

## GUYANA NATURE EXPERIENCE 13 Nights / 14 Days

One of Guyana's most popular tours, this trip includes many of the country's hotspots for wildlife and birds, plus an opportunity to experience the indigenous way of life first-hand. It also includes Guyana's crown jewel Kaieteur Falls. At 741 feet, Kaieteur is five times the height of Niagara Falls, plus you may see the Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock and the endemic Little Golden Frog here. You will also visit the Iwokrama International Rainforest Centre, a one-million acre protected area and one of the best locations for an opportunity to see Jaguar. At the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway you can get up into the mid and upper canopy for a bird's-eye view of the birds and wildlife. Stay in a Makushi village to learn about the indigenous way of life, while Karanambu Ranch offers the chance for close encounters with Giant River Otter, Black Caiman and Giant Anteater. This tour has scheduled departures dates throughout the year.

**DAY 1** **Arrive in Guyana.** Transfer to Georgetown. **Overnight at Cara Lodge.**

**DAY 2** **Kaieteur Falls/Orinduik Falls.** Fly by chartered aircraft over the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers and hundreds of miles of unbroken tropical rainforest to land at Kaieteur, the world's longest freefalling waterfall. At 229 meters, Kaieteur is nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. Here we hope to find White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and the astonishingly colourful Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. Reboarding our plane, we travel to the Brazilian border and Orinduik Falls, where the Ireng River thunders over steps and terraces of solid jasper, a semi precious stone. Late afternoon return by aircraft to Georgetown. **Overnight at Cara Lodge. BLD**

**DAY 3** **Iwokrama Field Station.** 0915 transfer to Ogle Airstrip for a flight across the rainforest to the Iwokrama Airstrip. Take a short transfer by boat on the Essequibo River to the Iwokrama Field Station. Afternoon free to explore the trails around the field station with an Iwokrama Ranger. After dinner, we will take you out on to the river to spot caiman and other nocturnal wildlife. **Overnight at Iwokrama Field Station. BLD**

**DAY 4** **Turtle Mountain/Iwokrama Field Station.** This morning we will take you on an early morning boat ride near the Field Station. After breakfast, you will leave the field station for the journey to Turtle Mountain, and a moderately difficult climb up the mountain to its summit at 935ft (approx. 360m). It takes 1 ¾ hours 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. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the forest. On the return trip, visit Kurupukari Falls to see the Amerindian petroglyphs (dependent on the water level). Then visit the small Amerindian village of Fair View before returning to the Field Station. **Overnight at Iwokrama Field Station. BLD**

**DAY 5** **Iwokrama Canopy Walkway/Atta Rainforest Lodge.** At dawn take a wildlife walk with an Iwokrama Ranger close to the Field Station. After breakfast we will transfer you by 4 x 4 along the trail that is one of the best places to see the elusive Jaguar. The Iwokrama forest certainly has a healthy jaguar population of this spectacular cat but we will still require considerable luck to catch sight of one. The journey ends at the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway which allows you to view the forest from 35 M up in the canopy. Experience the activity in the mid and upper canopy of the forest and see darkness settle over the forest. **Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge. BLD**

**DAY 6** **Surama Village.** Welcome the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway. After breakfast travel to a trail in the Iwokrama Forest to hopefully see the amazingly brilliant Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. Continue your trip onto the Amerindian village of Surama. On arrival in Surama receive a welcome from a village counselor and settle into your accommodation. A local guide will escort you for a short walk on trails to observe the forest and bird life. As the afternoon cools your guide will take you on a tour of the village. Visit the local school, medical centre and church along with some of the village houses. Tonight enjoy an educational walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark. **Overnight at Surama Eco-lodge. BLD**

- DAY 7** **Surama Mountain/Burro Burro River.** Rise before dawn for a walk across the savannah and then the exhilarating climb up Surama Mountain in the cool morning air. This is the best time to observe bird life along the moderately difficult trail leading up the mountain. Breakfast will be served at a look out point which affords incredible views across the village and savannah to the Pakaraima Mountains. Return to village for lunch and then take a three mile walk across the savannah and through the rainforest to the Burro Burro River. Your guides will then paddle you on the Burro Burro River for opportunities to observe Giant River Otters, Tapir, Tira, Spider Monkeys and many more species. Return to village for sunset. **Overnight at Surama Eco-lodge. BLD**
- DAY 8** **Rock View Lodge.** After breakfast depart Surama by 4x4 for Rock View Lodge at Annai. Rock View Lodge is located where the savannah meets the forest-covered foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains. With its tropical gardens and flowering trees, the lodge resembles an oasis in the savannah, and attracts many species of birds, particularly nectar feeders and frugivores. Nearby patches of light forest are home to certain ant birds and flycatchers, and of course the grasslands support an avifauna of their own. **Overnight at Rock View Lodge. BLD**
- DAY 9** **Rock View Lodge.** Today you can join the vaqueros on horse back as they take cattle out to graze on the savannah, hike in the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains or visit nearby Amerindian villages. Overnight at Rock View Lodge. **BLD**
- DAY 10** **Karanambu Ranch.** After breakfast transfer by 4x4 to Ginep Landing for a boat trip on the Rupununi River to Karanambu Ranch. This is the home of Diane McTurk, widely known for her work in rehabilitating orphaned, giant river otters to the wild. Diane and her otters have appeared on National Geographic, Jeff Corwin Experience, Really Wild Show (BBC) and the Calgary's "Zoo World". Karanambu has a long history of visiting naturalists and Diane's father, Tiny McTurk, has welcomed David Attenborough and Gerald Durrell (Three Singles to Adventure). Dinner with Diane will include stories on the history of the family and the Rupununi Savannahs. **Overnight at Karanambu Ranch. BLD**
- DAY 11** **Otters and Rupununi River.** Diane sometimes has resident orphaned otters and you can help her as she tends to them. You can visit Simoni Pond for some of the best inland fishing in Guyana including Peacock Bass or explore the flooded forest or savannah. Visits can be made to nearby ponds for birdwatching and to view the Victoria Amazonica, the world's largest water lily and Guyana's national flower. **Overnight at Karanambu Ranch. BLD**
- DAY 12** **Karanambu Ranch.** Explore the Rupununi River in search of wild Giant River Otters, Black Caiman and Arapaima. An evening visit to Crane Pond to see hundreds of Ibis, Anhinga, Heron and Egret roosting is a highlight. Overnight at Karanambu Ranch. **BLD**
- DAY 13** **Georgetown.** This morning travel out onto the savannah to search for a Giant Anteater. After an early lunch take a flight back to Georgetown. Enjoy an afternoon Georgetown city tour highlighting the architecture, markets and botanical Gardens. Overnight at Cara Lodge. **BL**
- DAY 14** **Depart Guyana.** Transfer to the airport for your departing flight. **B**