



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Black Curassow

Birding Guyana: Nature's Treasure Trove

13 Nights/14 Days | Dec. 5 - 18, 2020

Guyana, the one English speaking country on mainland South America, is home to Giant Otters, Giant Anteaters, huge Harpy Eagles, immense waterfalls, and upwards of 900 species of birds. We will explore some of this country's most beautiful rainforests, expansive savannahs and pristine river systems, while staying at some of the country's best lodges. Guyana is known for having upwards of 80% of its forests intact, and as such is a fantastic destination for tropical birds and wildlife that require such large areas of forest; Jaguars, Pumas, Crested Eagles, Tapirs, Cotingas, Guyanan Cock of the Rock, Macaws, Parrots and more.

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrival Georgetown Airport (GEO)
Day 2: Mahaica River, Botanical Garden, Georgetown
Day 3: Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama River Lodge
Day 4: Turtle Mountain, Iwokrama River Lodge
Day 5, 6: Iwokrama Canopy, Atta Rainforest Lodge
Day 7: Atta Rainforest Lodge to Surama Lodge
Day 8: Surama area, Surama Lodge
Day 9: Surama- Northern Rupununi, Caiman Lodge
Day 10: Northern Rupununi, Caiman Lodge
Day 11: Sun Parakeets, Karassabai Village
Day 12: Red Siskins, Manari
Day 13: Takatu and Iring Rivers, fly back to Georgetown
Day 14: Departure Georgetown Airport (GEO)

13 Night/14 Day Itinerary

Day 1, Arrival at Georgetown, Guyana Airport:

We'll arrive Georgetown this afternoon/evening and then transfer to our hotel in town. Dinner is not included this evening due to varied arrival times, but those who arrive early enough can dine here at the hotel or at any number of restaurants in town.

Lodging at Cara Lodge

Day 2, Georgetown's Mahaica River and Botanical Garden:

This morning before breakfast and after a short drive, we'll begin our adventure by taking a small boat eastward along the Atlantic coast to the Mahaica River.

This is one of the best areas to find Guyana's national bird, the Hoatzin, and we will look for Rufous Crab Hawk, Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Barred

Giant Anteater



Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Striped Cuckoo, Little Cuckoo, Green-tailed Jacamars, Golden-spangled Piculet. We'll have our breakfast with a local family that hosts birders and nature travelers.

After a good breakfast, we will check the shoreline for spectacular birds such as Scarlet Ibis, Least, Semipalmated, Western Sandpipers, Whimbrel, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal, Gull-billed and possibly Yellow-billed Tern or Brown Pelican.

In the afternoon we'll visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens, and beautifully designed area of parkland with open areas, scattered trees, native and ornamental plants and several ponds and wet areas. Here we will target the abundant bird life here such as Blood-colored Woodpecker, White-bellied Piculet,



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock

gorgeous Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Southern Beardless- and Yellow Tyrannulet, Lesser Kiskadee, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow Oriole, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Wing-barred Seedeater, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Black-collared Hawk, and plenty of Snail Kites. In the tree tops, we'll hope to see Red-shouldered Macaw, Orange-winged, Yellow-crowned and Mealy Amazons, and with luck the Festive Amazon, a species in serious decline due to the illegal pet trade. If the trees are flowering, we will search for hummingbirds such as Black-throated Mango and Glittering and White-bellied Emeralds.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Cara Lodge*

Day 3, Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama River Lodge:

Today at around 9 AM, we board a chartered flight over unspoiled pristine rain forest to view an unbelievable sight; the Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall.

Kaieteur is a single massive, thundering cascade 100 meters wide, created as the Potaro River makes a sheer drop of 228 meters,



Sun Parakeet

Sun Parakeet

nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls.

After this incredible experience, we'll continue to Iwokrama River Lodge and after check in, take an easy hike to the nearby Capuchinbird lek. To see and hear these impressive birds in such beautiful surrounding forest is simply magical. This entire area of the Guianan shield Amazonian is a natural treasure and along the way we'll try for our first sighting of the astonishingly colorful Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Spotted Antpitta, or perhaps an Orange-breasted Falcon as it hunts for its favorite prey; the many swifts that soar overhead. We should also be able to find the rare Golden Poison-dart Frog that lives in water held in the leaves of bromeliad plants.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Iwokrama River Lodge*

Day 4, Iwokrama River Lodge – Turtle Mountain:

We'll have an early breakfast and then take a short boat ride on The Essequibo River to the Turtle Mountain trail. Along the way

are Capped heron, Black collared swallow, Bat falcons, Black Caiman and more.

Once on land we'll follow the trail to see the Orange breasted Falcon, and have great opportunities to see the Yellow-billed Jacamar, Great Jacamar, Red and Black Grosbeak, Guianan Puffbird, Black necked Aracari and more.

The trail up the mountain is well designed for easy walking, and we may see King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Short-tailed Hawk or Red-and-green Macaw. Red Howler Monkey and Black Spider Monkey are abundant here as well. We'll return to our lodge by around 5:00 PM, in time for a relaxed dinner.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Iwokrama Lodge*

Day 5, Atta Rainforest Lodge:

We'll depart early this morning and bird along the road toward Atta Lodge. This road passes through a fascinating area of habitat and is very productive. Along the way in this stunted, sandy forest known

as Mori Scrub we will look for Black Manakin, Bronzy Jacamar, King Vulture, Crimson topaz, Rufescent-tiger heron, Pale-tailed barthroath, Channel Billed Toucan, Spix's Guan, Guianan White tailed Trogon, Back-eared Fairy, and Yellow-tufted Woodpecker.

We also have to keep our eyes on the tree tops for Red-fan Parrot, Dusky Parrot, Red-and-green Macaws and possibly Blue-cheeked Amazon Parrot.

After lunch we'll have a leisurely afternoon of birding the lodge's gardens and nearby forest.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Atta Rainforest Lodge*

Day 6, Atta Rainforest Lodge:

Today will be a day of enjoying the nearby forest trails around Atta Lodge. After breakfast, we'll head to the elevated canopy walkway where time will be spent looking for Todd's Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrants, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed

Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Paradise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreeper, Black-faced Dacnis and Black Nunbird.

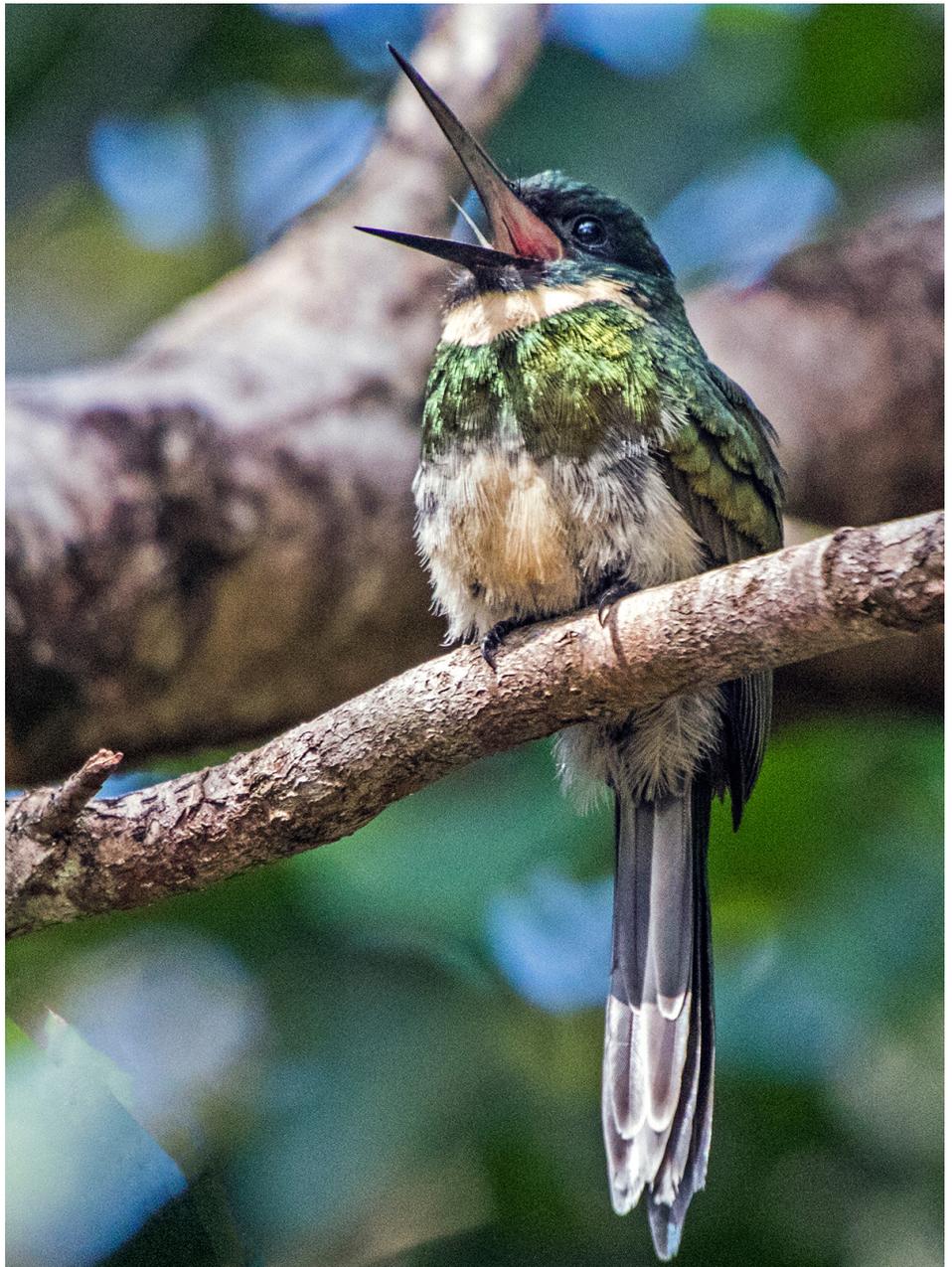
In the afternoon we'll cover more trails, hoping for army ant swarms and checking known sites for the pretty Crimson Fruitcrow, Blue-backed Tanager, Swallow-wing, Black-chinned, Scale-backed and Gray Antbird, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Amazonian and Mouse-colored Antshrike, Reddish Hermit, Tiny Tyrant Manakin, Rose-breasted Chat, Black and Red-throated Caracara, Violaceous Trogon, Golden-winged Parrot and Yellow-green Grosbeaks.

The roads here offer the best chances for Tapir and Jaguar, and in the evening we'll ask the staff where sightings have been made, and either drive or walk to try our luck.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Atta Lodge*

Day 7, Atta Lodge – Surama Eco-Lodge:

Today after breakfast, we drive for about 30-minutes to a lekking site of the spectacular Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, where we will have our second chance to see this beautiful bird. We'll also check a known, Long tailed Potoo roost and keep an eye out for the enigmatic Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo or Rufous-throated Antbird. We'll follow with birding around the Lodge, and hoping for Great Potoo and roosting Mottled Owl, White-throated Toucan, Fork-tailed Palm Swift and at dusk, White-tailed Nightjar, Least Nighthawk, Lesser Nighthawk, Tropical Screech Owl, and Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl, Rufous-winged



Bronzy Jacamar

Ground Cuckoo, Ferruginous-backed Antbird and many others.

Harpy Eagle is often seen soaring here or perched in huge Brazilian Cedar trees.

In the afternoon we'll go to the Burro-Burro River for a quiet and skillfully-guided paddle, searching for Silvered Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Coraya Wren, Buff-breasted Wren, White-banded Swallow, Amazon Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Blue-throated

Piping Guan, Guira Tanager, Crane Hawk, and Gray-headed Kite.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Surama Eco-Lodge*

Day 8, Surama Harpy Eagle Trail:

Today we'll leave early to walk Surama's famous Harpy Trail. The trail is flat, and our hike takes about 45 min. This massive nest is located in a huge, emergent Brazilian Cedar tree, and if we are fortunate will offer magnificent

views of parents as they attend their young, or soar and perch nearby. This area also offers a good chance for Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo and Ferruginous-backed Antbird.

In the afternoon we'll go to the Burro-Burro River for a quiet and skillfully-guided paddle, searching for Silvered Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, White-browed Antbird, Coraya Wren, Buff-breasted Wren, White-banded Swallow, Amazon Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Guira Tanager, Crane Hawk, and Gray-headed Kite.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Surama Eco-Lodge*

Day 9, Surama – Northern Rupununi:

After breakfast at Surama today, our journey takes us across the Northern Rupununi Savannah. The road we drive skirts numerous gallery forests and wetlands areas and we'll bird along the way for

Scarlet Ibis



great views of a variety of species including Jabiru, Pinnated Bittern, Great-billed Seed Finch, Bicolored Wren, Gray Seedeater, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, White-fringed Antwren, Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, the colorful Orange-backed Troupial and the agile Aplomado Falcon. We may even encounter a Giant Anteater if we are lucky.

In the afternoon we'll bird the nearby forest trails and some ponds where we hope to see Sunbittern, Azure Gallinule, White-faced Whistling-Duck, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, White-browed Antbirds, Buff-breasted Wren, Pale-tipped Inezia, Blue-backed Manakin, Striped Woodcreeper and maybe Undulated Tinamou. An evening excursion to the open grasslands as the sun sets should see the end of a magical day with Nacunda, Least and Lesser Nighthawks.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Caiman Lodge*

Day 10, Northern Rupununi:

This morning we will start with a cup of Brazilian style coffee before heading out into the Rupununi Savannah by 4x4. As we move across the savannah we will scan the vast wetland areas for the sought after Bearded Tachuri, plus Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, Brazilian Teal, White-tailed Goldentthroat, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicolored Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl and Maguari Stork. We'll also check an area where the rare and localized Crested Doradito was recently discovered. This is also our best chance to see the remarkable Giant Anteater in habitat that is perfect for it and Savanna Fox.

After lunch we have an opportunity to travel on the Rupununi River. This time we will head down river to Simony Lake where we are likely to find Green and Rufous Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Agami Heron, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Pied Lapwing, Boat-billed Heron, Common Potoo, Band-tailed Nightjar, Bare-necked Fruitcrow and Spot-breasted Woodpecker. With luck we may come across the secretive Crestless Curassow! In addition, we may be lucky enough to see Black and Spectacled Caiman, Giant River Otter, Capybara and many species of monkeys and even the occasional Arapaima or River Stingray.

Our sunset boat expedition wraps up with a delicious and hearty dinner back at the Lodge.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Caiman Lodge*

Day 11, Karassabai / Sun Parakeet / Lethem:

Before dawn, we hop aboard our 4X4's for the early morning southerly departure for Karassabai Village, a distant border community located between the northern Rupununi savannahs and Pakaraima Mountains along the Brazilian border. Here is where we are delighted to have a rare opportunity to spot the highly endangered Sun Parakeet. In the early 1990's, this species was on the brink of extinction due to extreme pressures from the pet trade until local villages took aggressive action to restore the population. A mere 7 individuals that remained at the time have struggled to regain their previous numbers, but signs are hopeful and current population counts suggest at least 300 birds are thriving in the area today. Karassabai is well off the standard tourist track and the Sun Parakeet is our main target here, though once we've achieved our target there will be plenty of other species to see.

In the afternoon we'll make our way from Lethem to our next lodge and arrive in time for dinner and relaxing.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Manari Lodge*

Day 12, Red Siskin:

Today we start early across the savannah to search the special edge habitats between savanna and forested mountains for the stunning little Red Siskin, a much sought after species and the center of a conservation project. Along the way we'll look for the Golden spangle Piculet, Bicolored Hawk, Pale bellied Tyrant Manakin, Burrowing Owl, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, White-tailed Hawk,

Red-Shouldered Macaw, Finsch's Euphonia, Cayenne Jays, and Hepatic Tanager.

After a great morning we will enjoy our lunch at Dadanawa ranch and then head back to Manari for Sooty-Capped Hermit, Amazonia Scrub Flycatcher, Plumbeous Seedeater, White throated Kingbird, Yellowish Pipit and more. We'll be back at our lodge by early evening in time for refreshing and a relaxed dinner.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Manari Lodge*

Day 13, Takatu and Iring River – Fly back to Georgetown:

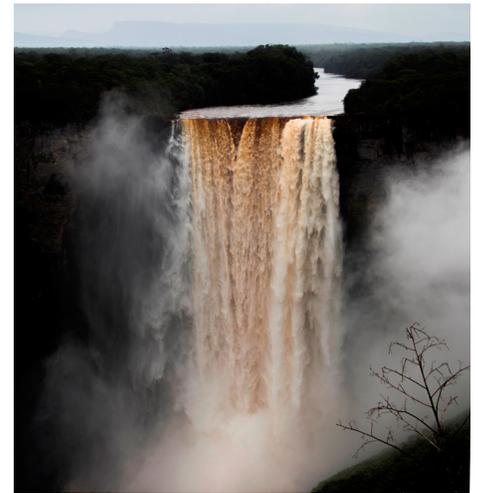
Today, after breakfast and a short drive we'll be birding trails within the dry scrub and savanna alongside the Takatu and Iring Rivers where two highly restricted and poorly known species occur, namely the Hoary-throated Spinetail and the Rio Branco Antbird. We also have a chance of variety of species such as Pinnated Bittern, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Cocoi and Capped Herons, Striated Heron, Wood Stork, Limpkin, Double-striped Thick-knee, Wattled Jacana, Marail Guan, Crested Bobwhite, Southern Lapwing, Pearl Kite, White-tailed Kite, and Savanna Hawk late. After lunch we'll make the short drive to Lethem's airport for flights back to Georgetown.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Cara Lodge*

Day 14, Georgetown:

After breakfast today, we'll bid farewell to our guide and group, and board our flights home.

Meals: Breakfast



Kaieteur Falls

Included in this Itinerary

In-country accommodations, internal flights in Guyana (charter and scheduled flights), ground transportation, tours, meals, soft drinks, guide and entrance fees.

Not Included

Personal items such as alcoholic beverages, gift shop, laundry, etc. are not included. \$32 departure tax is not included.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS

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