

Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures



April 1 – 15, 2020
866.900.1146
800.426.7781
520.558.1146
travel@naturalistjourneys.com
www.naturalistjourneys.com
or find us on Facebook at
Naturalist Journeys, LLC



**“[Guyana] is still
so wild, and in the
very best sense of
the word.”**
— Patty Kusler Riexinger





This tour is designed to showcase two top birding destinations in one: Trinidad and Guyana. As flights to Guyana route through Port of Spain, Trinidad, it's a natural addition. We have taken the top field trips from our partner company Caligo Ventures' classic Trinidad birding tours and combined it with a shortened version of our standard Guyana tour. This tropical birding tour is a great way to return, or to be introduced to Trinidad, while exploring Guyana in detail with expert guides.

Our tour starts at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC), where you start birding from the famed verandah and then venture out on trails in search of manakins, bellbirds, and more. See scores of Scarlet Ibis at Caroni National Park and colorful mixed tanager flocks and trogons on the scenic mountain terrain of the Northern Range that surrounds the Centre. The final night in Trinidad is at a boutique, beachfront lodge on Trinidad's northern coast, where lush forests provide a stronghold for the endangered Trinidad Piping-guan. As you travel between lodges, we take time to visit savannah and lowland habitats, great for finding additional species, especially raptors.

Guyana is South America's hidden gem. This unspoiled wilderness, off the radar for many travelers, offers an amazing experience — birds and mammals abound! The substrate here is the ancient granitic Guianan Shield, which, along with the Brazilian Shield to the south of the Amazon River, forms the primeval geologic heart of South America. Tropical rainforest has been growing here for millions of years, slowly adapting to changing conditions as nutrients leached from the soils. Today Guyana still holds endless forest, myriad rivers, and expansive savannah. We also explore the vibrant multi-cultural urban center at Georgetown and its well-known botanic gardens.





Guyana Highlights

- Spot members of the odd cotinga family: brilliant Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, wine-and-white Pompadour Cotinga, and elfin Dusky Purpletuft ... the birding here is awesome!
- Stay in cozy casitas at Surama Village, where the Makushi tribe are very proud of their ecotourism efforts
- See rare predators—six of South America’s elusive wild cats patrol the forest by-ways
- Find Crimson Topaz Hummingbird, Red Howler Monkey, and Amazonian Motmot
- Float down a river in search of Giant Otter, Jabiru, up to five species of kingfisher, Harpy Eagle, and Green-tailed Jacamar
- See spectacular Kaieteur Falls, travel with local expert guides, and find rare and iconic species
- Support local people who are deeply committed to conserving their native forest and wildlife

Trinidad Highlights

- Explore with AWCN’s expert guides, who share robust knowledge and friendly, world-class guiding skills
- Savor three nights at the classic AWCN; relish morning coffee and birding on the famed verandah
- See enigmatic Oilbirds in the grotto of Dunston Cave
- Witness skies turned crimson with thousands of Scarlet Ibis returning to roost in Caroni National Park
- Look for the highly-endangered Trinidad Piping-guan while at Grande Riviere and nesting Leatherback Turtles

Tour Summary

15-Day / 14-Night Neotropical Birding & Nature Tour with Pat Lueders

\$6190, from Georgetown, Guyana, departing Port of Spain, Trinidad

Arrival Airport is Cheddi Jagan International Airport (GEO), Georgetown in Guyana, Departure Airport is Piarco International Airport (POS) in Trinidad





Day-to-Day Itinerary

Wed., Apr. 1 Arrivals in Guyana | Georgetown

Arrive today at Cheddi Jagan International Airport on the outskirts of Georgetown, a coastal colonial city. Georgetown is a modern capital city and the chief port of Guyana. Along tropical, tree-lined streets, the city sports a fascinating mix of British, French, and Dutch colonial architecture.

Guests are met at the airport and transferred to the lovely Cara Lodge. One of the first birds we often see en route is the Rufous Crab Hawk, very much at home in mangroves around the city. Cara Lodge is a bit of a splurge, and a long-standing tradition for our trips to Guyana. Built in the 1840s and originally consisting of two houses, the hotel is one of the oldest wooden buildings in Georgetown. It has a long and romantic history ... over the years it has hosted many dignitaries, including England's King George V, who stayed at the house in 1923 and planted the sapodilla tree in the front garden to mark the occasion.

Please note: We have an early departure tomorrow morning. If you are considering a late-arriving flight, you may want to come in a day early to both enjoy this lovely hotel and to rest up from your travels. You are met at the airport and transferred to the hotel regardless of which day you choose to arrive.

Accommodations at the delightful and relaxing Cara Lodge. Meals are at leisure today, those arriving in time for dinner can gather informally.

Thurs., Apr. 2 Morning Flight to Lethem | Caiman House

We leave early today on a morning flight to Lethem, Guyana's second largest city, on the Brazilian border.

We arrive in the afternoon to our accommodations, the Caiman House Lodge, on the banks of the Rupununi River. We settle in and relax or explore the lodge grounds. The river hosts Giant Otter, and we scan the treetops for family parties of Red Howler Monkey, and the exposed riverbanks for Capybara and Black Caiman. These quiet backwaters are also home to the legendary Arapaima, the largest of all scaled freshwater fish. We visit lakes and ponds crammed with Jabiru, egrets, herons, and other water birds, and blanketed by enormous *Victoria amazonica* water lilies, Guyana's national flower. Black-capped *Donacobius* whistle their entertaining calls.

The river is home to Wood Stork, White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Stripe-backed Bittern, Least Grebe, Purple Gallinule, and both Capped and Little Blue Herons. There is also the chance to bird gallery forests and wetland areas, offering great views of a variety of herons, ducks, Jabiru, possibly 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.

Local forest and some ponds gives us the chance to see Sunbittern, Azure Gallinule, White-faced Whistling-Duck, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, White-browed Antbird, Buff-breasted Wren, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, Blue-backed Manakin, Striped Woodcreeper, and maybe Undulated Tinamou. An evening excursion to the open grasslands should see the end of a magical day with Nacunda, Least, and Lesser Nighthawks.

Accommodations at Caiman House Lodge (B,L,D)

Fri., Apr. 3

Northern Rupununi—Crested Doradito & Bearded Tachuri Quest

This morning we start with a cup of Brazilian-style coffee before heading out into the Rupununi Savannah by 4x4. As we move across the savannah we scan the vast wetland areas for the sought after Bearded Tachuri, plus Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, Brazilian Teal, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicolored Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl, and Maguari Stork. We 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 and Savannah Fox.

In the afternoon we have an opportunity to travel on the Rupununi River again. This time we 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 a lot of luck, we may even come across the secretive Crestless Curassow and we have even seen fresh Jaguar tracks in the past!

Additionally, 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. Colorful butterflies accompany us much of the day.

Our sunset boat expedition wraps up and we return to a delicious dinner back in the restaurant of the lodge.

Accommodations at Caiman House Lodge (B,L,D)



Sat., Apr. 4 Iwokrama Forest | Atta Rainforest Lodge

This morning we depart Caiman House to head to Atta Rainforest Lodge where we spend the next two nights surrounded by pure nature, with no sounds but the noise of the forest. Today our journey takes us across the Northern Rupununi savannah. The North Rupununi area of southern Guyana is an extraordinary and pristine natural area. Grasslands host Bicolored Wren, while forest patches host Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Guianan Trogon, Blue Ground-Dove, Plain-crowned Spinetail, and Great Antshrike. We hope to arrive to Atta in time for lunch and a well-deserved cold beer or cold drink of your choice.

After a rest, we spend the afternoon birding on the main road through the Iwokrama Forest, just a short distance away. The road has little traffic and makes an ideal place for us to wander at a birder's pace. The trees are impressive, their height deceiving as we sort through mixed flocks. Thankfully a number of large, loud, and colorful species exist here, including several species of parrots and macaws. We look for Black Manakin and Rufous-crowned Elaenia, as well as 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 Grosbeak. While birding along the road, we also keep watch for the elusive Jaguar and Tapir, which are difficult to find but most possible to see at dawn and dusk.

Beside a small wetland we could find Dwarf Caiman, Uniform, Ash-throated, and Russet-crowned Crakes, and Zigzag Heron—all of which are difficult. This is a good night birding route, and there are possibilities for White-winged, Rufous, Great, Common, and Long-tailed Potoos, plus Spectacled and Crested Owl.

Accommodations at Atta Rainforest Lodge (B,L,D)

Sun., Apr. 5 Atta Rainforest Lodge | Canopy Walkway

At dawn, we visit the canopy walkway to look for passing flocks of canopy-dwelling species. Time is spent looking for Todd's Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purple-tuft, Paradise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, and Black Nunbird. The rest of the morning we spend on the grounds, taking in all we can see.



The grounds of Atta Rainforest Lodge are wonderful and support some great post-lunch leisurely birding. This wonderful area is famed for its variety of colorful cotingas and if we can locate a few fruiting trees we are in for an avian spectacle with possibilities of Pompadour, Brilliant, Purple-breasted, and Guianan Red Cotinga, as well as White Bellbird. Within the forest that surrounds the lodge we can look for Red-legged and Variegated Tinamou, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Waved, Chestnut, and Red-necked Woodpeckers, as well as Black Spider Monkey and White-faced Saki Monkey.

This is one of the best places to see another of Guyana's "must see" birds: the outrageous Crimson Fruitcrow. This species is seen here on a reasonably regular basis; it often comes to feed in nearby trees. The clearing is also a reliable site for Black Curassow—there is a family party that has become habituated to people and regularly passes by. With reasonable luck, we should be able to add this bird to the impressive list of species we hope to see around the lodge and walkway. Few places in the world rival this experience, with nature so abundant and right outside the door.

A 20-minute walk along a very good trail takes us to Atta's celebrated Canopy Walkway. The trail leads partially up a steep hillside, and from it we step onto a series of suspended walkways and decks, each anchored to a giant rainforest tree. This nearly-level system of walkways carries us to vantage points up to 35 meters high, which overlook the surrounding canopy. From these decks, we train our binoculars and scope on any wildlife we find. Among the 134 bird species recorded at the walkway are Painted Parakeet, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Guianan Puffbird, Green Aracari, Waved Woodpecker, Pygmy Antwren, Guianan Streaked-Antwren, Dusky Purpletuft, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Guianan Toucanet, Pompadour Cotinga, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Caica Parrot, and a host of other canopy specialists. From this treetop vantage you can sometimes see Red Howler Monkey and Black Spider Monkey, too.
Accommodations at Atta Rainforest Lodge (B,L,D)

Mon. Apr. 6 Surama Eco Lodge | Burro Burro River

This morning we depart Atta and head to nearby Surama Eco Lodge. During our stay here, we hope to encounter Red-legged Tinamou, Painted Parakeet, Dusky Parrot, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Great and Paradise Jacamars, Black-spotted Barbet, Golden-



spangled Piculet, and Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper. The South American clan of antbirds is well-represented here—we look for Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Rufous-bellied, Spot-tailed, and Todd's Antwrens, Dusky, White-browed, White-bellied, Ferruginous-backed, Rufous-throated, and Guianan Warbling Antbirds, and other birds including Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Lemon-chested and Ashy-headed Greenlets, and Finsch's Euphonia. Hopefully it won't be too long before our attention is drawn to the far-carrying, growling song of the bizarre, social lek displaying Capuchinbird. The skilled local guides sometimes know of the territories of these canopy-dwelling birds, their bald heads and strange hump-shouldered appearance an unforgettable sight if we are lucky enough to spot them.

To find all these gems, we might choose to explore the surrounding habitats on trails, or we can venture out in small boats on the Burro Burro River for a quiet and skillfully-guided paddle, hearing the voices of many birds singing, and with luck coming down to the shore. We also search the banks for mammals like Giant River Otter, Tapir, Tayra, Black Spider Monkey, and more.

The Burro Burro River trail is known for reliable sightings of Blond-colored Woodpecker, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Red-legged Tinamou, Guianan Puffbird, Fiery-tailed Aowlbill, and Blue-throated Piping-Guan. We count ourselves extremely fortunate if we succeed in getting good looks at some of these more elusive species.

Back in the village, the dining room's upstairs bar boasts views all around (as well as cold sodas and beer). Local crafts and artwork are displayed here as well. We gather here ahead of dinner to recap our bird list, enjoy the sunset and each other's company.

Accommodations at Surama Eco-Lodge (B,L,D)

Tues., Apr. 7 Surama Eco Lodge | Harpy Eagle Trail | Village Life

Morning here is a treat ... imagine waking so close to the wilds. However, just a step away is fresh coffee and breakfast. Don't be surprised if you are awakened by the dawn calls of Spectacled Owl or Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon and Little Chachalaca. No matter, as we are up early to bird, then take a short drive to the Harpy Eagle trailhead. This trail winds its way through beautiful primary forest where Red-and-black Grosbeak, Golden-sided Euphonia, Orange-breasted Falcon, Blue-and-yellow and Scarlet Macaws, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin,



Cinnamon Attila, Black-headed Antbird, Amazonian Antshrike, Ferruginous Antbird, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, and possibly Guianan White-faced Saki Monkey reside. We arrive at the view point where in some years, a Harpy Eagle pair is attending their nest; they are always in the area, here and near the river corridor. We can hope that they are present today!

Back in the village we learn about community conservation efforts. Visit the local school and perhaps the community building for the Guyana Wildlife Club. It was here in the pastoral setting of mountain and savannah that Charles Waterton passed through in 1812. He journeyed in search of the secrets of the useful Wourali poison known as Curare. Waterton was so impressed by this spot that he wrote in his memoirs, “The finest park that England boasts falls short of this delightful scene.”

Surama’s inhabitants are mainly from the Macushi tribe and still observe many of the traditional practices. Our guide takes us on a village tour, an experience most find far more enjoyable than they expect—it’s inspirational how the local people relate to nature and how they see their place in this modern world. We visit the local school, medical center, and church, along with some of the village houses.

As the afternoon cools, a local guide shares knowledge of nature and birding on trails to seek out resident mammal and bird life. See the forest through the eyes of your indigenous guide and learn about the medicinal plants and their uses in the Amerindian culture. The whole experience here is unique.

Tonight, we enjoy another walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark. We hope to locate the recently split Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, as well as Tropical Screech-Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, White-tailed Nightjar, and both Great and Common Potoos.

Accommodation at Surama Eco Lodge (B,L,D)

Wed., Apr. 8 **Black Manakin of the White Sand Forest | Rock View Lodge**



This morning as we leave Atta, we walk a trail through a white sand (dry) forest, looking for specialties like Black Manakin. There are some fascinating plants along the way and open skies make for good raptor views.

On our drive to Rock View Lodge, we bird along the forest edges and visit a nearby Great Potoo and Mottled Owl roost. We may find Grassland Sparrow, Wedge-tailed Grassfinch, Yellow-crowned Elaenia, 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.

Our host at Rock View Lodge is a local character and very welcoming ... the whole place is an oasis. On the grounds we look for Sooty-capped Hermit and tanagers in the fruiting trees. A short walk takes us up to a viewpoint of the surrounding savannah and local airstrip.

Accommodations at Rock View Eco-Lodge (B,L,D)

Thurs., Apr. 9 Fly to Georgetown

This morning we enjoy our last breakfast and a bird outing to find a few more gems, and then our charter flight takes us from the airstrip at Rock View to the stunning Kaieteur Falls. Soak in the vast expanse of green, Guyana's tropical rainforest.

Kaieteur Falls are the world's highest free-falling waterfall, impressive in its remote setting. 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. These falls are nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. It's quite possible that we are the only people viewing it, and pending good weather conditions, we land to see it up close, also viewing birds.

Near the falls, we hope to find White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and perhaps we are lucky enough to spot Orange-breasted Falcon hunting for its favorite prey, the swifts. There is also a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek here, so we have a good chance at this brilliant species. Along the trail, look carefully to find the rare Golden Poison-dart Frog that lives in water held in bromeliad leaves.

We spend about two hours at the falls, then our flight continues on to Georgetown where we have a chance to clean up, enjoy the luxury of air-conditioned rooms at Cara Lodge, and a final dinner at our hotel. Dinner at Cara Lodge can be ordered off the menu, as your local guide is no longer with you, but



we will make a group reservation. Some may prefer a light dinner in the bar and if so we'll adjust accordingly.

Accommodations at Cara Lodge Hotel (B,L)

Fri., Apr. 10

Airport Transfers | Arrive & Explore at the Asa Wright Nature Centre

Today you are transferred to the airport where you depart Guyana with sights set on Trinidad. We suggest a mid-day flight and will send times once the airline announces service for this date. Plan to grab lunch on your own in the airport. Upon arrival at Piarco International Airport, you are met by an AWCN guide for a one-hour drive from the bustling metropolis of Port of Spain to the quiet seclusion of the Centre, about an hour's trip up into the Northern Range. Lush forests of the Arima Valley offer untamed vistas and provide the perfect place to learn about Trinidad's abundant natural heritage.

Step out onto the Centre's wide verandah to marvel at the almost tame hummingbirds, tanagers, honeycreepers, Bananaquits, and other birds that frequent the feeders. The views of the valley (and the birds) are breathtaking. Beyond the verandah, an extensive trail system beckons you to explore. During our stay, the entrance road is an easy walk if you would like some time on your own, where under a lush canopy Trinidad Motmot and a host of other species can be found. Centre naturalists are on hand to help identify species. Tea time is at 4:00 PM, followed by Rum Punch at 6:00 PM, and then dinner.

Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,D)

Sat., Apr. 11

Introductory Walk into AWCN's Forests | Night Bird Outing





This morning begins with 6:00 AM coffee and tea served on the verandah, and a Centre naturalist on duty to help us spy as many as 40 life birds before breakfast! After breakfast, enjoy an introductory walk on the Centre’s Discovery Trail, learning more about the forest and discovering additional species. Many enjoy the challenge of spotting the Bearded Bellbird as their distinctive “bonk!” echoes throughout the forest. Near a known bellbird lek in the trees are two species of manakins attending their leks closer to the ground.

Tonight, there is the option to join a night-birding field trip to lower elevation areas, departing from the Centre between 3:00 and 4:00 PM. Don’t worry about missing out—our rum punch and hot dinner are packed to go. An unused airfield is the first birding stop (pre-sunset), then we venture to the old USA airbase at Waller Field where we enjoy dinner, then set off on a slow drive looking for key species. *Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,L,D)*

Sun., Apr. 12 Rare Oilbirds | Caroni Marsh

This morning, enjoy coffee, tea, and breakfast on the verandah, followed by a walk to see the Centre’s resident Oilbirds. We start on a short, but steep, path to Dunston Cave, a riparian grotto at AWNC. We enjoy access to a breeding colony of Oilbirds—queer nocturnal, fruit-eating birds that congregate here at one of the world’s most accessible nesting caves. It’s a lovely stretch of forest coming and going and we search for other species as we go, then return to the Centre for lunch.

By mid-afternoon we depart for Caroni Swamp, birding along the way, and then arrive at a dock in Caroni National Park. There is a visitor center and restrooms here, and the mangroves are good to check for new species. From here we bird by boat (watch for Ruschenberger’s Tree Boa and Silky Anteater, too), then moor up at a quiet spot in the mangroves to let the sunset show begin. Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of Scarlet Ibis cloud the sky as they come in to roost. Tonight’s experience is one we won’t soon forget.



Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,L,D)

Mon., Apr. 13

Birding Transfer to Grande Riviere | Possible Leatherback Turtles

This morning we say goodbye to the Centre and staff, then travel south down the Arima Valley before turning east. In these Northern Range foothills lies the savannah (open) agricultural region of Trinidad, and short stops allow us to seek plenty of new species of more open country. We spend time at the Aripo Agricultural Station with Centre guides and picnic lunch, then are met by drivers sent from Mt. Plaisir hotel for the rest of the transfer, with a stop at Toco Lighthouse or another turn out for a view of the rugged coastline. Our destination is Grande Riviere in Trinidad's Northeast corner.

Endemic Trinidad Piping-guan, known locally as Pawi, lure us to this side of the island. In Grande Riviere, we explore this critically endangered bird's final stronghold. Experts estimate there may be fewer than 500 left on Earth.

For part of the year Grande Riviere's beaches are home to the world's densest congregation of nesting Leatherback Sea Turtles. On some nights, hundreds of these gigantic turtles populate the beach. Most nest between April and July, however they're also likely to be seen from the second half of March through August, and occasionally they are spotted at other times of the year.

As we arrive at our hotel, relax and enjoy gourmet local cuisine while dining alfresco at the eccentric and relaxing Mt. Plaisir Estate Hotel. Our rooms overlook the beach, so we enjoy a perfect view of nesting turtles if any have arrived a bit early. Tonight, plan to secure a beach permit from the local non-profit and head out onto the beach to see the giant turtles come ashore and lay their eggs. If you wish, leave your patio door open at night and drift off to sleep as waves crash on the beach below.

Accommodations at Mt. Plaisir (B,L,D)



Tues., Apr. 14 Trinidad Piping-guan & Birding with Local Guide

Once hunted to near extinction, the Trinidad Piping-guan has been the focus of considerable local conservation efforts. The bird has responded well, slowly increasing in numbers and visibility. This morning we scrutinize the wild nutmeg trees that are their preferred feeding habitat.

The birding is excellent in Grande Riviere and the today may reveal 60 or more species. Much of the birding is done from a wide forested track, where you can easily enjoy superb viewing areas. Having hopefully found the Piping-guan, we continue driving down a steeply wooded slope into riverine forest where we continue birding. Tonight we again enjoy dinner at the hotel and watch for turtles.

Accommodations at Mt. Plaisir (B,L,D)

Wed., Apr. 15 Departures

If you are keen, you can rise early to try for a few more turtles at sunrise (stunning!). Then after breakfast we are driven to Port of Spain for flights out after NOON or a drop-off at an airport hotel if your flight is early tomorrow next day. If you have a late flight today, our hosts can also accommodate an afternoon transfer to allow you added time in Grand Riviere. (B)

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the journey is \$6190 DBL / \$6725 SGL per person, from Georgetown, departing Port of Spain based on double occupancy. This cost includes all accommodations, most meals as specified in the itinerary, group airport transfers, in-country transport including flights, professional guide services including local guides, park and program entrance fees, and miscellaneous program expenses.

Tour cost does not include: transportation from your home city to Georgetown, the flight from Georgetown to Port of Spain, or your return international flight home. It also does not include optional activities, or items of a personal nature such as laundry, portage, telephone charges, maid gratuities, or beverages from the bar.

Travel Information

Plan to arrive in Georgetown at your convenience on April 1. If your flight comes in very late, the drivers will still meet you, but as the tour starts early, you may wish to arrive one night ahead to rest.

Naturalist Journeys will arrange your flight from Guyana to Port of Spain if you request us to, at the cost of your flight. We can help with your planning!

Leaving Port of Spain, it is over two hours to the international airport, and then you need to be there 2.5 – 3 hours ahead of your flight. So, if you can take a late-morning or afternoon flight, this will give you a gentle end to your vacation, rather than rushing to catch an early flight. Please book flights out after NOON on April 15.

Pace of the Tour

Moderate, but adventurous, due to travel to remote locations, with potential heat and humidity. As in all tropical countries, we plan to rest during the hottest hours of most days. Participants should be able to walk on uneven terrain up to 3 miles.

A flexible attitude and sense of adventure is always appreciated by the group. Guyana is still on the frontier of ecotourism and there may be some adventures! Part of the stay is at a remote field camp (Atta), and part is in a local village where casitas are simple but comfortable, with bath. We think it's well worth it to explore some of the most fabulous tropical forests on the planet, and we balance that with the lovely Cara Lodge in Georgetown at the start and end of the tour.

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Photo Credits

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Dave Weaver; Giant Anteater, Peg Abbott (PA); Orchids at Atta, Narca Moore-Craig (NMC); Purple Honeycreeper Cluster, PA; Juvenile Harpy Eagle, Pat Lueders (PL); Kaieteur Falls, NMC; Scarlet Ibis and Egrets at Caroni Marsh, Rich Wagner | WildNaturePhotos (RW); Copper-rumped Hummingbird, Buck Snelson; Green Kingfisher, PA; Asa Wright Nature Centre, Naturalist Journeys/Caligo Ventures Stock (Stock); Bananaquit Feeding Frenzy, Noel Snyder (NS); Asa Wright Nature Centre Trail, Stock; Bellbird Lek, Dodie Logue (DL); Guianan Trogon, NS; Olibirds, RW; Boating into Caroni Marsh, Lynn Teneffoss; Scarlet Ibis, RW; Looking for the Trinidad Piping-guan, DL; Trinidad Piping-guan, PA; View from Cara Lodge in Georgetown, Guyana, PA; Rufous Crab Hawk, PA; Kaieteur Falls, NMC; Orange-breasted Falcon, PL; Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, PA; Bromeliads, Greg Smith (GS); View in Surama Village, PA; Harpy Eagle, PA; Scarlet Macaw, GS; Walk at Surama Village, PA; Savanna at Surama, NMC; Boat Ride, Bud Ferguson (BF); Giant River Otter, BF; Red-necked Woodpecker, NS; Atta Canopy Walkway, NMC; Red-throated Caracara, PA; Great Potoo, GS; Channel-billed Toucan, Robert Martinez; Red Howler Monkey, PA; Victoria Amazonica Water Lilies, NMC; Giant Anteater, PA; Capped Heron, PA; Capybara Family, PA.; Jabiru, PA.

