



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock

Guyana really does offer something special -- a small South American country nestled on the Atlantic Coast east of Venezuela and west of Suriname, it is one of the last unexplored wild places on earth yet offers incredible access into a great variety of pristine habitats. It is also a land of great contrasts as you leave behind the coastal city of Georgetown travelling into the interior, over vast unspoiled forests and incredible isolated waterfalls. The lure of Guyana is its pristine habitats and true wilderness where amazing wildlife with many sought-after species are easier to see here than in any of the surrounding countries. We have put together the most complete itinerary available, which includes visit to all the top eco dentations across the country and most importantly where highly favored rarities are found, such as Blood-colored Woodpecker, Rufous Crab Hawk, White-bellied Piculet, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Black Curassow, Cayenne Jay, White-winged Potoo, and Crimson Topaz. Along the way, we are led by the very best local guides and you can rest assured that your money will go to help Guianan-owned lodges and local communities, and bird conservation in Guyana.

Birding Guyana: Nature's Treasure Trove

12 Nights/13 Days

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrival at Georgetown (GEO), transfer to Cara Lodge

Day 2: Mahaica River, Mudflats and Botanical Gardens

Day 3: Kaieteur Falls, Iwokrama River Lodge

Day 4: Turtle Mountain Trail and Essequibo River

Day 5: Iwokrama River Lodge to Atta Rainforest Lodge

Day 6: Atta Rainforest Lodge/Canopy Walkway

Day 7: Atta Lodge transfer to Surama Eco-Lodge

Day 8: Surama Area, Forest Nature Trail

Day 9: Surama to Rock View Lodge – Birding the Rupununi Savannahs

Day 10: Rock View to Karassabai Village to Manari Ranch– Sun Parakeet Adventure

Day 11: Birding Manari Ranch

Day 12: Manari Ranch –flight to Georgetown

Day 13: International departure for home from GEO.

12 Night/13 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive Cheddi Jagan International Airport Georgetown, Guyana:

Today is planned as an arrival day. You'll be met at the airport (look for the sign with Natural Selections Tours on it) and proceed directly to your comfortable hotel, Cara Lodge. The journey will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour depending on the flow of traffic. If you cannot arrange a flight that arrives before dinner time, we strongly recommend that you plan to arrive for the tour a day



Harpy Eagle

early. Please note that by the time you arrive all restaurants will be closed so be sure to eat something on the plane.

*Meals: On our own
Lodging at Cara Lodge Hotel*

Day 2, Mahaica River, Mudflats and Botanical Gardens:

This morning we'll leave our hotel at 5:00 AM and head eastward along the Atlantic coast, making a few stops to check out coastal mud flats for Scarlet Ibises as they set out to feed at dawn. We will continue towards the community of Mahaica where we'll take a boat trip along the river. Among our targets will be Guyana's national bird, the bizarre, primitive Hoatzin, which is found in abundance on this river system. We'll also look for a host of other species including the Rufous Crab Hawk (localized), Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Long-winged Harrier, Barred Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Striped

Cuckoo, Little Cuckoo, Green-tailed Jacamar, Blood-colored Woodpecker, White-bellied Piculet, and Mangrove Cuckoo. Depending on the level of the tide, we may be able to check the shoreline for birds such as Scarlet Ibis, Mangrove Rail, White-cheeked Pintail, Western Sandpipers, Whimbrel, Black-bellied Plovers, Short-billed Dowitcher, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal, Gull-billed and Least Terns, and Brown Pelican. After birding the shoreline we'll make our way back to Georgetown for lunch.

During the afternoon, we'll visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens or the Georgetown National Park, an area of parkland with open grass, scattered trees, bushes and several ponds and wet areas. Here we will target several special birds including Blood-colored Woodpecker, White-bellied Piculet, the gorgeous Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Rusty-margined



Blood-coloured Woodpecker

Flycatcher, Southern Beardless, Great-horned Owl, 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'll search for hummingbirds such as Black-throated Mango and Glittering-throated Emerald and Plain-bellied Emeralds.

Meals: Breakfast

Lodging at Cara Lodge Hotel

Day 3, Fly to Kaieteur Falls – Iwokrama River Lodge:

After breakfast at our hotel, we will take a chartered flight over unspoiled pristine forest to Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall. Though Venezuela's Angel Falls is greater

in total height, its filamentous drop occurs by stages, whereas Kaieteur is a single massive, thundering cascade 100 meters wide, created as the Potaro River makes a sheer drop of 228 meters, nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. The spectacle is even more impressive for its remoteness. It is altogether possible that we'll be the only persons viewing it. Here, we will hope to find White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and perhaps we'll be lucky enough to have our first sighting of the astonishingly colorful Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock and see an Orange-breasted Falcon as it hunts for its favorite prey, the swifts. We should also be able to find the rare and endemic Golden Rocket Frog that lives in water held in the leaves of the Giant Bromeliad plants. Our flight departure time is dependent on the weather conditions. There will be plenty of bottled water, soda drinks, sandwiches, nuts, and crackers, that we can snack on before arriving to our destination for a late lunch. Weather willing, after a 2-hour stop at the falls, our flight will continue to Fairview Village where we'll be transferred to Iwokrama River Lodge in the heart of Guyana's beautiful rainforest.

Arriving at the lodge by 3 pm, we'll settle into our accommodations before enjoying a late lunch and prepare for the afternoon birding excursion on the nearby forest trails. Dinner will be served back at the lodge.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging at Iwokrama River Lodge

Day 4, Turtle Mountain Trail and Essequibo River:

After early breakfast this morning, we'll take a 45 minutes boat ride on the Essequibo River to the Turtle Mountain Trail. On the boating journey, we might see Black-collared Swallow, Scarlet Macaw, White-throated and Channel-billed Toucan, Mealy and Orange-wing Amazon Parrot, Painted Parakeet, and Ladder-tailed Nightjar on their day roost above the streaming water. On the trail, we are likely to find under story flocks that has, white-flanked, Antwren, Long-winged Antwren, Brown-bellied Stipplethroat, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Yellow-billed Jacamar and if luck strikes, the elusive Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo and Long-tailed Potoo. We will spend the entire morning on this trail. We'll return to our lodge for lunch and a break. In the afternoon, we'll take a walk on one of the nearby forest trails, with hope of finding an active swarm of army ants leading us to, a Spotted Antpitta, White-plumed Antbird, Rufous-throated Antbird, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Black-faced Hawk, Guianan Trogon. As the evening gets cooler and night begins to step in, there is a possibility of seeing one of two of these nocturnal feeders, Mottled Owl, Crested Owl, Northern Tawny-bellied Screech Owl and short-tailed Nighthawk.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging at Iwokrama River Lodge

Day 5, Iwokrama River Lodge

to Atta Rainforest Lodge:

This morning, departing River Lodge after an early breakfast, we'll bird on the road along the way to our next destination, the Atta Rainforest Lodge. Some forest birds are very elusive and hard to see, however, this drive will allow us the chance to look for Black Curassow, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Red Cotinga, Purple-breasted, Pompadour, and Spangled Cotingas. Canopy flocks can also produce, Ash-winged Antwren, Buff-cheeked Green, Lemon-chested Greenlet, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Zimmer's Flatbill, Guianan Tyrannulet, Yellow-throated Flycatcher and Guianan Puffbird. We'll arrive to our lodge in time for lunch at Atta where the surrounding vegetation often brings in long-tailed and Reddish Hermit, Black-eared Fairy, Grey-breasted Sabrewing, Forked-tailed

Sun Parakeet



Wood-nymph, Racket-tailed

Coquet and the magnificent Crimson Topaz. After a bit of a break (which many of us may spend on benches in the lodge clearing, where a host of species can be seen), we'll bird along the lodge's drive way as far as the main highway, hoping to run into large mix flocks that sometimes work along the track's edge. Towards dusk, we'll hop in our vehicles to drive a bit further along the road. Our target tonight will be Black-banded Owl, though spectacle Owl, Mottled Owl and Blackish Nightjar are also possible.

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

Day 6, Atta Lodge, Canopy Walkway and environs:

We'll have a whole day to bird the Lush Iwokrama Rainforest. After an early breakfast, we'll take a trail out to Atta's canopy walkway, where

we'll climb the 120+ steps to the

towers and spend some time watching for canopy dwellers, if we're lucky, Todd's Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Caica Parrot, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Paradise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, and Black Nunbird to name a few. After breakfast, we'll spend the remainder of the morning searching the many remarkable birds that make this area home, Black Curassow, Marail Guan, Waved Woodpecker, Red-necked Woodpecker, Golden-collared Woodpecker and Ringed Woodpecker. This wonderful area is famed for its variety of colorful cotingas and if we can locate a few fruiting trees we will be in for an avian spectacle with possibilities of Pompadour, Purple-breasted, and Guianan Red Cotingas, as well as Guianan Puffbird and the outrageous Crimson Fruitcrow. Gray-winged Trumpeter, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Ferruginous-backed Antbird are all possibilities on the trail here. During the afternoon a short walk will lead us to a small stream crossing where we'll watch for Rose-breasted Chat, Guianan-streaked Antwren, Crimson Topaz, Black-chinned Antbird, Dusky Antbird, Cinnamon-throated Woodcreeper, and Chapman's Swift.

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

Day 7, Atta Lodge to Surama Eco-Lodge:

After a final breakfast at Atta Rainforest Lodge, we'll make the drive to Surama Village, home to the Makushi people and our-local-guide-with plenty of birding stops en-route some possibilities are Marail Guan, Green Aracari, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Black-spotted Barbet, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black Hawk-Eagle, Tiny Hawk, Black and White-Hawk Eagle, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Green Oropendola, and Crimson Fruitcrow. Once we've had our fill of morning birding, we'll continue on to the Surama Eco Lodge, which sits near rich rainforest punctuated by the rugged Pakaraima Mountains. The accommodations are rustic but comfortable, with a mix of traditional benab-style huts (all with en-suite bathrooms). Late in the afternoon we will bird along the Great Potoo trail where we hope to see a Great Potoo or two roosting in good light. Other species that are possible here includes, the Grassland Sparrow, Wedge-tailed Grass, Forest Elaenia, White-throated Toucan, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Finch's Euphonia, Scarlet Macaw, Striped Woodcreeper, Spotted Puffbird, King Vulture and time permitting we will try for the Ocellated Crake. At dusk, White-tailed Nightjar, Least Nighthawk, Lesser Nighthawk, Tropical and Tawny-bellied Screech-Owls will be obvious by their call.



Giant Anteater

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

Day 8, Birding the Surama Area and Forest Trails:

Surama Village has a mixture of Savannah and Forest areas which makes it a unique habitat to explore, a small open grassland surrounded by primary tropical rainforest and mountains. Today we spend time on one of the forest trails. There is a known area where chances of seeing the Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo is possible with some effort. We'll also look for, Red-necked Woodpecker, Caica parrot, Painted Toddy Flycatcher, Golden-headed manakin, Capuchinbird, Wing-banded Antbird, Red-Legged Tinamou, Blue-throated Piping Guan, Rufous-throated Antbird, White-plumed Antbird.

Over the years we have located at least three nesting sites for the Harpy Eagles near the village. Sightings depend on breeding cycle and nest selection and if a

nest is active during our visit; we will make every effort for Harpy Eagle there. We'll spend much time in forest habitats, with hopes of seeing the, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Collared Puffbird, White-crowned Manakin, Mouse-colored Antshrike, Scale-backed Antbird and Black-throated Antshrike. We will have lunch at the Surama Junction with our host and chef Madonna Allicock. After our delicious lunch we will return to the lodge.

During the afternoon, we will make the effort to see the reclusive Ocellated Crake that lives near the environs of the lodge.

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

Day 9, Surama to Rock View Lodge – Birding the Rupununi Savannas:

This morning after breakfast we'll depart Surama Eco lodge and drive to Rock View Lodge, birding will be done on the way. Rock View Lodge is located in the Rupununi savanna and is an extensive flatland that projects south to the border with Brazil. It hosts extensive tropical grasslands and areas with scattered trees (savanna) as well as shrubs and scrubby vegetation. Ecologically speaking, it is part of a series of savannas separating the forest of two immense biomes, the Orinoquian and the Amazonian. Despite its apparent homogeneity, there are various microhabitats where highly specialized birds are found. For this reason, we will invest our morning checking wetlands and scrubby vegetation where we might come across a Pinnated Bittern in the muddy bank of a pond while in tall grasses we may find Wedge-tailed Grassfinch, Plumbeous, Ruddy-breasted, Gray, Yellow-bellied Seedeaters and



Orange-backed Troupial. In the meantime, the White-tailed Goldenthrout (hummingbird) could be seen visiting flowering plants near or inside shallow wetlands while the widespread Burrowing Owl will be standing in areas that never get flooded. We will arrive in time for lunch at Rock View Lodge.

During the afternoon we'll take a walk around the property to explore the area for, Buff-necked Ibis, Vermilion Flycatcher, Double-striped Thick-Knee, Perl Kite, American Kestrel, Savannah Hawk and the Yellowish Pipit that may be singing in the grasses. We'll return for dinner back at the lodge. and afterwards, scan for Nacunda Nighthawks leaving their roosting sites for their foraging grounds.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Rock View Lodge*

Day 10, Rock View Lodge to Manari Ranch – The Sun Parakeet Adventure:

Today is dedicated to seeing the Sun Parakeets. We will have an early morning departure leaving Rock View Lodge at 4:30am with a packed breakfast and drive to Karasabai, an Amerindian village located at the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains where the astonishingly beautiful Sun Parakeet is found. This area is a good example of a bird conservation project hosted by a local community. Once almost wiped-out of the region by intense trapping for the pet trade, the population of the parakeet has begun to rebound under the



Kaieteur Falls

protection of the Karasabai community. We are likely to spend some time learning from the local community about this successful conservation program. We will also look for distinctive subspecies of the White-bellied Piculet and Yellow-hooded Blackbird, which may soon be elevated to full species status, Hooded Siskin, Toco Toucan and ferruginous Pygmy-Owl are also present. After lunch, we will bird our way back across the savannas to Manari Ranch, near the outskirts of Lethem looking for open country birds and most notably one of the area's most amazing non-avian residents, Giant Anteater which is frequently seen here foraging in the open. Our drive will likely take all afternoon, but once in the comfort of Manari Ranch, we will relax and enjoy an early dinner. At dusk we'll watch the skies for Lesser, Least and Nacunda Nighthawks leaving their roosting sites for their foraging grounds.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at at Manari Ranch

Day 11, Birding Manari Ranch and Environs:

This morning we'll be birding the environs of Manari Ranch after breakfast. In the riverine forest, nearby possibilities are Pearl Kite, Aplomado Falcon, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, White-throated Kingbird, Red-bellied Macaw, Brown-throated Parakeets, Red-shouldered Macaw, Lowland Hepatic Tanager, Orange-backed Troupial and Green-rumped Parrotlet. We'll have lunch back at the lodge.

During the afternoon, a short drive will take us for more opportunities at Giant Anteater, and birds such as Bicolored Wren, Little Woodpecker, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Finch's Euphonia and the occasional Ruby Topaz. At dusk, we are likely to see the Least, Lesser and Nacunda Nighthawks as they leave their roost flying over the grasslands in search of their food.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at at Manari Ranch

Day 12, Manari Ranch – schedule flight to Georgetown:

After breakfast at Manari, we'll either drive to an area near the Kanaku Mountains for a final morning of birding, or if conditions are dry enough for our vehicles, we'll make an attempt for the very



Wedge-capped Capuchin Monkey

range restricted Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail along the Ireng River and Guyana's border with Brazil. Along the gallery forest edge, chances of Hooded tanager, Rufous-vented Conebill, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Savannah Hawk, White-tailed Kite, White-tailed Hawk, Brown-throated Parakeet, Red-breasted and Eastern Meadowlarks are possibilities. The group will return for lunch back at the Ranch before heading to the Airport for check in at 2:00pm the schedule flight is expected to depart by 4:30pm with an estimated time of arrival to Georgetown by 5:30pm. The group will be picked up at the airport and taken to Cara Lodge. Dinner will be served at the Cara Lodge Hotel.

PLEASE NOTE: Flight times can be subject to change at short notice.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Lodging at Cara Lodge Hotel

Day 13, International Departure for Home:

Today we depart for our international flights home with our driver picking us up at our hotel at the appropriate time.

Meals: Breakfast

Included for the duration of this itinerary:

All airport transfers on Day 1 and day 13, meals as listed on the Itinerary, snacks and water daily, all road and river transfers, internal flights in Guyana, activities as described on the itinerary, local guides throughout, public liability insurance, Iwokrama Forest User Fee, Iwokrama Canopy Walkway fee, Kaieteur National Park fee.

Not Included:

Items of a personal nature, meals in Georgetown, laundry, souvenirs, alcoholic drinks, international flights, medical care if needed,

emergency evacuation insurance, gratuity or tips.

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.

Notice: *All guests must provide body weights of passengers booked to travel on tour in Guyana for all internal flights. Failure to provide us with this information or the incorrect information can cause delays, inconvenience other passengers and in some cases either passengers and/or luggage being taken off the flight. To ensure a tour that is enjoyable, it is imperative that passengers provide us with this information. We appreciate some people are sensitive about providing their body weights, but all customers and their baggage are weighed at check-in.*

This is a procedure by the airline to ensure that the weight of the load is within the allowable payload limit for the aircraft, and neither they nor Natural Selections Tours will compromise on safety. All passengers are subject to removal of themselves or luggage from the flight if they are over the weight they provided and/or over the baggage allowance. Passengers are advised to provide a body weight with clothing similar to that which they would expect to travel in on the flight. Natural Selections Tours cannot be held responsible for any passenger denied boarding or luggage not transported if they are over the weight provided.



Fed-fan Parrot



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