



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Discovering the Hidden Guianas

Tour Duration – 15 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●● | Culture ●●●○○ | History ●●○○○ | Wildlife ●●●○○

Tour Pace

Busy. This journey covers the highlights across three countries and by necessity is a fast-paced tour as we have a lot of ground to cover. It involves many early morning starts and some long transfers which can be tiring.

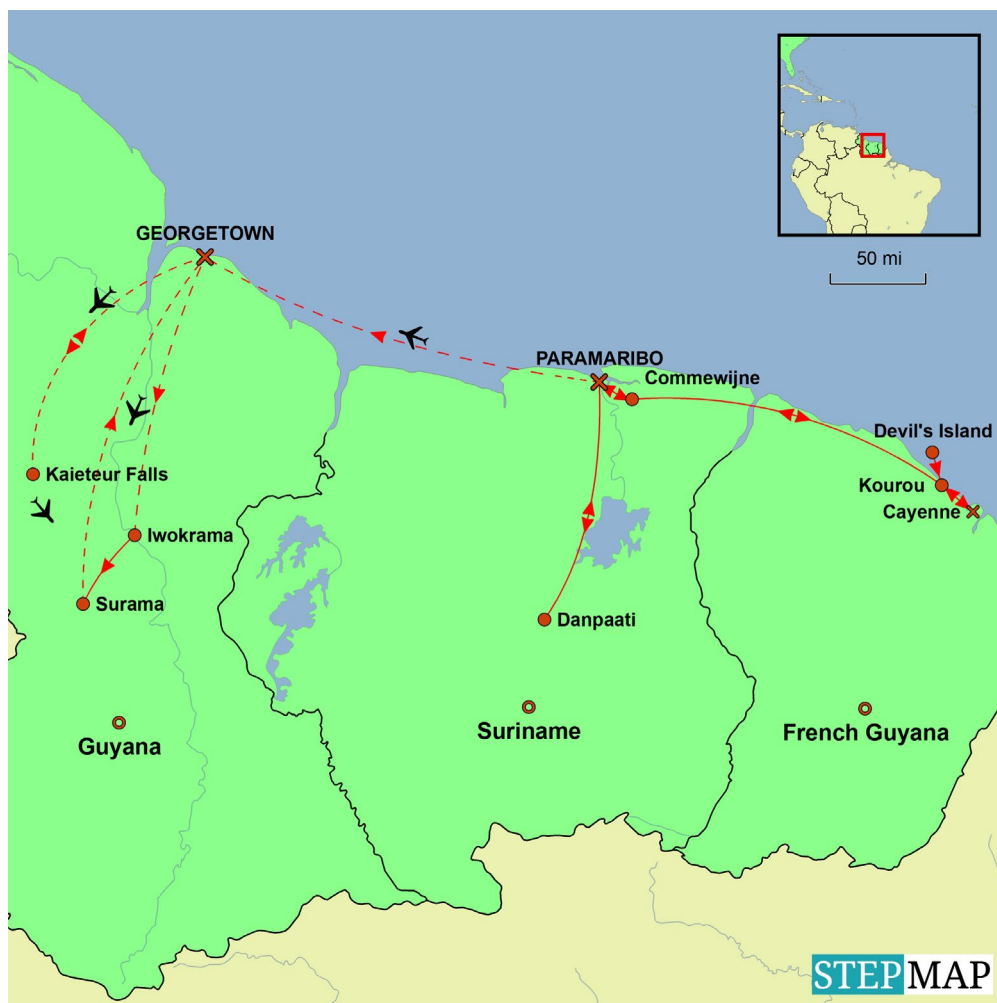
Tour Highlights

- ✓ The flight over Kaieteur Falls, the highest free-falling waterfall in the world
- ✓ The pristine rainforest of Iwokrama
- ✓ Meeting the local Maroon people in Suriname
- ✓ Visiting the Iles du Salut and the Guyana Space Centre in French Guiana



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Tour Map



Tour Essentials

Accommodation: Basic and simple but comfortable lodges and hotels. No hot water, limited internet and electricity are available at lodges.

Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunch (L) and dinner (D) as shown in the itinerary

Group Size: Maximum of 10 (you may be joined by travellers from companies other than Undiscovered Destinations)

Guide: Local guides at properties. This is not an escorted tour with a tour leader.

Start Point: Paramaribo (Suriname)

End Point: Georgetown (Guyana)

Transport: Minibus, small open motorised boats, pirogue and domestic flights

Countries Visited: French Guiana, Guyana, and Suriname



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The Hidden Guianas

The small South American country of Guyana rarely features on most people's travel plans, but discerning travellers are coming to recognise it as one of the premier wildlife destinations on our planet. Brought into the spotlight by the BBC's 'Lost Land of the Jaguar' series, Guyana offers unique opportunities to spot incredible wildlife such as Tapir, Giant River Otters, Caiman and of course the Jaguar itself. Gain a unique perspective of the forest from its amazing canopy walkway, as well as visiting the Amerindian village of Surama to learn more about the lives of Guyana's indigenous people. In neighbouring Suriname, we explore the unique capital of Paramaribo with its superb colonial architecture and look for Caiman on the banks of the river. We also visit old plantations for an insight into the country's history, and Maroon villages more reminiscent of Africa than South America. French Guiana, an overseas region of France adjoining Suriname and Brazil, makes up the third of the Guianas, known for the Isles du Salut and the Ariane Space Centre. The three combined makes for a unique tour within Latin America.

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. The order of activities at the lodges may change due to weather conditions, water levels etc., and overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf.

On this tour you will have a different guide in each country and at each lodge with no accompanying tour leader throughout the tour.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Paramaribo

Arrive in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at Torarica Hotel or similar. No meals nor guided arrangements are included today.

Paramaribo

Suriname's capital looks rather out of place in South America – an unusual collection of architecture that often has you wondering exactly where you are. Located on the banks of the Suriname River, Paramaribo (Parbo to the locals) changed hands a few times between the Dutch and the English in the early days of their involvement in the region but was under Dutch control from 1815 until the end of colonial rule in 1975. Evidence of this heritage can be seen in the city's historic district (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), where wooden houses with elaborate and elegant facades line the streets close to the old Fort Zeelandia. Elsewhere African markets vie for space with mosques and Hindu temples and buildings sport Chinese script, all of these reflecting the unique ethnic make-up of the capital and of Suriname itself.



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On street corners and open-air bars look out for men sitting with caged birds – a popular pastime in Suriname is entering songbirds in singing competitions. The population of the city is just 250,000, giving it rather an intimate feel, and the historic inner city is a fascinating place to wander round, with stunning old wooden churches and whitewashed mansions lining the streets.

Day 2: Paramaribo - Danpaati

Early this morning (around 630am) we head south from Paramaribo by road to Atjoni, and then travel by a small open motorised boat (approx. 2.5-3hrs depending on water levels) along the Upper Suriname River to Danpaati River Lodge which is situated on an island in the middle of the rainforest. We pass Maroon villages through breath-taking scenery. On arrival you can swim in the pool or the river and relax in the forest surroundings. In the evening, we head out on the river in search of Caiman lying on the river banks. Overnight at Danpaati River Lodge or similar. (BLD)

Local currency is required to use the washroom on the boat, approx. 5-10 SRD per person, foreign currency not accepted.

Day 3: Danpaati

Today we will visit one of the twelve villages that are affiliated with Danpaati to learn about the customs and culture of the local Maroon groups. In the afternoon we take a forest walk and learn about the traditional medicinal uses of the plants here. The rest of the day is at leisure with the opportunity to take a dugout canoe around the island or try some fishing. Overnight at Danpaati River Lodge or similar. (BLD)

The Maroons

The Maroon people are the descendants of former runaway slaves who fled the colonial plantations from the end of the 17th century onwards, for a better life in the interior. Most settled alongside rivers, some crossing into French Guyana and customs that they had brought with them from Africa remain largely free from outside influences. A visit to Maroon villages presents an utterly different side of Latin America that is rarely encountered by travellers.

Day 4: Danpaati - Paramaribo

This morning is at leisure at the lodge until lunch, and in the afternoon, we depart by dugout canoe for Atjoni and return by vehicle to Paramaribo. Overnight at Torarica Hotel or similar. (BL)

Day 5: Paramaribo - Commewijne Plantations

Today we head to the Commewijne district to the east of Paramaribo across the Suriname River. The tour takes us along the former colonial plantations, most of which are now abandoned. We make a stop at plantation Peperpot where the old coffee and cocoa factory, deputy-director's house and the old office are located. This former plantation is one of the oldest in the history of Suriname. Peperpot was established by the English and already existed before Suriname was conquered by the natives from Zeeland under the command of Abraham Crijnssen in 1667. This is one of the last plantations still in its original condition. Peperpot is renowned for the many birds which can be spotted. From here we make a stop at the mini museum of Marienburg, a former sugar plantation, before enjoying a delicious lunch in a typical Javanese restaurant (warung) in Tamanredjo. We then continue to the confluence of the Commewijne and Suriname Rivers at Nieuw Amsterdam. Here we will visit the outdoor museum of Fort Nieuw Amsterdam, with its large fortress which was built as a defence for the crop fields that were situated along the upper parts of both rivers. Optional dolphin tour before heading back to the hotel. Overnight at Torarica Hotel or similar. (BL)



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Day 6: Commewijne – Cayenne

Make an early start (approx. 0645am) and travel 2.5 hours along the coastal road to the border point at Albina where we will go through the customs and immigration formalities. This is generally very quick and we will soon be on the pirogue (small semi covered motorised boat) crossing the Maroni River heading for French Guiana. We will be met by our French guide on arrival in St Laurent. Enjoy a mini city tour making a brief visit to the well-preserved Transportation Centre. The facility was the processing centre for the majority of convicts being sent to the penal colonies in French Guiana. Having served their original sentences, the convicts were then obliged to serve the same length of time here in an attempt to populate the colonies- perhaps the best-known inmate was Papillon. Just offshore lies the wreck of the British steamer Edith Cavel which sank in bad weather in 1924- it is now so overgrown with vegetation that it looks like an island. After the tour, we journey for 3 hours by road to Cayenne where we enjoy a city tour. Overnight at Central Hotel or similar (BL)

Day 7: Cayenne – Devil's Island - Kourou

What is known as Devil's Island is actually a triangle of three islands. After an early breakfast, we travel 1 hour by road to Kourou and we take a motorised catamaran to our first stop, Île Royale. It can be easily walked around in less than two hours before the next stop, Île Saint-Joseph. Ironically Devil's Island is closed to visitors due to dangerous shoreline conditions. Return to Kourou by catamaran and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at Hotel Atlantis or similar. (BL)

Iles du Salut

The islands played a central role in French history from as far back as 1792 when they were used firstly as a transit point for explorers, then slaves and later for political prisoners. Ile St Joseph is the southernmost island of this notorious former penal colony and the prison buildings here are quite well preserved; you can wander through the cell blocks, dormitories and other structures at leisure and observe Nature slowly reclaiming the land. Ile Royale is the site of the oldest buildings on the islands with an old church, administration buildings, officers' quarters and today a restaurant and lodging facilities.

Day 8: Kourou - Paramaribo

This morning, we will join a tour of the Guyana Space Centre. The tour is conducted in French but your guide will provide translations as often as possible, before transferring by road to St Laurent de Maroni, making a brief stop at the church of Saint Joseph in Iracoubo, to see the interior which was hand painted by one of the convicts from a nearby penal colony. Make the return journey by pirogue to Albina and continue to Paramaribo. Overnight at Torarica Hotel or similar. (BL)

Note: Launch schedules are a closely guarded secret so the schedule today may be changed at short notice.

Day 9 – Paramaribo – Georgetown (Domestic Flight)

This morning, we make an early start for the flight to Georgetown departing at 0730 and arriving at 0745, where we will join our chef Delven Adams from the Backyard Café at the fresh produce markets, as he shops for ingredients for our lunch later today. While he heads back to prepare lunch, we continue on a tour of the capital city, visiting a number of the places of interest including the cathedral of St George, the Avenue of the Republic with its historic buildings, the renowned Stabroek Market and the National Park to feed the endangered West Indian Manatees. We will make our way to the Backyard Café for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon we head to the waterfront to board a water taxi for a cruise along the banks of the Demerara River. Your guide will give you a brief history of the buildings as we pass and we will continue to the Demerara Harbour Bridge, once the longest floating bridge in the world. As we return to shore with the sun setting you may see Egrets and Scarlet Ibis as they make their way to the Mangroves for the night. Overnight at Grand Coastal Hotel or similar. (BL)



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Day 10: Georgetown - Kaieteur Falls (Domestic Flight) - Georgetown

Close to noon we transfer to the airport for a scheduled flight over the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers and hundreds of miles of unbroken tropical rainforest to visit the famous Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall, where the Potaro River drops 741 feet into the gorge below. Afterwards we return to Georgetown for the evening. Overnight at Grand Coastal Hotel or similar. (B)

Notes:

- a. There is the option of a tour of the Botanical Gardens before leaving for Kaieteur Falls - please contact us for the costing.
- b. On occasion the visit to Kaieteur Falls may need to be re-scheduled.

Kaieteur Falls

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

Day 11: Georgetown – Iwokrama (Domestic Flight) – Atta Rainforest Lodge

Fly over Guyana's rainforest to land at Fair View Airstrip, from where we transfer to Iwokrama, an incredible region of rainforest with a breath-taking diversity of species. Take a boat journey, looking for birds along the way, for the hike to Turtle Mountain, where we walk to the summit (approximately 2 hours) for spectacular views over the forest canopy. The area is home to Red Howler Monkeys, Black Spider Monkeys, and five different eagles. For those who feel that the walk may be too strenuous an alternative boat ride can be taken to Stanley Lake to search for Giant River Otters and Black Caiman. Return to Iwokrama River Lodge for lunch after which we travel along one of the best trails for seeing Jaguar. Sightings cannot be guaranteed but if you are very lucky you may see one of Guyana's most elusive creatures. Along the road we will look out for a myriad of bird species that frequent the edge of the forest. The road is the only north to south access in Guyana and links the country to Brazil, but there is very little traffic and wildlife such as Agouti, Tayra, Puma, Tapir and Black Curassow are sometimes spotted. We continue to the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, 30 metres above the ground, for a different perspective of the forest. We will also spend time exploring the clearing around Atta Lodge, where you will have an excellent chance of spotting the Crimson Fruit Crow, and Black Curassow. Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge. (BLD)

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

Iwokrama

Iwokrama Forest covers nearly a million acres and is home to a bewildering array of different species. Its name means 'place of refuge' in the language of the Makushi Amerindians, who retreated here to avoid the predations of the slave trade. Iwokrama was established as a centre for the study of the rainforest and has been set aside to promote sustainable tourism within the region. Wildlife here includes Jaguar, Caiman, Howler and Spider Monkeys, rodents such as Pacas and Agoutis, and Peccaries among numerous other species. The birdlife here is equally spectacular, with Toucans, Macaws, Hummingbirds and the sought after Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. The forest is in the homeland of the Makushi people, who have lived here and used the forest for thousands of years. Although the forest around Atta Rainforest Lodge is excellent for birds, the major attraction here is a 154-metre-long canopy walkway which is only 750m from the lodge. The walkway has four platforms, the highest of which is over 30 metres above the ground, and these will allow us the opportunity to spot a range of canopy species, many of which we would struggle to see well from the forest floor.



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Day 12: Atta Rainforest Lodge

Early this morning we return to Iwokrama Forest for a chance to spot birdlife and Red Howler and Black Spider Monkeys. Today enjoy the canopy of the forest, with several wildlife and birdwatching trails available. 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)

Day 13: Atta Rainforest Lodge - Surama

Experience the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway and look out for Red Howler and Black Spider Monkeys. Transfer by vehicle through the rainforest to Corkwood before setting off for the Amerindian village of Surama, stopping on the way at a spot known for sightings of one of Guyana's most intriguing birds, the Guianan Cock of the Rock. We then continue to Surama, where a local guide will give us a tour of the forest and the village, with an opportunity to visit some of the houses, the church, the medical centre and the local school. After lunch back at the village we set off to walk the three miles to the Burro Burro River for a canoe trip, hoping to spot Giant River Otters, Tapir and Spider Monkeys amongst other wildlife. This evening we head out to experience the forest at night. Overnight in the basic accommodation at Surama Eco Lodge. (BLD)

Surama

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

Day 14: Surama Mountain - Georgetown

Rise before dawn and walk across the savannah in the cool morning air to climb Surama Mountain. This is not a technical climb but can be arduous, and for those who prefer not to undertake it the local guides will arrange alternative activities. After lunch which we transfer by road (approx. 3 hours) to the Rupunini airstrip for a scheduled flight across swathes of tropical rainforest to Georgetown. Overnight at Grand Coastal Hotel or similar (BL)

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

Day 15: Tour ends in Georgetown - Departure from Guyana

Time at leisure until your transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)





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Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers if arriving on the first day of the tour and departing on the last day of the tour.
Ground transport throughout
Domestic flights as shown in the itinerary
All accommodation
Services of English-speaking local guides- please note you will have a different guide in each location rather than the same guide throughout.
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas
Drinks
Tips (discretionary)
Items of a personal nature

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

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

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

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

On this tour the check in time for most hotels is between 4-5pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore, please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.



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It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour you will be staying in simple, but comfortable, accommodation. The Surama Eco Lodge is rather rustic. Rooms will be en-suite, with private bathroom and you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar.

Single Travellers

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

Food & Drinks

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

Dietary Requirements

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

Budgeting for your Tour

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, pit stops that charge a fee in Suriname and French Guiana, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

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

Guyana

Lunch £10 / Dinner £20, in hotel 25-30 USD

Suriname

Lunch 10 Euros / Dinner in restaurant 15-20 Euros, in hotel 20-25 Euros

French Guiana

Lunch 15-20 Euros / Dinner in a restaurant 30-35 Euros, in a hotel 40 Euros

Drinks

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



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Guyana

Bottle of beer (Imported) 2 Euros / Water (1.5L) 0.80 Euros

Suriname

Bottle of beer (Imported) 1.15 Euros / Water (1.5 L) 0.90 Euros

French Guiana

Bottle of beer 3 Euros / Water (0.33 L) 1.75 Euros

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise in South America. If your local guide has been helpful then you could think about tipping. This amount can obviously be left to you. When tipping a driver, a guide or hotel staff a few dollars will always be gratefully received.

Foreign Exchange - Guyana

ATM Availability: Available in Georgetown but not reliable.

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

Local Currency: Guyana dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars

Where to Exchange: The best place to exchange money is in Georgetown. Our ground handler can pre-arrange local currency to be available at the hotel, if adequate (at least 3 days) notice is given.

Foreign Exchange - Suriname

ATM Availability: Available in Paramaribo and a small number of places outside the capital.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted

Local Currency: Suriname dollar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars

Where to Exchange: The best place to exchange money is in Paramaribo

Foreign Exchange – French Guiana

ATM Availability: Widely available

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted

Local Currency: Euros

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Euros

Where to Exchange: The best option is to arrive with Euros

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

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

Joining Your Tour Abroad

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





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Travel Insurance

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

Visa Information

With regards to entry requirements for Suriname, firstly please follow this link to the official immigration website for further information: <https://suriname.vfsevisa.com/suriname/online/home/index>. It should be noted that you do not require a visa for entry to Suriname. However, you must pay an entry fee online via this website, please follow this link for further details and to make the payment - <https://suriname.vfsevisa.com/suriname/online/home/who-can-apply-for-e-tourist-card>. Very importantly, it is essential that you purchase two separate entry fees that you will need to do via two separate transactions via the website. This is necessary as you will be entering Suriname twice, firstly when you arrive in South America and secondly when you return from French Guiana to Suriname as part of the tour. Upon each entry you will need to provide proof that you have paid the applicable entry fee, again this must be done in advance via the website as two separate transactions.

Please note, that you do not require proof of a hotel confirmation or any other supporting documentation from Undiscovered Destinations. If you have any queries, please refer to the FAQ section on the above website where you find contact details should you require further clarification.

For French Guiana UK and EU citizens will not require a visa, but other nationalities may, so we recommend that you check with your nearest embassy.

Visas for Guyana are not required by many nationalities, including UK and US citizens, and citizens of some European countries for up to 30 days. However, we recommend that you check with your nearest embassy for the most up to date details. Upon arrival in Guyana, you may be required to present your onward flight information to Immigration before you are permitted in the country.

Passports

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

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

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

Vaccinations & Protection

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



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Vaccination against yellow fever is required for entry to Suriname if arriving within 10 days after leaving or transiting countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

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

Preparing for your tour

Climate

As Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana are situated just above the equator, they enjoy year-round warm temperatures with an average in the high twenties (Celsius), with high humidity. It is cooler at the coast than in the interior. Guyana and Suriname experience two wet seasons – the main one from May to September and shorter rains in December, while French Guiana has a rainy season from December to June.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy. Guyana and Suriname are warm all year round and so there is no need to bring a lot of heavy clothing, although a light fleece or something similar may be appreciated. It is a good idea to bring some long trousers and long-sleeved shirts to avoid being bitten by insects.

Equipment

Suncream/sunblock is a must – please ensure you bring enough as it may not be available locally. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. You should also bring binoculars if you have them – these will greatly enhance your wildlife viewing.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended and lighter shoes or sandals can be worn when transferring between destinations.

Luggage on tour

Passengers travelling on internal flights within Guyana are allowed a total free luggage allowance of 20lbs/9.1kgs per person. If this is exceeded charges will apply, but the additional baggage allowance can only be confirmed by the airline, on the day of travel. If you wish to ensure that you are able to travel with extra luggage you can consider purchasing an additional seat on the aircraft.

Passengers travelling on Gum Air flights between Suriname and Guyana are allowed a total free luggage allowance of 33lbs/15kgs. If this is exceeded charges will apply, but the additional baggage allowance can only be confirmed by the airline, on the day of travel. If you wish to ensure that you are able to travel with extra luggage you can consider purchasing an additional seat on the aircraft.



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Electric Supply & Plugs

Plugs are generally of the three pin, American style plugs. We recommend that you bring a multi-adaptor to cover all eventualities.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour, but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These tour notes were updated on 12 March 2024.

