



# GUYANA BIRDING BONANZA

**Duration:** 16 days/15 nights

**Activity level:** Moderate

**Price:** From US\$3700

**Minimum:** 4 persons

## Overview:

An in depth birding discovery tour which focuses on excellent birding from comfortable rainforest and river resorts in the Essequibo River and the Rupununi Savannahs. We will visit the Famous Kaieteur Falls, Iwokrama, Atta Lodge, Surama, Rewa, Karanambu, Dadawana Ranch and Sloth Island.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Guyana

On arrival at Cheddi Jagan airport in Guyana, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Georgetown. Depending on your arrival time, you'll visit the Botanical Gardens in the afternoon for blood-coloured woodpeckers, white-bellied piculet and festive parrots as Snail Kites, Limpkins and Donacobius, many parrots including Festive, macaws including both Red-bellied and Red-shouldered, Black-crested Antshrike, White-bellied and many more species.

**Overnight at Herdmanston Lodge.**



## Day 2: Kaieteur Falls/Iwokrama

After breakfast we transfer to Ogle Airport for your flight to Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest single drop waterfall. Kaieteur is located on the Potaro River and is 741 feet high and is five times the height of Niagara Falls. The falls are impressive as they We search for White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts, the rare Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, the Orange-breasted Falcon and many more species which adorn the national park. We then fly to Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve. Iwokrama is a one million acre reserve which was established in 1996 under a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat to manage the Iwokrama forest, "in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general". Apart from being a research centre, Iwokrama promotes eco-tourism, a venture which sees many international tourists visiting on a daily basis. We stay at the River Lodge which features comfortable cabins overlooking the Essequibo River. After dinner we enjoy a boat tour in the Essequibo River in search of nocturnal wildlife. B,L,D

**Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge.**

## Day 3: Iwokrama

After breakfast, we will leave the Field Station traveling by boat for half an hour to the foot of Turtle Mountain then commence a leisurely stroll up the mountain to its summit at 953ft (approx. 106m). This mildly challenging stroll takes about 1 to 1 1/2hr. to walk up the mountain, but the effort is more than worth it for the breathtaking views over the forest canopy when you get up there. We hope to see Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Golden-sided Euphonia, Scarlet Macaw, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, and Cream-coloured and Ringed Woodpeckers and more. Return to the Field Station for lunch. After lunch we search for more birds around the lodge. After dinner we take a boat on to the river to look for Ladder-tailed Nightjar. B,L,D

**Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge.**

## Day 4: Transfer to Atta Rainforest Lodge

After breakfast, we leave for the Atta Rainforest Lodge. As we leave Iwokrama, we'll bird along the roadway arriving for lunch at Atta Lodge. The 154 metre (505 ft.) state-of-the-art Iwokrama Canopy Walkway offers a totally unique experience in the region and envelopes you in the jungle's mid-level canopy through a series of suspension bridges and decks from heights of up to 30 metres (98 ft.). You'll have the chance to see birds like the Green Aracari, Scarlet Macaw, Guiana Toucanette or Channel-bill Toucan. Red Howler Monkeys may also be observed. Check out the epiphytes such orchids and bromeliads, and look for the amazing parasitic Ficus plant as it engulfs another tree. There is also the Greenheart Tree, the Waramadan (endemic in Guyana only to the Iwokrama Forest) and the poisonous Aromata!. B,L,D

**Overnight at Atta Lodge**



## Day 5: Drive to Surama Eco lodge

After breakfast transfer by 4x4 to Surama and be welcomed by the village counselor. Afterwards you will explore the village with your local guide. You will visit the local school, medical centre and church along with some of the village houses. we bird around the Lodge in search of Great Jacamar, Green and Black-necked Aracaris, Black-spotted Barbet, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, several woodcreepers including Amazonian-Barred, Black-banded and Olivaceous, Eastern Slaty-Antshrike, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, several antbirds including Rufous-throated, Scale-backed and Wing-banded, Spotted Antpitta, if lucky Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Red-and-green Macaw, and Red-fan and Blue-headed Parrots. In the afternoon we bird in the area of a lek of the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock where we have opportunities of seeing this bird. Evening is rounded off by searching for White-tailed Nightjar and Least and Lesser Night-hawks. BLD

**Overnight at Surama Eco-Lodge.**

## Day 6: Rewa

After breakfast, we drive south to Annai by 4x4 to Kwatamang landing. Then travel along the Rupununi River with opportunities of seeing wild Giant River Otters and Black Caiman. You will pass locals fishing and bathing in the river until you reach the Rewa River and the Amerindian community of Rewa. Journey is approximately 50 miles by river and can be as short as 2 hours and as long as 4 hours depending on the water level. Rewa Village is located where the Rewa River runs into the Rupununi River in the North Rupununi. The surrounding area is rainforest, mountains and oxbow lakes and teeming with wildlife birds and fish. The community of approximately 220 persons is predominately Macushi with a few families of the Wapashani and Patamona tribes. Villagers practice subsistence farming, fishing and hunting with little opportunity for cash employment. In 2005 the community constructed the Rewa Eco-lodge so that they could establish a sustainable eco-tourism business. Once settled in take a walk through the community of Rewa to see how the locals live. Visit villager's houses where you can experience their everyday life and see activities such as grating cassava, weaving baskets and tending kitchen gardens. BLD

**Overnight at Rewa Eco lodge**



## Day 7: Rewa

This morning travel by boat to a nearby trail for a hike through rainforest and into savannah. See local traditional farms and if you're lucky a family may be there practicing their indigenous farming methods. This afternoon take a boat up the Rewa River. Along the river banks you may see red howler monkeys, squirrel monkeys and brown capuchin, and this area has a large population of giant river otters. Then a 15 minute hike to Grass Pond, which is about 3 kms long and is a beautiful setting with Victoria Amazonica. It has a good population of Arapaima, (reportedly the highest density in Guyana) the largest fresh water fish in the world and you can also fish for Peacock Bass. During a late afternoon visit you may see Brown Capuchin monkey or Capybara. Birds likely to be seen include Limpkin, Wattled Jacana, Black-collared Hawk, Green Kingfisher and Guianan Puffbird. As dusk settles watch the flower of the Victoria Amazonica bloom. BLD

**Overnight at Rewa Eco Lodge.**

## Day 8: Journey by boat to Karanambu Ranch

Transfer by boat to Karanambu Ranch birding along the river as we go along. At Karanambu, we will be greeted by Diane McTurk, our host, who is famous for rehabilitating orphan otters to the wild. She has appeared in many films National Geographic, Jeff Corwin Experience, Really Wild Show (BBC) and the Calgary's "Zoo World". These days there are no resident otters but Diane will share wonderful stories about her life in the Rupununi. Karanambu Ranch is located within the rainforest and savanna. Many species of birds can be observed along nearby rivers and ox-bow lakes Capuchinbirds, Striped Woodcreeper, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Bearded Tachuri, Bicolored Wren and White-tailed Goldenthrout. As we go along the rivers we can observe Jabiru, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Purple Gallinule, Agami Heron, Wattled Jacanas walking on water-lilies. In the late afternoon, we'll most likely see Lesser Razor-billed Curassow, Sunbittern, Black-chinned Antbird, and Boat-billed Heron. B,L,D

**Overnight at Karanambu Ranch.**

## Day 9: Karanambu Ranch

Across the savanna we search for Bearded Tachuri, Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, Brazilian Teal, Vermillion Flycatcher, Bicoloured Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee and Maguari Storks. This is also our best chance to see the remarkable Giant Anteater. In the afternoon we travel on the Rupununi River down river to Simony Lake where we are likely to find Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Bare-necked Fruitcrow and Spot-breasted Woodpecker. In addition we look for Black and Spectacled Caiman, Giant River Otter, many species of monkeys. BLD

**Overnight at Karanambu Ranch.**



## Day 10: Transfer to Lethem

After breakfast we drive south to Lethem, a town located at the border of Brazil. We do some savannah birding along the Takatu River. Return to Hotel for overnight. B,L,D  
**Overnight at the Takatu Hotel.**

## Day 11-12: Dadawana Ranch

Transfer by vehicle from Lethem to Dadawana Ranch, Guyana's largest working cattle ranch. Dadawana is one of the oldest, largest and most isolated ranches in the world. It is situated upon 1700 square miles of savannah in the South Rupununi region of Guyana, and it is here that the cattle graze free-range. Accommodation is in typical stilted wooden houses facing the savannah, offering panoramic views of the majestic Kanuku Mountains. Dadanawa Ranch is a sanctuary for the endangered red siskin and ideal for birding, fishing, horseback riding, travelling to neighbouring Amerindian villages or visiting the out-stations of the Ranch. The rainforest is close at hand, offering terrific hiking, cave exploration, and ancient Amerindian petroglyph sightings. But above all else, Dadanawa is still a working ranch where visitors can observe the barefooted vaqueros work cattle the same way they have been doing for over a hundred years. On our visits we will search for Curatella Flycatcher and raptors and the elusive red siskin known to be found here. (B,L,D)

**Overnight at Dadawana Ranch**

## Day 13: Fly to Georgetown /transfer to Sloth Island Reserve

Today, we head to the town of Parika, driving over the Demerara River, Guyana's second largest River. The harbor Bridge is the longest floating bridge in the world. We may be lucky to see scarlet ibis along the sand banks of the Demerara River. We'll continue our journey by boat along the Essequibo River- Guyana's largest River- being 21 miles wide at its widest point. We continue to Sloth Island a 155 acre wildlife sanctuary located in the Essequibo River. The accommodation is in comfortable spacious ensuite rooms. Sloth Island has recorded over 200 species including the Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Cocoli Heron, Great Egret, Green Ibis, White-necked Jacobin, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Black - eared Fairy, Crimson Topaz, White-necked Puffbird, Pied Puffbird, Curve-billed Scythebill, Cayenne Jay, Green-tailed Jacamar, Paradise Jacamar, Green Aracari, Scarlet Macaw, Guiana Toucanette or Channel-bill Toucan. Red Howler Monkeys and sloths may also be observed. B,L,D

**Overnight at Sloth Island Reserve.**



## Day 14: Kykoveral and Parrot Island

Early dawn session around the premises of Sloth Island for more species including the Violaceous and Plumbeous Euphonia, Green Oropendola, Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, Short-billed Honeycreeper, Purple Honeycreeper, Red-legged Honeycreeper and more. After lunch we will take a boat trip along the Mazaruni River to Marshall Falls. An easy trail leads into the rainforest where we search for Pygmy Antwren, White-bearded Manakin, Guianan Warbling Antbird, Caica Parrot, Spotted Antpitta and many more species. In the late afternoon, we then travel to Parrot Island where hundreds of Orange-winged Amazons come to roost. B,L,D

**Overnight at Sloth Island Reserve**

## Day 15: By Boat and vehicle to Georgetown/afternoon Botanical Gardens birding

Enjoy a dawn session at the Botanical Gardens for specialties such as three of the world's rarest birds – blood-coloured woodpeckers, white-bellied piculet and festive parrots. We may also see macaws including both Red-bellied and Red-shouldered, Black-crested Antshrike, White-bellied and Golden-spangled Piculets, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, and Turquoise Tanager among the 200 species found here.. BLD

**Overnight at Herdmanston Lodge.**

## Day 16: Departure

After breakfast, we transfer to Cheddi Jagan International Airport for our departing flight home.

# TRAVEL GUIDE

**Price: From US\$3750 per person based on 4 persons traveling.**

## Your Travel Value Includes:

- ✓ Private round-trip transfers between airport and hotels.
- ✓ 13 nights in interior lodges, 2 nights Georgetown Hotel..
- ✓ Meals as indicated.
- ✓ Services of an English-speaking local host in all destinations.
- ✓ Sightseeing program with local guides including admission charges as described.
- ✓ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ✓ Local bar

## Here is a list of some of the things to pack

- ✓ Raincoat/poncho (we're experiencing a very wet "dry season").
- ✓ Hats.
- ✓ Sun tan lotion.
- ✓ Insect repellent
- ✓ Malaria tabs - not necessary but good to have anyway.
- ✓ Head torch.
- ✓ Waterproof bags - (for passports and important documents, money, etc)
- ✓ Breathable hiking boots (high top). One for indoors.
- ✓ Long sleeve shirts for colder nights and insects in the interior- also good against sun
- ✓ Short sleeve cotton shirts for warmer days in city and some resorts.
- ✓ Short cotton pants for warmer days on some resorts.
- ✓ Luggage should not exceed more than 10 kilos for interior travel. Any extra weight will incur an additional cost of US\$0.75 per lb.
- ✓ Small backpack/s for separating luggage for interior travel- rest to be kept for safekeeping by Dagon or hotel.

## Gratuities

**Tipping is not compulsory.**

There is no exact amount for tips to guides, maids, or drivers, etc. However, it would be good to tip them. If there are too many people to tip, you can give the lodge owners to distribute to the employees unless you feel the need to give an individual for his/her special service.

## Kaieteur Falls

Kaieteur Falls tours are sometimes problematic in that we need the minimum of 5 persons to operate the flights. In rare cases these flights are cancelled due to inadequate numbers. We pool with our colleagues to fill flights to Kaieteur Falls. Sometimes it may be necessary to have the date of this tour changed to facilitate a trip going off-in which case we will notify you just before- a day or 2 prior to the trip.