

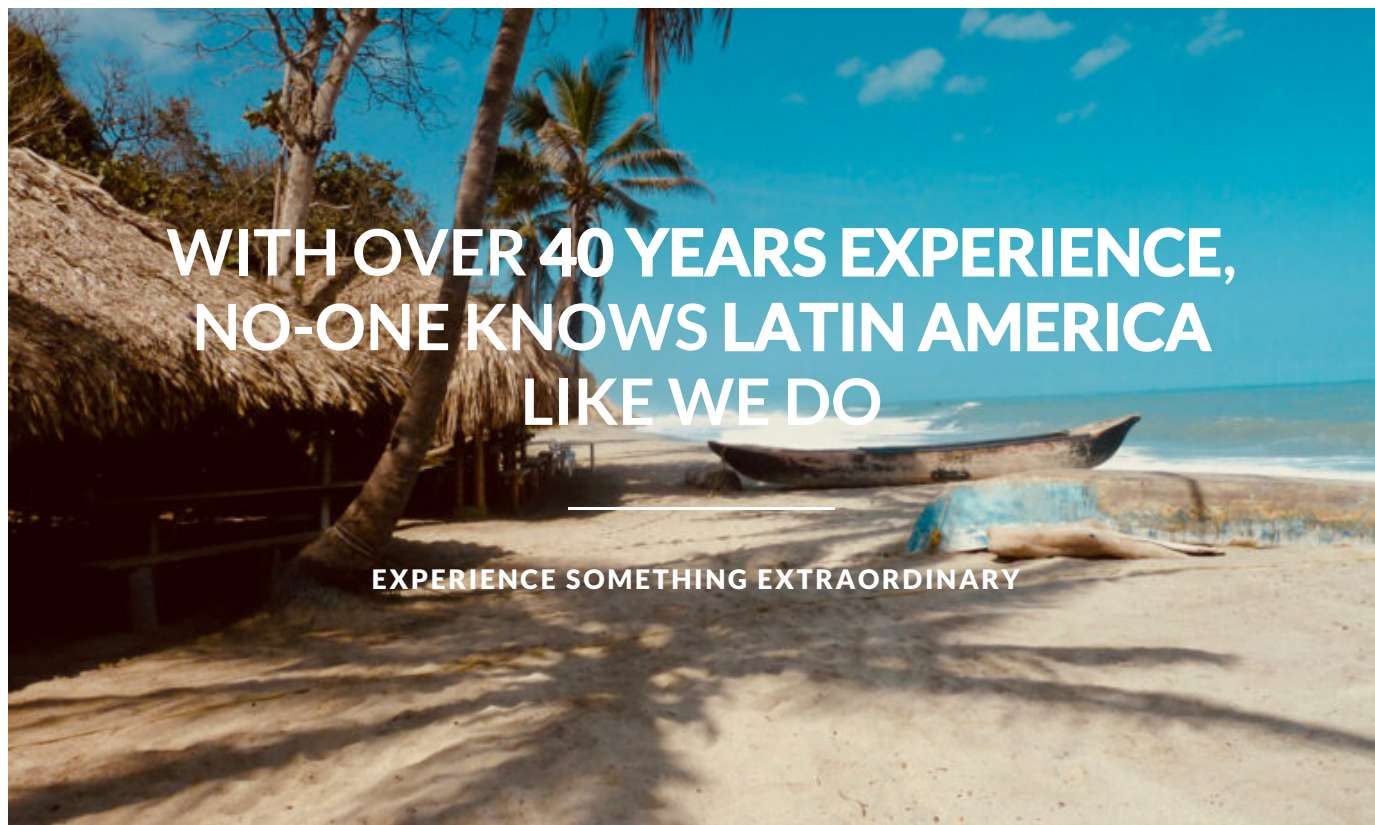


PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE GUYANA – WILDLIFE AND WATERFALLS

12 days from **£5,995pp**

GUYANA / GEORGETOWN AND KAIETEUR FALLS / THE INTERIOR



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

A nature-packed private adventure to Guyana, discovering the landscapes and wildlife of South America's best kept secret. Designed to fit in with British Airways flights from London, it's easy to add some time to explore and relax on the stunning Caribbean island of St Lucia on your way home.

DAY 1	Fly to Georgetown and transfer to your hotel.
DAY 2	Georgetown walking tour and market experience, with breakfast and lunch.
DAY 3	Visit Kaieteur Falls.
DAY 4	Fly to the rainforest.
DAY 5	Wildlife spotting on canopy walkways and nature trails.
DAY 6	Canopy walk and transfer to Karanambu
DAY 7	Savannah and river or birdwatching excursions.
DAY 8	Morning savannah or river excursion and boat transfer to the Caiman House Field Station.
DAY 9	Transfer to Waikin Ranch via Lethem.
DAY 10	Guided walk and cooking class
DAY 11	Fly to Georgetown.
DAY 12	Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay in Saint Lucia

ITINERARY

This private journey is ideally suited to those looking for adventure and wildlife on the path less trodden. The accommodation may be simple, but the experiences are world class and much of the nature is found only in this extraordinary corner of South America. With visits to varied eco-systems, including the rainforest and savannah, birdwatchers and animal lovers will have their cameras clicking with joyful abandon as they take in species like West Indian manatees, giant river otters, giant anteaters, jaguars, black caimans and of course, the iconic cock-of-the-rocks. History and culture buffs will also find inspiration from the influences of India, Africa, the native Amerindians and the European colonialists, while witnessing how these different forces have shaped the country into a nation quite unlike anything else in Latin America. And there is even a visit to Kaieteur, Earth's largest single drop waterfall, thrown in for good measure. Thanks to the relatively recent discovery of off-shore oil, Guyana is by far the world's fastest growing economy – making now the best time to travel to this currently well-kept secret gem. British Airways fly between London and Georgetown via Saint Lucia, opening up the opportunity to extend your trip for a few days to explore and relax on this beautiful Caribbean island.

DAY 1

Fly to Georgetown and transfer to your hotel.

Fly from London to Georgetown (via a short touchdown in St Lucia) and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2

Georgetown walking tour and market experience, with breakfast and lunch.

Rise early and join a neighbourhood celebrity chef for breakfast at one of the local food stands. Afterwards he will guide you around Bourda Market, the largest in Georgetown, where you will meet some of the vendors and learn about the customs, flavours and medicines of this extraordinary corner of South America. You will have an opportunity to see, touch and taste a variety of fruits and vegetables, some of which are unique to the region, and select a few ingredients for the chef to take away and start preparing your lunch, while you continue with the rest of your guided walking tour.

Glimpses of Guyana's complex and intriguing history can easily be found in its bustling capital, Georgetown. You will visit the Stabroek Market – known as a “bizarre bazaar”, St George's Cathedral – one of the world's tallest freestanding wooden buildings and the city hall. Then head to the national museum – which is home to the remains of a now extinct giant sloth, and the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology – where you will find a large number of artefacts and relics that help tell the story of the country's indigenous population.

After your specially prepared lunch, head to the botanical gardens to see an extensive collection of tropical flora, and the zoo – which has evolved into a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre for hundreds of species of tropical fauna. Finally, pay a visit to one of the nearby ponds, where it is possible to feed endangered West Indian manatees.

DAY 3

Visit Kaieteur Falls.

Take a flight over the Demerara and Essequibo rivers and extensive unbroken rainforest, 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 perfect postcard 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 – before your flight back to Georgetown.

DAY 4

Fly to the rainforest.

Fly south to Fair View Airstrip and transfer by 4x4 vehicle to your Lodge. Keep your eyes peeled as, despite providing the only land based north/south access in Guyana, this road is rarely used by vehicles, making it a popular trail for wildlife including agoutis, tayras, tapirs, black curassows and the elusive jaguars that inhabit the region.

DAY 5

Wildlife spotting on canopy walkways and nature trails.

Before dawn, head to the canopy walkway, located near the southern boundary of the Iwokrama Reserve. The walkway consists of four suspension bridges which perch approximately 30 metres above the ground, giving you an incredible close encounter with some of the creatures that live amongst the tree branches. Bird watchers should be on the lookout for the rufous-throated sapphire, green aracari, pygmy antwren, Guianan toucanet, buff-cheeked greenlet, and many other rare and magnificent species. Apes are also present here, with red howler and black spider monkeys often visible from the walkway's vantage points.

Away from the elevated bridges, there are many nature trails you can follow to search for more wildlife at ground level. As darkness envelops the forest, you can also head out on a night walk to see some of the animals that become more active after the sun goes down, including the six different cat species that occupy the reserve.

DAY 6

Canopy walk and transfer to Karanambu

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

Continue to Aranaputa, where you will stop at a peanut factory run by a co-operative of local women. This is followed by lunch at the Pakaraima Mountain Inn, hosted by local character Charlie De Freitas. Upon reaching the Ginep Landing, 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, with at least 600 species of birds, over 200 species of mammals and approximately 700 species of fish, all found here. There is also a 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 again head out 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 7

Savannah and river or birdwatching 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 8

Morning savannah or river excursion and boat transfer to the Caiman House Field Station.

This morning you have another chance to go in search of giant anteaters or otters before departing by boat to the nearby Amerindean village of Yupukari. Here you will visit the Caiman House Field Station which plays an important part in the community. Not only is it the hub for several participatory development projects (funding school libraries and teaching and showcasing key craft skills), but it is also heavily involved in a number of research and conservation programs along the river. Among these is a scheme in which rangers dig up turtle eggs that would otherwise have been vulnerable to the changing environmental conditions and rebury them at the field station where they hatch, are nurtured for a few months and then released by local children back into the river. You will also have the opportunity to support and participate in a study into the endangered black caiman – the largest member of the alligator family.

DAY 9

Transfer to Waikin Ranch via Lethem.

Travel overland to Lethem on Guyana's western border for a guided tour and a chance to cross the Takatu Bridge into Brazil. Then continue for a further 30 minutes to Waikin for an opportunity to experience life on a working ranch.

DAY 10

Guided walk and cooking class

Enjoy a guided walk around the ponds and bush islands that are strewn across the ranch's many trails, searching for birds such as: Muscovy ducks; great horned owls; buff neck ibis; herons; sun parakeets; and many others. You can then join the kitchen staff to learn some local cooking skills and help prepare a meal. Later you can take an optional excursion to Nappi (at additional cost). Known for its highly skilled craftsmen and women, the village is the perfect place to purchase some gifts and souvenirs, or simply peruse the shops and admire the traditional artisan techniques being used.

DAY 11

Fly to Georgetown.

Journey through the savannah to the airfield – being sure to look out for ocelots, anteaters, armadillos, capybaras, deer and jaguars on the way – then fly back to Georgetown for your final night in Guyana.

DAY 12

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay in Saint Lucia

If you are flying with British Airways, you may wish to add a few days of relaxation in Saint Lucia.

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

Georgetown walking tour and market experience

Visit to Kaieteur Falls

Wildlife spotting on canopy walkways and nature trails

Giant anteater savannah encounter

Giant river otter, black caiman and Victoria Amazonica waterlily boat trip

Lethem walking tour

Wildlife walks from Waikin Ranch

Nappi Village visit

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

TRANSPORT

4 flights (longest 1 hour), numerous 4x4 road journeys, 2 boat transfers. (Road and river transfers include wildlife spotting so durations will vary).

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Georgetown is in a mid-range hotel. Elsewhere, stays are in simple properties with private facilities and extraordinary locations.

MEALS

Breakfasts and 1 lunch (day 2) are included in Georgetown. All other stays are on a full board basis.

GUIDES

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

12 days, 11 nights: 4 Georgetown; 2 Iwokrama region; 2 Karanambu region; 1 Yupukari; 2 Waikin region.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Guyana is the Guyanese dollar.

DAILY SPEND

Most of your expenses are covered on this holiday, but you will need some Guyanese dollars for any alcoholic drinks at the lodges, souvenirs and craft work, snacks and tips. Your meals in Georgetown restaurants are also best paid for in cash.

HOW TO TAKE IT

Take your currency needs in the form of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency. Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused.

There are one or two ATMs (Scotia Bank) in Georgetown which accept international cards. At most of the lodges you can pay your 'extras' bill in US or Guyanese dollars, but not by credit or debit card (this situation may change of course). Some shops and restaurants in Georgetown accept credit cards.

TIPPING

Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for guides, hotel and lodge staff, taxi drivers and waiters in Georgetown. It is common practice to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

INSURANCE

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

AIRPORT TAXES

An international departure tax is payable at Georgetown airport on departure (around US\$12 – subject to change).

NATURE OF THE TRIP

This holiday is suitable for all able, reasonably fit visitors.

There are some jungle walks which can be challenging if it is raining. Some walks involve steep stretches and some

scrambling.

CLIMATE

Equatorial Guyana's temperatures range from 25-30°C throughout the year. Along the coastal strip, there are two distinct rainy seasons: May to mid-July, and mid-November to mid-January. In the south (Rupununi), there's a single rainy season: May to July. Humidity can be as much as 90% at these times. August – October are the hottest months.

CLOTHING AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

The hot and humid climate dictates that you should bring lightweight, loose-fitting clothing including tee-shirts, and long-sleeved shirts combined with quick-drying trousers to avoid being bitten by insects. You should have a rain jacket, fleece or light jacket for cooler evenings, hat, good walking boots (preferably waterproof), and trainers or sandals. Don't forget your binoculars and camera, and a light daypack to carry on excursions. Mosquito repellent and sun protection lotion are essential. Bear in mind that internal flights have strict weight restrictions, which can be as low as 9kg.

Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in South America.

VACCINATIONS

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: yellow fever; typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements such as malaria prophylactics.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

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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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