amazing two thousand million years old.

Return to the lodge for lunch.

This afternoon take a boat up the Rewa River and then a 15-minute hike to Grass Pond. This pond or lake is about 3kms long and is a beautiful setting with Victoria amazonica. It has a good population of Arapaima, (reportedly the highest density in Guyana) the largest scaled freshwater fish in the world and you can also fish for Peacock Bass. During a late afternoon visit, you may see Brown Capuchin monkey or Capybara. Birds likely to be seen include Limpkin, Wattled Jacana, Black-collared Hawk, Green Kingfisher and Guianan Puffbird. As dusk settles, watch the flower of the Victoria amazonica bloom.



Overnight:
Rewa Eco-Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 30min drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 10: HIKE REWA RIVER

This morning travel by boat to a nearby trail for a hike through rainforest and into savannah. See local traditional farms and if you are lucky a family may be there practicing their indigenous farming methods.

In the afternoon travel up the Rewa River to a location known as Seawall. This rock formation is a great place to fish or take in the beauty of the location. Visit sand banks where river turtles come to lay their eggs. Along the riverbanks you may see red howlers, squirrel and brown capuchin monkeys.

We continue upriver and then hike through the rainforest to area where we can observe the Goliath bird-eating spider, the largest spider in the world by mass and size. The practice of calling theraphosids "bird-eating" derives from an early 18th-century copper engraving showing one eating a hummingbird.

These spiders can have a leg span of up to 28 cm (11 in), a body length of up to 11.9 cm (4.7 in) and can weigh up to 175 g (6.2 oz). Despite its name, it is rare for the Goliath bird-eating spider to actually prey on birds; in the wild, its diet consists primarily of other large arthropods, worms and amphibians. However, because of its size and opportunistic predatory behavior, it is not uncommon for this species to kill and consume a variety of insects and small terrestrial vertebrates. In the wild, they have been observed feeding on rodents, frogs, toads, lizards and even snakes.



Overnight:
Rewa Eco-Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 2hr drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 11: KARANAMBU



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After breakfast say goodbye to staff and newfound friends and board boat for travel along the Rupununi River to Kwatamang Landing.



Travel by boat along the Rupununi River to Kwatamang Landing.

Visit the village of Aranaputa and their community operated Peanut Butter Factory. The area is suited to peanut growing, but a long way to the markets of Georgetown, and so this cottage industry provides local farmers with a viable market for their produce. Operated by a co-operative of local ladies they manufacture organic peanut butter which along with cassava bread is supplied to local schools.

Continue on to the Pakaraima Mountain Inn, which sits in the Aranaputa Valley, just outside the village of Yakarinta. Enjoy a home-cooked lunch on the veranda along with fascinating stories from local character and host, Charlie De Freitas.

From Ginep Landing we take a boat trip on the Rupununi River to Karanambu Lodge. Depending on the river level, this trip offers an excellent opportunity to look for Giant Otters as there are several family groups which live along this stretch of the Rupununi River.

Karanambu, a 110-square mile former cattle ranch located in the North Rupununi, was the home of the late Diane McTurk, conservationist and a world-renowned expert on giant otters. Known for its expansive wetlands and savannah, as well as its biological and cultural diversity, Karanambu encompasses savannah, marshy ponds, riparian forest, and a 30-mile stretch of the Rupununi River. The number of species found here is much higher than expected given its size with at least 600 species of bird, and over 200 species of mammals. The seasonally flooded savannahs and forests also draw substantial fish migrations with as many as 700 species of fish — more than anywhere on Earth.

This region is rich in history and is the homeland of the Makushi and earlier peoples dating back more than 7,000 years. Several prominent explorers and naturalists have written about their experiences here, including Robert and Richard Schomburgk, Charles Waterton, Evelyn Waugh, and Gerald Durrell. A very young David Attenborough spent time here and wrote about it in his early book, “Zoo Quest to Guiana”.

With both the river and savannahs close at hand there is a wide variety of activities to be enjoyed at Karanambu. Two guided excursions are provided each day — one early in the morning and another late in the afternoon and into the evening. As well as being the coolest times to be out, these are usually the best times to see the different birds and animals. Trips may be on the river by boat, on the savannahs by 4 by 4 or along forest trails on foot to the different ponds in the area.

Late in the afternoon we will travel by boat to look for wild Giant River Otters and as dusk falls to the ponds to see the giant *Victoria amazonica* waterlily, bloom at dusk. On the return trip we will spotlight for Black Caiman and birds and creatures of the night.

Accommodations are in traditionally made clay brick cabins, each with en suite and veranda with hammocks.



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Overnight:
Karanambu Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 12: KARANAMBU

This morning we make an early start to an area of rolling grasslands, home to a population of giant anteaters. With luck we shall locate one of these six-foot long animals excavating its breakfast from one of the termite mounds that stud the savannah. Though giant anteaters live in overlapping home ranges they are mostly solitary except during mother-offspring relationships, aggressive interactions between males, and when mating. Mother anteaters carry their offspring on their backs until weaning them.

Evening river excursion or if you are interested in bird watching you can explore woodland patches or gallery forest along the river where we'll hope to find a variety of species. A feature bird for the area is the Agami Heron. An evening walk along the airstrip offers seven species of nightjar and among the grasslands the Double-striped Thick-knees.



Overnight:
Karanambu Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Discover

DAY 13: RUPUNUNI RIVER

In the event you did not see a giant anteater the previous morning, there is time to travel out to search the savannah again. Or explore the Rupununi River, making a boat journey along quiet stretches of river. Another option is the Honey Pond Trail that skirts around three ponds or lakes covered in giant water lilies. There is also a Capuchin Bird Lek along the trail.

Return to the lodge for breakfast before departure.



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After breakfast we say our goodbyes and transfer upriver by motorized boat to the nearby Amerindian village of Yupukari and Caiman House.

At the edge of Yupukari Village in the Central Rupununi is Caiman House Field Station, a combination guest-lodge and education centre focused on research and conservation projects. The Field Station is the hub of several participatory development projects, including the introduction of classroom libraries in all three village schools and an Internet-enabled public library. Visitors may have the opportunity to meet various local craftspeople, including the furniture builders at Yupukari Crafters, a nonprofit venture to create village jobs and generate income to sustain educational development.

Caiman house is also very involved in a turtle conservation program. Recently in the rainy season the sand banks get covered in water as the rains have been coming earlier. Rangers go out and dig up the eggs that the turtles have laid on the sandbanks before they are covered in water and spoiled. They are taken back to the field station and reburied. When they hatch they are kept in two ponds and after a few months there is the turtle celebration and the children in the wildlife club all join in to release the turtles back into the river. By holding them for up to a year the shells harden and the survival rate is very much higher resulting in a larger population of turtles. The yellow spotted river turtles are the main beneficiaries of this program but it is the rare giant river turtle which stands to gain the most. Special attention is paid to rescuing these endangered giants. You can visit the holding ponds where the babies are kept.

Four modest but comfortable guest rooms are situated around a central lounge area in the lodge behind the research centre. Guest rooms feature comfortable beds and ensuite bathrooms. Other rooms are available in the annex building, two with ensuite and one with a shared bathroom. Caiman House Field Station and the Guest House are powered 24 hours a day by a large solar array. The entire station is served by limited wireless internet access.



As a guest you have the unique opportunity to support and participate in an ongoing field study of the Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), the largest member of the alligator family and an endangered species. You are invited to accompany the indigenous crew as they search for and capture Black Caiman on the river. Guests will observe the capture from a separate boat, but will be offered the opportunity to assist in data collection. Caiman are weighed, measured, sexed and tagged before being released back into the river. The research has already discovered interesting information on caimans' nests and diet.



Overnight:
Caiman House



Meals:
B,L,D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 14: GEORGETOWN

Guests will be escorted with skilled guides who will go paddling or with an electric motor on the Awariku Lake for bird and wildlife spotting. Egrets and ibises are regular sightings and there is also the possibility of seeing Giant River Otters and Black Caiman. Paddle through a creek in some lowland forest and come out into the Rupununi River. Once on the river, you will drift down to the main landing and then return to Caiman House. In low water you will paddle back to the landing where you embarked.



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Vehicle transfer from Caiman House to Lethem.

Scheduled flight to Eugene F. Correia International Airport.

Pickup and transfer from Eugene F. Correia International Airport to Georgetown.

Optional Services:

- *Demerara Historical River Tour*
- *Dinner with Singing Chef*

Full Details at the end of itinerary

Overnight at Cara Lodge. B (Check in time 1400hrs, Check out time 1200hrs midday)



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Paddle / Wildlife

DAY 15: END OF THE TRIP

Free day to relax or explore Georgetown or take an optional trip to the Mahaica River.

Optional Services:

Hoatzin & Coastal Shield Endemica

0403 – 0445hor pickup

Full details at the end of itinerary

Pickup and transfer to Cheddi Jagan International Airport for your departing flight.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Travel



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optional services

DAY 2

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Rum Tasting - El Dorado

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	135.00	98.00	85.00	77.00	77.00	77.00

Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	65.00

Guyana's El Dorado rums are the best in the world! And that is not just us making this claim. No other rum has been voted best in the world more than once. However, the El Dorado 15-year-old has won nine awards and the 12-year-old is not far behind with five awards. The county of Demerara in Guyana has been steeped in the history of sugar and rum production since the 17th century. Today Demerara Distillers operates the last remaining distillery in Guyana, after having consolidated all the old original stills and marques which make Demerara Rum so distinctive.

Created on the banks of the Demerara, the smooth and uniquely complex El Dorado aged rums represent over 300 years of Caribbean rum crafting. Faithfully continuing to use the original wooden heritage stills from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries the master blenders coax out rich and diverse characters from within the spirit. El Dorado Rums are blended selections of different "vintages" or batches of rums from different stills – aged in oak barrels. Your rum tasting experience at The Patio Bar at the colonial Cara Lodge includes a background on Guyana's story of sugar, slavery and rum and then your chance to decide on your personal favourite as your rum-tasting guide leads you through samples of El Dorado's 7-year, 12-year, 15-year and 21-year-old award-winning rums.

Enhance your experience by adding the exclusive El Dorado 25-year-old rum for only US\$25.00 per person.

Your rum experience includes:

- Rum-tasting guide
- Single shots of El Dorado 7-year, 12-year, 15-year, 21-year-old award-winning rums
- Rum-tasting snack
- Your own miniature bottle of El Dorado rum and a glass as a souvenir of your experience
- VAT

DAY14

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Demerara Historical River Tour

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	220.00	130.00	125.00	125.00	105.00	65.00

Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	60.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	40.00

This afternoon we will take a drive through the heart of the city to the Stabroek Market area. Here we will join the afternoon commuters using the old ferry stelling to board the river taxis which are used to cross the Demerara River. The river taxis are a faster alternative route to using the Demerara Harbour Bridge.

We will slowly cruise along and across the Demerara River while your guide will give a brief history of the famous buildings along the waterfront. We then continue our trip to see the Demerara Harbour Bridge, once



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the longest floating bridge in the world at a total length of 1,851m long. We will cross under the bridge and tie up our boat near a mangrove that is the nightly roost for a variety of birds. As the sun sets over the river we will have a cold drink and some snacks (or cutters as we call them here in Guyana) as we enjoy flocks of brilliant Scarlet Ibis, Snail Kites, Herons, and three kinds of Egrets as they fly across the sky and settle into the mangroves for the evening.

Soon after the sun sets we return to the ferry stelling while enjoying the city and ship lights from the river.

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Dinner with Singing Chef

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	75.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00

Pickup at your hotel and transfer to a local restaurant.

Guyana has a plethora of incredible foods. From grass-fed cows, delicious fresh fish, succulent prawns, wonderful tasting chicken and the gorgeous fresh fruits and vegetables.

Now combine all that with a trained international Guyanese chef bringing together an updated form of classical Guyanese cuisine and served in the delightful garden setting of his home. On top of that, combined with the smells of the herb garden and seeing fruits of the garden hanging from the trees around you. Lit by stars moon and candlelight you are going to be in for an unforgettable feast.

Eon John will be cooking right in front of you so it's a very personal experience.

We start with a delicious rum cocktail (or mocktail) and relax. The menu is designed to suit your group's palette so if you fancy the bush fish like hassar lovingly crafted into a delicious meal or maybe the golden Gilbaca catfish which is one of the sweetest fish ever. The ingredients come together using ingredients that have been personally sourced to give you a highlight of your dining experience in Guyana. Chef Eon John the Singing Chef will serenade you under the stars as you finish your meal.

Eon John was born in Guyana and moved to the United States as a boy. His mother, Yvonne John was a celebrity chef in the US with successful restaurants and who wrote 2 cookery books featuring Guyanese Cuisine. Eon worked initially as a professional musician, a career he still enjoys to this day. Eon has had recording deals for Virgin, EMI and Naked Records, and toured with Blondie, Toots and the Maytals and The Wailers amongst others. His passion however has always been food and his culinary career spans working in Germany, France, Spain and the UK, which landed him with a recent cookery show pilot for the BBC Saturday Kitchen Show.

Eon is currently on his 3rd TV cooking show for NCN Channel 11 in Guyana the Singing Chef Show is a purely Guyanese cooking programme that features the best of Guyanese food with an accent on culture, music and the natural beauty of the country.

DAY15

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Hoatzin & Coastal Shield Endemics

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
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Rate p/p US\$:	517.00	260.00	210.00	210.00	210.00	165.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	165.00	165.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00

0430 – 0445hrs pickup by your guide and driver at Cara Lodge and travel eastward from Georgetown along the Atlantic coast to the Mahaica River.

The narrow winding road to the landing runs parallel to the river and takes us through an area that is mainly used for the cultivation of rice and other crops. Fortunately for us, the area along the river has been well preserved and provides an excellent riverfront ecosystem inhabited by flocks of egrets, herons, ibis, various marsh tyrants, and Guyana’s national bird, the Hoatzin. Howler Monkeys also frequent these riverside trees. Giant River Otters are also often seen in the river.

Upon arrival at the river landing, you may enjoy a cup of coffee or tea before heading out onto the river. The river offers a rare chance to see the range-restricted Blood-colored Woodpecker which has been badly affected by habitat loss in the ‘Guianas’ coastal region.

This river is one of the best places to spot Guyana's national bird, the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus Hoatzin*), also known as the Stinkbird, or “Canje Pheasant”. This odd bird is an unusual species of tropical bird found in swamps, riverine forest and mangrove between the Amazon and the Orinoco delta in South America. It is a pheasant-sized bird about 65 cm (25 in) long, with a long neck and small head. The Hoatzin is herbivorous; it eats leaves and fruit, and has an unusual digestive system with an enlarged crop which functions as a rumen. It also produces a horrible smell to scare away potential predators, hence one of its local names.

After our tour we will have breakfast before returning to Georgetown. On the way we will make a brief stop to look for shore birds on the mudflats beyond the seawall. Flocks of Scarlet Ibis, Herons and Egrets are common here as is the rare endemic Rufous Crab-Hawk.

Important Information

INCLUDED

- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Accommodation as described

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Alcoholic and soft drinks



- limited local bar at Karanambu Lodge
- English speaking guide
- all road and river transfers
- airport transfers
- Internal flight
- activities as described
- VAT
- Kaieteur National Park fee
- Iwokrama Forest User Fee
- Iwokrama Canopy Walkway fee

- Departure tax
- Personal expenses
- Visa

Day 3 Flight upgrade option:

See notes on Kaieteur Falls flight upgrade options below.

Condition of Sale:

Flights to Kaieteur Falls are operated on chartered aircraft and all flights have a minimum passenger restriction. Therefore, any booking to Kaieteur and Orinduik Falls is subject to a minimum of 12 passengers being available to travel. In most cases we are able to fill flights, especially if scheduled for a weekend. However, in the rare case that we cannot meet the required numbers we will reschedule the trip to another day during your stay, if this is possible. Wilderness Explorers retains the right to reschedule a flight as a first option. If we cannot reschedule the flight Wilderness Explorers will guarantee a flight, with a minimum of 2 passengers, to Kaieteur Falls only. If a flight is cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control, such as weather, we will endeavour to reschedule the flight during your itinerary. If this is not possible then a full refund on the flight will be made.



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Accommodation at a glance

George Town

Cara Lodge

<https://caralodge.com/>



Iwokrama Rainforest

Iwokrama River Lodge

<https://iwokramariverlodge.com/>



Iwokrama River Lodge

Atta Rainforest Lodge

<https://iwokramacanopywalkway.com/atta-rainforest-lodge/>



Guyana

Rewa Eco-lodge

<https://wilderness-explorers.com/lodge/rewa-ecolodge/?cn-reloaded=1>



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Pakaraima Mountains

Karanambu Lodge

<http://www.karanambutrustandlodge.org/>



Amerindian Village

Caiman House

<http://rupununilearners.org/>



Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION	2 – 6 hours
SEASON	All Year
GROUP SIZE	The price is per person & based on a group trip based on 2 people travelling
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	There are group departures throughout the year
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' to 'Difficult level' (2 – 6 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need to an average level of fitness with regular trekking.



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The Pioneer Booking Process

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.



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