



DISCOVERY GROUP TOURS

MAKONAIMA: DISCOVER THE THREE GUIANAS

13 days

**GUYANA / GEORGETOWN AND KAIETEUR FALLS / THE INTERIOR / SURINAME / FRENCH
GUIANA**



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

This unique South American holiday focuses entirely on exploring the three Guianas: Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

DAY 1	Arrive in Georgetown the capital of Guyana and transfer to your hotel in the centre of town.
DAY 2	Guided tour of Kaieteur Falls and travel to Atta Rainforest Lodge.
DAY 3	Visit the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.
DAY 4	Boat trip to Karanambu.
DAY 5	Day to explore the savannah and choice of evening excursions.
DAY 6	Fly to Georgetown for guided city tour.
DAY 7	Travel by ferry to Suriname.
DAY 8	Explore the plantations in the Commewijne district.
DAY 9	Guided tour of Paramaribo, Suriname's capital.
DAY 10	Travel to St Laurent in French Guiana.
DAY 11	Day excursion to the Iles du Salut.
DAY 12	Excursion to the French space station and day trip to Cayenne.
DAY 13	Depart for international flight or extension.

ITINERARY

A truly off-the-beaten-track itinerary, you'll be travelling with a small escorted group as the remoteness and the nature of the wilderness terrain make the route difficult to negotiate independently – all the while getting to discover rarely-visited highlights of Suriname and the Guianas.

Specially curated by our exceptional team of South America experts, you'll get to take an airborne adventure over dense jungle to Kaieteur Falls, the world's largest single drop waterfall; surround yourself with wildlife in a rainforest canopy and drive through sweeping savannah punctuated by ancient sandstone plateaux.

You'll stay in charming frontier settlements in comfortable accommodation; visit the French space station and an old penal colony; take boat rides down jungle-fringed rivers and lap up the atmosphere of colonial towns and bright, bold capital cities. While this is an adventure where flexibility is key, you'll be rewarded by an unforgettable trip in this incredible, lesser-known part of Latin America.

DAY 1

Arrive in Georgetown the capital of Guyana and transfer to your hotel in the centre of town.

DAY 2

Guided tour of Kaieteur Falls and travel to Atta Rainforest Lodge.

Take a flight over extensive unbroken rainforest and the Demerara and Essequibo rivers to Kaieteur Falls, the world's largest single drop waterfall. First "discovered" by Europeans in 1870, the falls drop 741 feet (5 times the height of Niagara), down into a deep gorge and combine with the surrounding woodland to create a postcard-perfect scene that has long been the subject of local myths and legends. You will have plenty of opportunity to listen to some of these tribal tales, as well as explore, take photos and search for some of the plentiful wildlife – including the golden rocket frog (found no-where else on Earth), Kaieteur swifts and the iconic cock-of-the-rock bird.

Re-board the aircraft and continue to Fair View airstrip then transfer along a treelined road to Atta Rainforest Lodge, home of the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway and your base for the first two nights in the interior of Guyana.

DAY 3**Visit the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway.**

Traverse the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, which has four suspension bridges leading to three platforms, the highest of which is over 30m above the ground. Keep your eyes peeled for canopy species which would not be visible from the forest floor.

Then enjoy wildlife and birdwatching walks on the ground-based forest trails. Many bird species, stunning insects, noisy amphibians, and playful primates make the forest their home and chances are you will be able to spot some as you move through the trees. Deer and agouti are also regular visitors to the lodge.

DAY 4**Boat trip to Karanambu.**

Head back to the walkway this morning to await the dawn chorus from the waking jungle, then enjoy a short trail at Corkwood, where your guide will help you search for birdlife and explain how native plants are used by the locals as medicines, fabrics and for other ingenious applications.

Continue to Ginép Landing, where you will take a boat trip on the Rupununi River to Karanambu. When river conditions are favourable, this journey offers a chance to see some of the giant otters that have benefitted from the work of famous local conservationist Diane McTurk. The region's location, which encompasses vast wetlands, large riparian forests and an expansive savannah, mean that it is one of the most ecologically diverse places on the continent, boasting at least 600 species of birds, over 200 species of mammals and approximately 700 species of fish. There is also rich human history, with evidence that people have been part of this thriving eco-system for more than 7,000 years.

In the late afternoon you will head out once more by boat, keeping watch for giant otters. But as the light begins to fail it is the giant Amazonica waterlilies that will likely capture your attention. Their mesmerising colourful pads will bloom incongruently into life while dusk slowly falls around you. On your way back, use spotlights to aid your search for black caiman and other creatures of the night.

DAY 5**Day to explore the savannah and choice of evening excursions.**

Spend the morning in the savannah trying to locate one of the giant anteaters that will be excavating its breakfast from the termite mounds that dot these rolling grasslands.

In the evening you can either choose to do another river excursion or explore a number of land-based habitats in search of birds such as the agami heron, seven different species of nightjar, and the double-striped thick-knee.

DAY 6**Fly to Georgetown for guided city tour.**

After breakfast, depart Karanambu and travel across the savannah to Lethem where you will board your flight back to Georgetown.

There will be a guided city tour including highlights such as the State House, a typical Demerara-shuttered colonial home with large gardens. Walk along the avenues with an experienced guide who will narrate the history and anecdotes about Georgetown and its people. Other places of interest on the tour include St. George's Cathedral, one of the world's tallest free-standing wooden buildings; the public library housed in the Carnegie Building; the gothic town hall; Victoria Law Courts and the National Museum. Visit Stabroek Market where stalls sell everything from household goods and gold jewellery to fresh meat and vegetables. The excursion usually ends with a visit to the Botanical Gardens and zoo.

DAY 7**Travel by ferry to Suriname.**

An early pickup in Georgetown will transfer you along the east coast of Guyana, and across the floating bridge of the Berbice river before continuing along to Molesen Creek for a ferry crossing to Suriname.

Suriname was Dutch territory, and modern-day Paramaribo has inherited not only the language, and the attractive clapboard architecture, but also its unique melting pot of cultures. Thousands of indentured labourers were shipped in from the Dutch East Indies to work the plantations, and they brought their Indonesian cuisine with them, as well as their religion: mosques are a common sight, and the largest in Paramaribo is right next to the synagogue.

DAY 8**Explore the plantations in the Commewijne district.**

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. Here, you'll 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 also renowned for the many birds which can be spotted in the grounds.

Later you'll make a stop at Nieuw Amsterdam to visit the outdoor museum, a fortress which was built as a defence for the crop fields which were situated along the upper parts of both rivers.

DAY 9**Guided tour of Paramaribo, Suriname's capital.**

Paramaribo has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002, and today you'll be taken on a guided tour of the capital by car and on foot, exploring the most prominent historic locations in downtown Paramaribo. There are 291 listed monuments in Paramaribo and only a few have been replaced by new developments. Many of these monuments exhibit high authenticity because of the use of traditional techniques and materials in repair and rehabilitation works. Your guide will tell you about the history of Fort Zeelandia, built in 1667, the presidential palace, Independence Square and other places of interest.

DAY 10**Travel to St Laurent in French Guiana.**

Depart by bus towards Albina, and another river border, the Caroni. From here, shuttle canoes make the short trip across to St Laurent, in French Guiana, once the receiving station for new inmates bound for the notoriously brutal penal colony maintained by France until the mid-20th century. Continue on a smart paved road to Kourou.

Guiana is a “département” of France. They send deputies to parliament, the currency is the euro, its citizens are members of the EU and enjoy the full protection of the French labour law. It's expensive: lots of things are imported from France. Kourou is home to many of France's top scientists and astrophysicists, because this is the base of the Ariane space rocket programme.

DAY 11**Day excursion to the Iles du Salut.**

A full-day excursion to the former penal colony on the Iles du Salut. The archipelago lies about an hour out into the Caribbean and consists of 3 islands: Ile Royale, Ile St Joseph and Devil's Island. The cells, guards' quarters and administration blocks on Ile Royale have been converted into accommodation and dining facilities, and there's an excellent small museum that recounts the history of the place, and the privations that both the convicts and the guards had to endure. There's a small church, the remains of a hospital, and a cemetery with memorials to the prison staff. At Ile St Joseph work is underway to clear the jungle from many more of the prison cells.

DAY 12**Excursion to the French space station and day trip to Cayenne.**

Start with a morning excursion to the French space station or Centre Spatial, where you'll find a fascinating museum, and possibly, a tour of the space centre itself. You'll then depart by road for Cayenne, French Guiana's main city. It's a hotchpotch of building styles, some glorious belle époque, others more modern and worn. This is a pleasant place to spend some time – sipping a cold drink in one of the bars in the Place des Palmistes, you could almost be on the Riviera. The busy market is worth a visit, and there is a footpath up to the remains of the old fort that overlooks the town.

DAY 13

Depart for international flight or extension.

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

Excursions at Atta and Karanambu
Kaieteur Falls
Georgetown: city tour
Paramaribo: river cruise
Kourou Space Station
Iles du Salut

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

ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click [here](#).

TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of our exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

13 days, 12 nights: Georgetown 1; Atta Rainforest Lodge 2, Karanambu 2, Georgetown 1, Paramaribo 3, Kourou 2, Cayenne 1.

TRANSPORT

2 flights; 4 land journeys (longest 12 hrs but this includes one of the ferries and the border formalities); 2 sea crossings; 2 river ferries.

ACCOMMODATION

For this tour we aim to use good quality, value-for-money accommodation, in a mix of larger more modern, smaller family run hotels and lodges. All the properties we use are well maintained and rooms will have a private bathroom.

The focus of these trips is on getting outside, seeing the sights, and experiencing local restaurants and cafes, therefore a few hotels may not have evening dining facilities.

- Georgetown: El Dorado Inn
- Guyanese Interior: Atta Lodge and Karanambu Lodge
- Paramaribo: Eco Torarica
- Kourou: Hotel Atlantis
- Cayenne: Hotel Amazonia

These hotels are subject to change and are dependent on availability. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

MEALS

Breakfast daily, lunch day 8 and full board days 2, 3, 4 and 5.

TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with another same-sex member of the group who is also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to have their own room there are a limited number of single rooms available, which carry a surcharge but you may be asked to share for a few nights when the accommodation is particularly restricted in the interior of Guyana.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Due to the nature of this tour there are a only a handful of optional excursions available.

MONEY

Take cash in US\$ (and for French Guiana, euros) up to the total limit your insurance will allow. Travellers' cheques are difficult to cash. ATMs which give access to cash are available in cities, but it's worth having plastic for both Visa and Mastercard. Tell your bank in advance where and when you're going. We recommend a daily budget of \$35-40 USD per person per day to cover the cost of meals and daily expenses including tips and taxes.

VISAS

British passport holders (and almost all others) will need an e-visa for Suriname. We will send details of how to apply

nearer the date of travel.

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

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on our [Travel Insurance page](#).

CLIMATE

Hot and humid but generally drier, this is a great time for wildlife viewing and exploring the countries as attractions are more easily accessible.

VACCINATIONS

Preventative jabs or tablets are recommended for: malaria, typhoid, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus and hepatitis A. Consult your local GP or check [Travel Health Pro](#) for information on health recommendations and vaccinations for the destinations you are visiting.

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.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

Clothing should be casual, comfortable and light weight.

Shorts and short-sleeve shirts should be avoided in the evenings, especially away from cities but long sleeves should be linen or thin cotton.

Other items worth packing are: Swim suit and towel, sun hat, trainers, lightweight raincoat, Insect repellent, sun tan lotion, sunglasses and torch.

On local flights you may be restricted to a maximum baggage allowance of 10kg (owing to limited space on light aircraft). In addition, some of the mini buses we use have limited baggage space.

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

tours@journeylatinamerica.com