



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN
CULTURAL SURINAME

6 days from **£1,845pp**

SURINAME



WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Travel to Suriname for a short discovery of its capital, Paramaribo, and the culturally rich, wildlife-filled interior.

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| DAY 1 | Arrive Paramaribo, transfer to hotel, city tour. |
| DAY 2 | Guided excursion to former plantations, sunset dolphin-spotting tour. |
| DAY 3 | Transfer to Danpaati River Lodge, evening caiman spotting. |
| DAY 4 | Guided visits to local communities and rainforest walk. |
| DAY 5 | Morning exploration on your own; return to Paramaribo. |
| DAY 6 | Transfer to the airport for your international flight. |

ITINERARY

As a destination for visitors, or by any measure, Suriname is a unique and very special country. One of the three Guianas occupying territory which transitions between the jungle-tangled Caribbean coast and the steamy forests of the interior, its remote rivers and modest fishing and agricultural communities welcome you to learn about their traditional way of life. Indigenous groups, the descendants of African slaves and Dutch colonial masters have created a melting-pot society with a plethora of languages spoken. This is best reflected in the architecture and cuisine of the capital, Paramaribo.

On this short tour you will experience a taster of the delights this little country reveals, exploring by boat and country-style road, staying at a comfy hotel in the port which serves as the capital as well as a riverside lodge deep in the interior where you will mingle with the local communities. Wildlife is not without a presence, you may spot exotic birds, caimans, dolphins, brightly coloured reptiles and monkeys abound, some clamouring for your attention..

DAY 1

Arrive Paramaribo, transfer to hotel, city tour.

You'll be collected at Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport and escorted to your hotel in Paramaribo, a journey of about 75 minutes. You'll soon realise you have arrived somewhere very special, and very different from anywhere you may have been before in South America. More than half of Suriname's tiny population of just about a quarter of a million lives in the coastal capital, which has a pleasant small-town feel. Suriname was colonised by Holland, and Dutch immigrants founded this unusual town, which expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries. As a result of its unique charms and cosmopolitan mix of cultural influences, Paramaribo was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002.

The original and highly characteristic street plan of the historic centre remains intact, partly owing to low economic activity. Its buildings illustrate the gradual fusion of Dutch influence with traditional indigenous techniques and materials which blend to create a new architectural idiom.

This tropically-infused architecture is characterised by wooden mansions embellished with ornate balconies and a smattering of Dutch churches. Present-day culture and cuisine are manifested in the town with an intriguing fusion of indigenous South American, European, African and Asian elements.

DAY 2

Guided excursion to former plantations, sunset dolphin-spotting tour.

You'll be escorted to the Commewijne district, east of Paramaribo across the Suriname river, travelling through former colonial plantations, most of which are now abandoned. You make a stop at Peperpot, one of the oldest plantations in Suriname, established by the English before Suriname was conquered by the Dutch in 1667. This is one of the last former plantations still in its former original state: you can still see coffee and cocoa plants as well as an ancient shed and factory, the manager's residence and a kampong (workers' living area). Peperpot is renowned for the many birds which can be spotted in the grounds.

Later you make a stop at the mini-museum of Marienburg, a former sugar plantation before enjoying lunch in a typical Javanese restaurant before moving on to the confluence of the Commewijne and Suriname rivers at Nieuw Amsterdam to visit the outdoor museum, a fortress built as a defence for the crop fields which were situated along the upper parts of both rivers.

Continue on to the pier at Nieuw Amsterdam for a sunset dolphin tour. Enjoy a drink and the breeze while the captain scans the horizon for dolphins. Normally pods of up to 20 dolphins can be seen, sometime they're curious and may breach and play close to the boat. Continue to another former plantation for snacks on a wooden deck near the waterfront of the Commewijne river.

DAY 3

Transfer to Danpaati River Lodge, evening caiman spotting.

Depart Paramaribo, travelling on a road through remote hilly landscapes for 190km and arriving at the Maroon village Atjoni. Maroons originally arrived as slaves from Africa, many escaping from plantations and others intermarrying with indigenous indians, creating a Creole population. For hundreds of years they were able to develop a culturally rich community life in relative isolation, although economically they always remained dependent on the coastal markets for certain manufactured goods.

This little river port is a staging post for local villages but is now also a base for ecotourism, still in its early stages. Motorised canoes are lined up on the beach, painted in bright primary colours, and you climb aboard one for the next stage of your adventure. A skilled crew will navigate up the rainforest-fringed upper Suriname river – known for its breathtaking rapids – to the Danpaati River Lodge. Your day comes to an end back on the water with a river trip looking out for caiman sprawling on the banks.

DAY 4

Guided visits to local communities and rainforest walk.

Today you will visit one of the 12 villages which are affiliated with Danpaati. There will be a guided tour through the village where you will be introduced to the way of life of the local population and to the traditions brought from Africa by their ancestors. After the tour you visit the Maroon museum Saamaka which is dedicated to the cultural heritage of the Saramak Maroon population. Pikinslee is located 30 minutes by boat from Danpaati. In the museum you will learn about the history of the Maroons, their ancient traditions and crafts. After the tour you return to the lodge for lunch.

In the afternoon, you will discover the secrets of the rainforest during a walk in the woods. Afterwards you could choose to enjoy a massage using a combination of traditional and Western techniques. Opportunities to explore the surrounding area are available; go fishing or take a dugout canoe around the island.

After dinner, settle down to watch traditional dancing performed by the local population. Your guide will explain the cultural significance of each dance.

DAY 5

Morning exploration on your own; return to Paramaribo.

This morning you still have some time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and take pictures. After saying good bye to the staff, you depart by dugout canoe from Danpaati to Atjoni. From Atjoni you continue your journey back to Paramaribo by road.

DAY 6

Transfer to the airport for your international flight.

Consider extending your stay by moving on to neighbouring Guyana and French Guiana to encounter strikingly different cultures and the vestiges of a chequered history.,

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office

Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides

All land and air transport within Latin America

Accommodation as specified

Meals as specified

Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Paramaribo city tour

Tour of former plantations

Caiman and dolphin spotting expeditions

Village tour at Danpaati River Lodge

Rainforest walk and choice of activities, Danpaati

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities

Meals other than specified

International flights to Latin America

Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket

Optional excursions

ESSENTIALS

TRIP SUITABILITY

Dutch is the official language. 50% of the population speak Sranan, an English-based creole language, a mixture of seven different languages.

TRANSPORT

2 journeys by road and river.

ACCOMMODATION

Mid-range hotel in Paramaribo, small jungle and wildlife lodge at Danpaati.

MEALS

Breakfast daily; lunch day 2; full board days 3,4.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

6 days, 5 nights: Paramaribo 2, Danpaati 2, Paramaribo 1.

MONEY

Suriname uses the Surinamese dollar. Take cash in US\$. ATMs which give access to cash are available in Paramaribo but it's worth having plastic for both Visa and Mastercard. We recommend a daily budget of \$US35-40 per person per day to cover the cost of meals and daily expenses including tips and taxes.

VISAS

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

AIRPORT TAXES

International airport tax should be included in the cost of your ticket.

CLIMATE

The climate is tropical, so your holiday will be hot and humid throughout. Along the Caribbean coast of Suriname a October is statistically one of the driest months in the year.

VACCINATIONS

Preventative jabs or tablets are recommended for: malaria, typhoid, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus and hepatitis A. Consult your local GP, or health clinic – he or she will probably refer you to the NHS fitfortravel website.

Take precautions against being bitten -by applying insect repellent, especially in the evenings out of cities. A valid yellow fever certificate or official doctor's note stating why you cannot be vaccinated must be produced when crossing some borders, so it is essential that these are carried.

The Ministry of Health in Suriname advises passengers travelling to Suriname to be vaccinated against Yellow Fever. This is also valid for travellers departing from Suriname towards countries in the Caribbean region. You will be required to present your 'International Certificate of Vaccination' booklet, which will be checked before departure. You may be denied entree to any country if you fail to present this document. You should be vaccinated at least 10 days before departure.

There are several brands of gel or foam which can be used for washing your hands where no clean water is available.

TRIP SUITABILITY

Clothing should be casual and comfortable – plenty of light cotton (or light-weight wicking fabric which controls perspiration and dries quickly). Light colours are beneficial against sun and bugs. Dark clothes attract mosquitoes. For wildlife viewing, the best colours to wear are pastel tones, such as brown, beige and green, which don't highlight your silhouette in the landscape and camouflage you in foliage. Avoid strong colours like yellow, bright blue and red. Shorts and short-sleeve shirts should be avoided in the evenings, especially away from cities. Air-conditioning in rooms and restaurants is the closest you'll get to being cold, so a light sweater or "layers" will suffice. A backpack or soft holdall (ideally with some degree of waterproofing) is the most comfortable way to carry your belongings, along with a small day-use backpack (25-40l capacity).

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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