



Guyana
Nature Experience

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary

13 Days • 12 Nights

Guyana • Nature Experience

Georgetown – Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama Rainforest – Turtle Mountain - Iwokrama Forest – Surama – Rock View Lodge – Pakaraima Mountains – Amerindian Village - Georgetown

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Kaieteur
- Explore the trails around Iwokrama Forest
- Boat trips in Iwokrama Forest
- Visit the world's tallest single-drop waterfall, Kaieteur Falls
- See the elusive jaguar
- Climb up Surama Mountain
- Get the opportunity to support and participate in an on-going field study of the Black Caiman

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Nature Adventure
Tour Start	Georgetown
Tour End	Georgetown
Accommodation	Lodge, Hotel
Included Meals	11 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 10 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium / Difficult

Guyana Nature Experience



Visit Kaieteur and Orinduik Falls before travelling to Iwokrama for jungle hikes, boat trips, the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, and the chance to see the elusive jaguar. Stay in the Makushi village of Surama in search of giant otters and black caiman before going into the savannah, the home of giant anteaters. A truly unique and off the beaten track adventure.



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Guy01

Overview

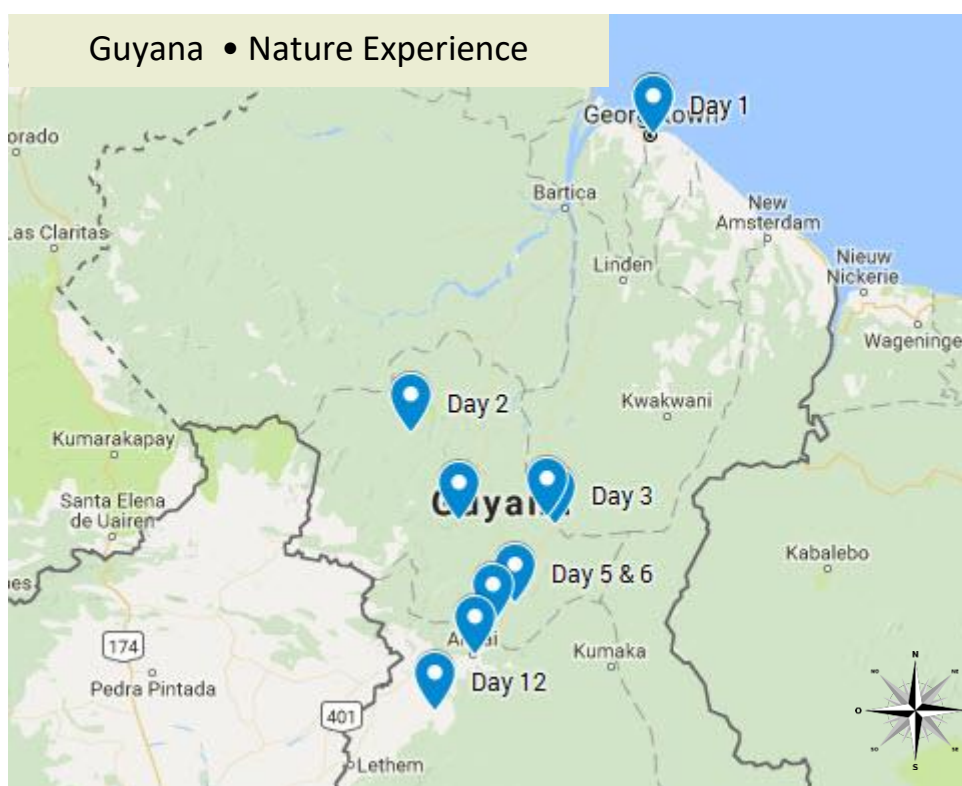
Guyana is one of the least-known corners of South America and truly off the beaten track with both a rich culture and a pristine environment. There are nine Amerindian tribes in Guyana and exceptional community tourism experiences. Visitors stay in community-run lodges rather than international chain 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 – Pre-Tour

DAY 1: GEORGETOWN

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

Cara Lodge was built in the 1840s. It has a long and romantic history and was the home of the first Lord Mayor of Georgetown. Over the years, the property has been visited by many dignitaries including King Edward VIII who stayed at the house in 1923. Other dignitaries have included President Jimmy Carter, HRH King Charles III and Mick Jagger. This magnificent wooden colonial home turned hotel offers the tradition and nostalgia of a bygone era. Overnight at [Cara Lodge](#). (Check in time 1400hrs, Check out time 12midday)



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 sights that should not be missed such as 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. Other historic buildings along this promenade are the Public Library, City Hall, the Victoria Law Courts and St. Andrews Kirk. Visit the National Museum, which contains a broad selection of our animal life portrayed in taxidermy including an amazing extinct giant sloth. The Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology houses a wonderful collection of artefacts and explains indigenous history and lifestyle, in a beautiful colonial wooden building that is worth the visit on its own.



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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. You can 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.

After lunch, we will visit the Botanical Gardens, home to an extensive collection of tropical flora. We will also pay a visit to a pond either in the gardens or the National Park, to feed the endangered West Indian Manatees.



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\$:	241.00	141.00	130.00	128.00	105.00	54.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	54.00	46.00	46.00	40.00	36.00	34.00

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 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.



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B,L



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAYS 3: GEORGETOWN

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



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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.



Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Dinner with The Singing Chef

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	110.00	90.00	82.00	84.00	84.00	84.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00

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 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.



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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.

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	84.00	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	65.00	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



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- 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



Overnight:
Iwokrama River Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

Itinerary

DAY 1: GEORGETOWN – Continuation from Day 3 Pre-Tour



We will pick you up at the airport, and then transfer you to your selected hotel.

Cara Lodge was built in the 1840's and originally consisted of two houses. It has a long and romantic history and was the home of the first Lord Mayor of Georgetown. Over the years, the property has been visited by many dignitaries including King Edward VII who stayed at the house in 1923. Other dignitaries have included President Jimmy Carter, HRH Prince Charles, HRH Prince Andrew and Mick Jagger. This magnificent home turned hotel offers the tradition and nostalgia of a bygone era, complete with service and comfort in a congenial family atmosphere.



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Travel

DAYS 2: KAIETEUR FALLS

Following breakfast at the hotel we head to the airport at 11:30 for 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. At 228 meters, Kaieteur is nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls.

Optional Tours:

Birding in Georgetown's Botanical Gardens

0545hrs pick up and transfer to the extensive Georgetown Botanical Gardens. Details at end of itinerary.

Evening Seawall, bars and street food experience

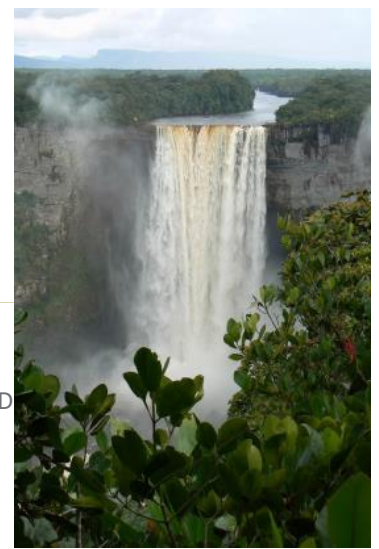
Details at end of itinerary.

Dinner at Aagman Indian Restaurant

Details at end of itinerary.

Kaieteur Falls:

Kaieteur Falls 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



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Kaieteur, one of the world's natural wonders, 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 by the centuries of water, hidden behind the eternal curtain of falling water.

Note: 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.



Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAYS 3: THE IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST

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.

Iwokrama Rainforest



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.

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 Allcock dining hall.

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



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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.



Overnight:
Iwokrama River Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 4: HIKE TO TURTLE MOUNTAIN

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, bird watching 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 breath taking 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 Monkey and Red Howler Monkey and if you are very lucky even a Jaguar. This pristine forest offers huge buttress trees and the endemic Greenheart, a highly sought after hardwood. 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).



Overnight:
Iwokrama River Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Hiking



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DAYS 5: IWOKRAMA FOREST



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. The Iwokrama forest is rapidly gaining an international reputation for its healthy jaguar populations that seem not to be troubled by the appearance of curious humans. No promises, but many have been lucky! Along the road, we will watch for the myriad of bird species that frequent the forest edge, including Crimson and Purple-necked Fruit-crow, Crimson Topaz, Green Oropendula, Spotted and Guianan Puffbird, Scarlet and Red-and-Green Macaw, Blue-cheeked and Orange-winged Parrot and

Gray-winged Trumpeter. 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, Puma, Tapir and Black Curassow. The journey concludes at the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.

The Iwokrama Canopy Walkway is situated at Mauisparu, 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, and these will allow great looks at a range of canopy species, many of which you would struggle to see well from the forest floor. Amongst the likely highlights are Painted, Brown-throated and Golden-winged Parakeets, Caica Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Waved and Golden-collared Woodpeckers and Spot-tailed, Todd's and Ash-winged Antwrens. The walkway is also an excellent place to look for various species of cotinga including the poorly known and range-restricted Dusky Purpletuft and if there are any suitable fruiting trees nearby, you stand a good chance of seeing this bird, as well as the more widespread Purple-breasted Cotinga.



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. This species is seen here on a reasonably regular basis, as it often comes to feed in some of the nearby trees. The clearing is also a reliable site for Black Curassow as there is a family party which has become habituated to people and regularly passes through the clearing. With reasonable luck, you should be able to add this bird to the impressive list of species you will see around the lodge and walkway.

Atta Rainforest Lodge is 500 metres from the base of the Canopy Walkway, offering comfortable private-room accommodation with ensuite bathrooms, delicious home-cooked meals, and traditional Amerindian hospitality. The lodge is completely surrounded by tropical rainforest which offers a complete immersion in the rainforest experience. The main building is open sided with views across the gardens to the towering forest on all sides and houses the bar, dining area and kitchen.



Overnight:
Atta Rainforest Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 30min drive



Activities:
Wildlife



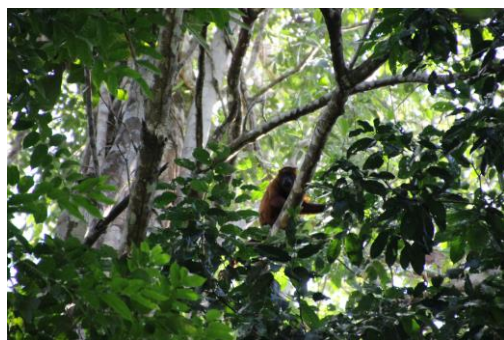
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DAY 6: ENJOY WILDLIFE AND BIRD WATCHING IN IWOKRAMA FOREST



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 Monkeys and Black Spider Monkeys.

Apart from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway itself you can enjoy wildlife and bird watching walks on the trails around the area. For those interested in botany many of the trails have the key trees species marked. Many bird species, stunning insects, noisy amphibians, and playful primates make the surrounding forest their home and you can be fairly certain to spot some extraordinary wildlife without even trying too hard. Deer 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 dark 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 the occasional jaguar (*panthera onca*) along the transnational road near the lodge.



Overnight:
Atta Rainforest Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 7: SURAMA

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 the community of Surama.

The Indigenous community of Surama is located in the heart of Guyana. The village is set in five square miles of savannah which is ringed by the forest-covered Pakaraima Mountains. The villagers of Surama are mainly from the Macushi tribe and still observe many of the traditional practises of their ancestors. The Surama Eco Lodge is owned and operated by the entire community. The Village Council serves as the Board of Directors and through consultation, they decide how the profits from the tourism business are to be spent to benefit the entire community.



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On arrival in Surama you will receive a warm welcome and settle into your accommodation at the lodge. A guide will escort you for a short walk on trails to observe the forest and bird life.

As the afternoon cools take for a three-mile walk across the savannah and through the rainforest to the Burro Burro River. This is the best time to observe bird and wildlife along the trail. Your guides will then paddle you on the Burro Burro River for opportunities to observe Giant River Otters, Tapir, Tira, Spider Monkeys and many more species.

Tonight, enjoy an educational walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark. Make sure to bring your flashlights to look for the eyeshine of the creatures of the night.



Overnight:
Surama



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 1hr drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 8: CLIMB UP SURAMA MOUNTAIN

Rise before dawn for a walk across the savannah and then climb up Surama Mountain for incredible views across the village and savannah to the Pakaraima Mountains. This is not a technical climb but can be arduous, especially after rain, and not for everyone. Your guides will happily offer alternative activities if you prefer not to do this climb.

Transfer from Surama to Rock View Lodge at Annai.

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 and frugivores. Nearby patches of light forest are home to certain ant birds and flycatchers, and of course the grasslands support an avifauna of their own.

If they are in season, you can see how cashews are roasted and see how local handicrafts are made and maybe even try your hand at them yourself. The labour-intensive method of cracking open the roasted nuts along with the self-ignition of the nuts as the acid content burns off are a spectacular sight. You can then taste the freshly roasted nuts.

Eight comfortable rooms have ensembles and feature a patio and hammock for relaxing. Meals are served in the dining room under the mango trees and most of the produce is grown on the property. The pool has a lovely setting in the gardens and is a welcome respite on a hot day.



Overnight:
Rock View Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Hiking

DAY 9: ROCK VIEW LODGE

At dawn take a hike in the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains on the Panorama Trail where you might see Cinereous Mourner, Finsch's Euphonia, Reddish Hermit, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Green-tailed and Yellow-billed Jacamar. The views across the savannah and villages as the sun rises are spectacular.

Return to the lodge for breakfast before departure.



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Transfer by vehicle from Rock View Lodge to Ginep Landing.

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, birds and creatures of the night.

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



Overnight:
Karanambu Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 30min drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 10: BIRD WATCHING

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



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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:
Approx. 2hr drive



Activities:
Exploring

DAY 11: 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 in search of wild Giant River Otters, Black Caiman and Arapaima, making a boat journey along quiet stretches of river.

Return to the lodge for breakfast before departure.



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 along the nearby Rupununi River. 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 local craftspeople, including the furniture builders at Yupukari Crafters, The Wabbini craft house, and the ladies that grow and process cotton and make lampshades.

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.



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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 with flush toilets and running water. 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 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 that was previously unknown.



Overnight:
Karanambu Lodge



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
N/A



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 12: TRANSFER TO AMERINDIAN VILLAGE OF YUPUKARI AND CAIMAN HOUSE

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.

This afternoon enjoy 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. We will begin our tour at the Georgetown Seawalls before continuing into the heart of the city.

During your visit there are a number of interesting sights that should not be missed such as 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. Other historic buildings along this promenade are the Public Library, City Hall, the Victoria Law Courts and St. Andrews Kirk. Visit 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 Amerindian history and lifestyle.

We will visit the Botanical Gardens, home to an extensive collection of tropical flora. We will also pay a visit to a pond either in the gardens or the National Park, to feed the endangered West Indian Manatees.

For those who enjoyed a city tour as part of their Pre-Tour, you can exchange this tour for a



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Pickup at your hotel and transfer to a local restaurant.

Backyard Café is located in the West Ruimveldt area where our host, guide and culinary master, Chef Delven Adams will greet you as you enter.

This, as the name suggests, is a backyard that Chef Delven has turned into an exclusive little hidden gem of a restaurant. Try not to bang your head on the passion fruit hanging overhead from the arbor. If there are ripe ones you will be welcomed to try a freshly picked one. His menu is whatever is in season at the time. It is a Guyanese fusion from all over the world.

Delven makes his purchase based on clients' suggestions and dietary requirements from the local market.

If you are interested, Chef Delven will welcome you to join him as he prepares a wonderful meal from the fruits, vegetables and meats he bought. He has a smoker and small fireside right outside and sometimes will prepare the fresh fish right there and you can certainly help him and learn his secrets. His garlic fish is out of this world! You can sit under the arbor and sip unique blends of juice or enjoy a cold Banks Beer, while taking in the sounds and smells of a delicious meal in the making in a secluded back yard in Georgetown.

Once he is ready, we will start eating our way through the courses. We will start with an appetizer, to an entrée and end up with a dessert, which we may be hard pressed to fit in, but we will give it our best shot and remember to pace yourself as you will want to try it all.

For those who enjoyed a lunch at the Backyard Cafe as part of their Pre-Tour you can exchange this meal for dinner with The Singing Chef. Please confirm option at time of booking.



Overnight:
Caiman House



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Discover

DAY 13: TRANSFER TO GEORGETOWN

Free day to relax, explore Georgetown or enjoy an optional tour.

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
Rate p/p US\$:	517.00	259.00	210.00	210.00	210.00	161.00



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Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	161.00	161.00	133.00	133.00	133.00	133.00

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.

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Birding in Georgetown's Botanical Gardens - 3 Hours Duration

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	104.00	53.00	50.00	40.00	57.00	48.00

Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	42.00	38.00	35.00	31.00	30.00	37.00

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.

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

7 Curry Tour - US\$

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
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Rate p/p US\$:	288.00	180.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00	145.00

7 Curry is a traditional dish that is enjoyed by Guyanese regardless of ethnic background. It's usually cooked on special occasions such as weddings and traditionally served in a beautiful, freshly gathered Lotus waterlily leaf. The meal features 7 different curries eaten with rice and other accompaniments such as puri and achar. And the fun part is you get to eat it with your hands. The 7 curries are all vegetarian and includes pumpkin, bagee (spinach), catahar, potato/channa (chickpeas), boulanger (eggplant), edoe and dahl. All very delicious and a true guyanese experience with East Indian influences. This is a much-loved traditional meal but prepared but with a modern twist. The tour commences with a 15-minute briefing.

You will then gather your own lotus waterlily leaves to start the day off and then take off to Bourda market to purchase some of the vegetables to make the 7 curries. We will meet Buddy who has been selling water coconuts for over 50 years and partake in a delicious cold-water coconut.

After this we make our way to Tony Favorites Puri shop where you will be able to watch a demonstration of how the puris are made. You will see as Tony prepares the puri ball then throws it to his nephew who rolls it and then throws it to Tony's son who cooks it right in front of you. We will take puris to go with the 7 curries but as they are so delicious we will, of course, have a fresh one right there and then served with a filling of your choice and local fresh fruit juice.

We will then head over to Jessica and Eon's secret garden. 7 curry is traditionally cooked outside so you will be taken through the process of how each curry is made and learn some of the techniques from Eon John the Singing Chef. As soon as the curries are all cooked we will all sit down together under the gazebo and enjoy. Photo opportunities abound as you are pictured making the curries and then eating them from your own gathered waterlily leaf in a beautiful setting.

To finish Eon John the Singing Chef will take to the stage for your own private concert of lovingly crafted Guyanese songs

Optional Service (not included in package rate):

Day Let room

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00	69.00

Single Supplement: 68.00

Day let room at Cara Lodge.

Pickup and transfer to the airport for your departing flight.





Overnight:
Cara Lodge



Meals:
B, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Exploring

OPTIONAL Tours

DAY 2

Birding in Georgetown's Botanical Gardens - 3 Hours duration

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	104.00	53.00	50.00	38.00	57.00	48.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	42.00	37.00	35.00	31.00	29.00	37.00

0545hrs pick up and transfer to the extensive [Georgetown Botanical Gardens](#) where, if we are lucky, we will have views of the Blood-coloured Woodpecker. This colourful 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.



Evening Seawall, bars and street food experience

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	154.00	110.00	96.00	90.00	85.00	82.00
Number of Pax:	7+0	8+0	9+0	10+0	11+0	12+0
Rate p/p US\$:	81.00	79.00	78.00	90.00	95.00	93.00

Every Sunday evening Georgetown's Seawall comes alive as families, courting couples and friends promenade enjoying the Atlantic sea-breeze. The narrow strip becomes a hive of pop-up cocktail bars, street food vendors selling all kinds of 'cutters' or tapas, blaring Caribbean music and parties spilling out of the trunks of cars. This is the 'Seawall Lime'. This excursion takes you into the heart of the scene visiting various bars and enjoying street food, with your guide, who knows all the best places. We will also visit other local bars around the city, looking for what is popular, traditional or unusual. Every Sunday is a new experience, tailored around the group and the level of immersion into the local culture they wish to enjoy.



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Dinner at Aagman Indian Restaurant

Number of Pax:	1+0	2+0	3+0	4+0	5+0	6+0
Rate p/p US\$:	70.00	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

The name "**Aagman** " is derived from India's ancient Sanskrit script, which means "ARRIVAL " or "BEGINNING".

Aagman's food philosophy is driven by a desire to present eclectic and expansive Indian repertoire, bursting with flavours and originality, as a multi-sensory dining experience. Experience epicurean Mughlai Cuisine from the imperial kitchens of India. Enjoy the authentic flavours of creations achieved through the use of the finest ingredients and cooking techniques, in elegant yet subtle fully air-conditioned interiors inspired by the spices. Relax, entertain or simply enjoy whilst their intuitively attentive staff enhance the dining experience.

Important Information

INCLUDED

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

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Departure tax
- Personal expenses
- Visa

Day 2 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/>



Surama

Surama Eco-lodge

<https://suramaecolodge.com/>



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Annai

Rock View Lodge

<https://rockviewlodge.com/>



Pakaraima Mountains

Karanambu Lodge

<http://www.karanambustrustandlodge.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.

