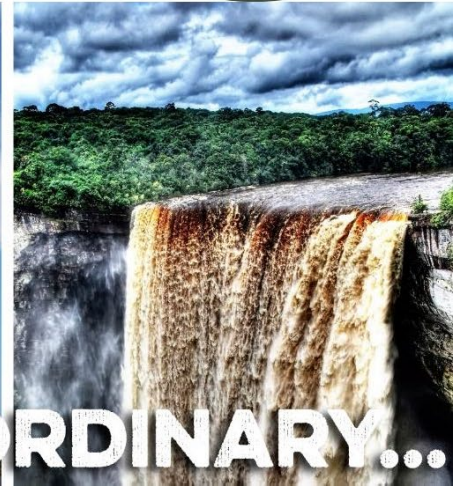


The Guianas

Discovering the Hidden Guianas

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

Itinerary

The Guianas • Discovering the Hidden Guianas

15 Days • 14 Nights

Georgetown- Paramaribo - Cayenne

Highlights

- Visit Kaieteur Falls, the highest single drop waterfall in the world.
- Discover one of the greatest untouched rainforests left.
- Get the chance to spot some incredible yet endangered species such as the jaguar, giant anteater and giant river otter.
- Take a trip to the space centre in French Guiana and relive the story of Papillon at Devils Island.

Tour Essentials

Tour Style	Nature and Culture
Tour Start	Georgetown
Tour End	Paramaribo
Accommodation	Hotels + Lodges
Included Meals	13 Breakfasts, 10 Lunches, 5 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

Discover the hidden land



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The Guiana Shield is a 1.7 billion-year-old Precambrian geological formation in northeast South America and is one of the regions of highest biodiversity in the world. The shield has 1400 vertebrate species and 1680 bird species and is overlain by the largest expanse of undisturbed tropical rain forest in the world. Join us as we explore the Guianas: Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Marvel at Kaieteur Falls, the highest single drop waterfall in the world and discover one of the greatest untouched rainforests left. This region is home to endangered species such as jaguar, giant anteater, giant river otter, tapir and so much more. Spend time learning about the cultures of the region with visits to Amerindian and Maroon communities. Be amazed at the Space Centre in French Guiana and relive the story of Papillon at Devils Island. This really is an untouched and totally unique part of South America.

An 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.

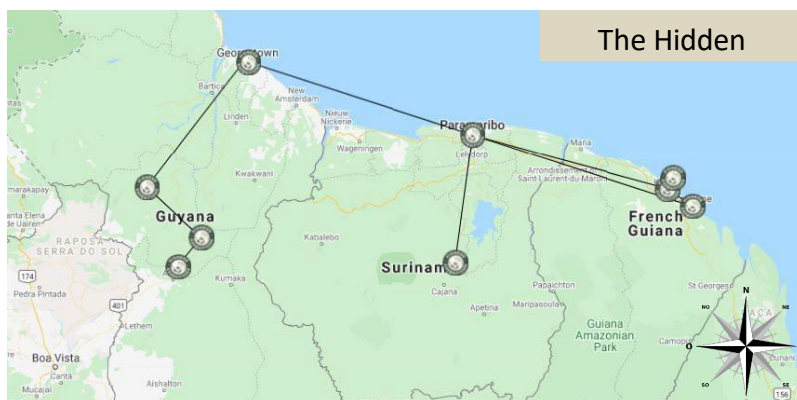
Why Pioneer Expeditions?

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 the 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.

Itinerary



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Saturday **GEORGETOWN, GUYANA**
Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
TRANSFER ONLY COST from CJIA to Central 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)



Sunday **KAIETEUR FALLS AND GEORGETOWN**
Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
Birding in Georgetown's Botanical Gardens - 3 Hours Duration

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 is situated in the heart of Guyana on the Potaro River, a tributary of the [Guy02](#)



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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 and/or Orinduik Falls are operated on a scheduled aircraft and mainly on weekends, 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. 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 or offer another excursion of the same value during your itinerary. If this is not possible then a full refund on the flight will be made.



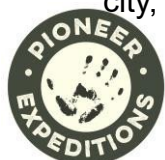
Pickup and transfer from Eugene F. Correia International Airport to Georgetown.

Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)

Evening Seawall, Bars and street food experience

Every Sunday evening Georgetown's Seawall comes alive as families, courting couples and friends promenade along the seawall, enjoying the Atlantic sea-breeze. The narrow strip becomes a hive of pop-up cocktail bars, street food vendors, blaring Caribbean music and parties spilling out of the trunks of cars. 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

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experience, tailored around the group and the level of immersion into the local culture they wish to enjoy.

Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
Dinner at Aagman Indian Restaurant

Pickup at your hotel and transfer to a local restaurant.

"Aagman" is derived from India's ancient Sanskrit script, which means 'arrival' or 'beginning'. The Aagman food philosophy is driven by a desire to present an eclectic and expansive Indian repertoire, bursting with flavours and originality, as a multi-sensory dining experience. Experience the 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 surroundings.

Overnight at [Cara Lodge](#). B

Monday IWOKRAMA RIVER LODGE & ATTA RAINFOREST 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.

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.

After lunch transfer 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. (**Important note: currently, 2 bridges & 1 platform is down for maintenance**)

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.

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 at [Atta Rainforest Lodge](#). BLD

Tuesday

ATTA RAINFOREST LODGE

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 at [Atta Rainforest Lodge](#). BLD

Wednesday

ATTA RAINFOREST LODGE TO KARANAMBU LODGE

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



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Transfer from Atta Rainforest Lodge through the Iwokrama rainforest 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 and birds and creatures of the Guy02



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night.

Accommodations are in traditionally made clay brick cabins, each with en suite and veranda with hammocks. Overnight at [Karanambu Lodge](#). BLD

Thursday KARANAMBU LODGE

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 at [Karanambu Lodge](#). BLD

Friday KARANAMBU LODGE TO GEORGETOWN

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.



Transfer from Karanambu Lodge across the savannah to Lethem.

Scheduled flight to Eugene F. Correia International Airport.

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

Optional Service (*not included in package rate*) Demerara Historical River Tour

This afternoon we will take a drive through the heart of the city to the Stabroek Market Guy02



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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.



Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)

Dinner with Singing Chef

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 colourful 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.



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Overnight at [Cara Lodge](#). BL (Check in time 1400hrs, Check out time 12midday)

Saturday

GEORGETOWN TO PARAMARIBO

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 local products produced and packaged in Guyana, 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. Dry goods like rice and of course demerara sugar are abundant. 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. The 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 visit the Botanical Gardens, home to an extensive collection of tropical flora, and we will also pay a visit to a pond either in the gardens or 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.



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Pickup and transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Optional Service *(not included in package rate)*

Surinam Airways one way flight GEO/PBM

Board scheduled flight for journey to Suriname from Cheddi Jagan International Airport, landing at Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport.

Formerly a townhouse, that has been transformed into the most charming lobby of one of Paramaribo's most favoured hotels with numerous eco-friendly features. The Eco Torarica is located within a 5-minute walk of the historic centre of Paramaribo and the tantalizing city life. Rooms offer either a breath-taking view of the Suriname River or a beautiful view of the lovely garden. The hotel is simply ideal for guests who want to visit Suriname to relax and unwind. Overnight in a standard room at Eco Torarica. BL (Check in time 1500hrs, Check out time 1200hrs)



Sunday

PARAMARIBO

Paramaribo, the capital city of Suriname, has been placed on the UNESCO "World Heritage" list of historical monuments since 2002. We start our tour in the inner city of Paramaribo with a visit to the ancient building complex, Fort Zeelandia. You will have an extensive guided tour from our guide. We continue the trip by foot and visit the Independence Square surrounded by historical buildings including the Presidential Palace, the Palm Gardens and Lim a Po Street, one of the most beautiful streets in Paramaribo. After this walk, we drive along the most prominent historical buildings with their unique architecture. We will make a photo stop at the Synagogue and Mosque which are located right next to each other. Our next stop will be the Cathedral, the highest wooden building in the Western Hemisphere. Our City Tour ends at the Waterkant along the Suriname River, the favourite meeting place in

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Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After Peperpot our next stop will be a visit to the outdoor museum at Fort Nieuw Amsterdam. Fort Nieuw Amsterdam is situated in a strategically important location: on the precise meeting point of the Commewijne and the Suriname River, close to the ocean. The large fortress was built by the British as a defense for the plantations that were situated along the upper parts of both rivers. The fortress was originally an earthwork construction. It has the shape of a polygon (5 equal sides) and features 5 bastions. At the outdoor museum, there are several restored buildings, including the gunpowder storage building from 1740 and the coach house with a few coaches dating from the 19th century. In one of the ponds you can find the famous giant water lily, *Victoria Amazonica*.

Please note: covered clothing is required when entering the cathedral

Transfer to the pier at Leonsberg where we will be picked up for the Sunset Dolphin tour. While having a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) we enjoy the cool breeze and river views. Meanwhile, the captain searches the horizon for the dolphins. Normally we see them swim by in groups of up to 20 dolphins. Sometimes they're very curious and if we are lucky they will jump and play close to the boat. After having enjoyed this playful company we part for the wonderful restored plantation Rust & Werk where we will go for a walk in the village. Here the descendants of the contract workers from Indonesia live, we call them the Javanese people. After the sun has set we will get back on board, pour a drink and enjoy a local snack, and slowly make our way back to Leonsberg.

Transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in a standard room at Eco Torarica. BL

Monday **PARAMARIBO TO DANPAATI RIVER LODGE**

This morning we start our nature and cultural experience as we depart from Paramaribo. After travelling a distance of approximately 190 km you arrive at the village of Atjoni. At the port of Atjoni we join a motorized canoe, where our skilled personnel will navigate their way up the Upper Suriname River, which is famous for its breathtaking rapids, to the Danpaati River Lodge.



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The Danpaati River Lodge is an exceptionally remote and tranquil oasis in the heart of the rain forest, and welcomes adventurous visitors in search of an escape from modern stresses and distractions. The lodge features a welcoming and breezy lounge facing the river, a large pool surrounded by a hardwood yoga deck, and easy access to one of the few portions of the Surinam River where it is actually safe to swim. Accommodations are in spacious A-frame style cabins with carefully appointed amenities including fresh coffee service in the mornings, mosquito nets, and unbeatable views into the thick, surrounding nature.

Our day comes to an end with an exciting cruise on the river, looking for caiman lying on the river banks. Overnight at Danpaati River Lodge in a standard room. BLD

Tuesday DANPAATI RIVER LODGE

Today we will visit one of the 12 villages that are affiliated with Danpaati. Pikin slee is located 30 minutes by boat from Danpaati. We will take a guided tour through the village. You will be introduced to the unique way of life of the local population and to the wonderful traditions brought from Africa by their ancestors. After the tour we then visit the Maroon museum Saamaka which is dedicated to the cultural heritage of the Saramak Maroon population. In the museum you will learn about the history of the Maroons, their ancient traditions and crafts. After the tour we return to the lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon, we will discover the secrets of the rainforest during our walk. Afterwards you could choose to enjoy a massage done in a combination of traditional and Western techniques. There are also other possibilities to explore in the surrounding area. You can go fishing or take the dugout canoe around the island.

After dinner you can enjoy a traditional and cultural dance performance. Traditional dances such as the Seketi, Awasa and Bandamba will be performed by the local population. Your guide will explain the cultural significance of each dance. Overnight at Danpaati River Lodge in a standard room. BLD

Wednesday DANPAATI RIVER LODGE TO PARAMARIBO

This morning we still have some time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and take pictures. After saying good bye to the staff, we depart by dugout canoe from Danpaati to Atjoni. From Atjoni we will continue our journey back to Paramaribo by vehicle.



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Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
Dinner at Miroso

In the evening you will be picked up for dinner at a stylish Indonesian restaurant "Miroso".

Suriname has an interesting cultural mix and an unexpected Javanese population. After the abolition of slavery, the plantations in Suriname needed a new source of labor. In 1890, the influential Netherlands Trading Society, owner of the plantation Mariënborg, undertook a test to attract Javanese contract workers from the Dutch East Indies.

Until then, primarily Hindustani contract workers from British India worked on the Suriname plantations as field and factory workers. On August 9, the first Javanese arrived in Paramaribo. The test was considered successful and by 1894 the colonial government took over the task of recruiting Javanese hands. They came in small groups from the Dutch East Indies to the Netherlands, and from there to Paramaribo. The transport of Javanese immigrants continued until 1914 (except 1894) in two stages through Amsterdam. The Javanese were recruited to work on plantations and then they branched off in opening restaurants.

Overnight in a standard room at Eco Torarica. BL

Thursday PARAMARIBO TO KOUROU

Packed breakfast in hand we make an early start as we comfortably pace ourselves through the journey. The first leg of our travels takes us eastbound along Suriname's coastal road, to the Albina border station.

Formalities here rarely take more than a few minutes, and soon we find ourselves on the Ferry crossing the Maroni River headed for French Guiana or "Guyane" as it is

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frequently (and confusingly) called locally. Arrival at St. Laurent du Maroni is relatively uncomplicated, and our French guide will be on hand to help us navigate the usual customs and immigration formalities.

French Guyana is a Department of France, so technically you have entered the EU upon landing here. And, evidence of this connection to the "1st world" is immediately evident: every car seems to be a late-model Mercedes, Volkswagen or Peugeot, the roads are in near perfect condition, espresso coffee is on tap nearly everywhere, and the Euro is the currency of choice.

Upon arrival in St. Laurent enjoy a mini city tour of St. Laurent du Maroni where we will pay a brief visit to the well-preserved Camp de la Transportation. The facility once served as the transit point for slaves and indentured servants and later for political prisoners and convicts from France. They were sorted here and then assigned to the various locations around French Guiana.



Enjoy a packed lunch as journey to the Center Spatiale Guyanaise (Guiana Space Center) for a tour. Launch schedules are a closely-held secret so our schedule today may be amended on short notice. The usual tour includes a motor coach tour which criss-crosses the centre's mammoth facility, including stops at various assembly buildings, launch pads and control centres. The entire tour is offered in French, but your guide will supply translations as often as possible.

Your trip in French Guiana includes a visit to the Space Centre and Devils Island which are subject to unforeseeable closures at short notice, either for technical reasons or around rocket launches. Whilst we have the scheduled rocket launch dates, the launches are subject to change due to weather and technical considerations, and the final launch dates may vary drastically from the schedule. It may be changed by hours, days or even weeks. When a rocket is to be launched the Space Centre will close on the day of the launch, sometimes they may close for a few days before and after, it varies from launch to launch. As Devils Island is below the launch trajectory the site is also closed on launch days. As you would appreciate, these conditions are beyond our control, and we apologise for any inconvenience that may be experienced and will do everything to minimize changes to your itinerary. We will attempt to reschedule visits, where possible, or offer alternative activities. The upside is you may be lucky enough to see a rocket being launched!



Pioneer Expeditions

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Hotel Atlantis is a modern business hotel on the edge of Bois Devil Lake with air-conditioned rooms, telephone, WiFi, satellite television and refrigerator. The spacious open lobby includes a patio overlooking the pool, lake and tennis courts. The trendy restaurant offers French and Creole cuisine and has an excellent selection of wines. Overnight in a standard room at Hotel Atlantis. BL (Check in time 1400hrs, Check out time 12midday)



Friday DEVIL'S ISLAND AND CAYENNE

After an early breakfast we will transfer to the dock in Kourou for our departure for the Iles du Salut. What is commonly referred to as "Devils Island" is really a triangle of three islands - Îles du Salut, or the Salvation Islands - seven miles off the coast of Kourou. We set sail aboard a catamaran towards our first stop, Île Royale. The islands played a central role in French history as far back as 1762 when they were first employed as a transit point, first for explorers, then slaves and later for political prisoners and convicts. Île Saint-Joseph is the southernmost island and was known as the silent island as inmates were not allowed to speak to either the guards or fellow convicts. Papillon claimed to have spent two years here in solitary confinement. St. Joseph was known as the 'man-eater' for obvious reasons.

Île Royale is the site of the oldest and most extensive buildings on the islands, featuring an old church, administration buildings, officers' quarters, and today, a good restaurant and lodging facilities. Ironically, the actual Île du Diable (Devil's Island) is inaccessible to visitors due to dangerous shoreline conditions. This is the island where the prison's best-known occupant, Alfred Dreyfus, was famously secluded. Papillon claimed that he escaped the island on a coconut raft.

Your boat will dock on Île Royale. The prison buildings here are quite well preserved, and you can meander at will through the cell blocks, dormitory buildings, and other structures. Be sure to check out the children's cemetery behind the old hospital. If your walking tour wraps up early, there are plenty of shady trees with benches under which you can catch a cool breeze down by the dock. Keep an eye out for sea turtles that like to scavenge among the rocks near the dock.

Return to Kourou by catamaran and transfer to Cayenne.





Hotel Central is located in the heart of Cayenne close to the historic Palmistes Square just a short walk from the shopping streets and the business district. Overnight at Central Hotel in a standard room. BL (Check in time 1500hrs, Check out time 1130hrs)



Saturday CAYENNE AND DEPARTURE
Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
Cayenne City Tour

Enjoy a tour of Cayenne, the administrative and commercial centre of French Guiana. It is a typical creole town with about 50,000 inhabitants, half of the entire population of the country. The Fort Céprou, the Place Léopold Heder, the hotel of the Jésuites, the Place de Grenoble, the Place des Palmistes, the colonial hospital, the Franconie Museum, the town hall and the city centre are the gems of Cayenne.



Optional Service (*not included in package rate*)
Airport transfer Central Hotel to Felix Eboue Airport

Pick up from your hotel and transfer to the airport for your departing flight.



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Important Information

INCLUDED

- All meals as described (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Accommodation as described
- Airport transfers in Guiana and throughout the trip

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned
- Personal gear
- Travel/medical insurance
- Personal expenses
- Tips

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION	
SEASON	All Year
BEST TIME TO GO	Feb – April End of Aug - Nov
GROUP SIZE	The price is per person & based on a group trip based on 2 people travelling
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	Scheduled Group Departure or Tailor made to suit your dates. Check out website to find expedition dates
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 guide

The Pioneer Booking Process



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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.

