

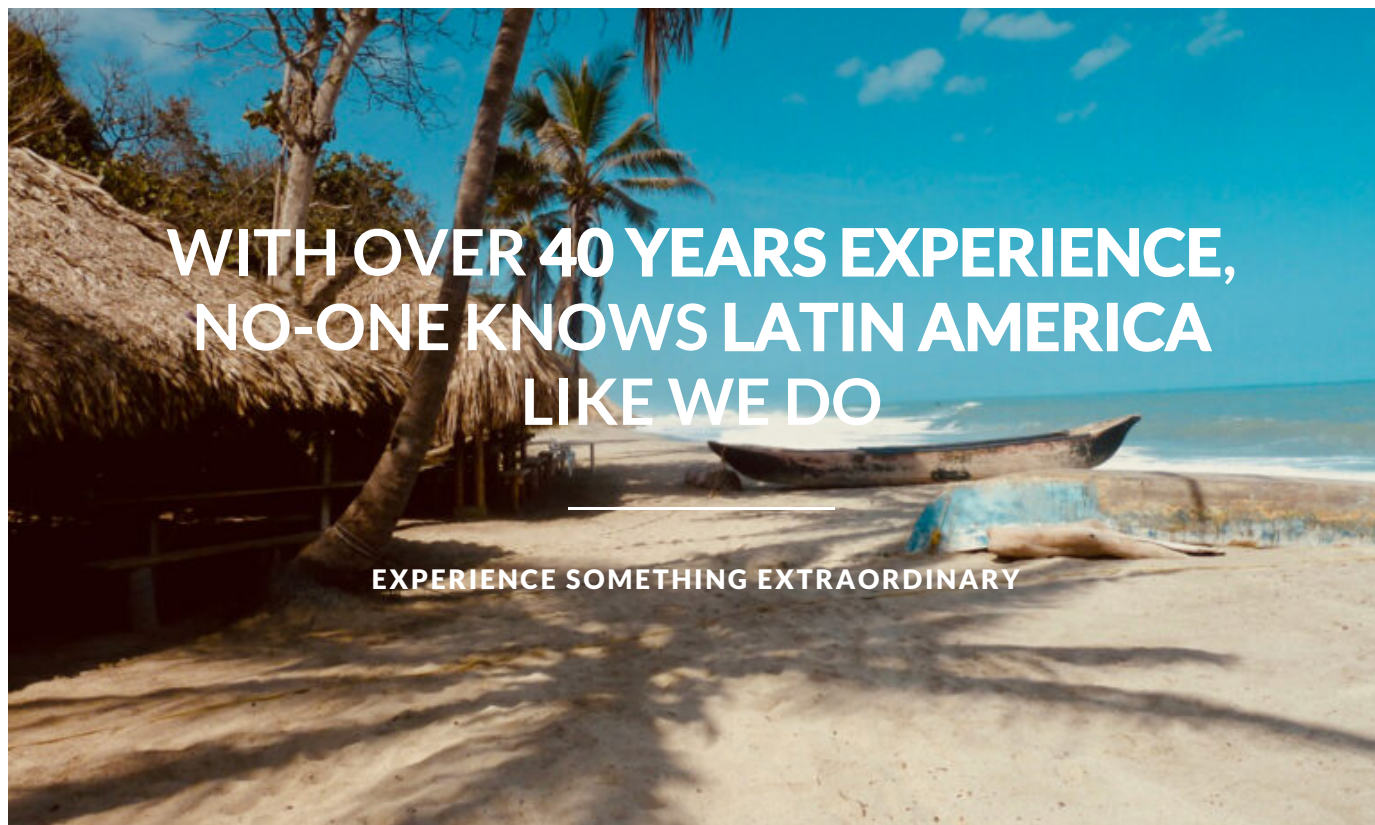


PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN GUIANAS

15 days from **£8,140pp**

**SURINAME / FRENCH GUIANA / 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

An exhilarating exploration of the three Guianas, set between the Caribbean and the Amazon basin, a cultural medley and profusion of wildlife.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| DAY 1 | Transfer to your hotel in Georgetown |
| DAY 2 | Fly south to Kaieteur Falls in the deep interior. |
| DAY 3 | Fly to Iwokrama, hike up Turtle mountain, go jaguar spotting. |
| DAY 4 | Explore the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway. |
| DAY 5 | Canopy walk and transfer to Karanambu |
| DAY 6 | Savannah and river or birdwatching excursions. |
| DAY 7 | Morning savannah or river excursion and flight to Georgetown |
| DAY 8 | Tour of Georgetown and flight to Paramaribo |
| DAY 9 | Guided tour of Paramaribo |
| DAY 10 | Transfer by road and motorised canoe to your riverside lodge. |
| DAY 11 | Visit indigenous village and the Maroon museum. |
| DAY 12 | Return to Paramaribo by river and road. |
| DAY 13 | Travel over land and water from Paramaribo to Kourou |
| DAY 14 | Devil's Island and Cayenne |
| DAY 15 | Transfer to the airport for your international flight. |

ITINERARY

This holiday to the three Guianas operates with fixed-date departures, and groups you with other like-minded travellers keen to explore the trio of remote and fascinating destinations. While you can also book it privately, choosing your preferred dates, bear in mind that tourism is still in its infancy here and infrastructure for visitors and residents alike is rudimentary. The cost will therefore be significantly higher and confirmation dependent on availability.

The three Guianas, which fringe the Caribbean coast of South America and extend south into Amazonia, represent the evolution of territory controlled by three European colonial powers. As such, Suriname, French Guiana and Guyana have absorbed aspects of the cultures and languages of the Netherlands, France and Great Britain respectively, while also retaining many features of their indigenous cultures and the traditions of former African slaves. This extraordinary journey through all three of these little-visited, under-developed countries, reveals their individuality, but also the harmony of their natural landscapes, their plethora of wildlife and their stunning wilderness views.

Begin your journey in Guyana, where British-Caribbean influences shape the rhythm of life, particularly in the capital Georgetown. Continue east into Suriname, a cultural mosaic where Dutch, African and Indigenous traditions blend in the lively capital of Paramaribo. End in French Guiana, a slice of Europe in South America, where Cayenne's boulevards and cafés reflect its French identity. When venturing beyond the coastlines, you'll find a shared wilderness teeming with exotic birdlife, rare mammals and lush tropical flora – a natural world that transcends borders.

DAY 1

Transfer to your hotel in Georgetown

Touch down in Guyana's vibrant capital, Georgetown – a city where colonial charm meets Caribbean flair. Upon arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. Settle in and enjoy your first glimpse of this lively riverside city, known for its wooden architecture, colourful markets, and warm hospitality.

DAY 2

Fly south to Kaieteur Falls in the deep interior.

This morning, there is an optional birdwatching visit to the Botanical Gardens, home to one of the Caribbean's most extensive collections of tropical flora and fauna. Later, take a scenic flight over the Demerara and Essequibo rivers and vast stretches of unbroken rainforest to reach Kaieteur Falls – the world's highest single-drop waterfall.

First sighted by a European on 29 April 1870, Kaieteur plunges 225 metres over a sandstone and conglomerate escarpment into a deep gorge – a drop five times the height of Niagara. The falls support a unique micro-environment that shelters a diverse range of wildlife, including the elusive Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. After time to explore the area, you'll return to Georgetown by air.

DAY 3

Fly to Iwokrama, hike up Turtle mountain, go jaguar spotting.

Fly across the forest to Fair View airstrip from where you will be escorted to Iwokrama River Lodge. From here, depart by boat, birdwatching along the way, for a hike up Turtle Mountain. A well-maintained trail winds through the forest before an exhilarating climb to its summit at 360 metres above sea level. It takes a couple of hours, but the effort is more than worth it for the breathtaking views over the forest canopy and chances of spotting green aracari, white bellbird and five species of eagle. This trail is also a great place to see black spider and red howler monkeys. Alternatively, take a boat trip to Lake Stanley to search for giant river otters and black caimans.

Later, transfer by 4WD along a trail frequented by jaguars, to your accommodation.

DAY 4

Explore 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. (Please note that some bridges may close periodically for maintenance).

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 you can be fairly certain to spot some as you move through the trees. Deer and agouti are also regular visitors to the lodge.

DAY 5

Canopy walk and transfer to Karanambu

Begin the day by returning to the forest walkway to experience the jungle's dawn chorus – a symphony of birdsong as the rainforest stirs to life. Afterwards, follow a short trail through Corkwood, where your guide will help spot birdlife and explain the traditional uses of native plants, from natural remedies to textiles and other ingenious applications.

Your journey continues to Aranaputa, where you'll visit a peanut processing facility operated by a local women's co-operative. Lunch is served at the Pakaraima Mountain Inn, hosted by the charismatic Charlie De Freitas. From Ginép Landing, board a boat for the trip along the Rupununi River to Karanambu. When water levels are right, this stretch offers a chance to glimpse giant river otters – a species championed by the late conservationist Diane McTurk. The surrounding landscape, a mosaic of wetlands, gallery forests and open savannah, is among the most biodiverse in South America, supporting over 600 bird species, 200+ mammals and around 700 types of fish. Archaeological evidence also points to human presence here for more than 7,000 years.

Later in the day, take to the river again in search of giant otters. As dusk falls, the giant Amazonica waterlilies begin to bloom – their luminous pads unfurling in the fading light. On the return journey, use spotlights to scan for black caiman and other nocturnal wildlife.

DAY 6

Savannah and river or birdwatching excursions.

Spend the early morning exploring the savannah in search of giant anteaters, often seen foraging among the termite mounds scattered across these sweeping grasslands.

Later in the day, you can opt for another river outing or venture into a variety of terrestrial habitats. These areas are excellent for spotting birdlife, including the elusive agami heron, seven species of nightjar, and the distinctive double-striped thick-knee.

DAY 7

Morning savannah or river excursion and flight to Georgetown

This morning you have another chance to go in search of giant anteaters or otters before departing overland to Letham, from where you will fly back to Georgetown for another overnight stay.

DAY 8

Tour of Georgetown and flight to Paramaribo

Start your day with breakfast at a local food stand alongside your host and guide, Chef Delven Adams. He'll lead you through Bourda Market – Georgetown's largest – beginning at the Guyana Shop, which showcases locally made products. As you explore the market, you'll meet vendors Chef Delven buys from daily and discover everything from fresh fish and meat to bush medicine, fabrics and tropical produce. You'll even help choose ingredients for your lunch.

While the chef prepares your meal, continue on a guided city tour. Highlights include the National Museum, Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, and historic landmarks like Stabroek Market, City Hall and St. George's Cathedral – one of the tallest wooden buildings in the world. You'll also visit the Botanical Gardens.

Lunch is served at the Backyard Café – Chef Delven's hidden gem of a restaurant. You're welcome to join him in the kitchen or simply relax under the arbour with a fresh juice or cold beer as the flavours of your market-to-table meal come to life.

After lunch, you will transfer to the airport and fly to Paramaribo, Suriname's laid-back capital. Though home to over half the country's population, Paramaribo retains a relaxed, small-town charm.

A former Dutch colony, the city grew during the 17th and 18th centuries and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002. Its historic centre still follows the original street plan, with elegant wooden buildings that blend Dutch design with local materials and techniques. Today, Paramaribo's vibrant culture and cuisine reflect a rich mix of Indigenous, African, Asian and European influences – a truly unique introduction to South America.

DAY 9

Guided tour of Paramaribo

Today's the day for a guided tour of the capital by car and on foot, exploring the most prominent historic locations. There are 291 listed monuments in Paramaribo and only a few have been replaced by new developments. Your guide will tell you about the history of Fort Zeelandia, built in 1667, the presidential palace, and Independence Square, among other places of interest.

After a stroll along the bank of the Suriname river and through the extensive public park, known as the Garden of Palms, you will view other fascinating sites such as a mosque which sits harmoniously next to a synagogue. Cross the Suriname river and make a stop at Peperpot, one of the oldest plantations in Suriname, which was established by the English before Suriname was conquered by the Dutch in 1667. Thereafter, stop at a mini sugar plantation museum, before enjoying lunch in a typical Javanese restaurant. Travel on to the confluence of the Commewijne and Suriname rivers at Nieuw Amsterdam, before finishing the tour with a visit to the outdoor museum in its large fortress.

In the early evening you can opt to join an optional sunset dolphin-spotting tour. Enjoy the cool breeze and river views while the captain scans the horizon for the dolphins. Groups of up to 20 dolphins may be seen – they can be very curious and jump and play close to the boat. Afterwards you'll visit a former plantation to savour freshly made local snacks while

DAY 10

Transfer by road and motorised canoe to your riverside lodge.

Depart Paramaribo by road and arrive at the tiny village and river port of Atjoni. 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 – which is famous for its breathtaking rapids – to your lodge. Your day comes to an end back on the water with a trip looking for caiman sprawling out on the riverbanks.

DAY 11

Visit indigenous village and the Maroon museum.

Today you will visit one of the 12 villages that 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. Afterwards, visit the Maroon museum Saamaka, which is dedicated to the cultural heritage of the Saramak Maroon population. In the museum you will learn about the history of the Maroons, their ancient traditions and crafts.

In the afternoon, take a rainforest walk, then choose to enjoy a massage, go fishing or take a dugout canoe around the island. After dinner you can enjoy a traditional and cultural dance performance.

DAY 12

Return to Paramaribo by river and road.

This morning depart by dugout canoe from Danpaati to Atjoni. From Atjoni you continue your journey back to Paramaribo by road. In the evening there is an optional dinner at a popular Indonesian restaurant.

DAY 13

Travel over land and water from Paramaribo to Kourou

Today you'll travel from Paramaribo to Kourou in French Guiana, setting off early to ensure a relaxed journey before nightfall. The route follows Suriname's coastal road to the border town of Albina, where formalities are usually swift.

From there, cross the Maroni River by ferry into French Guiana. On arrival in St. Laurent du Maroni, your guide will assist with customs – you're now officially entering the European Union. The change is immediate: smooth roads, modern cars, espresso cafés, and the euro as currency.

Continue to the Guiana Space Centre for a guided tour. Please note that launch schedules are not publicly released and always subject to change. If a launch is due to take place around the time of your arrival, this may result in the visit being rescheduled or cancelled at short notice. When available, the tour includes a coach ride through the vast complex, with stops at assembly buildings and control centres. Tours are conducted in French, but your guide will provide translations throughout.

DAY 14

Devil's Island and Cayenne

After an early breakfast, transfer to the dock in Kourou for your catamaran journey to the Îles du Salut – a trio of islands often collectively referred to as “Devil's Island.” Your first stop is Île Royale, once part of a notorious French penal colony dating back to 1762. The islands served as a transit point for explorers, enslaved people, and later, political prisoners. Île Saint-Joseph, known as the “silent island,” was infamous for solitary confinement, while the real Devil's Island – where Alfred Dreyfus was held – remains off-limits due to hazardous surf.

On Île Royale, explore well-preserved prison buildings, an old church, officers' quarters, and a small museum. Don't miss the children's cemetery behind the hospital or the chance to spot sea turtles near the dock. After your visit, return to Kourou by catamaran and continue on to Cayenne.

DAY 15

Transfer to the airport for your international flight.

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

Village tour at Danpaati River Lodge

Rainforest walk and choice of activities, Danpaati

Paramaribo city tour

Kourou Space Station

Iles du Salut (Devil's Island)

St Joseph's church, Iracoubo

Georgetown: city tour with markets

Kaieteur Falls

Hike to Turtle Mountain

Iwokrama Canopy Walkway

Visit Surama community

Climb Surama mountain

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

3 domestic light aircraft flights; Several journeys by road and river. There are journeys most days, some of which can be long and bumpy, but many of which offer excellent wildlife spotting opportunities.

ACCOMMODATION

Simple and mid-range hotels, small jungle and wildlife lodges basic lodges.

MEALS

Breakfast daily; lunch days 4,5,6,7,9; full board days 2,3,11,12,13

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

15 days, 14 nights: Paramaribo 1, Danpaati 2, Paramaribo 2, Cayenne 1, Kourou 1, Paramaribo 1, Georgetown 2, Atta Rainforest Lodge 2, Surama Eco-lodge 1, Georgetown 1.

MONEY

Take cash in US\$ (and for French Guiana, euros) up to the total limit your insurance will allow. ATMs which give access to cash are available in cities, but it's worth having plastic for both Visa and Mastercard. We recommend a daily budget of \$US 40-50 per person per day to cover the cost of meals and daily expenses including tips and taxes. Euros are accepted in French Guiana.

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 likely be hot and humid throughout. Along the Caribbean coasts of Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, October is statistically one of the driest months in the year.

Cayenne's annual rainfall is over 3,600mm, but October's is 74mm – i.e. only 1/60 of the yearly total. But it's all tropical – it can rain anytime, often in short and very heavy bursts.

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 entry 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. For some excursions to the jungle and/or local flights you may be restricted to a maximum baggage allowance of 9kg (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). Don't over-pack – no hotels have bellboys, and few have lifts – please ask us for advice if you're unsure.

PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

DISCOVERING THE HIDDEN GUIANAS

15 days from **£8,140pp**

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

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