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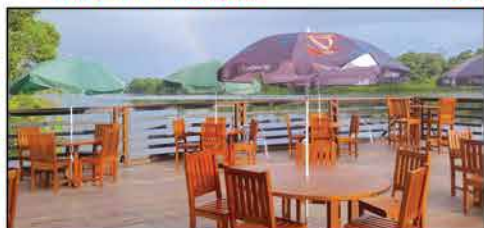
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EXPLORE GUYANA

The Official Tourist Guide of Guyana 2020

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The Official Tourist Guide of Guyana 2020

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Welcome President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana



H.E. BRIGADIER DAVID GRANGER
President
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Explore Guyana!

Guyana's tourism product is incomparable. The country lies at the center of the Guiana Shield, one of the world's oldest geomorphic formations and one of the few remaining tracts of pristine rainforests in the world. Guyana's biodiversity includes some of the world's rarest flora and fauna

Guyana is home to the giants of the world. The largest anacondas, ants, anteaters, armadillos, bats, caimans, eagles, fish, jaguars, otters, rodents, snakes, spiders, storks, toads, turtles and vultures in the world are to be found in Guyana.

Our natural attractions - the coastland, grasslands, islands, highlands, rainforests, rivers and waterfalls - offer a peerless and unsurpassable tourism experience.

Our unrivalled nature-based, tourism products include bird-watching, boating, ecolodges and nature resorts, hiking, mountain trekking, overland tours, safaris, yachting and wildlife exploration.

Guyana's cultural tourism product is characterised by its rich, colourful and vibrant festivals and delectable cuisine, reflecting our diverse heritage. Our sports and cultural calendar provides a range of entertainment for persons of all ages.

Guyana should be your choice destination if you are seeking a unique and memorable tourist experience. I invite you to visit Guyana.

David Granger



Guyana Office For
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Welcome Minister of Business with Responsibility for Tourism



Hon. Haimraj Rajkumar
Minister of Business with
responsibility for Tourism

Guyana's pristine rainforest, lush flora and fauna, and its beautiful expanse of savannahs make it one of the world's most exciting and budding eco-tourism destination.

Over recent years we have made considerable efforts to develop a sustainable, eco-friendly tourism product and to educate the world on the unique experience Guyana has to offer. Destination Guyana continues to receive significant international recognition. Just recently Guyana was named the number one (#1) "Best of Eco-tourism" destination in the world at the 2019 ITB Global Travel Trade Fair in Berlin, Germany and the number one (#1) 'Best in Sustainable Tourism' at the LATA Achievement Awards that took place during 'Experience Latin America', Europe's largest business to business (B2B) travel conference focused on the Latin America region.

Guyana's natural wonders, rich cultural diversity, and alluring vibe, amidst the warmth and hospitality of our people, will undoubtedly leave you with an enjoyable and unforgettable travel experience.

Our community-owned and led tourism initiative, which is aimed at preserving our ecosystems and indigenous traditions, encompasses the direct involvement of local communities and the generation of benefits both to the environment and to grassroots economies. Our Eco-tourism product is also aligned with our national Green State Development Strategy, which allows us to build our economy without harming the environment. This means that local wildlife can thrive and visitors can enjoy an untouched destination.

A warm and welcoming smile and the hospitality of our people will no doubt leave fond memories of a time well spent in Guyana. So whether you're a thrill-seeker, adventure enthusiast, nature lover or simply looking for a vacation getaway, I urge you to come, discover and explore more of what Guyana has to offer—there is certainly an adventure at every turn.



About the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG)

The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) was established on January 6, 1992 by individual operators working in the industry. Though it was initially called the Tourism Association of Guyana, it evolved into Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana in recognition of the magnitude of the industry.

THAG is the National Hotel and Tourism Association representing all allied and industry entities- restaurateurs, tour operators, travel agents, accommodation providers, transportation services and community based tourism providers among others. THAG's role is to serve as the voice of the industry, to mobilise resources for national industry development, to grow and transform small businesses to meet the needs of their customers.

THAG has formed invaluable alliances with varying local and overseas stakeholder groups for the enhancement of Guyana's cultural, social, built and natural environment as a tourism destination. THAG is a member of the Private Sector Commission and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association.

THAG is headed by an Executive Board comprising a President, Vice President, Treasurer and four Committee Members. Its day to day operations are managed by the Executive Director. THAG's other permanent staff is the Executive Officer.

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SUSTAINABLE TOURISM THE INDUSTRY WITH A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

By: Mitra Ramkumar – President, Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana



Generally speaking, Sustainable Tourism protects people and places. It does this by addressing potential impacts of tourism on three main areas: society-culture, environment and economy.

Sustainable Tourism employs the concept of a Triple Bottom Line which is an accounting framework that incorporates the three dimensions of performance. It should also be noted that the Triple Bottom Line applies to all tourism stakeholders, not only businesses.

The Triple Bottom Line measures the impact of an organization's activities on the world. For example, tourism providers benefit communities by supporting cultural diversity and promoting tolerance and acceptance of different lifestyles and belief systems.

The positive socio-cultural impact helps local communities maintain their cultural integrity in the face of vast economic and developmental pressures, which is taking place in Guyana as we enter into the year of First Oil.

It is important to note that a net gain in the Triple Bottom Line does not imply the absence of losses or damages across all three of these dimensions, it only means that the final tally is on net positive, where positive impacts outweigh negative impacts.

Managing a destination or business' Triple Bottom Line is a balancing act. Guyana's Tourism Industry has demonstrated that it maintains this balance and achieves positive results across all three dimensions. Guyana got international recognition for its achievement in this regard by being named the #1 "Best of Ecotourism" Destination in the World at the ITB Global Travel Trade Fair 2019 in Berlin, Germany.

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

1. People – Socio-cultural

Cultural tourists tend to spend more than other tourist types. Elements of culture that are likely to be utilised and influenced by tourism include handicrafts, cuisine, art, music, history, architecture, religion, education, dress, language and traditions.

Tourism showcases local culture in a sustainable manner and encourages meaningful interactions between hosts and their visitors.

This is evident in Guyana as all join in the celebration of our vibrant festivals, which includes:

- Phagwah - the Hindu festival of colors (Spring)
- Easter – Kite Flying as Christians celebrate the Resurrection

- Eid al-Fitr – the Muslim festival of breaking fast that marks the end of Ramadan
- Diwali – the Hindu festival of lights
- Christmas – the season of goodwill and cheer

Guyana also dedicates the month of September to celebrate Indigenous Heritage.

2. Planet - Environmental

Wildlife, including both plant (flora) and animal life (fauna), has long been considered to have considerable tourism value in a natural state. Therefore Sustainable Tourism creates the opportunity for us to use our Pristine Rainforest and Rich Biodiversity without losing it.

3. Profits - Economic

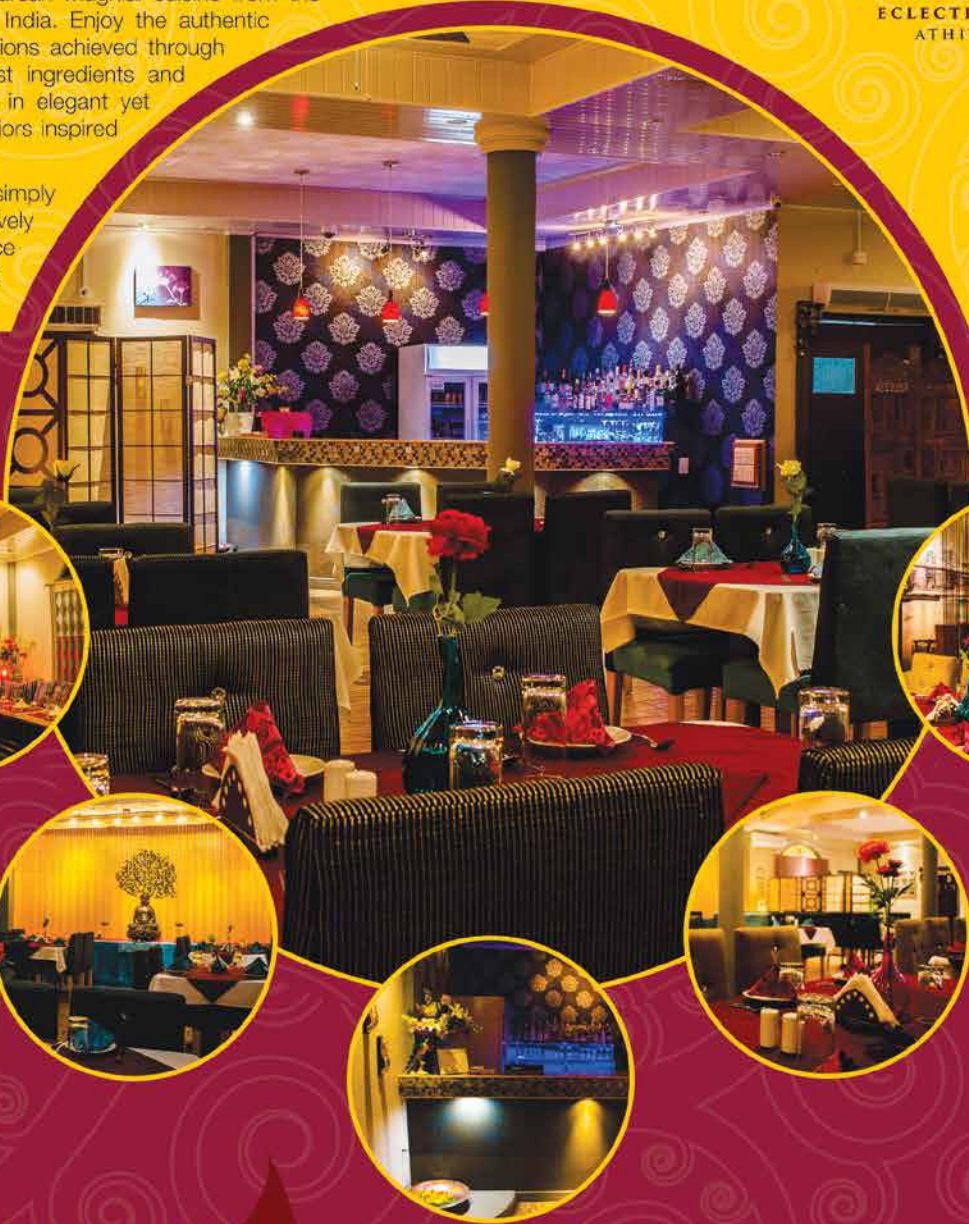
From a development perspective, a tourism business' success will be reflected in its total direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts. Such effects generate employment and business opportunities while improving the bottom line, furthering economic development and contributing to the country's overall appeal.

**Mitra Ramkumar - President
Tourism & Hospitality Association
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Tourism is a Force for Good in Guyana

An increasing number of travellers are seeking authentic travel experiences that have a net positive impact on the people and places they visit. Guyana is one of a small number of destinations that can deliver. With exotic wildlife, expansive golden savannahs, pristine rainforests and a rich, thriving culture coupled with some of the most hospitable people you will ever encounter, the word is getting out. South America's best kept secret is not so much of a secret anymore.

The world is currently witnessing Guyana's growth not only as the fastest growing economy but also as a globally recognized sustainable destination. The tourism sector's efforts to adopt and promote sustainable destination best practice nationwide have been unmatched. This is reflected in Guyana receiving multiple prestigious awards for these efforts.

Accolades and Awards

In 2019, Guyana garnered worldwide recognition within the tourism industry for its leadership in sustainable destination management and development. The Sustainable Destination Top 100 was established in 2016 by a partnership of 12 prominent organisations dedicated to sustainable tourism. The aim of the awards is to recognise and showcase success stories and good practices of both emerging and established destinations. Leading destinations are judged based on Government tourism strategies, policies, and plans, as well as business

and community level commitments to sustainable tourism.

Building on a strong foundation and many years of pursuing a Green State Agenda, Guyana was recognised as the **World's #1 "Best in Ecotourism"** and a **Top 10 Sustainable Destination** by the Green Destinations Foundation and ITB Berlin in Germany on March 2019. A few months later, Guyana was named the **"Best in Sustainable Tourism"** by the LATA Foundation in the United Kingdom at the 9th annual LATA Achievement Awards.

Recognised for its marketing, Guyana also received **1st Place for the "Guyana - Welcome back to Nature"** video in the Country International category at the 18th annual "The Golden City Gate Award" at ITB Berlin. The Golden City Gate Tourism Multimedia Award is the world's no. 1 in film- print and multimedia competition.

While these awards may have placed Guyana on the "must visit" destination map within a short span of time, they also reflect the country's commitment to a much longer-term sustainability strategy



Giant River Otter
© GTA/FotoNatura

and journey that is designed to contribute socio-economic benefits and support the protection of Guyana's wealth of natural and cultural heritage for generations to come. Due to the sector's interlinkages and cross-cutting impacts with other sectors, tourism is driving the implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This is why tourism has been identified as a priority investment sector within Guyana's Green State Development Strategy.

Tourism is the second largest export sector in Guyana

The tourism sector is experiencing significant growth. There was an increase of 15.9% in visitation in 2018, including a 21% increase in leisure travellers alone, and there has been a 10% increase in visitation in 2019 year to date. If this level of growth continues, it is anticipated that Guyana will attract up to 500,000 visitors by 2025. This would reflect a doubling of visitation in eight years.

The economic impact alone is noteworthy. Based on an in-depth analysis of the VEMS survey of the Bureau of Statistics, the Guyana Tourism Authority estimates that the average expenditure per international traveller per visit was GY\$222,216 in 2018. This reflects the global average expenditure per traveller per trip, so it is not surprising given the cost to travel within Guyana.

With 286,732 total visitors last year, it is estimated that travel and tourism injected approximately GY\$62.6B directly into



*Waldyke Prince, Tour Guide
© GTA/Nicola Balram*



*Twokrama Canopy Walkway From Above
© GTA/David DiGregorio*



*Fort Zeelandia, Fort Island, Essequibo
© GTA/FotoNatura*

Guyana's economy, making tourism its second largest export sector after gold. This translates to approximately 8% of GDP, 8,500 jobs within the sector and a contribution to a total of 22,000 jobs in Guyana.

The Role We All Have to Play

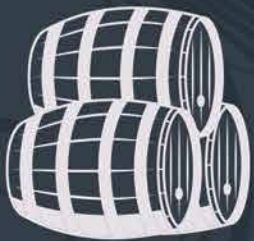
Remaining one of the best of the best sustainable destinations in the world requires the continuous and active involvement of the Government of Guyana, host communities, tourism companies, residents, and travellers. Protecting wildlife, undisturbed rainforests and the culture of the people while providing an immersive experience to travellers and socio-economic benefits to residents are top priorities. We all have a role to play.

Is it the responsibility of the Government to ensure that tourism protects our natural

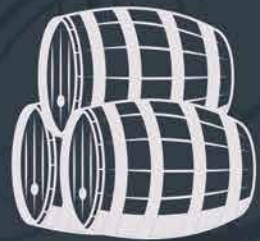
and cultural heritage and improves the well-being of our residents. An increasing number of indigenous communities are getting involved in tourism and welcoming guests to their community-owned and managed ecolodges that benefit the community as a whole. More tourism companies in Guyana are improving their sustainability practices through environmental management systems, as well as community development and conservation initiatives.

We all have a responsibility to make travellers feel welcome and to ensure they know what they can do to benefit the people and places they visit. If everyone plays their role in the sustainable tourism journey, together, we can ensure Guyana remains on the right path. ■

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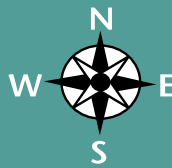
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"Yours to Experience,
Explore & Enjoy"



VENEZUELA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SURINAME

BRAZIL

Key to Map

- Waterfall
- Nature Resort
- Historic Site
- Amerindian Site
- Major Town
- Town/Community
- Lethem Hotels
- ▨ Scenic/Nature
- Main Road
- Minor Road & Trails
Some Trails may need 4WD
- Main River
- Minor River
- ✈ Major Airport
- ✈ Airstrip
- Administrative Regions
- Major Bridge

GUYANA: FACTS & FIGURES

SIZE: 214,970 sq km (83,000 sq miles)

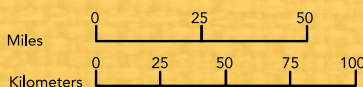
POPULATION: 746,955 (Census 2012)

LOCATION: Guyana is located on the north eastern shoulder of the South American Continent between latitudes 1° and 9° and longitudes 57° and 61°.

The Atlantic Coast stretches for 432km/270m and extends south to a depth of 720km / 450m, Guyana is bound by Suriname in the East, Venezuela in the West, Brazil on the South and Southwest and the Atlantic Ocean in the North-Northeast.

CLIMATE: Tropical; hot, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds. Mean Temperature of 27.5°C. Coastland ranges from 20°C - 34°C Interior ranges 18°C - 40°C

CURRENCY: Guyana Dollar (GYD)



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AROUND GEORGETOWN

1 THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Was designed by an Englishman, Sir Leonard Stokes. Granite obtained from the quarries of Dalli and Wolga on the Essequibo River and sand from Leguan was used in the construction of this structure whose foundation stone was laid on 15 August 1915.

2 THE RED HOUSE

The Red House on High Street is famous for its bright red wallaba shingles. It is a 19th century, 3-storey colonial style building and now houses the Cheddi Jagan Research Centre.

3 AUSTIN HOUSE

Originally known as Kingston House and was the residence of the first Anglican Bishop of Guyana - Bishop William Percy Austin (1807-1892). It was renamed Austin House in recognition of his contribution to the Anglican Church in the country.

4 PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

The official residence of the Prime Minister of Guyana, it was originally constructed for Mr. Sandbach of Booker Bros. in the late 19th century. The residence is one of the most picturesque Great Houses in Guyana.

5 CHRIST CHURCH

This edifice was built in 1836 for those Anglicans who were dissatisfied with the ritualistic services at the St. George's Cathedral. It is located in Waterloo Street. The church held its consecration service on November, 21 in 1843.

6 WALTER ROTH MUSEUM

This museum of artifacts relating to Guyana's nine Amerindian tribes is located on Main St. It is also a research centre for the indigenous peoples.

7 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

Also known as the Carnegie Building after its famous benefactor. It is located at the corner of Main and Church Streets.

8 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

Opened in 1951 on North Road, this museum contains many geological, animal and Amerindian exhibits including eclectic pieces such as a Rolls Royce, given as a gift to the government.

9 ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

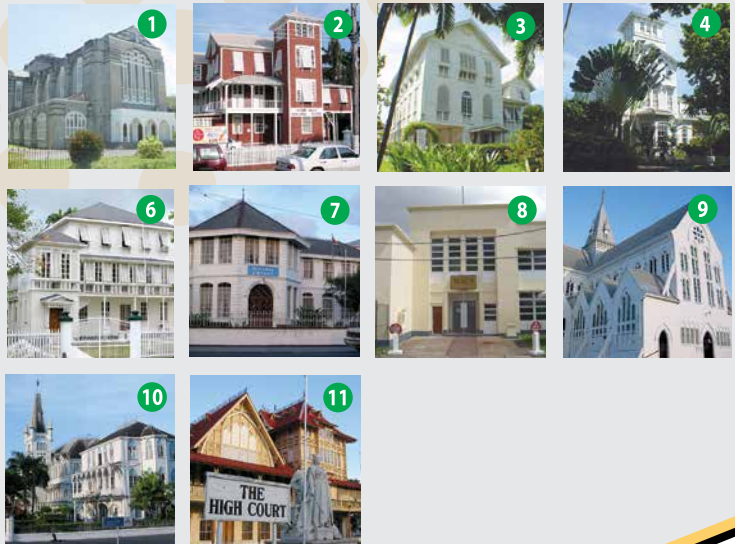
At 143 feet, St. George's is reputedly the world's tallest wooden building. This, the main Anglican church in Guyana, can be found on North Road.

10 CITY HALL

Georgetown's beautiful wooden City Hall was built in 1889 at the corner of Regent St. and Avenue of the Republic.

11 THE HIGH COURT

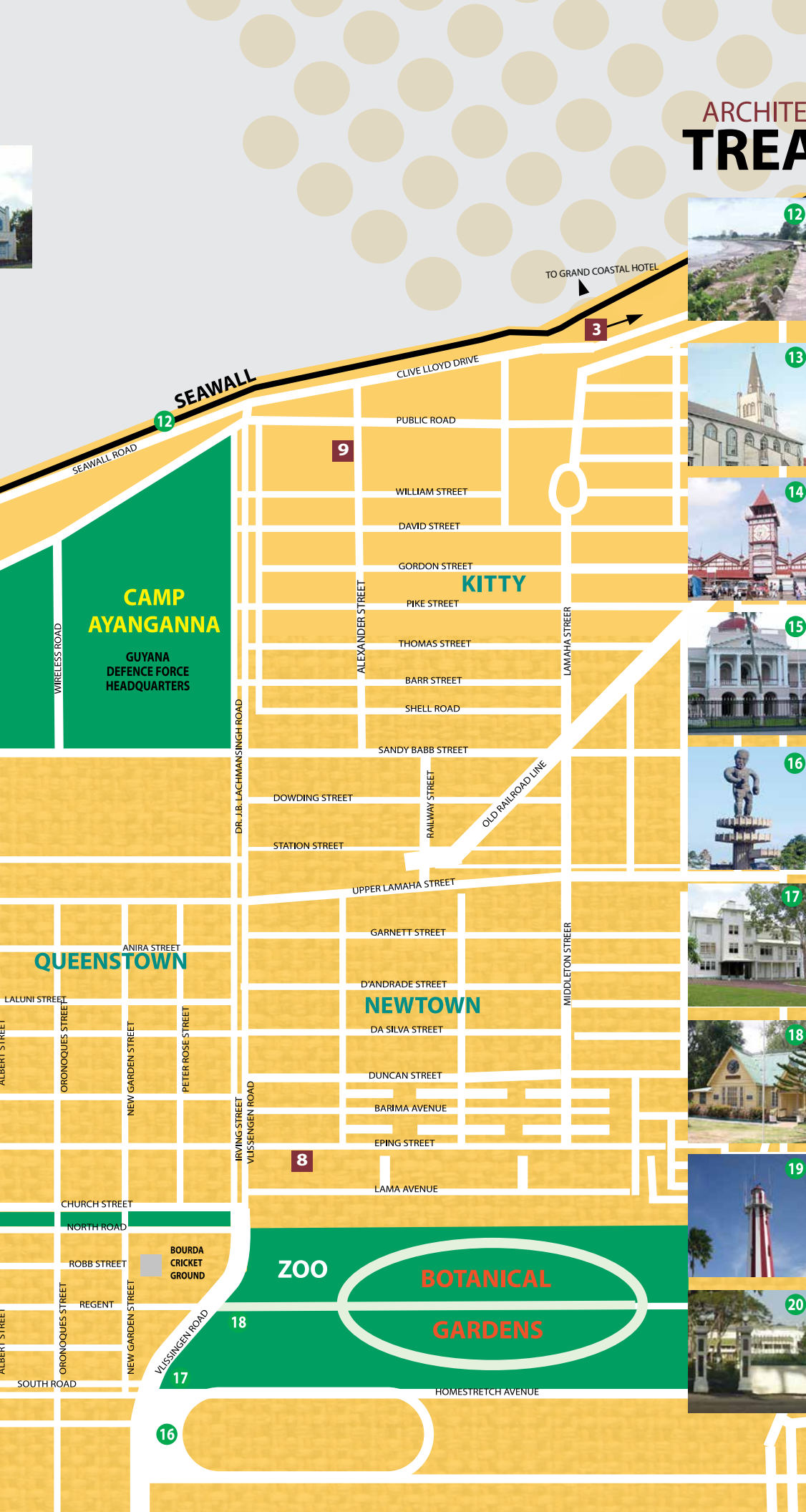
Opened in 1887 The High Court sits between Brickdam and Croal Streets and is also called the Victoria Law Court.



DENOTES CITY HOTEL LOCATIONS

Please refer to page 96 for details of Hotel listings

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES



12 SEAWALL

This 280 mile wall is a Dutch-designed and British-built dyke that protects Georgetown against flooding. It is a favourite "liming", jogging and kite-flying spot.

13 ST. ANDREW'S KIRK

At the corner of Brickdam and the Avenue of the Republic you'll find the oldest church in Georgetown, St. Andrew's Kirk. It was completed in 1818.

14 STABROEK MARKET

Georgetown's favourite market on Water St. is also one of the city's prized landmarks. Check out the four-faced clock before browsing the bountiful market for everything from vegetables to gold.

15 PARLIAMENT BUILDING

This landmark building housing Guyana's parliament was completed in 1834. It was designed by James Hadfield.

16 THE 1763 MONUMENT

This statue commemorates the unsuccessful 1763 slave rebellion led by Cuffy, an African slave. It stands in the Square of the Revolution at the top of Brickdam. The monument was designed by renowned Guyanese Artist Philip Moore.

17 CASTELLANI HOUSE Once the residence of former Guyana President Forbes Burnham, it is now the home of the National Art Gallery and the National Art Collection. It is also a venue for important exhibitions and other cultural features.

18 JENMAN EDUCATION CENTRE

Once the residence of former research botanist George Jenman now recently refurbished. Its objectives are to raise awareness, conduct environmental research and promote environmental activities.

19 GEORGETOWN LIGHT HOUSE

The Georgetown Light House was first built by the Dutch in 1817 and then rebuilt in 1830 to help guide ships into the Demerara River from the Atlantic Ocean. The 31m (103 feet) high brick structure is a famous Georgetown, Guyana monument.

20 STATE HOUSE Formerly known as the Government House, this building dates back to 1858. It was the residence of the Governor General and in 1970, the country's first President, Arthur Chung, resided there. This building is currently the residence of the President of Guyana.



Leon Moore on Awarmie Mountain, Rewa
© GTA/Nicola Balram

Welcome to Guyana – South America Undiscovered

Immerse Yourself in an Indigenous Community Experience

In a world where travel is becoming more mainstream and many destinations have lost the authenticity that attracted travellers in the first place, Guyana stands out. It is decidedly not 'touristy'. This along with the fact that the country remains largely undeveloped means that you will discover pristine ecosystems with amazing wildlife and birding experiences, rich culture and heritage, warm hospitality and immersive experiences in indigenous communities.

Guyana's warm hospitality can be felt in its people. The cultural mix of its population includes Indigenous Peoples and those of

African, East Indian, European, Portuguese and Chinese descent. Nine Indigenous Peoples call Guyana home and are proud to share their traditions and knowledge with guests of their community-led and owned eco-lodges. Doing so helps them preserve their natural and cultural heritage while providing economic benefits to the community as a whole. Three of the must-see communities during your trip to Guyana are Surama, Rewa and Yupukari.

Surama

This was the first indigenous community to embark on community-led and owned tourism in Guyana. Found in the North

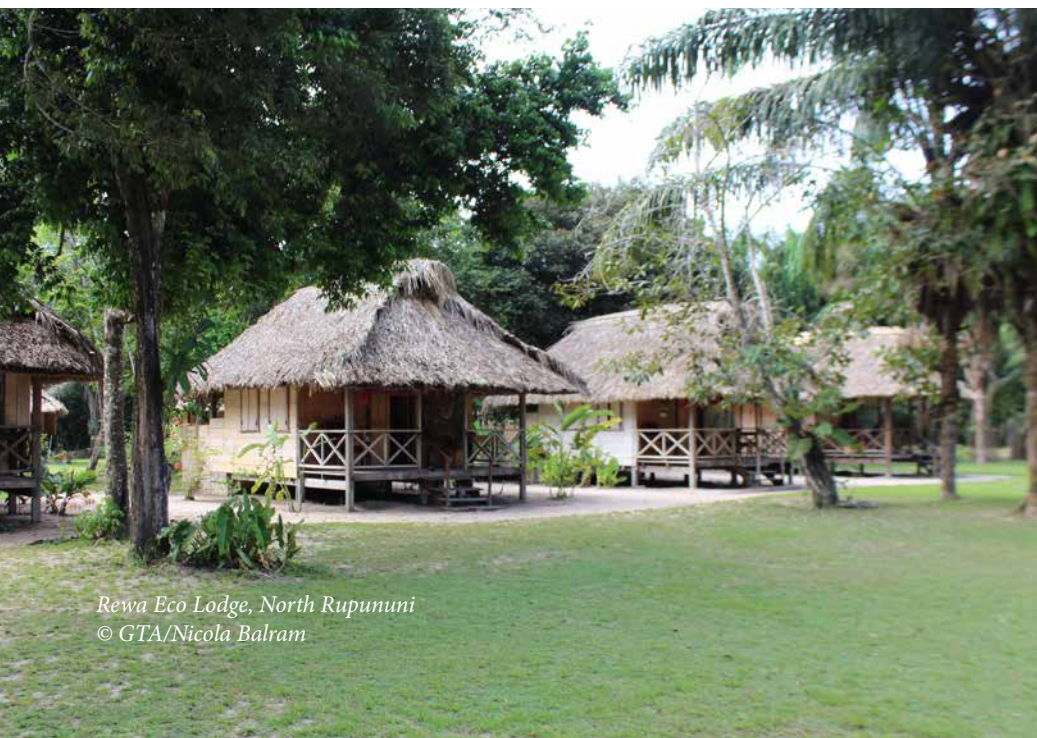
Rupununi, this Makushi community has curated activities that include multi-day hikes and camping expeditions, river trips, wildlife spotting and visits to the village centre and local school. Bird watching is also a favoured activity around these parts, especially since there is a harpy eagle nest not far away from the namesake Surama Ecolodge.

You can travel to Surama by direct flight from Eugene F. Correia International Airport which takes an hour. Alternatively, if you are travelling from any of the nearby lodges (Atta Lodge, Rockview Lodge, Caiman House) it takes one to two hours by road.

Rewa

Known for its sustainable catch and release fishing, especially of the arapaima - the largest scaled freshwater fish in the world, the village of Rewa is a highlight for many travellers to Guyana's central rainforest. But that's not all. It is possible to see other giants including the giant otter, capybara, bird-eating spider and if you're lucky, an anaconda.

Rewa Ecolodge is a traditional benab (hut) style with open-air patios and bathrooms that allows you to maximise your time in nature. What could be better! In addition to fishing, Rewa is known for its close proximity to the Awarmie Mountain. With its peak sitting 800 feet above the Rupununi Rover, the hike is both challenging and



Rewa Eco Lodge, North Rupununi
© GTA/Nicola Balram

exhilarating at the same time. But don't let that deter you. Ages from 7 to 70 years old have made it to the top.

From Georgetown, you fly through the Eugene F. Correia International Airport and, an hour later, land at the village of Apoteri which is found at the confluence of the Essequibo and Rupununi Rivers. From there you take a one hour boat ride along the Rupununi River and venture onto the Rewa River to the Rewa Ecolodge.

Yupukari

In the heart of the village of Yupukari, you will find Caiman House. This treehouse inspired accommodation is a guest lodge, social enterprise, and conservation and education centre all rolled into one. The highlights of visiting this community include the tour of Yupukari village, wildlife spotting and hiking in the Kanuku mountains, the community's turtle conservation project, and caiman tagging (weighing, measuring, tagging and releasing) done in the night to help to monitor the black caiman population.

One of the most popular routes to get to Yupukari is a one to two hour drive from Lethem, depending on the season. It may seem long, however, this is one of the best routes in Guyana to spot the giant anteater. If you are travelling from any of the other highlighted villages above, you will enjoy a calming two hour boat ride from the nearest landing of Surama to Yupukari, and four hours from the village of Rewa.

Be Among the First to Support New Indigenous Tourism Enterprises

- Visit Chenapou, Karasabai, Moraikobai & Warapoka

Guyana is committed to developing tourism activities and experiences that protect and



*Makushi Boy, Awarmie Mountain
© GTA/Nicola Balram*

conserve our natural and cultural heritage, and benefit host communities. How are we doing this? Through collaboration. The Guyana Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs have entered into a Collaboration Agreement to align resources to scale up community-led and owned tourism in four indigenous communities. These include **Chenapou** just upstream of Kaieteur National Park, **Karasabai** in the North Rupununi, **Moraikobai** near Georgetown on the Mahaicony River, and **Warapoka**, which is adjacent to Shell Beach Protected Area.

These communities are at the beginning stages of welcoming travellers to their villages. You can now visit Karasabai in search of the famous sun parakeet, Moraikobai for an indigenous cultural

experience, Chenapou for world-class day hikes, and overnight at Warapoka for sustainable catch and release sportfishing for tarpon. Since these villages are in their initial development stages, they offer a more rustic and adventurous experience than their more established counterparts.

One of the best ways to experience Guyana is through indigenous communities that welcome visitors. As a traveller, you have the added benefit of knowing that your visit has a direct and positive impact on the host community and their journey in sustainable tourism development. We invite you to be a part of that journey. Contact the Guyana Tourism Authority at info@guyanaturism.com for more information. ■



*Relaxing Hammock, Surama Lodge
© GTA/Nicola Balram*

STAY SAFE WHILST HAVING FUN

By Melanie McTurk, Professional Guard Service

Welcome to Guyana, our own piece of paradise! A nation of 214,970 sq. km of rich and diverse land awaits for you to explore and discover. We hope that our “Land of many Waters” will leave you thirsty for more and with fond memories of our warm Guyanese hospitality to treasure always. So to help ensure that your time with us is filled with only good memories here are a few recommendations for keeping safe.

In Georgetown

Amidst a blend of colours, smells, flavours, sounds and people you will find the capital city of Georgetown is a living organism in constant motion. If you are planning to take a tour of our “Garden City”:

DO plan ahead to make maximum use of your time. There is a lot to discover, but the daylight hours are few and store times may differ from what you are accustomed to. It’s also a good idea to let your hotel/tour operator know where you’re going and when they can expect you back-just in case something does go wrong.

DO ask your tour operator or hotel to arrange a trusted guide and transportation for you- yes it may be a little more expensive but it will make getting around so much easier and add a local perspective that you could miss otherwise.



Photo: Adele Dobkowski



Photo: Andrew Snyder



Photo: Andrew Snyder



Photo: Adele Dobkowski

DO dress to stay cool, carry water, walk with a modest amount of local cash in smaller bills and wear comfortably footwear; leave passports, the wads of cash and any flashy stuff safe at your hotel and if you do decide to show some skin be warned that Guyanese men can be quite vocal with their appreciation.

DO avoid high traffic areas during crowded periods like 7-9am and 4-7pm when much of the population is coming or going from work and school. Even for locals these can be very stressful times of day to be travelling so best avoided if you can.

DO plan to sample our award winning Rum and Beer and hit one or more of our local night spots with a group, but if you do it may be good to designate one person to be responsible for getting everyone back safe, after all these are unfamiliar parts and your regular homing instincts may already be a little stretched.

DO enjoy talking with people you meet along the way, Guyanese are generally friendly and interested in your story, but remember that some details are best left unspoken if you want to avoid trouble.

DO take the time to enjoy some of our local foods, from street food to restaurant fare you'll find a unique blend of flavors and textures that reflect our multicultural heritage and tropical landscape. But be warned in Guyana SPICY means lots of flavors and HOT means with chili pepper.

Remember you are on holiday not on another planet- keep your possessions close, stay aware of your surroundings and practice basic common sense to stay safe throughout your visit. ■



Photo: Andrew Snyder



JANUARY 2020

Guyana declared the #1 "Best of Ecotourism" destination in the world at the ITB Berlin. Director of Tourism Brian Mullis (left) displaying the Award in the Guyana Booth

Thousands of Guyanese and international visitors have descended on Guyana to celebrate the festive season of Christmas and welcome the New Year 2020 in true Guyanese style. Arriving before Christmas and staying through the New Year Eve celebrations, the mood is joyous and the festivities abound as we welcome 2020 in true Guyanese style. From all of us at the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana and Explore Guyana, we wish you a very Happy New Year and trust that you have enjoyed Guyana.

Tourism has had a great 2019 with Guyana being named as the Best Eco-Tourism Destination of the World. Guyana was awarded the Distinguished Destination Stewardship Award by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) in recognition of its impressive sustainable tourism practices, and community-led tourism framework which promotes job creation and low-carbon lifestyles while helping to preserve local traditions and customs.

The CTO award demonstrates Guyana's long-standing commitment to the green state agenda and the global branding benefits associated with its efforts to become a leading sustainable destination.



The Spotted Antpitta (*Hyllopezus macularius*)

is one of two antpittas that can be seen across Guyana, especially if you're visiting Iwokrama River Lodge, Atta Lodge and Surama Lodge. This spectacular bird is not always easy to see because of its amazing ability to blend in with the habitat.

Photo: Leon Moore

These awards have brought the spotlight on Guyana's fledgling tourism industry and has opened the doors for expansion and new developments whilst ensuring a sustainable industry and protection of our pristine environment and abundant flora and fauna for future generations.

We trust that you have had the opportunity to Explore Guyana and enjoy the country and the warm hospitality of our Guyanese people. We are aware that you may not have been able to see it all during a short visit and trust that with fond memories. Help us to share the good news of this beautiful land with wonderful people and do come again. Best wishes for a wonderful New Year to you and your families..



Vegetarian Burrito Bowl Bistro Restaurant GRW 2018

Photo: Nicola Balram

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

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THE BIRDMEN OF GUYANA

Leon Moore and Wally Prince



LEON MOORE

As an active and passionate eBirder and regional reviewer for eBird Guyana, Leon have seen more than two thirds of Guyana's bird species and is ranked as the top eBirder for his country.

Leon Moore is a former member of the Guyana Defence Force and is considered as one of the most knowledgeable birding and naturalist guides in Guyana. A genuine concern for Guyana's ecosystem, the preservation of its wildlife coupled with his interest in birding ultimately led to this new direction in his career. This redirection into in tourism and conservation started in 2008, during his tenure with Baganara Island



up the Essequibo River for Guyana, Black-Legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) which Leon counts as an outstanding moment and a pleasure to have been involved in that discovery. The Black-Legged Kittiwake was considered a new recording for Guyana.

From the Essequibo River, to the Rupununi where Leon spent approximately three (3) years in the heart of nature, at the Rock View Lodge as Tour Leader later General Assistant Manager. This allowed him to explore the vast savannah and rainforest but more importantly ..birds!! The Rupununi accounts for approximately 500 species of birds found in Guyana.



Resort, on the Essequibo River as their Guest Services Officer and General Tour Guide. In the years that followed, Leon developed a series of bird checklists by region for the ten administrative regions of Guyana and for several tourist resorts and lodges.

A momentous occasion for any birder is the identification of a new bird spotted 38 Miles

On October 9, 2011, Leon spotted a new Bird for Guyana, Tawny crowned-Pygmy Tyrant (*Euscarthmus meloryphus*)

In 2013, The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) recognised Leon for his outstanding contribution as a bird guide and awarded him Tour Guide of the Year.

Like many naturalists, Leon has a lot of local knowledge and is very good at identifying birds both by voice and field marks. Leon started volunteering as a regional reviewer for www.ebirds.org (Guyana) to promote birding in key hotspots around Guyana. He speaks passionately of the work of naturalists and birders who contribute to developing the checklists of Guyana and other locations worldwide.

One might say that this belief led to his position as Assistant Instructor bird and tour guide training for Iwokrama International Research Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development.

Now, with over ten years of experience in the fields, Leon runs a small tour company, Leon Moore Nature Experience, specializing in birding, wildlife and photography tours mostly in Guyana, Suriname and is expanding to offer birding trips to Cuba for the endemic species there.

He also leads tours for some local companies in Guyana, including Ron Allcock Birding Tours, and Wilderness Explorers. In addition, when Leon is not leading tours, he is constantly involved in biodiversity surveys doing environmental impact assessments and monitoring for both local and international companies like Guyana Gold Field, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and Environmental Resource Management (E.R.M) to name a few. One of his most recent projects included representing Guyana Tourism Sector at the British Birdwatching fair in Rutland UK.



WALLY PRINCE

First outlined the possibilities for birding tourism in Guyana. With close to 900 species of birds in Guyana, including 284 in Georgetown, this is more of a realistic prospect than some might imagine. Prince has led expeditions of professional birders, documentary teams and scientific research for many years.

A tour, especially a wildlife tour, is more than a list of destinations, and most important of all is the quality of the guides. Veteran local bird-guide and wildlife biologist, Wallydyke (Wally) Prince better known as Wally Prince, is not just a top birder, but has seen, worked on and studied Guyana's mammals, reptiles, insects and plants. There are few guides in Guyana who can claim the degree of experience and expertise held by Wally Prince. He is one of the most sought-after guides for professional birders, documentary teams, and scientific expeditions visiting Guyana.

Wally served for seven years as the guide coordinator, resident wildlife biologist, and Naturalist at Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. An avid birder, Wally has visually identified more than 700 of the 800+ bird species recorded in Guyana and is intimately familiar with their habitats, behaviours, and vocalizations. He grew up wandering through Guyana's lush and biodiverse interior, and boasts unparalleled

expertise on the country's fish, amphibian, reptile, insect, and floral populations.

Wally has worked with some of the true luminaries of rainforest conservation and bird population studies, such as Robert Ridgely, Angelo Caparella and David Agro in the early 1990's, then later with Michael Braun, Mark Robbins Brian Schmidt, and Dr. Godfrey Bourne and his post-doc students working at the CEIBA Biological Research Station. He has led or participated in scientific expeditions to the top of Mount Ayanganna, the remote Wai-Wai village of Gunns /Masakanari, the Acari Mountains, coastal Shell Beach wetlands, the savannahs and lakes of Berbice and Rupununi and the forest and waterways of the Mazaruni, Potaro, Paruni, Waini and Baramita rivers.

Wally was a participant in the Smithsonian Institution's Man & Biosphere Biodiversity Internship in Washington DC, and is a member of the American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology. He attended the American Birding Association Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, the first Bird Banding Workshop for the Caribbean at the William Beebe Research Centre in Trinidad & Tobago, and have represented Guyana at the British Bird Fair at Rutland Waters for the past several years. He is a co-author on several publications on mammal behaviour and has been interviewed by and portrayed in the National Geographic

Magazine and the Discovery Channel.

For the past several years Wally, in the capacity as a Freelance Naturalist Guide and Wildlife Biologist, Wally has facilitated and led tours not only in Guyana, but also in Suriname and French Guiana. He is also involved in tour guide training and conducting biological surveys for EIAs along the coast and interior sections of Guyana.

In the words of Ms. Vanda Radzick, "Wally is Guyana's number 1 wildlife biologist, hands down"

Wally reports that one of his greatest accomplishments was establishing the Wildlife Club in 14 of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) communities. He still volunteers his time and continues to mentor the youth participating in wildlife clubs.

Although Wally is known for his deep knowledge about Guyana's botany and wildlife, he is an avid student of Guyana's history and cultural heritage as well... from time to time visitors are fortunate to find Wally leading a particularly lively and rich Georgetown city tour.

He resides in a Makushi Amerindian village in the North Rupununi of Guyana called Yakarinta, where he lives with his wife Sylvia and their three children. ■





Piranha Fishing in the Rainforest Rivers

By Annette White of Bucket List Journey

When you hear the word piranha, what comes to mind? For me it's a little fish with ginormous teeth that can eat a person alive. So needless to say, when fishing for piranhas was on the Guyana things to do itinerary there was a wee bit of nerves that set in. I wasn't even sure that I wanted to be floating in a boat in a murky river on top of the scary fish, much less catching one and willingly inviting them inside the vessel.

But, it turns out that this bucket list experience was one of my favorite things I did in this South American country, and possibly the world.

What is a Piranha (Pirana)

Piranhas (also known as piranas) are freshwater fish infamous for their very sharp triangle-shaped teeth and strong jaws that produce a forceful bite (have you ever seen the scary movie of the same name?). They are a freshwater fish that can be found throughout South American rivers and lakes, with some of the largest known being spotted in Guyana's Amazon Basin (I can attest to that!).

Though compared to Guyana's popular Arapaima fish they are relatively small in size, ranging on average from 5-14 inches,

their reputation as a predator makes them one of the most feared fishes in the world. But, the good news is that they typically don't attack humans, unless they are in a stressful environment. Still, I wasn't about to take any chances by dipping my toes in the water!

Where in Guyana can you go Piranha Fishing?

About 90% of the rivers and lakes in Guyana have piranha, so they won't be hard to find. There are many tour operators around the country that can take you on an adventurous fishing excursion. Because I was staying at Rewa Eco Lodge in North Rupununi, we went right on the Rewa River with staff of the lodge and wildlife specialist/tour operator Leon of Leon Moore Nature Experiences.

How to Fish for Pirana in Guayna

Making a Fishing Rod

From Rewa Lodge we took a motorized dingy upstream to a landing spot on the Rewa River. This is where we would make our fishing poles and catch the piranha bait. For the rod you may need to go deep in the rainforest to find the yari-yari tree—this type of wood makes the best rod because of its small diameter, strength and flexibility. Not only did they have to be made from a specific type of wood, but also had to be just the right length of branches, an 8-foot one makes for the perfect fishing pole.

After the poles were found, the guides showed me how to attach fishing line and a large hook. That's it—simplicity's at its finest.



Collecting Piranha Bait

Piranha mostly feed off of fish, so we needed to catch some small ones. In order to do this we used live grub (a little beetle) that was found inside of a kokerit seed. When a kokerit nut gets buried in the ground for around a month, a tiny beetle goes inside to call it home. You can eat these beetles live for protein (our guide did!) or use them for bait to catch small fish.

Once our grub was baited and in the water, it took about 3 minutes to catch the first fish. That was great, but we'd need at least a dozen more before heading out to the river for piranha fishing. As I was fishing for small bait off the shoreline, I actually caught a small piranha (my first one!) and we were able to cut that one up into a few smaller pieces to use as bait too.

Fishing

It took about a half an hour to catch all of the bait needed and then we headed out to the Rewa River to catch the fish that most people feared.

There was a special technique the locals used to catch the piranha that was as simple as the stick rod. You bait the hook, drop the line in the water and splash vigorously with your stick for about ten seconds. This is supposed to make them think there's something moving in the water, coming to inspect and hopefully smelling your bait at the same time.



Nibble, Nibble.

You will feel lots of little nibbles, but the trick is to pull your wooden rod straight up when you get a big nibble, this will cause them to get hooked. I definitely lost quite a few in the beginning, but got better at it as the day went on. In just a couple hours, I caught 10 piranhas and one vampire (payara) fish!

Tips:

- You have to be really careful not to swing your hook around and hit someone on the boat or yourself, like I did!
- Wear sunglasses, in case of flying hooks.
- When you catch a fish, be extra careful when bringing it in the boat in case the piranha unattaches itself from the hook. It's best to let your guide handle it once it's on your line.

Cooking & Eating

After a successful day fishing, it was time to be rewarded for the hard work. We found



a clear spot along the river bank and the guides created a delicious lunch with our catch. They expertly cleaned the fish and made a fire by piling sticks into a pyramid. The grill top was created using random tree branches.

The piranha (and a catfish that someone else had caught) was then coated with Chief's All-Purpose Seasoning before being placed on the makeshift barbecue. They were grilled to perfection and served with a side of farine (as everything always was), a dish similar to couscous that is made

from the root of the local cassava plant, and a thermos full of lime juice.

I know your next question—what does piranha taste like? It tastes like a mild, very dry white fish. Though some claim it to be really fishy, I did not find that to be true. But, it does have a lot of tiny little bones to watch out for!

How to Book this Experience

This experience can be booked through almost any tour operator in Guyana. It can also be booked through the lodge we stayed at, Rewa Eco Lodge in North

Rupununi, and wildlife specialist/tour operator who was with me my entire time in Guyana, Leon of Leon Moore Nature Experiences. ■

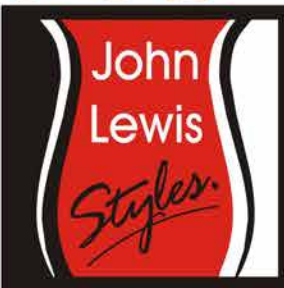
WHAT TO BRING

- **Sunglasses:** sunglasses will not only protect you from the bugs getting into your eyes when the boat is moving at high speeds, but also for flying fishing hooks.
- **Sun Hat:** there is not much shade on the river so you will want to protect your face from the hot sun. I brought the Bodvera Outdoor Wide Brim Hat and it worked like a charm.
- **Sunscreen:** it will be a long day in the sun, so make sure you are protected.
- **Bug Repellent:** the bugs in Guyana can be fierce, so you will want to have all your bases covered. I used a healthy spray of Off! Deep Woods, plus these Mosquito Repellent Patches.

I have been fortunate enough to have had many unique experiences around the world, like kayaking with beluga whales and swimming with pigs on Exuma Island, and now I can add fishing for (and eating!) piranhas to that list.

This experience was courtesy of Discover Guyana.

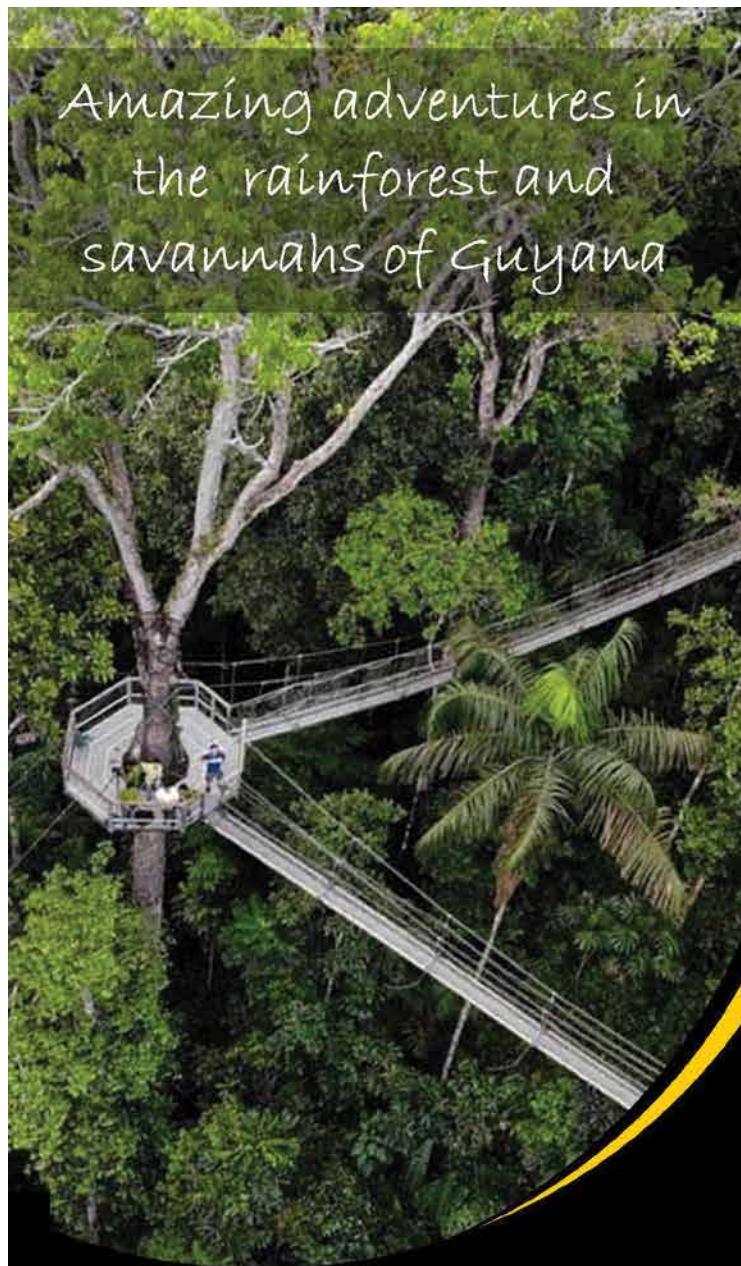
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FEBRUARY 2020



The Hoatzin or Canje Pheasant,
Guyana's National Bird

Photo: Leon Moore

The Hoatzin or Canje Pheasant, is Guyana's National Bird. It is also known as the reptile bird, skunk bird, is a species of tropical bird found in swamps, riparian forests, and mangroves of the Amazon and the Orinoco basins in South America. It is notable for having chicks that have claws on two of their wing digits.

In Guyana it is easily seen in the Mahaica River region, where they thrive in large numbers.



The Sun Parakeet (*Aratinga solstitialis*)

also known locally as Sun Conure. This outrageous bird is one of many top birds to see and photograph in the remote village of Karasabai. This species is among several birds that is listed on the ICUN list as endangered. This species was fairly common prior to the 1990s, and groups was sighted within a 5km radius of the Timerhi / CJIA Airport, and presently only the indigenous community of Karasabai in northern Region #9, is the place to be to see this species.

Photo: Leon Moore



**Grilled Snapper topped with
Creamy Coconut Thai Curry
Bistro Restaurant GRW 2018**

Photo: Nicola Balram

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



GUYANA'S 50TH REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY AND 50 YEARS OF MASHRAMANI

Celebrate The Double Golden Jubilee - It will be a Double Delight

On the 23rd February 1970 Guyana became a Republic and Mashramani was conceptualised and first launched in Linden to celebrate "the Birth of the Republic of Guyana". Over the years, Mashramani has grown in popularity and has become a truly national festival celebrated annually across the country.

"Mashramani" is an Amerindian word which means "the celebration of a job well done". Today, it is popularly referred to as "Mash", and is observed annually on the 23 February - Guyana's Republic Day.

In 2020 Guyanese will be celebrating a Double Golden Jubilee - the 50th Republic Anniversary of Guyana as well as 50 years of Mashramani. With this special Republic Anniversary, "Mash 50" is sure to be a proud and celebratory time for all Guyanese with an extensive Schedule of Events and Month of Activities being planned and hosted across the country to include Steel Pan Competitions, Calypso and Soca Concerts and the Children's Competitions, culminating with the grand Street Parade of the many Mash Bands.

A growing number of Mash Bands with signature individual Costumes built with the creative imagination and intricate detail by our talented costume makers will take to the streets on Mash Day accompanied by hundreds of revellers prancing to the sounds of popular tunes.



Become a reveller and join one of the many 'Mash' Bands across the country who will be only too happy to have you share the experience of one of Guyana's foremost cultural events, celebrated annually under varying themes.

The highly anticipated 'Parade of the Bands' is the highlight of the festivities and attracts thousands who gather along the parade route to glimpse the revellers

adorned in their exuberant costumes, all depicting aspects of our culture and heritage. The sights, sounds and energy lend to the lure of the celebrations.

The festivities climax with Republic Anniversary celebrations on 23rd February. It is a festive time to be in Guyana, and for those visiting. Come for the Double Golden Jubilee and celebrate Republic 50 and Mash 50, it sure will be a double delight!



Experience Heritage Tourism Like No Other

Travel back in time to a colonial era rich with ancient charm.

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These quaint guest houses offer more than just comfort, they promise a vibrant trip down memory lane.

The National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL) - government's privatisation unit - has ensured the preservation of these sites, transforming them into the perfect tourist destinations for both local and international visitors.

The Watooka Guest House in the mining town of Linden, along with the Berbice Inn and the Skeldon Heritage Resort in the Ancient County of Berbice, each has something unique to offer.

"They celebrate the preservation of history and allow guests to experience the spaces used by expatriates and senior staff, while acknowledging that things from the "ole days" are still valuable today," explains Hospitality Manager, Rawle Dundas.

"These facilities provide the balance between a private domestic lodging and a public rental facility. It gives our guests the opportunity to enjoy nature, architecture, a vintage setting, modern amenities, a

quiet atmosphere and other unique experiences blended together without the hustle and bustle and opulence of a "hotel"," Dundas told Explore Guyana.

WATOOKA GUEST HOUSE

Come immerse yourself in the ambiance of a bygone era, steeped in romantic allure and combined with the luxuries of the modern age.

With a history dating back to the 1940s, a stay at the Watooka Guest House evokes the charisma of a riverside plantation and sweeps you away with the picturesque views of lush tropical scenery.

This three-story colonial structure features wide overhangs, enclosed corridors, extended galleries which now sport modern glass windows, and a beautifully wooden crafted Renaissance Bar which offers a scenic view of the magnificent Demerara River.

Enjoy a stroll or jog around the flourishing four acres wide lawn surrounded by huge century palms and delicious fruit trees.

Watooka offers 15 well-appointed rooms, secured parking, and a wide range of entertainment from the relaxing swimming pool to the basketball and tennis courts as well as the outdoors bar.



Guests can also enjoy a visit to the Heritage Museum, kayaking, fishing, river tours, and a trip to the famous Linden Blue Lakes.

BERBICE INN

Take a break from the hustling and bustling of city life by staying at the Berbice Inn, situated in the country's oldest towns – New Amsterdam, which was a colony of the Netherlands.

Located about five minutes away from the floating Berbice River Bridge, the Berbice Inn has a distinctive colonial charm with modern amenities.

Its main house offers three spacious rooms and one suite with two rooms, a perfect option for a romantic getaway, a family reunion or a business retreat.

There is also a modern annex which provides more private accommodation with seven air-conditioned, self-contained rooms.



Wake up to the crowing of the 'fowl cock' – a favourite pastime for many spending time in the country, and end the nights gazing at the stars in the clear open skies from your verandah or the lawns.

This guest house promises a rejuvenation of the mind, body and soul in a calm countryside atmosphere.

SKELDON HERITAGE RESORT

Another countryside paradise situated in the ancient county of Berbice; the Skeldon Heritage Resort flaunts a regal-vintage look featuring old-world architecture. You have the option of staying in a room in the Guest House or renting a bungalow exclusively for your family or group.

It is an ideal location for corporate events, business meetings, conferences, trade shows,

workshops, classes, parties, weddings and receptions.

Guests can enjoy basking in the fresh, cool air while capturing breathtaking views. They will be enthralled with the distinctive historical blend and inclusive range of fine amenities, educational enrichment, and hospitable services which delivers a unique plantation experience. Enjoy a game of cricket, volleyball or a dip in our pool.

The factory and machinery which remain, have been preserved in a living architectural museum, curating its rich 100 plus years economic history and culture of a sugarcane plantation in Guyana. ■





MARCH 2020



The Mangrove Rail (*Rallus crepitans*)

is one of the most sought after bird species in Guyana. These birds accrue predominately along the coast of the country, hence the word mangrove. This species was formerly known as the Clapper Rail.

Photo: Leon Moore

PHAGWAH – The Hindu Festival of Colours

Phagwah or Holi as it is commonly called is the annual Hindu Festival of Colours celebrating the arrival of Spring. This Festival was brought to Guyana by our East Indian foreparents who first came to Guyana some 181 years ago.

Phagwah is said to be the most joyous and colourful of festivals and today has become a part of our national psyche and is celebrated by all Guyanese across the country. Be prepared to be doused with coloured liquids and powder representing the colours of Spring.



Chicken Parmesan and Spaghetti Marinara *Bistro Restaurant GRW 2018*

Photo: Nicola Balram

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

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6 INCREDIBLE PLACES YOU'LL ONLY FIND IN GUYANA

By Silvia Lawrence
from Heart My Backpack



I returned from Guyana last week, and I'm still in a sort of dreamy haze from the trip. Like whenever anyone has asked me how my time visiting Guyana was, I just get this silly smile on my face. It was lovely.

Guyana Travel Blog - Part 1

Except for the bug bites. I keep waking Dan up in the middle of the night informing him that I have to go cut off my limbs – why is it that bites always itch so much more at night?? I think I'm going to have to tape oven mitts to my hands tonight so that I can't scratch.

But back to Guyana. I knew very little about the country before visiting, especially

because I didn't actually organize my trip to Guyana, so I didn't have to figure out where to go in Guyana myself. This trip was arranged by the Guyana Tourism Authority, who invited me along with four other bloggers to explore the country for ten days. And wow did they do a stellar job of putting our itinerary together.

I mean, I haven't seen all of the country so I guess I can't say for sure that we went to all of the best places to visit in Guyana, but I'm guessing the tourism board knows what they're doing. We went to some truly spectacular places, and if you're wondering where to visit in Guyana, I can highly recommend all of these gems.

GEORGETOWN

We started and finished our trip in Georgetown, Guyana's capital city. Guyana's coast is quite different culturally from the interior, and definitely has a Caribbean vibe to it even though it's technically on the Atlantic Ocean.

And thanks to the British colonialist love for outsourcing labor first to black slaves and then to indentured servants from India and China, you'll see a wide range of ethnicities here.

On our first day in Georgetown we took a tour of the Demerara rum distillery, which ended in a rum tasting that once again confirmed my inability to taste anything in alcohol except alcohol. But I imagine if you're into rum the tour and tasting would have been great fun!

And then on our last day in Georgetown we had a meal at Backyard Café – except when I put it like that it sounds like we just stopped by a restaurant for some food, which was not the case at all.

Instead we met up with the owner Delven at a local market, where we picked out the produce and fish for our meal. The market was a total throwback to the big food markets I used to shop at when I lived in Thailand, and it made me kind of nostalgic for Asia!

And then in the afternoon we returned to the backyard of his home, which he has set up into a beautiful little café and bar. Not only was the food super delicious – probably the best meal I had in Guyana – but Delven was happy to answer all of our questions about Georgetown so it was a great way to get an inside peek at life here.



So if you're ever in Georgetown I can highly recommend contacting Delven and setting up a meal at his cafe – you can arrange it all through his Facebook page.

REWA ECO LODGE

I'm not sure if I should play favorites but... Rewa Eco Lodge was my favorite place in Guyana. There, I said it.

Aah just thinking about it makes me feel all warm and fuzzy! Sort of like the fuzzy spiders adorning the walls in my room there!

Yes guys, Rewa Lodge is an eco lodge, and with the way the bungalows are built with gaps between the walls and ceiling to allow airflow (something I hugely appreciated during those hot nights!), a lot of little creatures can make their way into the rooms.

It's funny thinking back to Rewa, because it was the start of our time in the rainforest and our introduction to living in harmony with the bugs. In other words, there were a lot of screams. Like, a lot of screams. But, as we would learn over the course of our eight days in the rainforest, the bugs weren't there to harm us, and we were safe tucked tightly into our mosquito nets.

We were at Rewa for three days, filling our time fishing on the river, exploring the jungle, and learning how to use a bow and arrow. So basically we got to play like kids for three days and it was SO fun. In fact if we had returned to Georgetown after Rewa Lodge I already would have thought the trip well worth it.

AWARMIE MOUNTAIN

Not going to lie, I was more than a little nervous when I saw a mountain hike on our Guyana itinerary. I mean, I love mountain hikes, but not when it's hot out! And then I read that we'd be camping in hammocks on top of the mountain and I nearly pulled out of the trip altogether.

But I'm so glad I didn't! Yes the hike was steep and I arrived at the top soaked in sweat, but it was also pretty short so we managed it in less than an hour.

In fact I'd say the hike was actually way easier than I had anticipated, mostly because it was so short. And wow were we rewarded with some views at the top.

As for sleeping in a hammock, I won't say it was the best sleep I've ever had, but actually it was a pretty good sleep. I thought getting comfortable in a hammock would be impossible, but I feel like if I had another night or two





recommend somewhere for my parents to visit in Guyana, I would send them to ATTA Lodge. The room was clean and felt quite enclosed so I was less scared of bugs here, and I'd say ATTA had the best food of all the lodges (though Rewa's was also very good).

But the coolest thing about ATTA Lodge was their canopy walkway, where we could walk on hanging bridges through the rainforest canopy.

SURAMA ECO LODGE

The final community-run eco lodge we stayed at was Surama Eco Lodge, which also happens to be the north Rupununi's very first community-run eco lodge, established in 1998.

The lodge is located in the prettiest setting, and I loved waking up here and heading up

practice I'd really get the hang of it. lol get it?

And again, while I had expected to be too freaked out by all the creatures wandering about at night to sleep, I felt quite safe tucked away in my mosquito net. I mean, jaguars definitely can't rip through a mosquito net, right?

Plus it was so cool to wake up on top of a mountain!

ATTA Lodge & Canopy Walk

After returning from Awarmie Mountain and having a final breakfast at Rewa Lodge, we headed a couple of hours down the river and then drove for another forty minutes to ATTA Lodge & Canopy Walk.

ATTA Lodge was definitely the fanciest feeling of all the lodges – like if I were to



to the communal hang out area with its gorgeous views out over the savannah.

We also got to spend a fair bit of time in Surama village, which has around 300 inhabitants. We stopped in at the school, spoke with the manager of the local radio station, and attended a performance by two Surama cultural groups.

If you want to really get a feel for life in Amerindian communities in Guyana, Surama Eco Lodge is the perfect place to visit. It's also really close to the airstrip, so you won't have much of an overland journey after flying in.

Kaieteur Falls

I would have been super sad about getting on our plane back to Georgetown on our last day in the Rupununi, but I was actually so excited because we were taking a detour to Kaieteur Falls, Guyana's most famous tourist site!

All the photos I had seen made Kaieteur Falls look epic, so I was preparing myself for disappointment, but it turned out that the falls are even more spectacular in real life. And that's coming from a Norwegian who is usually not the least bit impressed by other countries' waterfalls.

On entering Kaieteur our pilot made sure to make two loops around the falls so that both sides of the plane would see them, and I remember thinking that just this glimpse of Kaieteur Falls from above had made the trip well worth it, so I didn't even care what they would look like up close.

Lol Kaieteur Falls was even better up close.

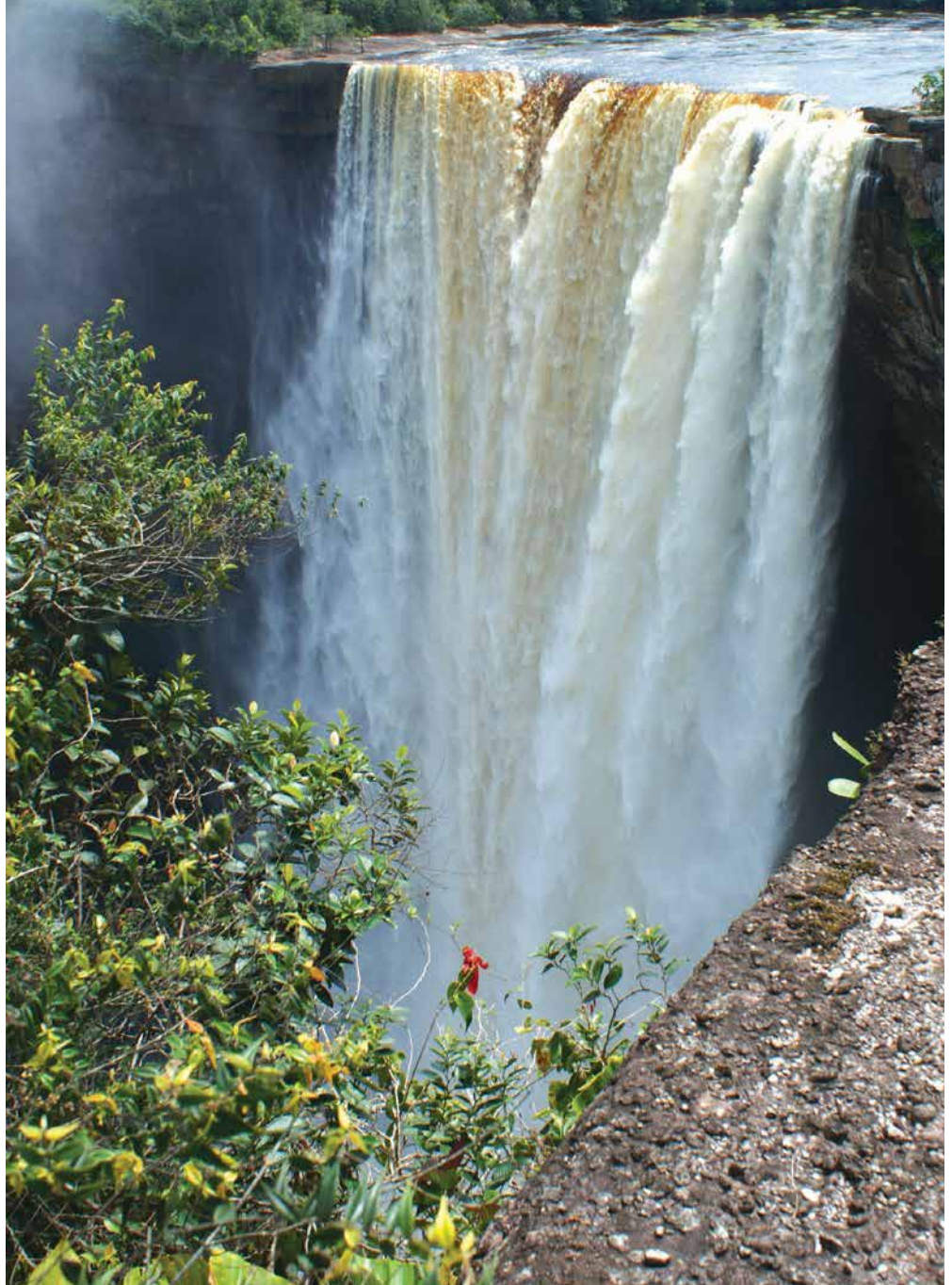
One of the coolest things about Kaieteur Falls is that there are no railings or fences set up at any of the viewpoints. We visited three viewpoints, and all of them had left the area untouched in its original natural beauty. Oh and there were also no other tourists there. Just us!

Kaieteur makes sure to stagger the groups visiting the waterfalls so that it's just a few people with a guide, who watches closely over everyone and makes sure no one goes too close to the edge. It was also great visiting with someone who knew so much about the waterfall and its history, so I really hope they're able to keep it like this.

Organizing your own Guyana itinerary

Most people visit Guyana's interior with the help of the Guyana Tourism Authority or a tour guide, as things like flights and transportation have to be arranged well in advance, especially as there aren't many vehicles in the Rupununi.

While our trip was organized by the tourism authority, we were accompanied by Leon Moore, who runs his own tours. You can contact him through his Facebook page [here](#) to discuss what sort of Guyana itinerary would be right for you. ■



THE IMPENDING BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN GUYANA

By: The Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency



Green State
Development Strategy
VISION 2040

“Plastic pollution is dangerous. It represents a threat to environmental security. It has contributed to congested drainage systems, flooding and squalour, depleted aquatic life and contaminated creeks, rivers, freshwater and marine waters. The indiscriminate and insanitary dumping of single-use plastics also threatens the health of citizens”.

H.E President David A. Granger
President of the Cooperative
Republic of Guyana

Address on World Environment Day, 2019

Overview

In 2018, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana took a policy decision to ban the importation, manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic bags and other single-use plastic products including plastic plates, cups and utensils beginning in 2021. This directive comes on the heels of a similar ban on Styrofoam that was implemented in 2016. At the core of both decisions is the protection of human health and the environment, which is a constitutional requirement for any development in Guyana.

Single-use plastics are indicative of plastic products that are used only once before they are thrown out. These include straws, cups, bags and plates. It is a derivative of the petroleum industry, and is made from polyethylene, the most widely used plastic in the world.

Eighty-six years after it was first invented, no doubt with good intentions, conclusion

can be made with certainty that single-use plastics has global consequences. Today, it can be found in every part of the world from the darkest depths of the oceans to the summit of Mount Everest. Its strong, lightweight, moisture proof nature is heralded as both a blessing and a curse as it has proven to be a serious global environmental problem.

Globally, it is estimated that over 300 million tonnes of single-use plastic bags and other single use plastic items are produced each year. Recent data indicates that plastic production from the 1950s has increased from 2 million tonnes per year to approximately 348 million tonnes per year. With minimal recycling, most of this ends up in landfills where scientists estimate that it takes hundreds of years to degrade, or in the oceans and other waterways where it leads to flooding through clogged drainage system and negatively impacts marine life through entanglement, suffocation or being mistaken for food.

Plastic pollution can also have adverse effects on human health. Because most plastics do not biodegrade, they slowly break down into smaller fragments known as microplastics. Researchers have found that micro plastics exist in all of the environmental media. They enter the human food chain through food and water. The chemicals in plastic are believed to be the cause of a plethora of illnesses such as the hindrance of brain development, the increase occurrences of cancer cases and may even lead to hormonal imbalances.

Single-Use Plastics in the Context of Solid Waste Management in Guyana

The issue of plastic pollution cannot be viewed in isolation from solid waste management in general. In Guyana, the management of solid waste has been a sore point for decades. There are many pieces of legislations that address solid waste management either directly or indirectly. Some examples are:

- *The Environmental Protection Act, 1996;*
- *Environmental Protection (litter enforcement) Regulations, 2013;*
- *Municipal and District Councils Act Cap 28:01; and*
- *Customs Act Cap 82:01*

Additionally, the Ministry of Communities developed a Draft Solid Waste Management Bill, 2014 and a National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2017-2030.

The Solid Waste Management Bill when finalized will establish a licensing and permit system for waste management facilities in Guyana while the National Solid Waste Management Strategy, sets out the road map to reduce and better manage waste so that Guyana's image as a nature haven is preserved and the health of its people is protected.

Notwithstanding the paucity of data on waste types for the country, a 2010 waste characterization study for Georgetown, which generates about a quarter of the total waste stream, by CEMCO INC and HYDROPLAN, revealed that plastics including plastic bottles, Styrofoam, bags and other containers and plastic diapers constitute almost 20% of the total waste stream. This is supported by the International Coastal Clean-up Activity at the Kingston Seawall in 2018 which showed that approximately 68% of the waste collected were single-use plastics.

Roll-out of the Ban on Single-use Plastics

The 2021 ban on the importation, manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastics will be preceded by a series of stakeholder consultations with various stakeholder groups. These include government agencies, academia, Private Sector Commission, manufacturing companies, supermarkets, civil society and the general public. Consultations are intended to raise awareness and encourage action across the country on the dangers of single-use plastics and littering. They will also serve to capture stakeholders' concerns which will guide appropriate and effective decision making on safe alternatives and fiscal incentive policies for implementation.

Already, the Department of Environment along with the Environmental Protection Agency has initiated the consultation process by hosting the first 'plastics conversation' in 2018. These conversations are participatory in nature and are expected to continue right up to the ban. They will inform the list of items to be absolutely banned by January 2021, items to be potentially banned in phases and other items that can be utilized in resource recovery industries.

These efforts will be complemented by the development of a draft bill, utilizing established protocol, to amend the *Environmental Protection Act, 1996* and legally enforce the ban on single-use plastics.

Support of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040

The ban on single-use plastics is in consonance with the core messages of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, for which implementation will begin in 2020.

It supports the Strategy's three key messages on managing natural resources wealth, supporting economic resilience and building human capital.

It is envisaged that the ban will favour a reduction in the overall waste stream and concomitantly a reduction in the cost of waste management. Apart from other positive environmental benefits such as aesthetics improvement, this initiative can also lead to the development of indigenous green businesses and the creation of green jobs in keeping with the country's just transition to sustainability.

In the final analysis, the solution for combating plastic pollution is predicated on the use of alternatives to single-use plastics that are both renewable and biodegradable.

The Department of Environment of the Ministry of the Presidency therefore encourages strict action from all stakeholders to transition to the use of reusable products including reusable shopping bags and water bottles while cutting out non-essential items such as plastic straws.

Together we must end plastic pollution! ■



About the Department of the Environment: The Department is responsible for leading the transformation of Guyana into a green state and ensuring environmental management and compliance across the country. The DoE coordinates all sustainable transformation actions and initiatives related to the natural and built environment, development of comprehensive environmental policies and legislation in keeping with the green transition and finally ensuring effective environmental safeguards to preserve public health and securing a better life for all Guyanese. The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 is available on the Department's website at doe.gov.gy.

For more information, contact:

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 Email: ddoe.motp@gmail.com | Website: www.motp.gov.gy
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APRIL 2020



The Orange-breasted Falcon (*Falco deiroleucus*):

is arguably one of the fastest flying falcons in the world. Some of the most popular places to find this beauty includes Kaieteur National Park and Iwokrama forest. Few years ago, this species was also recorded in the Georgetown Botanical Garden and have been for many years seen in Linden as well.

Photo: Leon Moore

April is a very popular and exciting period to be in Guyana. We celebrate Easter which is synonymous with the Christian Community and during this long weekend Kite Flying and Family Picnics across the country are the norm.

We also have two local events which attract large crowds and are good experiences to enjoy Guyanese culture and traditions. The popular Bartica Regatta offers Power Boat Racing on the Essequibo River, a Fashion Show and other entertainment.

The other event is the Rupununi Rodeo where Cowboys and Cowgirls demonstrate their skills and celebrate the life of the Vaqueros. Large groups of people travel from Georgetown to Lethem for this event.



Mini Baileys Filled Donuts Bistro Restaurant GRW 2018

Photo: Nicola Balram

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



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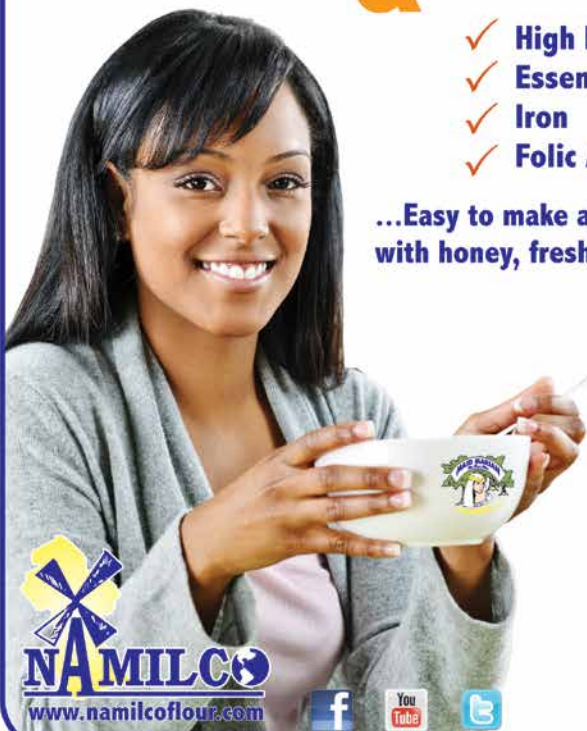
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The Caddy Ole Punch – A Blast From The Past

By Lakhrum Bhagirat, Guyana Times Newspaper

The memories of me ripping the pages out of my old exercise books are so fresh that it feels as though it was just yesterday. Although it was over a decade ago, I still remember secretly stealing 'pointers' from my grandmother's broom along with her spools of thread. And oh boy, do I remember the thrashing I received for shredding the bedsheet to make a tail for my kite.

You see, there was always this competition among us to prove who the 'baddest' kite maker was. I had a legacy left behind by my father that I needed to keep up despite no one expecting me to. My father was perhaps the best kite maker in our village since many of the residents would come to Uncle Michael's house for him to frame a kite or help them uniquely paste it.

Every kite my father made would soar to unimaginable heights and remain there for most of the day and well into the night. There are even stories of the kites he made being airborne for days and many knew those stories.

The elaborate kites were never my thing as I am more on the simplistic side of things. It means that the intricate kites created by my father did not appeal to me.

I thoroughly enjoyed the days of my Easter vacation running in the sugarcane fields of my neighbour, getting covered in soot but having a ball of a time running behind our good old caddy. The caddy ole punch one of the kites that have sentimental value to a lot of Guyanese.

It was the first kite I learnt to make because it was the most simple and required the least effort. I would sneak into the house while mommy was away at work and rip a page or two from the old exercise books, then rush to my grandmother's house and 'borrow' a spool of thread to fly this kite.

Armed with my pages, two pieces of 'pointer' and my thread, then the creation of a masterpiece begins. The process is quite simple since all it involves is the marking of an X to cover the paper and using the 'pointer' to thread along the line and voila you have a kite.

The trick, however, is not in how you make the kite rather it all rests in the

loop. Any veteran kite maker would tell you that no matter how pretty your kite looks if the loop ain't proper then you might as well just retire that thing as a showpiece.

The art of loop making is not something one can get in a jiffy rather it requires expert skills and patience. It takes many trials and errors before one can conquer the art and make a loop that would ensure your caddy soared to unprecedented heights and stay there all night.

However, not only is the perfect loop required to ensure a successful caddy rather the secret of your success lies in the tail. The tail which is the star of the show should be as graceful as a ballerina's attitude. It should be flowing like the when Eminem spits verses. In other words, it must be a talented tail and preferably of cotton or polyester.

Though the caddy ole punch is an iconic part of Easter celebrations, the tradition of making them is dying and rapidly so. The generation now, despite knowing of the famous kite, seems disinterested in part taking in its creation.

Overall, as time progresses the younger generation is moving away from the actual flying of the kite to the more ornamental aspects of Easter Monday celebrations and that is the decking out in extravagant clothing and hanging with friends taking unlimited selfies.

Although Easter is about the sacrifices of Jesus Christ, the kite flying is somewhat cultural since it has no significance to Christianity. Rather kite flying is an ancient past time of the Chinese people and is believed to be incorporated in the Caribbean culture because of their arrival to this part of the world.

The caddy ole punch is a symbolism of a time when simplicity mattered. The caddy came about, according to many, as a substitute to parents being unable to afford the more extravagant kites during a time when resources were scarce to come by. However, it has now become a part of the fabric of our society and those who grew up in that era reminisce on the fun they had running through the fields raising their kites. ■



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IWOKRAMA

Guyana's Gift to the World

Article: Devina Samaroo
Photo: Alex Arjoon

Escape the busyness of city life and unwind at Iwokrama - where an adventure of a lifetime awaits.

With nearly one million acres of 'intact' forest, Iwokrama is nestled within the Guiana Shield of the Amazon Rainforest - the Lungs of the Earth - and it is Guyana's gift to the world.

Journey through the vastly unexplored jungles of the only English-speaking South American nation, behold some of the world's most exotic creatures, lose yourself to the soothing rhythms of nature, and make everlasting memories that can never be replaced.

Iwokrama is the perfect paradise for nature lovers, birders, botanists and even photographers as they get to experience wildlife in its truest form.

Nature

The adventure begins with either an excursion along the red loamy trails of the country's rich interior or by plane ride overlooking the changing landscape from a bustling cityscape to lush greenery.

At Iwokrama, tourists can plan their own escapades, from river tours to hiking, birdwatching, and trail walking as well as visiting nearby indigenous communities and interacting with the locals.

And, of course, one cannot leave without seeing the grand attraction, the one of a kind 'Canopy Walkway' - a collection of suspension bridges and viewing platforms measuring some 100 feet above the forest floor.

Surrounded by towering trees, guests can easily spot animals like the Red Howler

Monkeys, Scarlet Macaws and Channel-bill Toucans.

There are over 500 species of birds including the world's largest hummingbird, the Purple Crimson Topaz, and the Cock-of-the-Rock, which is known for its elaborate mating dance.

If they are lucky, guests can even spot the elusive jaguar - an endangered species mainly found only in this part of the world.

Guests can also catch a glimpse of other South American Giants like the Harpy Eagle, the Black Caiman, the Giant River Otter and the Anaconda.

The river tour takes you on a journey along the Mighty Essequibo River where you can discover the historic petroglyphs on rocks along the riverbank during the low water season. These striking works of art are estimated to be over 6,000 years old.

Guests can also enjoy nocturnal tours where they can sight various types of spiders, snakes, frogs as well as birds. Cruise along the Essequibo River in the darkness of the night where you may come face-to-face with the beastly looking Black Caiman, the world's largest of the alligator family. There is also a chance to see other nocturnal creatures like Tree Boas, Pacas, and Nightjars.

Hiking through the various trails gives you the opportunity to spot birds like the chachalaca, marail guan, and black curassow.

A 30-minutes scenic boat ride and about two miles of hiking take you to the stunning Turtle Mountain peak, which got its name from a nearby pond which was once a habitat for all kinds of turtles.

Atop the 938 feet alp, guests are guaranteed to be in awe over the panoramic view overlooking the lush forest and the Essequibo River.

Communities

Another fascinating aspect about Iwokrama is that it engages with local communities in its mission to ensure sustainable forestry management and co-management of the forest.

Guests can therefore venture into the charming communities of Fairview, Surama and Rewa and others - where they will be captivated by the stories from the indigenous folks.

Mingle with them as they tell you about their rich culture, enchanting folklore, and their burning passion to protect their home - the rainforest.

In fact, from Iwokrama, visitors can get to enjoy the full Rupununi experience with its rolling savannahs and numerous eco-tourism resorts like Surama, Waikin Ranch, Karanambo, Rewa Eco Lodge and Dadanawa Ranch among others.

They can even journey to the town of Lethem which borders Brazil, where it's just a few minutes' drive to Bonfim.

Research

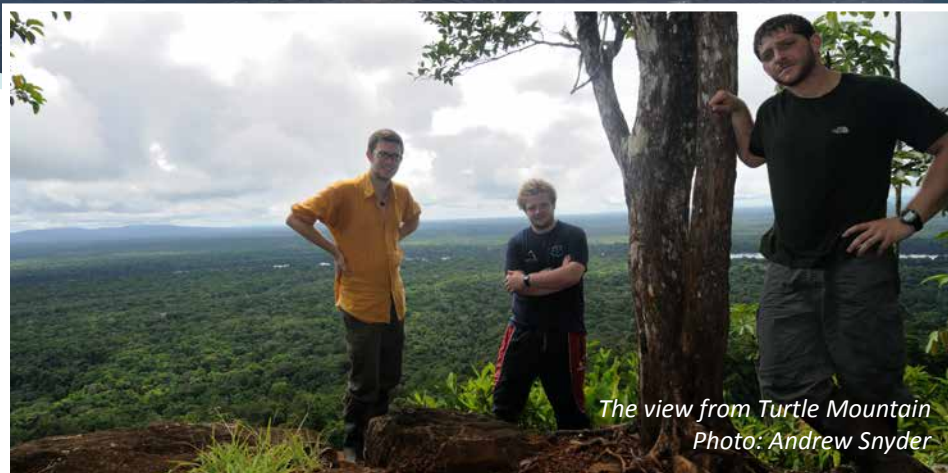
Iwokrama is the ideal destination for tourists hungry to learn more about the earth's rich biodiversity.

With hundreds of different species of flora and fauna, this thriving ecosystem is a hotspot for researchers and students.

Described as an intersection of science, conservation, and tourism, Iwokrama already has an International Centre which focuses on biodiversity research in areas of climate change, species monitoring, hydrology, and forest mapping amongst



Photo: Alex Arjoon



The view from Turtle Mountain
Photo: Andrew Snyder

result in lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana. ■

For more information on Iwokrama:
Telephone: 592-225-1504
Website: www.iwokrama.org,
www.iwokramariverloge.com,
www.iwokramacanopywalkway.com
Facebook: @IwokramaInternationalCentre

other areas.

Iwokrama's science and research programme is currently funded by Exxon Mobil (Guyana) and consists of 5 thematic areas and two cross cutting programmes.

Currently, Iwokrama is engaged in a number of projects including a biodiversity project under which a Guyanese student will earn a PhD, a hydrology project and a community outreach project. Some of the largest previous initiatives comprised the Forest Research Network (FRN); the Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI) and a programme focused on capacity building to support national initiatives in reducing deforestation and degradation in Guyana.

Accommodation

At the Iwokrama River Lodge, eight quaint cabins are nestled within the rainforest, overlooking the Essequibo River.

Each cabin is spacious, beautifully designed, and equipped with enough amenities including an en-suite washroom to guarantee a comfortable stay.

The cabins flaunt a wrap-around verandah embellished with hammocks, where guests can relax and enjoy a crimson sunset or a serene sunrise.

After an exciting day of exploring, guests

can visit the bar and restaurant in the main utility building where they will enjoy traditional Guyanese cuisine.

There is also the opportunity to stay overnight at the Atta Rainforest Lodge, which is situated about one hour by road from the Iwokrama River Lodge and is approximately 500 metres from the Canopy Walkway. It is completely surrounded by tropical rainforest, and has a bar, dining area and kitchen.

Meanwhile, economy travelers can stay at the research center quarters, where the fun and excitement are no less.

Guyanese and CARICOM residents can enjoy discounts all year-round while there is a low season rate from May to August.

With a strong partnership with the local police, a stay at Iwokrama is not just adventure-packed, but it is also safe and secure.

The Iwokrama Forest was first offered to the international community in 1989 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malaysia – this year the Centre celebrates its 30th anniversary.

With a legislative framework in place until 1996, this frontier forest has been managed in a sustainable manner that will

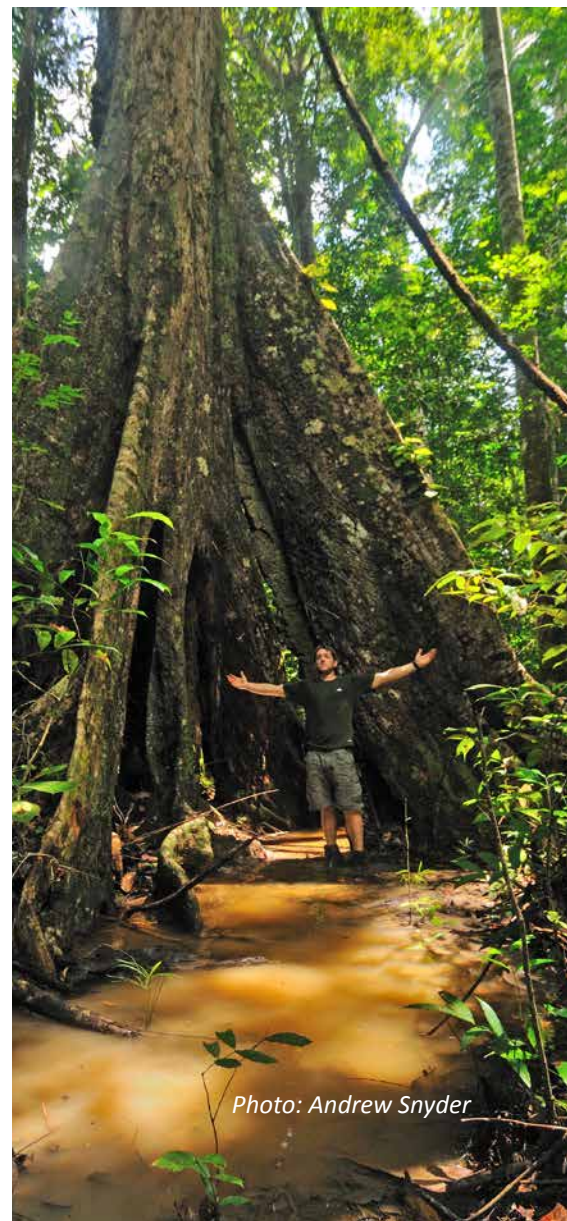


Photo: Andrew Snyder



IWOKRAMA River Lodge

The Perfect Blend of Nature and Service

Article and Images By Jay Banbrooke

Background: My husband, Andy and I, are taking nearly a year to travel throughout South America, visiting everywhere we can, with the unfortunate exception of Venezuela. We have had to date, the most wonderful time, being made welcome everywhere we've been. Our trip across 'The Guyanas' was facilitated by a UK based overlanding company 'Dragoman', starting in Cayenne, French Guiana, across Suriname, into Guyana, ending (where I'm typing this) in Boa Vista, Brazil.

After travelling in South America for the past 6 months, I can safely say that we have both finally visited somewhere that we desperately want to re-visit in the future - Iwokrama River Lodge, it is exceptional. That was going to be the conclusion of my article writing about this place, but

I decided that it should be my opening comments - if you possibly have a chance to experience this extraordinary location and most importantly the welcome of all the people here, then you really must!

We travelled overland to Iwokrama in a rather cramped minibus leaving Georgetown at about 8.00

am and arrived at Iwokrama at 5.20pm somewhat tired and hot, and looking to just relax and unwind.

After turning down a narrow driveway, and driving about 1.5 kilometres we saw the Lodge for the first time, a largish building, with other smaller buildings set away from it, all in a rectangular arrangement, spread over a large grass covered area dotted with trees and numerous bird sounds going on

all around us. Around the perimeter on three sides is dense forest, and on the other the fast flowing Essequibo River - which we were warned wasn't suitable for swimming, due to the strong currents, in addition we were told that there was a resident Caiman!

The welcoming staff were incredibly helpful settling us in our rooms, which were set approximately 50 metres away from the main block. The immediate temptation to have a shower was overwhelming, and it wasn't too long before I was sitting, refreshed on the veranda looking out across the rectangle, watching brightly coloured birds dancing and singing in the trees. Interesting sounds from the surrounding forest made us all aware that we were really in a very isolated, stunningly beautiful place.

As the light failed and we were drawn into dusk, the night sky became startlingly brilliant, especially so as there was minimal light pollution, even the Milky Way was visible - for me this was an incredible treat!

As our dinner time approached we walked over the paths to the main building,





which houses, the bar and restaurant with wonderful views over the surrounding, now dark albeit noisy surrounding forest. A lovely young lady provided us with a most welcome cold beer (there are of course other drinks available). Sitting comfortably, and looking out over this incredible forest, drinking a cold beer made me so incredibly thankful that there are still places that are unspoilt to be able to do this, it was an enormous privilege.

It was just before our wonderful dinner, that I had the pleasure of meeting Carol Ann Marcus, who is involved with Iwokrama Hospitality and Tours Management. This lady was enormously welcoming to myself and all in our group, and just reinforced my initial reaction to this place, absolutely everyone here, was determined to make our all too short stay, as wonderful as possible.

Dinner was served buffet style. I can't recall ever having eaten catfish, but I am now a firm fan. As our meal drew to a conclusion, we were presented by one of nature's most spectacular shows - a lightning storm spearing the distant forest. As a keen photographer, I tried desperately to get a good photograph of this display, but unfortunately to no avail.

The sounds of cicadas, and other noisy animals accompanied us to our room and comfortable bed. It wasn't long until we were both fast asleep - pure bliss! At 4.15 am we were awakened with the most extraordinary noise, which could be described as almost a terrific wind far away, and as it got closer, I imagined that it sounded like a tornado (not that I've ever heard one in 'real life'). I soon realised that a troop of noisy howler

monkeys were passing nearby - it was truly a wonderful surprise.

When dawn broke, I was out and about with my camera, hoping to take photographs of some of the lovely birds that inhabit this area. Along with another one of our group, we decided to investigate some of the many forest paths constructed around the Lodge. We trod on paths, through magnificent towering trees, the only noises were of the wildlife around us with the occasional glimpse of birds, high in the canopy. We briefly heard an incredible whooshing sound, then saw an enormous pair of white flecked wings of a bird taking off, we believe it was a Harpy Eagle. I will never forget the sound of those magnificent wings as this stunning inhabitant of the forest took off!

Walking on the forest paths, was extraordinary in another way; the temperature, even as early as it was, was already warm, and the humidity was quite high, it was when stepping into the forest the humidity, within a few paces, shot up!

Breakfast was served in the same restaurant as we'd had dinner the previous evening, the views now of course fully visible in the daylight, the extent and isolation of the Lodge was all too apparent. The meal was again a veritable feast and the slow cooked beef was absolutely the best I've ever tasted! It was during the meal that one of the serving staff pointed out a bird a considerable distance away, telling us it was a grey-lined hawk. Everyone here seems to have stunning eyesight, this bird to me was a little blob a considerable distance away, and then to

have the knowledge to accurately identify it, was impressive to say the least.

So how to sum up, I was already in love with Guyana, not just the fact that for the first time in 6 months we were with people who spoke English as their first language. There is something incredibly magical about this Country. The easy style of life, the friendly welcome everywhere we go. But it was the Iwokrama River Lodge that put the 'icing on the cake', Guyana is without question my favourite country that I've visited in South America. Yes we've been made welcome everywhere we've been, but this was truly special. A major thank you to all the team at the Lodge, I truly hope we'll meet again one day. ■





Photo: Norman Alexander

By Imran Rahaman

MY TRIP TO IWOKRAMA

A Jewel Nestled in a Million Acres of Wild Forest

On one of my last evenings at the Iwokrama River Lodge the sky opens up and invites us to caiman spotting. The activity is one of many that the Lodge offers but the rainy season thwarts our attempts to take the boat out during the evening and delivers one or two thunderstorms that hammer the rooftops. I had imagined some danger out on the pitch black Essequibo river, during a downpour, looking for a five meter long predator wading just beneath the surface. Those conditions, I came to learn, are far from perilous for the ruddy staff at Iwokrama who are ever equipped for nature's surprises. The difficulty would simply be in actually finding the caiman, much less anything, in heavy rain. This particular day refrains from clouding over and instead simply cools into an endless indigo canopy, erupting in stars and milky way. Along with my guide and the boat captain, I am also accompanied by a few staff at the Lodge who ask to join my tour. I am more than happy to oblige and share in the natural splendour of the evening which the group agrees is uncommonly beautiful, even for a place renowned for its beauty, ambient and untamed. We set out with flashlights and head torches, flicking the beams across the black ripples. Within a few minutes we come across a big caiman in the shallows near the Lodge. The captain

slows the motor to a hum before shutting it off altogether, expertly bringing the boat to a drift nearby. Despite our presence the caiman, a relic of prehistory, is at ease and lays perfectly still. Only its head emerges from the water with its eyes reflecting our lights in bright little orbs, under the ridged eyebrows and above the rows of piercing teeth. A resident and local celebrity, Sankar the caiman is a good bet to see near the Lodge. To everyone's surprise and delight though a baby is burrowed in the reeds on the riverbank. It is a miniature in every way but lighter in colour, seemingly translucent under our flashlights, and more delicate. After observing the pair we leave them and continue along the bank, tracing the edge of the forest, and pause to look at the occasional tree boa or spider enjoying the cool serenity of the dark river as much as we are. Circling back toward the dock a nightjar flutters overhead. We cut the motor once again and set the boat adrift on the strong, steady current, lapping the sides of the boat. Stargazing at the countless lights dusted onto the sky above I'm filled with a sense of belonging, belonging to a place, that I didn't know I had come looking for.

My adventure at the Lodge starts, in fact, in the early hours of the morning before I arrive. I had decided to travel by minibus

from Georgetown, departing in the early evening and with a planned 6am arrival at Kurupukari crossing when the pontoon service first opens. It ferries travellers and vehicles across the Essequibo and reconnects them to the other side of the Linden-Lethem main road, bisecting most



Photo: Dr Raquel Thomas Caesar

of the country enroute to northern Brazil. Local Guyanese simply refer to this highway as the road.

Our caravan races past the town of Linden in the late hours of the night and we appear to be headed uneventfully toward the crossing. After Linden we enter the road, a rusty dirt highway of compacted laterite soil which, covered in darkness and lit by our highbeams, looks more like the surface of Mars. This effect is enhanced by the dips and holes strewn across the road, some of them craters that force us to swing around them. Someone later asks me which side of the road Canadians drive on. I tell them on the right, to which they reply, with a caustic humour, that on the road you drive on whatever side works. Our journey continues for a few hours before the rain starts. Half asleep, the reason that this is troublesome is not immediately apparent, even when the bus stops for the first time. By the second stop though our group is all out of the buses and watching the drivers fishtail through the new mud ditches. The mud looks slick and heavy with each patch spinning off the tires. By the third and fourth stops, most of the men in the group are lined up along a thick nylon rope moored to the bus, playing tug of war with the mud. This happens without much instruction or planning but after a few tries, pounded by the rain in the deep night and engulfed by rainforest on each side of the road, each heave becomes more coordinated as we liberate the buses shortly after sunrise. The road's conditions are undeniably difficult for daily commuters, particularly in the rainy season. But as the gateway into Iwokrama, an off-the-beaten-path jewel nestled in a million acres of wild forest, the road is a fitting start.

On arrival, the Iwokrama River Lodge is, in a word, unassuming. After the river crossing I'm escorted by the Iwokrama forest rangers through a sideroad that cuts into the jungle, ending at the Lodge's central hub, the Fred Allcock Building. It is a large, wooden octagon with a green roof sloping up each angle and ending flat on top. Two-stories high, it is the heart of the Lodge



Photo: Imran Rahman

and its practical charm can be seen well down the river. There are, however, no porticos, grand halls, manicured gardens or pools to welcome guests. This is not that kind of place. Across the grounds there are banks of raised research buildings for accommodations, zinc-roofed wood structures with rows of rooms set aside for the staff. These are mirrored on the opposite end for guests who also have a choice of a string of individual cabins in between. Near the entrance of the Fred Allcock there is a communal spot for staff, and from the few that are present when I happen to arrive their quiet kinship is apparent. The staff work in rotations at the Lodge for twenty-two consecutive days a month and, during their stay, spend a lot of time together both in carrying out the daily work and in the moments between. They are for all intents and purposes a small village, part of the larger community that Iwokrama is building. Most of the staff are Indigenous peoples and their common heritage bonds them. It also demonstrates one of the tenets of the Iwokrama International Center, the parent organization of the Lodge, which is to provide employment opportunities to Indigenous groups as part of a broader community development engagement. Supporting sustainable tourism, the Centre also has initiatives that cover responsible forestry, research, intellectual property services related to conservation and forest management, and local thought leadership in combating climate change.



Photo: Dr Raquel Thomas Caesar



I'm greeted warmly by a few members of the staff and, although they meet hundreds of visitors a year, they still possess an endearing shyness. One of them is Lezline, a guide assigned to me for my stay. She gives me a tour of the main building, a ring of facility rooms supporting a research area, administration, a utility shop, and with the tourism office anchoring the middle. With a few wildlife posters on the walls that are more information and less eco-thrill, the building has a rustic utilitarian design and I'm pleasantly reminded that Iwokrama River Lodge, along with a few of the other eco-lodges in Guyana's interior, has roots as an academic field station for researchers who are looking for a temporary home base. Iwokrama is a perfect blend for travelers like me who are seeking immersion in wild places but also want to learn how those places are understood by the world culturally, ecologically, and scientifically. Tourists intersect with travelling scientists from time to time and might find themselves tagging along on a field expedition, an appreciated turn from conventional hotels or tour operators who strictly focus on hospitality services. The Iwokrama River Lodge manages to strike both chords; on the one hand maintaining comfortable and charismatic accommodations for guests coupled with a large menu of nature activities, while on the other hand creating a meeting place for those interested in education about this unique slice of nature in a wider, more practical context.

In the afternoon Lezline and I set off for one of the trails at the edge of the Lodge.

As we walk I survey the grounds and my eye catches the fruit trees planted in the central field, an oasis for some small birds who flutter from branch to branch. The field ends in a bank against the Essequibo river, enormous at its mouth touching the Atlantic ocean but still providing a dominant backdrop here even as it tapers deep into the country. At the trailhead a handcrafted wood post is painted with the words "Screaming Piha Trail." Just inside, the field disappears and the woods close in around us. Even in the daytime the rainforest interior is dim with bits of light just breaking through slim, temporary openings. Enormous mora with massive trunks and sloping roots race to the top

of the canopy and jostle for sun, creating the green kaleidoscope overhead. We feel the weight of the air, warm and moist. As Lezline walks ahead to survey the path I'm alone with the trees and the smell of musty wood. We walk a few paces at a time, foliage mashing under our feet, and stop to observe. I think about the contrasts, the abundance of visual signal against the seemingly eternal silence, interrupted occasionally by the whee-whee-oh of the screaming piha. We didn't see any that day but heard them all throughout.

Most of my days are filled with forays into the rainforest. The local vegetation is generally dominated by the majestic mora compared to distant parts of the rainforest where other big trees like balata are more prevalent. Some of the trails take us through different terrain, such as a 350 meter climb up nearby Turtle Mountain. The hike uphill is tough in the morning heat but breaking for a minute we glimpse a giant harpy eagle on a branch up high which flies away as soon we spot it. Reaching the mountaintop a flock of what appears to be grouse or pheasants meander, our presence uneventful to them until we sneak closer on the way to the edge of the peak. When we get there we take in a panoramic view of unspoiled rainforest at every vantage and the canopy below sprouts up like thousands of little broccoli florets. On another trail, the Mori Scrubs, we wear long rain boots to wade through shallow marsh inside a low wooded area. The afternoon sun shines through the



Photo: Andrew Snyder

brush and illuminates the glowing moss on the logs and rocks underfoot. I am amazed at the way the local guides like Lezline navigate each turn on the path with such familiarity. She steps around and through the water with instinctive ease and an unflinching focus on her surroundings. As both of us overcome our mutual shyness the hikes create spaces for conversation and she shares origin stories passed down from her family. My favourite of these is about the bushmaster snake that we are looking for and also and trying to avoid. At the edge of her parents' farm her father once came across a bushmaster. It is the world's largest viper, aggressive, and its venom is fatal. Although it was the first time her father encountered one he immediately knew what to do, having been endowed with this wisdom from his own father. Without pause he climbed up the nearest tree and carved a spear from a branch while the bushmaster struck at him from below. He returned those strikes with the spear but wounding the snake only provoked it. Finally the spear found the bushmaster's head and it fell dead instantly. The job unfinished, her father descended and covered its eyes with a piece of wood. I asked Lezline if her father just considered running away but this was not an option. As the legend goes, the bushmaster must be killed in the confrontation lest it comes to find you at your doorstep. The bushmasters of lore also uphold a tradition of clan vengeance, so in the event that one bushmaster discovers another one dead it can peer into the depths of the deceased through its eyes and glean the identity of the perpetrator. Instead of covering the eyes with a piece of wood, another common tactic is simply to cut off and bury the head to avoid the wrath of another bushmaster. It is unlikely that I will ever have an experience that tickles the imagination this way so I live vicariously through this transient bond taking place in the Mori Scrubs between guide and follower, linked by this fable to Lezline's ancestry. Stories like this translate as very folksy in the comfort of light dinner conversation but demonstrate abandoned perspectives in most modern culture: reverence for the natural world, the power of expertise passed from one generation to the next, and an admiration for ancient people in whom essential knowledge was imbued.

After heading back to Georgetown I think about Lezline's story and how it had

occurred purely by chance. In travelling to Iwokrama I understood it to be that sort of place, its beauty unfolding on its own terms, and certainly operating outside of the constraints of my own visit. For me, the prospect of what might be waiting behind the treeline is as thrilling as what might reveal itself. Even so, in my heart I hoped that I would see a jaguar. Powerful and elusive, enshrined in myth, the jaguar would prowl around the outer reaches of my imagination. The largest big cat in the Western hemisphere, it is endangered everywhere it still exists except for in Guyana. I had read and heard stories about encounters here. Along the road in the Lodge's 4x4s I stare out of my window into the wall of jungle that we ride beside and train my eyes to go against the direction of the trees flashing by. I do this to focus on a single break in the dense foliage, if only for a second, to look for the large, round, amber eyes. One late afternoon we go looking for the jaguar and make our way to a hopeful spot, a raised laterite clearing off the side of the road about an hour outside of the Lodge. Jaguars, like all cats, are creatures of habit and our driver had seen one here recently. We turn off the

road and drive up into the clearing, then separate on foot. The clearing soaks up the dusky light and radiates auburn and umber; crackles as we stride across the hard, red dirt. Although the jaguar is conceivably right here, in that moment any logical sense of danger only exists somewhere beyond the clearing. Right above us the sun hangs low and seems to be suspended in motion. Lezline motions for me to come over and points to the ground where I see the tracks. They are exactly as you might imagine - four ovals arranged neatly on top of a circular pad - only much bigger. The tracks are embedded deep into the earth and precisely spaced. I think about the perfect force and motion, refined over eons, required to make tracks like these. Lezline tells me that they are fresh, maybe a day or two old. We follow them as they roam those few acres, taking us in directions that are not obvious, sometimes confusing us altogether when they double over. With each step they unwind my attempts to understand them and resist my urge to compartmentalize. After a while I just follow the footsteps and enjoy them before the next rainfall will wash them away. ■



Photo: Mesach Pierre



MAY 2020



The Tufted Coquette (*Lophornis ornatus*)

Did you know the Tufted Coquette is one of more than 20 different hummingbirds we have in Guyana? This beauty can be found in many places throughout the country, especially in Surama village and going to the hummingbird feeders at Atta Lodge

Photo: Leon Moore

During May, Guyanese will celebrate the annual Anniversary of Guyana's Independence which will be hosted at Durban Park in Georgetown and celebrated across the country at other towns.

We will celebrate Arrival Days annually of the Portuguese and East Indians who first came to Guyana in 1841 and 1838 respectively as indentured labourers and today are integral members of the new Guyanese society.

In recent years, Guyana Carnival has come on the scene and has taken the Capital city by storm and growing larger each year. You may wish to join the thousands of revellers in a Carnival Band parading through the city streets or attend the many mega performances of international artistes or the fabulous fetes. You are sure to have a great time.



Loaded Hummus Grand Coastal Hotel GRW 2018

Photo: Randy Sarjoo

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



GUYANA CARNIVAL 2020 CARNIVOIL!!!

Carnival is a well-known cultural phenomenon that is celebrated annually in several Caribbean and Latin American countries. It is known for elaborate costumes, festivities, entertainment and a series of events leading up to a day of “mas” or masquerade in the streets where revellers can frolic in an all-inclusive experience.

Under the theme “Genesis.”, the Guyana Carnival Organisers hosted their first event in May 2018 as a destination event targeting those in the diaspora and others from around the world with world class events such as all-inclusive parties, celebrity concerts, boat rides, day tours and culminating with a grand costume “mas” parade through the beautiful streets of Georgetown.

Guyana Carnival 2020 has exciting plans for patrons to this year’s event with the event launching in December 2019 in anticipation of the event’s hosting from May 20-27, 2020. Masquerade will be held on May 26, 2020 under the theme Carnivoil, in celebration of its third year hosting this phenomenal event and local developments in the oil sector.

The theme of the Masquerade will be “Around the World” under the tagline “Bringing the World to Guyana”.

Guyana Carnival received overwhelming requests by patrons who participated in Carnival 2019, to repeat those events held. So look forward to Carnival 2020 and events such as Stinging nettles which is a rum-inclusive event, Rum and Ramajay, Stink n Dutty J’ouvert, the Soca Block Party and Soca and Wine. Patrons can also look forward to, new events, mega concerts, all-inclusive parties, regional and international deejays and artistes, fantastic costumes for the Genesis Band and an amazing road parade.

All-inclusive Carnival packages including accommodation, admission to ticketed events, costume, food, drinks and day

tours to some of the country’s most fascinating tourist sites will be available on the Guyana Carnival Website.

The Guyana Carnival, a privately organised event, is an amalgamation of influential entertainment bodies, the Government of Guyana and other key stakeholders which delivered a new and exciting product to boost tourism, entertainment, and nightlife in our capital city and showcase Guyana’s beauty, uniqueness, and unity through this private international event.

For more information on Carnival 2019 visit the website <http://www.guyanacarnival592.com> or contact the organisers by email at guyanacarnival@gmail.com for further information. ■





DR RAQUEL THOMAS - CAESAR

...living a life of service to Guyana

By Devina Samaroo

Dr Raquel Thomas-Caesar is many things – a proud mother, a social advocate, a human rights activist, an environmentalist, a conservationist.

But most of all, she is someone who would go above and beyond to make her country a better place.

From forest preservation, marine and wildlife conservation, scientific research, working with youths and indigenous communities, as well as human rights advocacy, Dr Raquel Thomas-Caesar is a true example of what it means to live a life of service.

Born in Georgetown in 1969, to Wycliffe and Barbara Thomas, a young Raquel was not quite sure what she wanted to do in life and at one point, she almost shifted gears to a career in communications.

Currently employed as the Director, Resource Management and Training at Iwokrama International Centre for

Rainforest Conservation and Development, Dr Thomas-Caesar is involved in a wide array of initiatives which allows her to contribute to the development of her country.

She oversees the monitoring of the Iwokrama Forest Protected Area of 371,000 hectares, facilitates research and support Iwokrama's Science Programme, implements Iwokrama's training component including facilitation of school and university visits, assists with Iwokrama's business development (including tourism and forestry) and gets involved in community outreaches.

But it doesn't end there! Dr Thomas-Caesar is also the Chairperson of the Protected Areas Commission, which manages, maintains, and promotes national protected areas of Guyana like the Kaieteur National Park, the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and the Shell Beach Protected Area.

There is more. Dr Thomas-Caesar is also Vice Chair of the Guyana Marine Conservation Society, a member of the Guyana Society for Biodiversity and Ecosystems as well as a member of the International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield.

She has also been active in human rights advocacy for some 17 years, founding – with the help of others – an organisation called Guyana Citizens Initiative and Citizens Against Rape.

But where does she find the time and motivation to do all of this? According to Dr Thomas-Caesar, it's the people that make it worthwhile.





Dr Raquel Thomas- Caesar with her ranger team

"The people I work with are what allows me to enjoy what I do every day."

However, her career in conservation is not one without challenges.

"There are many challenges as 'Conservation without Money is just a Conversation' but many staff keep going, keep committing and I am so proud to call them my teammates."

Her dream is for everyone to be able to appreciate the beauty of Guyana. "The beauty of Guyana cannot even be described until you see it and my career

has allowed me to see some of the best parts of this beautiful country. My dream is for every Guyanese child to visit some key places in Guyana as this is what gives them the pride in their country and perhaps even want to stay and develop it instead of fleeing to another land for opportunities there."

Moreover, Dr Thomas-Caesar strongly believes in the strengthening of civil society, which can have a major impact on the political development of a country.

"Inspiring change as citizens MUST have a voice – and it is OUR country after all,

Guyana belongs to all of us and we all should have a right to see that it becomes that place that we never want to leave." ■



Dr Raquel Thomas- Caesar with the Women Leaders and Elders of Fair View Village and Iwokrama's Community Outreach Manager.



CENTURY TAMARA ENERGY SERVICES INC.

Innovate, Achieve, Create

Century Tamara Energy Services Inc. (CTES) is an oil & gas support service company registered in Guyana. Our vision is to become the leading energy company in Southern America, offering cost effective bespoke solutions.

What we do

- RELOCATION SERVICES • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
- EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION • SHUTTLE SERVICES
- PROCUREMENT • MANPOWER SUPPLY AND RECRUITMENT

We also offer a range of services to the oil and gas industry in Guyana, through our technical partner, the Century Group, which includes:

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of offshore production and storage facilities including EPS, FPSO, MOPU, FSO and Drilling Rigs/Jack up
- Operation / Maintenance of Flow Stations
- Drilling / Drilling Support Services
- Field Development Solutions
- Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Installation (EPCI) of Oil and gas facilities
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MOVIETOWNE GUYANA

WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT, SHOPPING AND DINING



Come experience the magic of MovieTowne where world-class entertainment, shopping and dining are right at your fingertips.

It all happens at MovieTowne Guyana – one of the grandest malls in the Caribbean.



As part of its Caribbean expansion drive, MovieTowne has brought its concept of first-world entertainment to Guyana, the first Caribbean country outside of Trinidad and Tobago.

Similar in scope and stature to the flagship MovieTowne Invader's Bay in Trinidad, MovieTowne Guyana promises a new standard of entertainment, shopping and dining.

Three of the founders and Directors of MovieTowne, Derek Chin, Winfield Scott and Pierpont Scott have strong local roots in Guyana and this is a natural expansion of their business development plans for their company whilst raising the entertainment standards of their native country.

MovieTowne Guyana is situated on 10 acres of land at Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, in an atmosphere complimented by the refreshing sea breeze.

With high quality and a variety of products and internationally acclaimed-brands, MovieTowne Guyana is set to transform the lives of the people of Guyana like it has done for Trinidad and Tobago!

We are now open!
MovieTowne Guyana, it's all happening here!

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Tel#: (592) 630-7827
Email: Guyana@movietowne.com





MovieTowne is the only international Cinema Complex with its very own Shopping Center and Entertainment destinations in Guyana.

There is a state-of-the-art eight screen cineplex with the latest 2D and 3D Digital Cinema Technology, Dolby Surround audio technology, luxurious seating capacity of 2,000 and a diverse food concession catering to any appetite.

The cinemas have not only been masterfully designed and installed technically to create outstanding levels of sound and vision, but aesthetically designed also to create an atmosphere that is both sophisticated and luxurious.

Cinema Rentals

MovieTowne Guyana is now available to rent for events of all types. This includes

private screenings, corporate events, promotional screenings, shareholder meetings, staff appreciation days, business functions, film festivals, press screenings, benefits, film clubs, private parties, birthday parties, fashion shows, even film shoots and the odd wedding or proposal!

Cinema Advertisement

MovieTowne over the years furnished itself with the reputation of being the premiere provider of quality family entertainment, gaining and maintaining reputable business partnerships with some of the Caribbean's most trusted and successful companies and brands.

With this in mind, we would like to invite you to promote your business in our large state-of-the-art theaters. This is a great opportunity for your company to reach a wider audience, giving you a maximum



exposure of 338 persons in one screen and minimum of 208 in the smallest screen.

We guarantee to reach your targeted consumers with innovative messages and video ads that engage moviegoers in a highly effective manner.





AN AVATAR ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU AT PANDORA TREATS

MovieTowne offers movie goers the widest selection of diverse food catering to any appetite.

The tantalizing Pandora Treats goes far beyond your classic concessions like popcorn and fountain drinks to give you an absolutely appetizing experience.

Pandora Treats is fully prepared to take care of all of your needs, with treat selections starting with Appetizers such as Potato Fries, Cassava Fries, Plantain Fries, Smiley Fries, Sweet Potato Fries and even Jalapeno Bombers!!!

Of course, Nacho lovers can enjoy Nachos with Cheese overload.

For a more diverse menu you can select from Onion Rings, Chicken Rings and

Wontons, now who doesn't love Wontons! Chicken, Shrimp and Vegetables freshly made to order is also available.

That's just the start of our menu offerings, you can also choose from a wide array of Combos, including the Avatar - the most popular Signature Combo which includes Chicken, Popcorn, Fries and Soft Drinks or the Na'vi Combo which includes our famous Jumbo Hot Dogs, Fries, Nachos and Cheese and Soft Drinks.

This and so much more is available at Pandora Treats from Cotton Candy to your favorite Snacks and Candy line up.

Movie goers are sure to get the best out of their experience and our treats are just what you need!





LET THE FUN TIMES ROLL!

Another gem of the MovieTowne complex is our vibrant live entertainment unlike any other in Guyana, at the Fiesta Plaza.

Every Saturday evening patrons can enjoy free live entertainment at the Famous Fiesta Plaza situated inside the mall. This gives the local artist the ultimate platform of opportunity.

The Fiesta Plaza boasts a beautiful stage and lighting offering to mall visitors and patrons a good time every time, whether it's a quick visit to do some shopping or waiting to watch a movie, or simply dining on the patio of Jaxx International Grill, you can enjoy the sweet sounds of the Fiesta Plaza featured live entertainment, from time to time it's always fresh, always trending making this venue a highly popular

leisure spot, always buzzing with activity and new excitement.

ARCADE

To add to the excitement, check out the awesome Arcade. It's full of thrilling games for the kid in all of us.

Command the highest score and let your skills reign supreme whether you are a hunter, a transformer or the fastest race car driver in the world, you're sure to get into character and have a blast. Play the classic Pac-Man or let your skills reign supreme at Candy Crush, Roller Ball, Down the Clown, Water Gun Fun or test your "Jump Shot" at the Basket Ball Super Shot.

You can find a variety of games that are suited to different groups from toddlers to teens, but be sure to supervise younger children.

Master the games and win tickets which can be used to redeem cool prizes!





YOU GET IT ALL AT MOVIE TOWNE MALL!

While MovieTowne has become the nation's Number One entertainment hub, it has also carved a niche for itself with MovieTowne Mall. It is the preferred retail shopping and dining destination for Everyone! Our dynamic and highly accessible center features some of the country's most trusted and popular stores and brands. The premiere shopping experience is here, no need to look any further.

BIRKENSTOCK
GUYANA

Digicel

E-Networks

GBTI
We see Guyana through your eyes

Glamour
BEAUTY


GIZMOS & GADGETS

Hard Rock
CAFE
GUYANA

IMAGE
BOUQUET

KFC

KIDS ★ **US**

TOYVILLE

MASSY
STORES

MoneyGram

Optique
VISION CARE
We Care, You see!

Republic Bank
the BLUE MACHINE

Shoe Heaven

SHOE HEAVEN
SPORT

SHOPPERS
PHARMACY

SurePay
...the convenient way to pay

THE
Watch Centre

RAJ JEWELLERY
High Quality Gold and Diamonds

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WINE & CHAMPAGNE
BAR

DIGI COM

My Perfect Fit

Wine
Cellar

Exclusive
DRESSES TO IMPRESS

Sky Bleu

KING'S
JEWELLERY WORLD

STACY'S
CLOSET

BAD
MONKEY
MERCH

Smart
Click
Powered by Cell Phone Shack

AZELEA
Top Brands

MovieTowne Mall proudly stands alone as the most convenient shopping hub in Guyana, with extended opening hours and accessibility seven days a week, including public holidays. On any day customers can catch the latest blockbuster movie and do their grocery shopping or have a business luncheon and pick up a birthday gift on the way out.

MovieTowne Mall completes the ideal, all-in-one entertainment excursion, making it the star attraction for families across Guyana.

Movietowne Guyana | Tel#: (592) 630-7827 | Email: Guyana@movietowne.com



AN UNFORGETTABLE CULINARY EXPERIENCE AWAITS!

Complimenting the popular MovieTowne complex is the dining fare that is second to none. This venue is every culinary enthusiast's dream with a wide selection of fine dining and casual restaurants and bars.



CRUMBS N CREAM



HARD ROCK CAFÉ



JAXX INTERNATIONAL GRILL



KOSMOS



Java Coffee Bar



ROYAL CASTLE



KFC



THE PUBLIK WING AND BURGER HOUSE

**COMING
SOON!**

**New Thriving
Brusters
QualiTea**

When the sun goes down and the streets get quiet, you can be sure to satisfy any craving, as the restaurants at Movie Towne are open seven days a week with extended hours for your convenience.



JUNE 2020



The Painted Parakeets (*Pyrrhura picta*):

are among some of the most beautiful birds that can be found in the interior of Guyana. These birds are fast flyers, using the corridors between the sub-canopy and the canopy of the rainforest and they are highly social.

Photo: Leon Moore

Ensure you prepare yourself for the first session of Guyana Restaurant Week being hosted in June. Avail yourself of the many gastronomic offerings at the participating hotels and restaurants who put on specialty menus with a variety of food offerings at discounted prices. You are sure to savour the flavours of Guyana's multi ethnic populace.

You may also wish to take the drive to visit and participate in the growing Linden Riverfront festival with its wonderful display of river and land based activities. Be sure to visit the unique Blue Lake and the recently refurbished Watooka House.



Pan-Roasted, Brown Butter Pork Chops
Grand Coastal Hotel GRW 2018

Photo: Randy Sarjoo

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

OVERLAND EXPEDITIONS

Travelling across Guyana by expedition, experiencing nature like many others may dream. The four safaris- North Pakaraimas, South Rupununi, Bartica 4x4 and Moraikobai will take your breath away. Organised by Rainforest Tours to offer visitors and locals an escape the hustle and bustle of daily life, pack the jeep gathering food, supplies and family and head off into the sunset.



The Pakaraima Mountain Safari - The Adventure of a lifetime!

Dates: April 5-12, 2020

The Pakaraima Mountain Safari is the ideal opportunity to experience the outdoors, to have fun and adventure and to discover the scenic beauty of Guyana's mountainous regions and to establish links with communities across the North Rupununi.

The Pakaraimas has some of the most beautiful geo- logical features in the Guianas. This frontier is blessed with a wide array of flora and fauna and the rich history of our indigenous people is evident throughout the region. This is an opportunity you will not want to miss.

Join the adventurers on their annual Pakaraima Safari to catch a

glimpse of the elusive Jaguar, the endangered Black Caimans, the Giant Ant- eaters, River Turtles, Monkeys, hundreds of species of birds. Visit the Cheong, Lehilibar and Orinduik Waterfalls and traverse across numerous rivers, mountains and hills en route to Lethem where participants will experience the Rupununi Rodeo event.

Immerse yourself into the local culture; sample local cuisines and interact with indigenous communities during the stops to fourteen indigenous villages mainly Karasabai, Tiperu, Rukumoto, Morabaiko, Yurong Paru, Monkey Mountain, Tuseneng, Paramakatoi, Kato, Kurukabaru, Itabac, Orinduik along the route.

Explore Guyana, be enthralled by our unique faunal species such as the jaguar, anteater and hundreds of birds, plants species and stunning vistas.

The South Rupununi Safari – Vaquero Country Awaits

Dates: November 25-30, 2020

If you want to experience the outdoors, have fun and adventure, discover the picturesque beauty of miles of savannahs and explore little known places south of Guyana's interior, the South Rupununi Safari is calling for you.

Venturing into Guyana's most remote terrain is a challenging but thrilling adventure. Whether you are crossing the Rupununi River, camping in the open or driving for miles in flat savannahs land that is teeming with flora and fauna, adventurers can reconnect with nature, build friendships and closer bonds during their expedition.

The highlights of the South Rupununi region will surely take your breath away, beautiful sceneries, traditional cattle ranches, excellent birding locations and so much more.

Dadanawa, with its long and rich history, held the claim of being the world's largest cattle ranch and was used as a home base for the filming

of several episodes of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, one of television's first wildlife shows. Dadanawa itself is known for over 400 bird species including Jabiru Storks, Guiana Cock-of-the-Rock and the rare Red Siskin. Apart from the rugged looking ranch at Dadanawa and the dry savannahs, this frontier is blessed with wildlife including Jaguars, Pumas, Anacondas, Black Caimans and Piranhas.

The South Safari will take the adventurous through many Wapishianas' Indigenous Villages. Visit Shea where you will get a glimpse of the Shea Rock which towers over the flat savannahs then to the stunning views of the famed Bottle Mountain, the Shiriri Mountain and the Kanuku Mountains in the distance. Vaqueros' country awaits.

Bartica 4x4 Safari – Culture and Travel Experience

August 28-30, 2020

The Bartica 4x4 Safari held their inaugural event in 2017 and since then there has been an overwhelming Bartica, Essequibo is a town on the left bank of the Essequibo River in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni-Region7.

Bartica, meaning red earth, is a launching point for people who work in the interior especially for mining Gold and diamonds and is considered as the gateway to the interior. With a population of over 10,000, it has a hospital, primary and secondary schools, banks, regional office, hotels, bars, restaurants and an active night life. The town is also well known for hosting the annual Bartica Regatta, a one-week event during the Easter holidays which included a number of activities such as the popular Miss Bartica Regatta Pageant which attracts both Guyanese and visitors.

Highlights of the expedition include the Museum of Socio- Cultural Heritage, the Christianburg Waterwheel, the Rockstone Community, the Township of Bartica, the Benedictine Monastery, the BK Quarry, Barakara, Marshall Falls, Sherima Crossing and Bartica Beach.

Moraikobai Safari- A community experience

Dates: February 22-24, 2020

The journey to Moraikobai commences in Georgetown with connections via the Soesdyke Linden Highway.

The Linden Highway was built in 1968 that connects Linden to the interior of Guyana. After Georgetown, Linden is the second largest town in Guyana. It is also known as the mining town.

Travel to Moraikobai takes safarians off road into white sand savannah to the Village located in Region 5- Mahaica Berbice. The three-day expedition includes breakfast with the Village Toshao, soothing dip into the mesmerizing tanning stained creek waters, cricket with community members. If you dare, challenge yourself to sample the local Amerindian Delicacy, the Tacuma Worm. After dinner, local Guides will take you out animal spotting. Make Moraikobai, your next place to visit. ■



Linden River Front Festival

Visit for the Fun and Enjoy Our Culture and Community

The Linden River Front Festival is a community celebration hosted annually over the CARICOM Holiday Weekend. This year's event will be hosted during the period July 3 – 6, 2020 and all are invited to visit Linden and participate in our programme of activities both on land and on water.

Linden is known as the Bauxite Mining Town and is located some 65 miles from the capital city of Georgetown and is also identified as the Gateway to the interior regions of Guyana and northern Brazil.

Nestled on the banks of the Demerara River with extended housing settlements in the hills and valleys on both sides of the River, Linden offers a colourful history having been developed around Bauxite Mining as the principal industry.

With its strategic location, beautiful historic buildings, sporting facilities and major events with easy access to nearby indigenous communities it is well positioned to capture a growing share of Guyana's evolving tourism market.

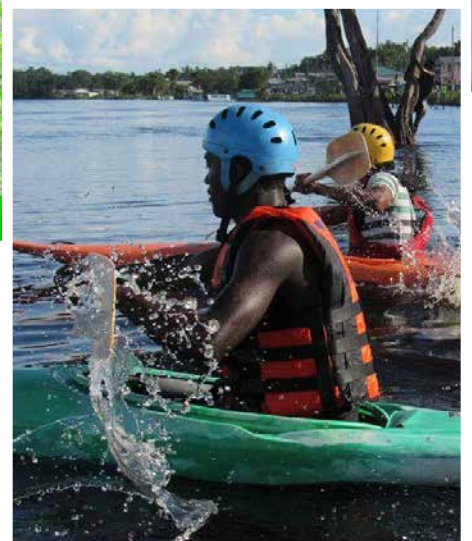
The recent renovations of the historic Watooka Lodge and the redevelopment of the Linden Waterfront have brought added value to its tourism offerings which have continued to grow around the ever



popular annual Rockstone Fish Festival and the unusual Blue Lake as its principal tourist attractions.

The annual Linden River Front Festival is focused on blending the River/Land Interface and playing a major role in the development of the town of Linden. It is a celebration of all riverain communities and river folks in Guyana with a series of water based events and activities on land. In addition this allows for visitors to engage in the various activities, enjoy the beautiful redeveloped Linden Waterfront and share in the culture and heritage of the community.

Scheduled events include a River Front Development Forum, entertainment,



performing artists, market day, a river-side clean-up, senior citizens, Jazz and contemporary music performances, cross country races, open river swim, and cycle parade & races, a regatta, and various other exciting events.

Make it a date and visit Linden for the long CARICOM Day weekend and enjoy the festivities. Explore Linden and the Linden Waterfront Festival, picnic on the riverside with friends and family and swim in the cool refreshing waters of the Demerara River.

See you all in Linden! ■



GUYANA MOVES TOWARDS HEALTHIER, SAFER ECOTOURISM

Visitors to Guyana can now enjoy healthier, safer eco-tourism in Guyana. The country, which is known for its unique eco-tourism product, wide diversity of flora, fauna, cuisine and culture is now offering to the world the added benefit of a healthier, safer, hence more enjoyable and memorable experience

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), under the Ministry of Business, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Tourism and Hotel Association of Guyana, in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), is executing a Regional Tourism and Health Program (THP) aimed at improving health and safety of locals and visitors, for a healthier, safer, more secure, happier tourism experience.

Travel and tourism are the business of the Caribbean with over 55M visitors in 2018. However, diseases like the recent Zika epidemic and other public health threats have negatively impacted on visitors' experience.

Recognizing that the Caribbean is the most tourism dependent region in the world, and that tourism, which brings so many economic benefits, is vulnerable and can also contribute to health, safety and environmental (HSE) threats, including the introduction and spread of diseases by both visitors and locals, CARPHA in partnership with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) established a regional THP to address HSE threats impacting on tourism.

The THP, launched in 2017, aims to improve a country's capacity to provide cost-effective, quality health, food safety, and environmental sanitation (HSE) solutions to the HSE threats impacting on sustainable tourism in the Caribbean. This would be executed through a real time early alert and response monitoring system for tourism-based health issues, training and certification, HSE standards, and multi-sectoral regional and international partnerships.

Guyana and other participating countries will have an enhanced capacity to fight HSE threats. Countries and facilities implementing the THP would be branded as a healthier safer destination

Visitors will now have the unique choice to select a healthier and safer destination when travelling.

Components: The THP is addressing HSE threats impacting on tourism through an integrated approach of surveillance, guidelines, training, standards and partnerships:

- (i) Real time Early Warning and Response Tourism Health Information Surveillance System (THiS.carpha.org). This web based system collects and analyses illness data in real-time, for early alerts and rapid response to stop /reduce the spread of public health threats. Reporting is confidential and can be easily done online by computer or a smart phone by hotels, guesthouses, agencies, doctors or the "health conscious" visitor.

Regional Guidelines for monitoring and response to travel-related public health issues occurring among visitors to the Caribbean by air (hotels) and sea (passenger ships), for harmonized and standardized responses, to avoid illness spread.

- Food Safety and Environment Sanitation Capacity Building. The Caribbean is known for its array of delicious cultural foods. However, diarrheal illness among visitors are possibly linked to eating unsafe food. Improving food safety will

contribute to a healthier more reputable tourism product. This component also allows for globally recognized certification.

- Health, Safety and Environmental Sanitation (HSE) Standards and Certification.
- Multisectoral Partnerships with regional and international health and tourism stakeholders to address travel related public health threats that transcends boundaries in a rapid manner.

The THP is currently being implemented in Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is also expanding to the rest of the Caribbean.

This integrated program is the first Caribbean-wide and global effort of its kind, setting an international precedent. There is no better time than now, as new threats to health and travel in the region emerge and in this era of real time, instant information flow, for creating mechanisms for monitoring and responding to tourism health and safety threats.

According to Dr Lisa Indar, the Head of the THP... *'it is critical for the Caribbean, more than in any other region in the world, to be proactive and implement measures to monitor, respond and mitigate against tourism HSE threats in a timely manner. This will reduce the spread of diseases, the negative publicity and reputational damage that health events can have, and thus promote a healthier, safer, more secure and reputable Caribbean tourism product.'*

More information on the THP can be found at <http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Tourism-and-Health-Programme> and on <https://youtu.be/ic72FQpbRRs>

Visitors rest assured, we are making Guyana tourism healthier and safer for YOU. ■





JULY 2020

Swimming in the Blue Lake, Linden



The Black Nunbird (*Monasa atra*)

is a species found in the Puffbird family. These birds sit and wait on a perch and then launch themselves quickly to catch their prey in mid-flight. They are insectivores, feeding on flying and some crawling insects. They build their nest in a burrow on the ground, which they excavate themselves. They are widespread across the Guianan Shield.

Photo: Leon Moore



Lemon Red Snapper with Herbed Butter *Grand Coastal Hotel GRW 2018*

Photo: Randy Sarjoo

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

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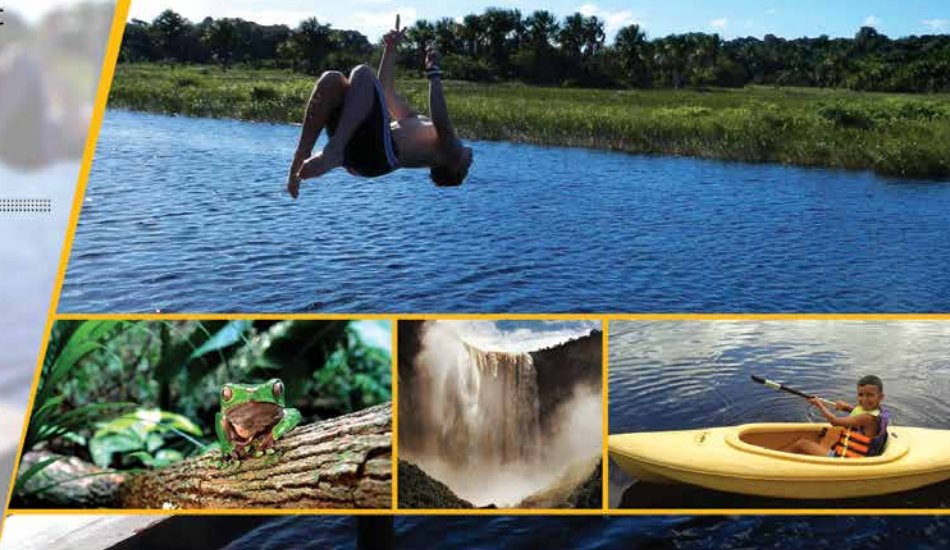
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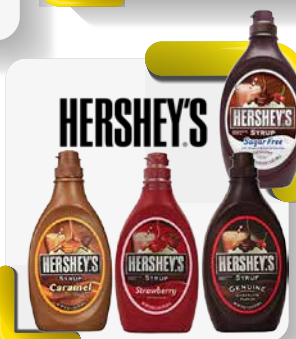
Carrots
Cabbage
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Strawberry
Nectarine
Orange

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Bake & Salt Fish

Guyanese Street Food

Article and Photos: Stacey & Chris Rahaman

By definition Street food is ready-to-eat or quick cooked food or drink sold by a vendor. If one were to use that definition as reference, there would be no doubting the fact that Guyana can proudly boast having a wide, delicious assortment. What makes it even more unique is that Guyanese street food is reflective of our six peoples.

Often times from just one vendor a visitor can enjoy food inspired by our people's diverse heritage including: mouthwatering curries wrapped in fragrant roti inspired by our Indian ancestry. Carefully prepared Ground provision and cassava pone from our African ancestry. Sweet cassava bread quiches from our indigenous peoples. Appetising flaky meat, fruit or cheesy pastries inspired by our European ancestors. Delectable black Bean cakes (Chinese cakes) from the Chinese and flavourful pancakes from the Portuguese.



*Fresh Local
Fruit Juices*



Eggball with Sour



Pepperpot

With this kind of variety, even the most finicky of eaters is sure to find something that will tantalize their taste buds.

Still don't believe me? Let me take you on a "street food tour". Here's the Itinerary: Commence with a morning excursion to any of Guyana's many markets (Come hungry). Guyana's Largest market, Stabroek has an entire section for foodies. Your nose will guide you as you walk. Many older Aunties will try to coerce you into making a purchase of their "Just made" Baigan (eggplant) Choka and Saltfish and bakes. Although almost impossible, if you don't find anything that entices there, head over to the street side stalls at Bourda Market for some fried fish and bread, Baiganee or bara with hot pepper sauce and some ice cold cane juice or Mauby to wash it all down.



*Snowcone with
Condensed Milk*

If you are on the East Coast of Demerara, check out Mon Repos Market on the East Coast. Sunny and Sweeties a mom and pop owned shop offers lots of “grab and go grub” ranging from the familiar: dhal puri (a warm lentil filled flatbread) and fishcakes served with spicy mango “sour” or hot chicken curry, to the not so familiar, bunjal kreketa (snails) with sada roti.

Central Georgetown is a heaven for street food lovers. Beacon cafe, Shanta’s and Hot and spicy creole corner all serve up staple street food favs such as Egg-ball, potato ball, Cassava Ball, Pholouri and Channa. For those craving something more, Qik Serv on main street offers



Fish and Plantain Fries



Bake & Salt Fish



Pine Tart, Cheese Roll & Patty

black and white pudding, patties and Salara (coconut roll), all made fresh daily.

Of course you will want to try something sweet and Maggie’s Snackette is just the place! Their pine tarts are a MUST TRY!

NEXT stop: the GT Sea Wall. IF you’re looking for the real “Cooked in front your face food” this is the place. Sample Simon, the grill master’s kebabs based with his secret sauce and grilled to tasty perfection. But that’s just the start, along the “wall” you can sample fish and chips, hotdogs and burgers, plantain chips and snow cones topped with luscious condensed milk.

But wait...what’s that? That my friend is “Gun oil”, it’s seasoned boil corn and as the seller will tell you “It gonna build up yuh back and mek yuh strong”.

Feeling full? This tour isn’t over yet! Meet me back this evening at the grill shack on

Water Street While we chill on the pave with a cold beer, Chef Rondae Hawker will whip us up some pasta on the grill (yes you heard me right) paired with your choice of jerk chicken or BBQ pork. Take home his signature stuffed burger for later.

So as you head back home head and heart filled with memories and belly filled with Guyanese street food. We hope you come again soon and if you haven’t come yet, we invite you to visit Guyana. Come for the street food. You are confident you will love it! ■



Black Pudding



White Pudding



AUGUST 2020



The Ferruginous-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza ferruginea*)

Antbirds are a group of birds that follow or are associated with ants swarms. Some species of antbirds are even categorized specifically as 'Professional ant-following Antbirds'. Antbirds collectively occupy and forage all the stratas of the rainforest; foraging from the leaf-litter on the forest floor and as high as leaf-litters and within epiphytes in the highest rainforest canopies. Antbirds are related to other 'ant-species', such as the Antwrens and Antshrikes.

Photo: Leon Moore

CPL T20 Cricket has generated great excitement and loyalty among Guyanese Cricket fans for our Guyana Team – the Amazon Warriors. Our players performance collectively and individually has been outstanding with a number of them going on to be selected for the West Indies on their upcoming overseas tours and doing us proud. We wish them well professionally and look forward to them keeping up the Warrior spirit." Let's Go, Warriors, Let's Go."

Guyana has received outstanding international exposure and promotion as a destination and we look forward to hosting an increased number of Cricket fans from around the world in 2020.



Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake Grand Coastal Hotel GRW 2018

Photo: Randy Sarjoo

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



CPL CRICKET GUYANA – ‘Where Cricket is Played Louder’

The 2019 season of the CPL T20 Cricket has been a bumper year for Guyana, Guyanese and Team Guyana Jaguars. The Guyana Jaguars played superb T20 Cricket for the entire season achieving the unenviable record of being undefeated after

the losing finalists, the Guyana Jaguars based on their record breaking performance leading up to the Finals looked they would finally bring home the coveted Winners Trophy to Guyana. Unfortunately this was not to be and they

fans expectedly turned out in their thousands filling the Guyana National Stadium in large numbers with almost fully sold out crowds for most of the matches. Guyanese came from near and far including large numbers of overseas based Guyanese to support the Guyana Jaguars especially in their home games.

motivated and stimulated to express themselves vocally and in live performances as they shared the joy of being a part of “The Biggest Party in Caribbean Sport” where Caribbean Cricket was Played Louder. Costumes, Conch Shells, Vuvuzelas, Plastic Bottles, Picnic Baskets ...you name it, Providence had it!



winning eleven (11) games in succession, breaking all previous records and qualifying for the Grand Final which was played at the Brian Lara Academy Stadium in South Trinidad.

After being in the playoff at four (4) previous Finals over the years and ending up as

again lost in their fifth Finals to the Barbados Tridents disappointing their thousands of fans across Guyana, the region and internationally.

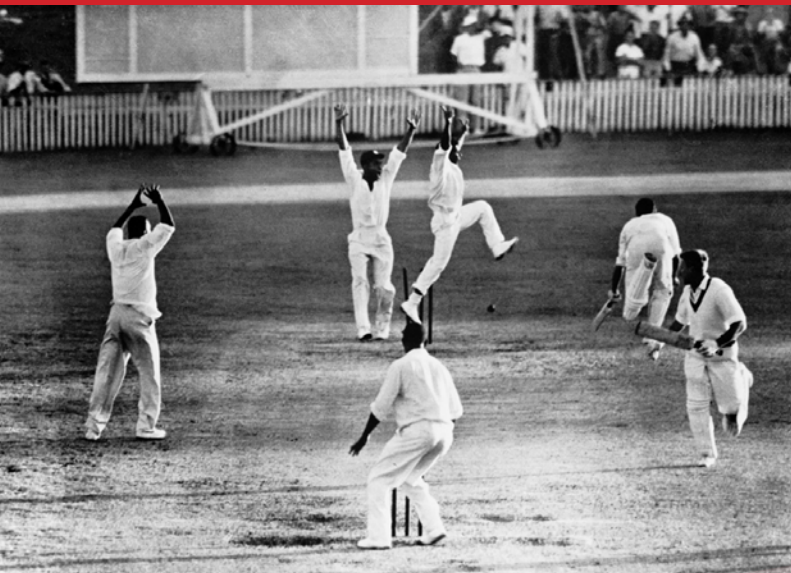
Nevertheless CRICKET... GLORIOUS T20 CRICKET was the overall winner. With Cricket being Guyana’s national sport, the

The atmosphere in the National Stadium was electric with the cricket mad fans showed their passion for cricket, decked out in their national colours and Guyana Jaguars shirts in a sea of yellow, proudly waving their Guyana Flags and Amazon Warriors Flags as they cheered on their team with every boundary scored and every wicket taken as the Jaguars marched on from victory to victory. The camaraderie between our many ethnic groups was galvanized into a single proud Guyanese nation with every man, woman and child supporting their national team – the Guyana Jaguars.

The food was plenty and diverse, the alcoholic beverages flowed freely and abundantly with many a fan being

Make sure you plan your trip in 2020 to be in Guyana for CPL T20 Cricket and be a part of ‘the Biggest Party in Sport in Guyana.’ ■





An iconic moment: Joe Solomon at 90, poses with the photograph that shows him running out Ian Meckiff to secure the first tied Test in cricket, at Brisbane in 1960.
Photo: The West Indian Online

JOE SOLOMON

A GUYANESE AND WEST INDIES CRICKET LEGEND

By Khemraj Singh

Joseph Stanislaus Solomon was born August 26, 1930 in Port Mourant, Berbice. He was the third of five children and attended the Port Mourant Roman Catholic School. Joe's family was highly respected in the community where his father was employed as Administrative Manager of the Sugar Estate.

Joe started his cricket career in the 1950s, playing cricket at the Port Mourant Cricket Club where he had the opportunity of playing alongside other cricketers like Rohan Kanhai, Basil Butcher and Ivan Madray who also hailed from Port Mourant.

Joe went on to play Case Cup Cricket in Georgetown for the East Indian Cricket Club where he performed admirably. This

resulted in him being called to trials to represent British Guiana at the territorial level, and made a remarkable start to his career scoring three consecutive centuries for British Guiana.

On his debut match against Jamaica he made 114 not out. This was followed by an elegant 108 runs against a strong Barbados bowling attack. His third consecutive century was scored against the touring Pakistan Team in 1957 at Bourda Cricket Ground in Georgetown.

He was first selected to tour India and Pakistan with the West Indies Cricket Team in 1958 and in the fifth Test Match at Delhi, India he made his only Test Century and finished the tour heading the Team's batting average.

On tour in Australia with the West Indies in



Left to right: Ivan Madray, Basil Butcher, Sir Clyde Walcott, Roy Baijnauth, Rohan Kanhai and Joe Solomon. *Photo Courtesy: Prof. Clem Secharran*

1960/61, under the Captaincy of Frank Worrell, Joe made history (with Australia just needing one run to win the match) when he ran out Ian Meckiff off the final ball of the Test Match to secure 'the first tied Test in the history of Cricket' even though he had sight of only one stump to hit at that moment.

Joe played 27 Test Matches for the West Indies, scoring a total of 1,326 runs batting in the lower order of the line-up. He toured England in 1963 and played his last Test Match in May, 1965 against Australia in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Joe was one of the first Guyanese from Berbice to play for the West Indies and was part of a Team in an era which comprised of a powerful batting lineup that included the Guyanese pair of Rohan Kanhai and



Berbice Cricket Board (BCB) honours West Indies cricket legend Joe Solomon. *Photo Guyana Chronicle*



Dramatis personae: Solomon at far left with Ian Meckiff, Lindsay Kline and Wes Hall at the 40-year reunion of the participants in the tied Test

Photo: © Getty Images



Former Guyana and West Indies Cricketer Joe Solomon honored by the Indo-Caribbean Federation in New York.

Photo: The West Indian Online

Basil Butcher - two other famous and outstanding Berbicians. They have since set the stage and inspired a long line of Berbicians who have since played international cricket for Guyana and the West Indies.

He also captained the Guyana Team several times and was a mentor to many of the young talented cricketers like Alvin Kalicharran, Faoud Bacchus, Shivanarine Chanderpaul and a host of others.

After his retirement, he was employed by the Guyana Sugar Producers Association and along with the legendary Clyde Walcott, had the task of coaching and developing cricket on the Sugar Estates in Guyana. Joe had a long and illustrious career for

both Guyana and the West Indies Teams and became a Cricket Administrator at the Local and Regional levels where he made a sterling contribution to the growth and development of cricket in Guyana and the West Indies. He later became President of the Guyana Cricket Board and Chairman of the West Indies Selection Committee.

Although migrating to the USA in 1984, Joe still visits Guyana once a year. He is an ardent sportsman and enjoys playing Golf to keep active in his golden years.

Joe recently celebrated his 90th birthday and we wish him well as he moves towards another century. ■



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SEPTEMBER 2020

Amerindian Heritage Month had its beginnings in the commemorations of the day on which Stephen Campbell became Guyana's first Amerindian Member of Parliament- 10 September 1957 until H.E. Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana, officially designated September as Amerindian Heritage Month on September 10, 1995. In memory of Campbell's achievement, 10 September is still celebrated as "Heritage Day".



The Festive Parrot (*Amazona festiva*)

This is one of the large 'Amazona species' parrots, or what is called the group of big green parrots. Other species which are common within this group have the Guyanese names such as, 'Screecher', 'White-eye' and 'Kaaloow'. The Festive Parrot is very Uncommon, and maybe the only place that you can see this bird 'easily' is in the Botanical Gardens in Georgetown. There are 5 Amazonas species found in Guyana, and you can easily tell them apart by looking at the plumage coloration from their shoulders upwards.

Photo: Leon Moore

The official opening of Amerindian Heritage Month celebrations takes place at the Umana Yana on the August 31 to commence the month- long celebrations.

On September 1, Heritage exhibition and activities will be ushered in with a ceremonial launch at the Indigenous Village in Sophia, Greater Georgetown. This activity will showcase the nine indigenous peoples of Guyana- their cultural dances, songs and most importantly, Amerindian delicacies. A host of other activities are lined up for this special event. Every year a different 'Heritage Village' is selected, which becomes the focus of festivities, particularly on 10 September.



**Pork Chops, Garlic Mash Potatoes,
Sautéed Vegetables**

Java Bistro GRW 2018

Photo: Java Bistro

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

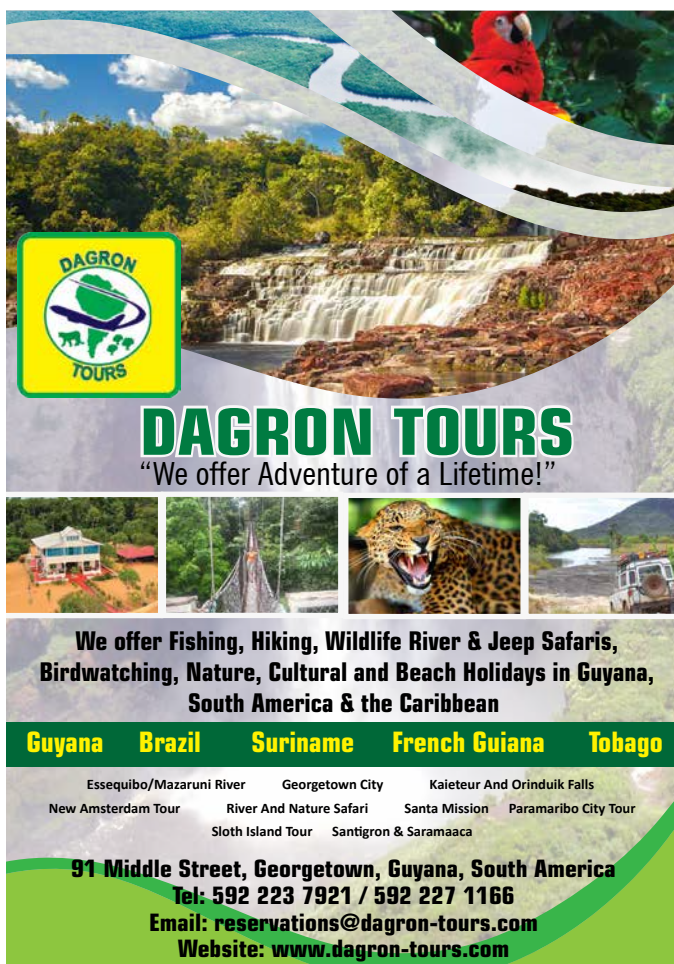



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THE LURE OF THE MONSTERS OF THE ESSEQUIBO

Two Friends on the Fishing Experience of Their Life in Guyana

By Ivano Paradisi and Francesco Olivetti.

Your mind is always full of dreams and expectations when you go on a new journey, and that was just the mindset that my friend Francesco Olivetti and I shared prior to our fishing trip to Guyana, South America.

Francesco and I set off at 4.00 am travelling to Airport "Leonardo da Vinci" in Italy for our flight to London, UK and then to Trinidad en route to our final destination Guyana - a relatively unknown part of South America.

We were both excited as we headed towards our final destination being a fishing camp on the Upper Essequibo River, where we would spend 19 beautiful days of exploring Guyana's interior region and enjoying the fishing in the Rivers of the Rupununi...easier said.

After overnighting at a hotel in Georgetown, Guyana's capital city, we embarked on a domestic flight to Fair View Airstrip in the

Essequibo region, after an hour's boat ride we finally arrived at Piraiba Lodge located on an Island known to the locals as "Scale & Weight" where we met our local guide Mark.

After a good night's rest, we set out early in the morning with Mark for our first day of fishing.

After fishing and spinning 3 or 4 Peacock Bass to use as bait, we started to search for the monsters of the Essequibo.

The first bite was traumatic. After a short fight with a decent sized fish, it broke the hook and got away leaving me with egg on my face. In the afternoon we moved to another location further upstream. In less than 10 minutes the clutch on my rod forced us to take the boat in high speed to chase what appeared to be a huge fish. After about twenty minutes of an intense struggle, we finally were able to rein in what appeared to be a Goliath Cat Fish, the King of the Amazonian Catfish family,

locally called "Lau Lau" or Piraibab. This was an experience of a lifetime - to fight with and reel in this beautiful "Monster of the Essequibo" weighing approximately 250 lbs ...This made my day. I still cannot believe it, before my departure from Italy, I would have signed on to the trip for a lot less.

Our target the next day was the Arapaima, the largest scaled fresh water fish specie in the World, which is protected and requires a very strich method of Catch and Release.

We headed for a lake formed by the river located about an hour's boat ride from the Lodge. Immediately, we observed the lake was well populated with Arapaima, as they could be seen rising to the surface to gulp air.

The first person to have a bite was Francesco who unfortunately unhooked what appeared to be a nice fish. Shortly after, the line went and after a spectacular fight and acrobatic leaps, Francesco managed to land and photograph a magnificent



All images compliments of Adventure Guianas Piraiba Lodge

Arapaima weighing close to 200 lbs.

Later that day I also managed to land an Arapaima of a smaller size, just over 100 lbs.

The following days were good fishing. Francesco caught two Amazon Red Tail Catfish of monstrous size, a wonderful Blinka, a beautiful Leopard Catfish and a Coby.

We later returned to the place where we had taken the first Lau Lau, and after a few minutes, the line went and a new battle with another Monster of the Essequibo started. After some 15 minutes of fighting with the fish, he got tired and we were able to reel in a huge Jau Catfish estimated around 100 lbs.

The nights presented the opportunity for fishing from the beach, where Francesco and I caught many Catfish species. The days were going very quickly and we were in day 16 when we decided to try the deep hole where we had taken the Giant Jau. We were there for about an hour and nothing happened, so I decided to take the boat to check my bait. After less than five minutes, the reel screamed off like an express train and we followed the fish in the boat. After

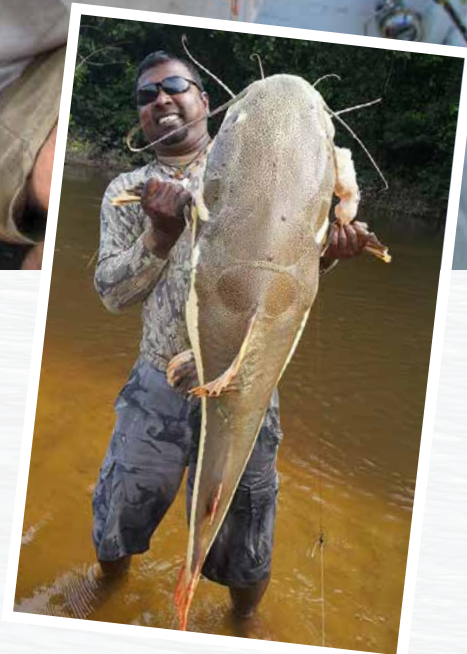
about 25 minutes of a desperate fight, with my energies drained, I managed to land a huge Lau over 2 meters long and estimated close to 300 lbs.

The following days, we caught multiple species, including an Arapaima in the main river.

Francesco also caught a Giant Lau much to his satisfaction.

Together we caught so many different species, that I wasn't keen to fish the morning of our penultimate day, but decided to go maybe half a mile from the Camp. Before long a slow start of the line eventually propelled much faster and a new challenge presented itself. It was a strange fish, very big...but fought strangely, at times it turned back abruptly so as to loosen itself. After about 25 minutes, the huge bubbles rose to the surface and what we saw was a Giant Lau Lau a lot longer than 2 meters and estimated well over 300 lbsa real monster of the untouched, unfished river system of the Essequibo.

The final morning of fishing, was with Navin Roopnarain, who owns and operate



Adventure Guianas and Piraiba Lodge. We had a few Payaras (Vampire Fish). Navin caught a Lau Lau weighing close to 200 lbs. Navin and Francesco, hauled in a big Red Tail simultaneously which posed a challenge for Mark, our guide.

Overall, we had the most adventurous, exciting and productive fishing experience ever. The Piraiba Lodge is very remote, with no one in sight, the environment is immaculate and the river system is as clean and fresh like no where else on Planet Earth.

Thanks to Navin, Mark, all our friends and the Kitchen staff for all the hospitality.

Ivano Paradisi and Francesco Olivetti. ■



OCTOBER 2020



The Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*)

Potoos are fairly large nocturnal birds (>30cm), which are only active at night. They sit and wait for insects to fly by and launch themselves to ambush them. These birds, are extremely cryptic, as they sit on dead stumps or light colored branches and is easily dismissed as such. Similar to Owls, Potoos have highly reflective eye-shines and this attribute is feature that tour-guides will capitalize on, via using a spotlight in the night to search for Potoos.

Photo: Leon Moore

Guyana is known for its amazing collection of produce markets across the country where you can get almost anything you need. The abundant availability of an extensive variety of fresh fruits and vegetables is a sight to behold and clearly must excite the chefs at our hotels and restaurants as they plan their daily menus. During your visit to Guyana ensure you make a trip to the local market and enjoy your fair share of our abundant fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables.



Teriyaki Steak
Java Bistro GRW 2018

Photo: Java Bistro

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



GUYANA RESTAURANT WEEK

Creating an authentic taste of Guyana

Internationally, wine and food are dynamic components of every visitor's experience and are increasingly being seen as travel motivators in their own right for those seeking 'authentic' experiences and products. They enrich the travellers experiences with the mood and appropriate ambience.

People seek to experience food in the same way that they seek out other elements of different cultures like art, music and architecture. Gastronomy tourism offers enormous potential in stimulating local, regional and national economies and enhancing sustainability and inclusion. It contributes positively to many levels of the tourism value chain, such as agriculture and local food manufacturing.

The linking of gastronomy and tourism is a platform for us to promote our culture, through our cuisine paired well with wine options. It also helps to promote sustainable tourism through preserving valuable cultural heritage, empowering and nurturing pride amongst communities, and enhancing intercultural understanding. Through a visit to a food festival, cooking class or farm-to-table dining experience, tourists garner a better sense of local values and traditions.

It is now imperative that we now maximize the potential of gastronomy tourism to

contribute to economic growth, social inclusion, cultural and environmental preservation, and mutual understanding. To do just this, the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) hosted the first ever Guyana Restaurant Week to promote our unique gastronomy. The following year, the Guyana Tourism Authority and Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) collaborated to organise the second event. Five years along, Guyana Restaurant Week has already expanded from one week in 2014 to now a ten-day event that is held semi-annually in June and November.

Interestingly, Restaurant Week is more highly anticipated by the locals than the tourists – perhaps because their favourite restaurants offer new and refreshing menus that push their chefs' creative boundaries to rank the highest amongst participating restaurants. However through promotion and combining with travel to the destination, through these edible experiences we are offering both locals and tourists alike an authentic taste of place.

The prix fixe structure was also favourably received by the diners, as the affordability of the menus allowed even the most budget-conscious guests to participate in the event. A splendid idea for staff appreciation

luncheons or "resta- hopping" able to sample multiple restaurants, over the ten-day period.

The ability to visit more than one restaurant, even for more than one meal, was enhanced by the vast assortment of options available to the diners. Guyana's ethnic background comprises many different races owing to a colonial history, and our culinary tapestry includes Chinese, Indian, African, Portuguese and Amerindian flavours. Indeed, dining out is an experience that consists of not only good food but also inviting ambience, and these options were also diverse for Guyana Restaurant Week. Patrons are able to choose to dine in settings ranging from upscale to casual, al fresco or air-conditioned, or with modern, tropical or colonial decor. And these options were from just twelve participating restaurants, with more and more Guyanese restaurants eager to participate every year.

And when all is over, diners can leave or read reviews of other guests' experiences online at www.guyanarestaurantweek.com or on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/guyanarestaurantweek to allow for a more expanded discussion amongst each other, to foster growth and improvement for the restaurants. So come out, Explore, Eat, Repeat. ■





THE BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL

OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION REUNION 2020

150TH ANNIVERSARY



From July 6 – 11, 2020, the 12th triennial reunion of The Bishops' High School will be held in Guyana under the theme – 'True Comrade and True Friend – 150 and beyond'. The Bishops' High School Old Students Association (BHSOSA) will host the event in celebration of the founding of the school 150 years ago. Every three years a reunion is hosted by a BHSOSA Chapter and held in a different country, highlighting the global impact of our alumni. It was last held in Guyana in 2002 and it is always especially significant when it returns to the homeland.

The school's Latin motto "Labor Omnia Vincit" means "Work Conquers All" and harkens back to its colonial origins in 1870 when it was established by the Anglican Church as a girls' school. Its other motto "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might, for there is no worth nor device nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave wither thou goest" is a paean to the passion for excellence to which its students subscribe. It later merged with Ms. Vyfhuys' school which was also founded in 1870 and then with the DeSaffon School. The first headmistress of the school was Ms. Vyfhuys who served from 1875 to 1922. In 1907, Bishop E. A. Parry moved the school to Woodside House on Main Street and it became known as the "Woodside House School". It was subsequently moved to its present location at Carmichael and Quamina Streets in 1921 and when Bishop Parry retired in 1922, the school was renamed The Bishops' High School in honour of the Anglican Bishops who contributed to its development. The school's emblem is the Victoria Regia lily and the badge was designed in 1910 by Ms. Radcliffe, the then Art Mistress. In 1975 the school became a co-educational institution when boys were admitted to its halls.

Reunions of The Bishops' High School are momentous events that rekindle the ties of friendship, celebrate our achievements as alumni and of our alma mater, and applaud and encourage current students of the school to continue to strive for excellence in all their endeavours. The

scheduling of the weeklong celebration for the last week of the final term of the 2019 – 2020 school year is with the particular intention of encouraging interaction between alumni and the students, and will give both the opportunity to learn and grow while fostering those special ties that bind which have contributed to the unique place the school holds in Guyana.

The packed agenda will commence with a Commemoration Service on July 6 at the St. George's Cathedral. Alumni will meet and greet at the Welcome Cocktail in the evening. Our Culture Night will allow chapters to informally compete to present the best cultural show on July 8; then the energetic House competition will enliven the Sports and Fun Day on July 9. A day is set aside for social activity out of Georgetown and the reunion culminates with a Gala Dinner and Dance on July 11. Interactions with the students will be held over the course of two days during the week and importantly, there will be the meeting of the BHSOSA Chapter Presidents and General Business meeting of BHSOSA.

BHSOSA reunions have grown over the years to be spectacular affairs attracting over 1000 alumni and their families from across the world. In this regard, the anticipated homecoming of so many from the diaspora will be a major tourism boost as we showcase our scenic beauty and the many opportunities Guyana has to offer given the emergent oil and gas industry and its impact on our country and its fortunes.

The excitement is building, the anticipation palpable, as we eagerly look forward to BHSOSA Reunion 2020. The Bishops' High School continues to reach for the stars and this reunion signals another significant milestone as we celebrate the ties that bind. ■

For further information contact us:
www.bhsreunion2020.org
bhsat150@gmail.com

ALIANN POMPEY

To the track and beyond

By Avenash Ramzan

Whenever the history of athletics in Guyana is officially documented, the name Aliann Tabitha Omalara Pompey will be accorded a special place.

It won't be just for her consistent exploits on the track, but the tremendous contributions beyond the fame and fanfare that come with sporting stardom.

You see, Aliann Pompey is just not a patriotic Guyanese sprinter. She lives, breathes, thinks and adores athletics, and her passion to see her fellow countrymen and women excel on the track has morphed into a tangible expression of commitment and dedication that comes in the form of the annual Aliann Pompey Invitational (API).

Born March 9, 1978, in Georgetown, Aliann moved to the United States of America at the tender age of 14, but that in no way diminished her love for country. In fact, she proudly represented the country at four Olympic Games, carrying the Golden Arrowhead as the flagbearer on two occasions.

Apart from wearing the flag proudly on her chest at the 2000 (Sydney, Australia), 2004



Aliann Pompey being recognised for being one of Guyana's Olympians.

(Athens, Greece), 2008 (Beijing, China) and 2012 (London, England) Olympic Games, Aliann also carried the hopes of a nation at the World Championships in Athletics on five occasions (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009).

She also attended the IAAF World Indoor Championships four times, but her moment of glory came at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, when she won gold in the 400m and then followed up with a bronze at the Pan American Games a year later in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

For good measure, Aliann added a silver in the Commonwealth Games in New Dehli, India, in 2010 and silver in the Central American and Caribbean Games the same year in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Her Personal Best of 50.71s was recorded at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin. Aliann also received her Bachelor's Degree from Manhattan College in 1999, securing her future post-retirement.

Post-retirement

Since calling it quits in 2012 at the Olympic Games, Aliann has been working assiduously to provide opportunities for her compatriots back home. She reflected on the moment she decided to walk away from the track in London.

"My coach Joe Ryan was there; we debriefed at the track, right after the semi-finals. He asked if I was sure I wanted to retire. I was; I'd given all I could and I was mentally prepared to call it quits. He made a very short speech - which was unusual if you know him. I thought I was going to cry, but the tears never came. There was a bar about three minutes away and we went there and celebrated my career. People brag about buying out the bar - that night everyone in the bar bought me a drink (I didn't drink them all)," Aliann related.

"Since then I've been trying to cement my place in sports as a non-athlete. I had to work to supplement my athletic career for the duration, so I wanted to leverage that



experience to make things a bit easier for Guyanese athletes and women in general. For most of my working career, the focus has been education and sports; the target population varied, but that was the common thread."

Aliann is now a coach and recruiting coordinator at St. John's University in Queens, New York, working with sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers all year. She also lends her expertise to the National Sports Commission as a member, the Pan American Athlete's Commission and chairperson of the CANOC Athlete's Commission.

"Being involved with sports in such a way has been gratifying and each day I try to use those positions to make things easier for the current crop of athletes. It's my mission to leave things better than I've found it. The most personal way I have been able to do this is through the Aliann Pompey Invitational (API)," she explained.

Through the API hosted annually over the past four years at Guyana's Athletic Stadium at Leonora on the West Coast of Demerara, Guyana, Aliann has forged a way for a number of World and Olympic medallists to compete in Guyana, among them Kim Collins, Kirani James, Leevan Sands and Donald Scott, as well as Guyana's very own 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, the USA-based triple jumper Troy Doris.

"My ultimate hope is that one day the meet will be a Diamond League competition. I know that's some way off, but I've never been afraid of dreaming big. The competition provides a platform for athletes around the world, including our own. A number of our local athletes have won a significant portion of the prize money purse over the last four years." Aliann posited.



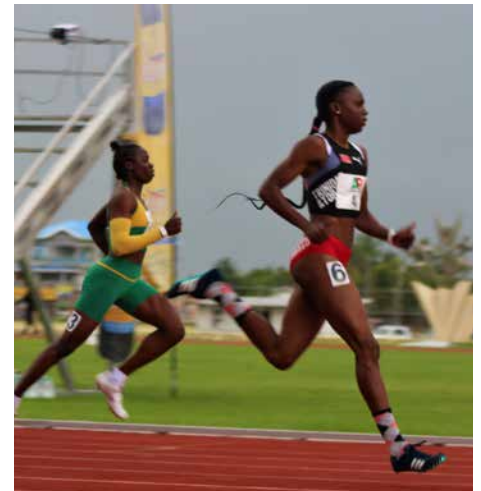
Aliann Pompey and stakeholders at the launch of the 2019 Aliann Pompey Invitational.

"We have the talent, we always have. What we've lacked was resources and opportunities. The meet looks to address that, but I'd be hesitant to say that the goal is to develop our athletes. I think looking at it that way diminishes the role and contribution of the sporting bodies whose responsibility is it to develop the athletes (AAG and GOA) as well as the coaches and the clubs who work with those athletes. I think the fans in Guyana are amazing and the feedback from the athletes have always been positive, so I think it provides a great atmosphere for the competitors."

A long-term plan for athletics in Guyana, which Aliann said was missing during her competitive time, needs to be developed if Guyanese athletes are to excel consistently.

"Athletes would do well at the Carifta and junior level, but wouldn't go past that - unless they were able to sustain themselves somehow. We're not there anymore - we send more people to World Championships and Olympics than we

have in the past. As someone who actively recruits athletes from around the world for St. John's University - it gives me great joy to say that Guyana is ranked high on the list. Right now we have two Guyanese athletes on the team in Onassha Rogers and Avon Samuels. They're both adapting well and have so far been great representatives of our country." ■





The Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*)

This species of kingfisher is the most secretive of the 5 species that is found in Guyana. It is a medium-size kingfisher and specializes in feeding in smaller streams and creeks. It avoids the open water-bodies, which the 3 common species; Ringed, Amazon and Green kingfishers prefer.

Photo: Leon Moore

Visit Guyana and share the excitement with thrills and spills as the best drivers and riders from the Caribbean and further afield challenge for supremacy when the Guyana Motor Racing and Sports Club hosts its International Race of Champions Motor Racing Meet at the South Dakota Circuit at Timehri.

It is a day of fun in the sun where you are sure to meet old friends and make new connections. Lots of food, booze, music, lovely people and the noise of the powerful machines create a wonderful atmosphere. End the day with a soak and swim in the many fresh water creeks along the Linden Soesdyke Highway on your way home.



Prawns Linguini
Java Bistro GRW 2018

Photo: Java Bistro

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.

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Sweet Sugar

A Colourful History

Experience Cultural and Heritage (Sugar) Tours in Berbice and Demerara with Guysuco

The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) are the managers and operators of the country's Sugar Industry today which dates back to some 200 years beginning with a colonial system of sugar plantations supported by slave labour and subsequently Chinese, East Indian and Portuguese indentured labour producing sugar for export to the United Kingdom.

Sugar and its by products Rum and Molasses evolved as the most important export products of Guyana's agricultural sector and has been largely responsible for the diverse ethnic population and rich culture through imported labour that is unique to the Guyana of today.

With a growing tourism industry, Guysuco with its unique, diverse and rich cultural heritage is transitioning to utilise the history and linkages of the Sugar Industry to expand into the Cultural and Heritage (Sugar) Tourism sector as part of its Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2021. The strategic goal is to "create and deliver more value from the Company's products and services" focused on its history.

Visitors can now plan to be part of our guided Sugar Estate Tours which are being offered at two (2) of our Sugar Estates being Albion/Port Mourant in Berbice and Uitvlugt in Demerara where you will have the opportunity to visit the fields and learn about the process of planting, growing and harvesting sugar cane as well as experience the Factory operations to process the sugar cane to produce and package sugar, rum and molasses.

The length of each tour can be arranged to suit the visitor's request. However, it is recommended that the shortest duration should be at least four (4) hours to ensure the visiting party gets to see all areas and

activities in the cultivation and around the factory.

ALBION/PORT MOURANT ESTATE

Albion Estate was established in the second half of the 19th century. The Estate lost its individual identity through a merger and became known as Albion/Port Mourant Estate, following the closure of the Port Mourant Factory in 1953. This amalgamation made it the largest operating Estate within the local sugar industry.

Albion/Port Mourant Estate located in Berbice, was the first to gain the distinction of 'Champion' through the Industry's Honours Roll Scheme, initiated in 1979. The Estate was also named Champion Estate of the Decade in 1986, when the industry celebrated its tenth anniversary.

There are many facilities and services available at the Albion/Port Mourant Estate which were originally reserved for the expatriate Senior Staff occupying the executive houses within the Senior Staff Compound as opposed to the Junior Staff and workers who were then allowed to enter only for work and service to the executive Senior Staff. With the

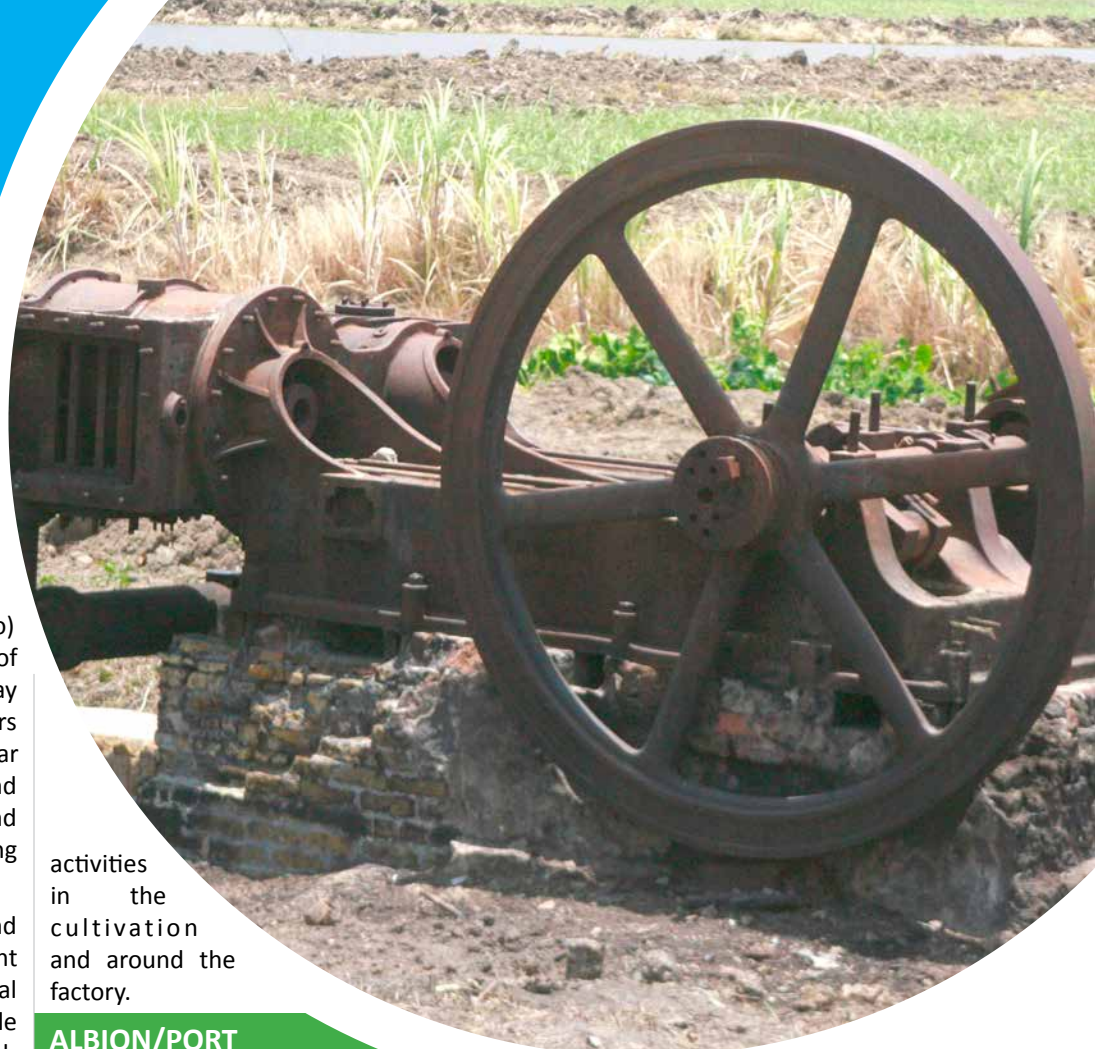
nationalization of the sugar industry in the 1970s, the expatriate Senior Staff were replaced by well-educated and trained Guyanese.

Albion Estate has a reputation for being 'different' from the other Sugar Estates in terms of its remote access and business relationships with the larger business community particularly the town of Rose Hall. In this regard, a significant supporting feature is the fact that many small villages are situated along the Estate's main access road which, due to their close proximity gives a natural feeling that the Estate is an integral part of the larger community. It appears and is seen as an 'oasis' of untypical sophisticated charm and beauty which makes it a positively different and desirable experience.

Oaks have spirally arranged leaves, with lobate margins in many species; some have serrated leaves or entire leaves with smooth margins.

Many deciduous species are marcescent, not dropping dead leaves until spring.

An Oak Tree located in the Senior Staff Compound.



← An old Steam Pump located in the cultivation



Semi mechanical loading: involves manual cutting and stacking of canes and loading into the punts by Bell Loader

In spring, a single oak tree produces both male flowers (in the form of catkins) and small female flowers. The fruit is a nut called an acorn or oak nut borne in a cup-like structure known as a cupule; each acorn contains one seed (rarely two or three) and takes 6–18 months to mature, depending on their species. The acorns and leaves contain tannic acid, which helps to guard from fungi and insects. The live oaks are distinguished for being evergreen, but are not actually a distinct group and instead are dispersed across the genus.

GUYSUCO TRAINING CENTRE

This Car is a Rolls Royce 1924 Goshawke which was presented to the B.S.E Apprentice Training Centre by Mr. R.E Napper, a former Electrical Engineer of New Amsterdam, as a Memorial to the late Mr Welfred Thomas Swinger of Port Mourant.

The Car was in a dilapidated condition and has been completely overhauled and repaired by the apprentices of the Training Centre working under the directions of Mr. J. Moulton and Mr. Punwassii.

Mr. Paltoo of Fyrish, Corentyne carried out the repairs to the wood work of the body and Bookers Garage in Georgetown did the Painting and upholstery under the guidance of Mr. F.H. Phillips.

The 2013 Entry Apprentices were responsible for replacing the upholstery and spraying of this Vehicle. Instructors



1924 Rolls Royce Goshawke

Okechi Farley and Bruce Lynde have been responsible for the maintenance work on this prized possession of Guysuco Training Centre at Port Mourant.

AN ANCIENT SUGAR MILL

This ancient Sugar Mill was located in the Essequibo region. It was first operated by the Slaves during the Eighteenth Century; the Mill was re-constructed using scrap material available in the Training Centre by Mr D. McLean, Senior Staff and Apprentices (1978-1979) with valuable assistance from the 19th Batch of Foremen and Charge Hands.



Old Sugar Mill





Oxen pulling punts



Entering the Fields of Sugar Cane Cultivation

The Uitvlugt Estate Tour in Demerara offers its own unique experience:

UITVLUGT ESTATE

The Estate is named after a Dutch Planter, Ignatius Charles Bourda Uitvlugt. During the Dutch colonial period, he was the original owner of what was then a plantation. Many of the older folks referred to the village as 'bodah', which was really meant to be Bourda: they could not have pronounced his name correctly. Plantation Ignatius Charles Bourda Uitvlugt (ICBU),

commonly known as Uitvlugt Estate, is situated on the western coast of the Demerara River, about 45 minutes away from Guyana's capital city of Georgetown.

The factory started operations in 1871. In 1921, the estate was acquired by the Demerara Company and subsequently by Jessels's. After sixty years of Factory Operation, in January 1981, Uitvlugt was merged with Leonora.

The cultivation begins at Cornelia Ida and ends at Boeraserie. The names of

various sections of the cultivation are synonymous with the names of the villages along the roadway.

The factory is located in the Uitvlugt Section of the cultivation and this area also houses the Office Buildings as well as the staff accommodation and other buildings. ■

Any visitors desirous of visiting our Estate can contact Angela Abraham-Parks for bookings: 220-2891 ext. 259 (Office) 677-1583 (Mobile)

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E-mail: lokesh@amsstlucia.com. www.amsstlucia.com



Lake Mainstay Resort is located on the shores of Lake Mainstay on the Essequibo Coast of Guyana and is 15 minutes by car driving inland from the town of Anna Regina and next to the Whyaka Amerindian Village. Alternatively, visitors can take a 20 minute flight from the Eugene F Correia Airport at Ogle, Georgetown to the Anna Regina airstrip which is located five (5) minutes away from the Resort.

Lake Mainstay Resort has developed and hosted its annual Regatta for many years and this event continues to grow attracting large crowds of locals and visitors from all across Guyana who descend on the area to witness the daredevil boat races and other exciting watersports activities at the magnificent fresh water lake located in the Mainstay / Whyaka Village on the Essequibo Coast of Guyana, South America.

Through their recent collaborations with the Ministry of Business, Department of Tourism and private sector sponsorship, the event has grown to become a popular item on Guyana's annual Calendar and perhaps the most popular on the Essequibo Coast as the organisers increase the list of activities offered to deliver good value and high energy entertainment and excitement with the many events and activities planned for their patrons on that day.

The Regatta, a family event receives in excess of 8,000 patrons including those residing on the Essequibo Coast, Region 2,

from overseas and other parts of Guyana. It is a day of fun in the sun with lots of entertainment with Motorboat racing with cash prizes in several competing categories, among them the 15hp, 40hp, 90hp and 200hp races, that are open to both males and females. Other races include the 200-metre male and female canoe races and the 200m open swimming race. For the children, activities include the Fun Park, Merry Go Round, Trampoline & Bouncing Castle.

Following the regatta races, local and Caribbean musical artistes take centre stage. So arrive early to secure a vantage spot to enjoy the many racing events all day long, the local cuisine, drinks and stay late till the party is done!

Before you visit, make sure to confirm your reservations for overnight accommodations or a longer stay at the Lake Mainstay Resort or just hop on over for an early breakfast



LAKE MAINSTAY REGATTA

***For an Exciting Day
of Fun in the Sun***

before leaving. Have a few days to spare, extend your stay to Discover the Essequibo; Lower and Upper Pomeroon from the communities in tourism, the Charity Market, the Great Lakes and so much more. ■



DECEMBER 2020

Photo: Caribbean National Weekly



The Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*)

this is an Iconic species of the Guiana Shield. A spectacular bird the size of an Amazona species parrot, can be considered as one of the 'Birds of Paradise' of the northern part of South America. This bird gets its name through its dependence on huge boulders and rocky caves for breeding. The brilliantly colored males preforms their dances and posturing at a Leks, whereby the spectating females selects her 'man'. This species is different in coloration from the Andean or Peruvian Cock-of-the-Rock; the male is red instead of orange, with black wings. Both species feed strictly on fruits.

Photo: Leon Moore

Fruit cake is as traditional as it gets in Guyana and the Caribbean. Most commonly known as "black cake" because of its most obvious color when baked. Black cake is most appreciated by locals because of the rum soaked fruit flavour. Fruits are soaked for at least 6 months to 1 year before being used. The long maceration allows for the alcohol to further break down the fruits and develop the flavor.



Grilled Red Snapper Java Bistro GRW 2018

Photo: Java Bistro

Guyana Restaurant Week (GRW) is hosted annually in June and November when participating Hotels and Restaurants offer Special Food and Beverage Menus at discounted prices.



There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays...

Keeps Ringing in My Ears!

Christmas each year and leading into the New Year is special for us near or far. It matters not our creed, colour, class or religious background. For those unable to journey south to Guyana, there will always be that relative making that trek in the other direction laden with gifts - some black cake, fruit cake, cassareep, some pepperpot, a few cakes of cassava bread, a few bottles rum, achar and some pepper sauce. Homesickness temporarily abated.

Tis' season of merriment is months of preparations in the making, commencing early August, leading into the Hindu celebration of Diwali and thereafter gains momentum heading into the month of December.

It is the setting of the fruits for the black cake, the potato fly, the cleaning and the budget to ensure it is the best Christmas ever- from the gifts for the children, the cleaning and repainting of the house, the purchasing of window curtains, getting the

right meats, the food preparations and not forgetting the outfits for parties and church on Christmas Eve and Old Year's Night. Be prepared to be a part of the gridlock as thousands visit the Malls and city center on the pilgrimage to the banks and stores to do their Christmas shopping.

All the excitement aside, it is also a special time for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Story of his birth shared with the children. Christmas in Guyana is about family, food and traditions and long lines at the airports awaiting the arrival of loved ones not seen in many years.

Guyanese traditionally make the annual trek back home for Christmas and the New Year in their thousands. All flights from all destinations heading to Guyana are solidly booked long in advance. Many Guyanese are now returning to Guyana for the first time in decades and their excitement is highly visible as they await the clearing through Customs to be met in the

welcoming arms and long hugs (and tears) of relatives they have not seen in decades in some cases.

On Boxing Day, Guyanese will visit friends and relatives bearing gifts, and cake and hugs in the hope of sampling a favourite delicacy sure to be available at that home. It is the time to sample, boast and outshine, claim the prize for the wickedest (best made) ginger beer, wines (made with fermented fruits) and mauby (a local bark). Oh yes we love our Christmas, and hope that you will too.

If you're lucky, you will be invited to a few of the numerous Staff Parties that are hosted during the festive season and be sure to make early reservations for Dinner and the Old Year's Night parties as Guyanese will be out in their numbers to welcome 2020. We sure hope that you will have an enjoyable visit to Guyana and wishing you a great 2020. ■



ABOUT GUYANA

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Guyana Police Force (GPF)	911,564, 225-6411
GPF Emergency Response Unit	225-6411(24hrs), 226-4585
GPF Impact Patrol	225-2317, 227-4064-5
CID Headquarters	225-3650, 225-8196, 226-6978
Police Headquarters, Eve Leary	226-2487, 226-2488, 227-4656
Traffic Headquarters, Eve Leary	227-2272, 226-9431, 227-2349
Operations, Brickdam Police Station	227-1270, 227-1149
Guyana Fire Service	912, 226-2411-13
Ambulance Service	913

Civil Defence Commission - Head Office Georgetown

Telephone	226 1117, 226 1114, 226 8815, 225 5847
Email	cdcinfoy@gmail.com
Radio Call Sign	8RG-79
Fax	225 0468

Civil Defence Commission - Timehri, East Bank Demerara

Telephone	261 2125, 261 2130, 261 2449
Radio Call Sign	8RG-479

National Emergency Monitoring System (NEMS)

CDC Head Office Georgetown

(Emergency Operations Centre - 24 hrs)

Telephone	226 1117, 226 1114
Emergency Cellular Telephone (24 hrs)	600 7500, 623 1700
Email	cadnems@gmail.com

Radio Call Sign	8RG-79
WhatsApp	600 7500

Civil Defence Commission - (Georgetown and Timehri)

Radio Frequencies	7.4535, 5.2050, 4.5550, 7.850, 14.415
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GEOGRAPHY

Guyana is the third-smallest sovereign state on mainland South America after Uruguay and Suriname. It covers a total area of 214,970 sq.km. and is divided into four geographical regions of the country- the low coastal plains, the hilly sand and clay, interior savannahs, and forested highland regions. Approximately 75% of the landmass is still intact forest, and 2.5% is cultivated. The coastline is 1 metre to 1.5 metres below sea level at high tide necessitating elaborate systems of drainage canals.

The most valuable mineral deposits are bauxite, gold, and diamonds. The main rivers are the Demerara, Berbice, Corentyne and Essequibo.

The Low Coastal Plain is narrow and consist mainly of clay and is approximately 1 metre to 1.5 metres below sea level. It comprises approximately 6% of the country's area and is the location where most of the administrative, agricultural, industrial and residential activities are concentrated.

The coastal locations are primarily and predominantly agricultural-based, business support services and nature based tourism while



interior locations are renowned for eco-tourism and extractive commercial industries such as gold, diamonds, manganese and timber and cattle rearing.

The low coastal plain is home to the capital city, Georgetown. Its wards and streets with a variety of names which reflect the influence of the Dutch, French and English who administered the town at different periods of history that enthralls world travellers Georgetown offers experiential travellers a combination of offerings- heritage, gastronomy, nature and culture.

The Hilly Sand and Clay Region is found just after the coastal belt, most of it is covered with vegetation, the region is known for its reserves in bauxite. This area takes up about 25% of the total area of the country and is sparsely populated, the major population centre is Linden a town of 39,992 persons (Bureau of Statistics, Census 2012).

The Interior Savannahs account for almost 6% of the country's area and is vegetated mostly by grasses, scrub and low trees. The population there is largely made up of the Indigenous peoples living mostly in remote villages, with Lethem being the only town. Interior Savannahs is home to the Macushi, Patamonas, Wai Wai and Wapishianas Peoples. The Rupununi region caters towards ecotourists. It is designated a "protected area" by the government of Guyana, housing some 80% of the mammals and 60% of the bird life found in Guyana's tropical forests and savannahs. Several Lodges welcome guests, for example Dadanawa Ranch or Karanambu ranch.

The Rupununi is accessible by small aircraft and helicopter flights regularly available from Guyana's capital Georgetown on the Atlantic coast. In the dry season it is accessible by an unpaved "all-weather" road using trucks or 4x4 vehicles. It takes about 48 hours

TRAVEL

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All visitors to Guyana are required to have a valid passport to enter and depart Guyana.

All visitors to Guyana should ensure that their passports have at least six months of remaining validity. Those arriving by air require an onward plane ticket.

of tough driving. Heavy flooding makes this drive unpredictable and dangerous in the rainy season during the months of April to June. The Forested highlands make up for approximately 63% of the country's landmass. There are four major mountain ranges in this region, Kanuku, Pakaraima, Mintaka and Acarai. This region along with the savannahs are Pre-Cambrian landforms which are very old. The soils under the forests are heavily weathered laterite and are covered by heavy forest cover.

CLIMATE

Guyana is a tropical destination that is pleasant and warm for most of the year, humid, moderated by northeast trade winds; two rainy seasons (May to June, November to January). Mean temperature of 27°C and the average temperature range from 24°C to 31°C. Rainfall is approximately 2,300mm a year in Georgetown.

CLOTHING

Lightweight, casual clothing may be worn throughout the year. However, longs are recommended for the evening along with mosquito repellent containing deet, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, as well as a variety of plant oils, such as cedar, citronella, geraniol, lemongrass, and rosemary to safeguard against mosquito bites.

HEALTH

There is a risk of malaria exists in certain parts of the interior however the likelihood is very low in tourism zones. Consult your doctor for the required precautions if you intend to travel there. Georgetown and coastal areas are Malaria-Free. Municipal Hospitals and Health Care Centres exist within rural and outer lying communities with medivac services available in cases of emergency. For further information, contact the Ministry of Health on Telephone Numbers: (592) 226-7338 or (592) 226-1366.

INTERNET

For most customers, internet service is available nationally through independent providers. Internet Service is also available in most hotels and at many internet cafés established across the country. Wi-fi access is available at hotels and restaurants for patrons using their laptops.

Keep up to date through the four daily newspapers; Kaieteur News, Stabroek News, Guyana Times Newspaper and the national paper; The Guyana Chronicle Newspaper. There are a variety of locally owned television stations across Guyana, seventeen in total; sixteen (16) privately owned radio station and one (1) government operated radio station.

PLACES TO WORSHIP

The predominant religious groups are Christians, Hindus and Muslims. Each is well represented with its own churches, temples, mosques respectively. They are found country- wide where the major landmarks featuring traditional architecture may be seen.

POPULATION

Guyana's population is approximately 746,955 (Census 2012) of whom 90% live along the coastal strip and banks of major rivers.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visa Exempt Nationals

The maximum duration of stay any visitor will be granted by Guyana Immigration, should not exceed thirty days. Visas are necessary for all visitors except nationals of the following countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Commonwealth Countries and United States of America.

Please see link for complete listing: <http://www.minfor.gov.gy/index.php/consular-services/travel/countries-whose-nationals-do-not-require-visas-to-enter-guyana>

Non - Exempt Nationals

All visitors to Guyana who require a visa for travel to Guyana should contact the Guyana Foreign Office nearest to you or send an email to the Head of Immigration, Guyana: moccarolprimo@gmail.com prior to making travel arrangements Telephone numbers +592 226-2221, 223-7867 or 223-5210.

1. Applicants are encouraged to apply three (3) weeks to one (1) month in advance of travel.
2. The process period is one (1) week however this varies depending upon the nature of the case.
3. A letter notifying the applicant of the visa being granted will be emailed. Visitors must have in their possession the original/ or copy of the document stating the visa has been granted to show to Immigration upon arrival at Cheddi Jagan International Airport -Timehri.
4. Payment for the visa could be made to the Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services or upon arrival at Cheddi Jagan International Airport – Timehri.



EXTENDING YOUR STAY

Visitors who wish to extend their stay, are visiting Guyana, for purposes other than tourism, or are on work permits must contact the Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services in advance of the date the visitor is expected to depart Guyana

For further information and guidance, visitors are encouraged to contact the Head of Immigration Support Service, Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services located at Bedford House, Shivnarine Chanderpaul Drive, Bourda, Georgetown, Guyana or via mailto: ministryofcitizenship.gy@gmail.com or on Tel: (592) 226-2221, 223-7867

The Central Office of Immigration, located on Camp Street, Georgetown should also note the extension in the visitor's passport at the time of it being granted.

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL CARRIERS

Guyana now has four points of entry for visitors arriving into the destination; via Guyana- Brazil Road Crossing, Guyana – Suriname River Crossing and via our two (2) international airports.

The two international (2) airports are The Cheddi Jagan International- Timehri and The Eugene F. Correia International Airport- Ogle, both of which facilitate flights from and travelling to regional and international destinations.

The main airport named after the late President Dr. Cheddi Jagan, The Cheddi Jagan International - Timehri is located 25 miles south of Georgetown at Timehri. Flights from Europe are routed through Antigua, Barbados or Trinidad. There are also direct flights from Miami, New York, Toronto and Suriname.

Effective September 2009, Eugene F. Correia was declared an International Port of Entry to Guyana. The airport will serve international, regional and domestic destinations with aircraft in the class of Dash 8, 300's. Currently Eugene F. Correia International facilitates regional transfers between Guyana and Suriname via Trans Guyana Airways and Air Services Ltd. Transfers are provided by LIAT between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and Barbados respectively.

The Eugene F. Correia International Airport, formally known as Ogle International Airport, is located on the Atlantic Ocean Coast of Guyana, approximately 4 miles east of the capital, Georgetown, in the Demerara-Mahaica region of Guyana.

The Eugene F. Correia International serves a dual purpose, as an international airport and as the air terminal for domestic flights travelling to and arriving from different locations across the country. The Airport receives flights connecting from Eastern Caribbean, Barbados, Suriname and Trinidad to Guyana.

DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE

Air transportation is readily available for traveling to several parts of the hinterland, whether for business or for pleasure. Several local airlines depart from Eugene F. Correia International Airport, Ogle East Coast Demerara and from Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri.

Information on their availability and movement is easily obtainable from the offices of the Domestic carriers and from tour operators.

Private charter companies operate flight from the Eugene F. Correia International Airport to interior locations. (For further information, please see list of DOMESTIC OPERATORS listed under our TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS to arrange charter or regular service transfers to interior locations.)

ROAD TRANSPORTATION

DRIVING IN GUYANA

Traffic drives on the left. Seat belts are necessary by Law. If travelling to Guyana and wish to rent a vehicle during your stay, please enquire with the Customs Officer at the Airport, upon arrival into Guyana. The permit will immediately be issued provided the visitor has his/her driver's licence on their person. The permit is issued free of charge.

TRAVEL VIA TAXIS FROM THE CHEDDI JAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT-TIMEHRI

Visitors should ONLY use the official taxi services registered to operate at CJIA. They can be identified by their uniforms (Crème Shirt-Jackets, Black Pants and ID Badges. Fares are listed at the Airport and are fixed). Fares charged from Airport to Georgetown range between US\$25.00 and US\$30.00.

TRAVEL VIA TAXIS FROM THE EUGENE F. CORREIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT- OGLE

Incoming travellers in need of transportation can use Official Ogle Airport taxis located in the compound. Taxis are available at the airport & fares usually range from GYD \$1,000 (USD\$5.) to GYD \$2,000 (USD\$10.) depending on drop off destination. Taxi fares for destinations around Georgetown range from GYD \$500 to GYD \$600.

The only other means of public transportation consists of minibus vehicles that seat 15 persons. Minibus fares range from GYD \$80 to GYD \$100, depending on destination.

TAXI AND BUSES

Georgetown is well served with taxis, operating throughout the city and to and from other urban centres.

Before embarking, do enquire of the rates for travel to destination of interest. Use only recognized yellow taxis or taxis bearing the logos of respective taxi services. Alternatively, do seek the guidance of the accommodation's front desk staff to assist in your selection of service providers, possibly those that are already contracted to the facility.

There are also ultra –cheap privately owned mini buses operating in allocated zones- around the city, along the coast, to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and Linden. This arrangement extends to all mini bus routes throughout the country. Please check and confirm those fares before embarking on your journey.

Travel around Georgetown by Bus: Short stops within the limits of the city are approximately GY\$120.00 and longer stops G\$160.00. Travelling by taxi for short distances: approximately GY\$300-\$GY400 longer drops of GY\$500.00 and more as these prices will vary from location to location. Rented cars are also available.

RIVER BOATS & FERRIES

With the opening of the Berbice Bridge between East and West Berbice, travelling time is lessened for commuters from Georgetown to Berbice and onward travel to Suriname via the crossing at Moleson Creek.

A toll is charged at the Berbice Bridge based on vehicle's capacity. Passengers travelling from Moleson Creek to Nickerie, Suriname using the Canawaima Ferry will be charged a fee of US\$15.00 per adult passenger one way and US\$ 20 return. Return fare for children (3ys - 12yrs) will be US\$10.00 one way and US\$15:00 return

Commuters to West Demerara have a choice of road transport via the Demerara Harbour Bridge (Be sure to check the bridge opening schedule <http://www.harbourbridge.gov.gy/schedule.html>) or by water taxis from the Stabroek Stelling to Vreed-en-Hoop, which is obliquely opposite each other.

The highway, which begins on the West Coast of Demerara, is heavily trafficked since it provides a link to Parika on the East Bank of Essequibo River that has become an important centre of economic activity in the Essequibo region.

TRAVEL TO GUYANA'S INTERIOR

Travel arrangements may be made with local busing service, jeeps, chartered planes and speedboats.

A guide is advisable for longer distance travel to interior locations. Speed boats operators can be hired to take passengers to Bartica, Supenaam on the Essequibo Coast among other locations. Travel to and from some of these location can be completed in a single day. Others will require overnight-stay based on travel time and distance from Parika.

CAMBIO

These are licensed currency exchange houses. Most cambios are open from 08:00hrs to 17:00hrs, and on Saturdays from 08:00hrs to 12:00hrs, sometimes to 14:00hrs. Do keep your CAMBIO receipts, you will need to produce them in order to change Guyanese Dollars on departure.

MONEY & BUSINESS GUIDE

ATM machines are accessible to persons with ATM Debit Cards. Persons in possession of international CIRRUS Credit Cards that are Master Card and Visa Card may utilise the ATMs at local banks for cash advances when in Guyana.

BANKING HOURS

Banks are open between 08:00hrs and 14: 00 hrs. from Monday to Thursday and 08:00hrs and 14: 30hrs on Friday.

BUSINESS ATTIRE

Men wear long or short sleeved shirts, a Jacket is optional. Shirt and tie attire is common in most offices. Females are expected to dress conservatively.

MONEY

CREDIT CARDS

Resorts, hotels, gift shops, restaurants and tour operators generally accept major credits cards and traveller's cheques for payment from guests.

International VISA, Master Card, Maestro and Cirrus credit and debit cards can be used to obtain cash from local banks during banking hours. A similar service is also available at the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI) at their branches and at select ATM locations.

CURRENCY

The Guyana Dollar is the only legal tender accepted in this country. It is a floating currency and the value fluctuates in accordance with the changes in the value of the US\$. Visitors may exchange their currencies at banks, cambios and most hotels. The rate of the dollar fluctuates and the exchange is approximately US\$1 to GY\$210.

TAXES

DEPARTURE TAX

As of February 1, 2017, the Departure Tax was no longer collected at the airports but included into the cost of the ticket.

Outbound international travellers departing via Eugene F. Correia International Airport are required to pay a Departure Tax is GYD \$3,000 that is included in the cost of the ticket.

With effect from April 1, 2019, the Cheddi Jagan International Airport announced an increase in its airport security fees and the introduction of an airport passenger's service charge. These new fees/charges will cost travellers US\$35 for a round trip. Departing travellers will be required to pay US\$17 while those arriving will pay US\$15, payable at the prevailing foreign exchange rate. All airport-related charges payable at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) have now been included in the ticket prices effective May 11, 2019.

INFORMATIVE SITES ON GUYANA

Travel and Tourism:

Guyana Tourism Authority-

Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana-

Explore Guyana Magazine -

Iwokrama International Centre-

Protected Areas Commission-

<https://www.facebook.com/Protected-Areas-Commission>

<http://www.guyana-tourism.com>

<http://www.thag.co>

<http://www.exploreGuyana.org/>

<http://iwokrama.org/>

<http://nre.gov.gy/category/protected-areas-commission/>

INVESTING IN GUYANA:

Guyana Office for Investment-

Guyana Lands & Survey-

Private Sector Commission-

Georgetown Chambers of Commerce-

Guyana Manufacturer's and Services Association of Guyana-

<http://goinvest.gov.gy/>

<http://www.lands.gov.gy/>

<http://psc.org.gy/>

<http://gccci.gy/>

<http://gmsagy.org/>

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (Conservation):

Conservation International Guyana –

World Wildlife Fund (Guyana) -

Iwokrama International Centre-

National Trust of Guyana

<http://www.conservation.org/>

<http://www.wwfGuyanas.org/>

<http://iwokrama.org/>

<http://nationaltrust.gov.gy/>



MONEY

CREDIT CARDS

Resorts, hotels, gift shops, restaurants and tour operators generally accept major credits cards and traveller's cheques for payment from guests.

International VISA, Master Card, Maestro and Cirrus credit and debit cards can be used to obtain cash from Scotiabank Branches during banking hours or at ABMs. A similar service is also available at the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI) at their branches and at select ATM locations.

VALUED ADDED TAX

Valued Added Tax (VAT) is charged to a value of 14% on most items save those that are 0-Rated or VAT exempt.

ECONOMY

Guyana is a middle-income country and home to fertile agricultural lands and abundant natural resources. Among its leading exports are gold, bauxite, sugar, rice, extensive timber operations and a range of other products, from coffee to fish and fruits, and fresh vegetables well –respected brands of rum. Gold, bauxite and diamonds are mined.

Fueled by mega oil discoveries and production set to hit close to 1 million barrels per day by the mid-2020s, Guyana is currently listed at number 1 among the 5 fastest growing economies in the world. Tourism is a growing sector, considered today the second largest export sector after gold. Export refers to money going from a foreign consumer to a domestic business. Guyana's economy depends on commodity exports, which are vulnerable due to fluctuations in commodity production and pricing. Tourism is recognised globally as an export sector that is non-extractive in nature.

BUSINESS CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development

12 Chapel Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice • Tel: 333 3324

Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry

157 Waterloo St, Georgetown • Tel: 225 7170, 226, 4603,
Fax: (592) 227 0725 • P.O. Box # 10730
Email: goolsarrancagi@gol.net.gy, ramchancagi@gol.net.gy
Website: <http://www.cagi.org.gy/>

Forest Products Association of Guyana

157 Waterloo St. Georgetown, Tel: (592) 226 9848 • 226 2821
Fax: (592) 226 2832 Email: fpasect@guyana.net.gy

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

156 Waterloo St, Georgetown • Tel: 225 5846
Email: gcccommerce2009@gmail.com
Website: <http://gcci.gy/>

GO-INVEST (Guyana Office for Investment)

190 Camp & Church Streets, Georgetown
Tel: 225 0658 • 227 0653 • Fax: 225 0655
E-mail: goinvest@goinvest.gov.gy
Website: <http://goinvest.gov.gy/>

Guyana Manufacturers & Services Association

157 Waterloo Street, Georgetown • Tel: 223 7405/6
Email: gmsaguyanalt@gmail.com • <http://gmsagy.org/>

Guyana Rice Millers' and Exporters'

Development Association

• Tel: 227 3344, 227 3350

Guyana Rice Producers' Association

C/o Crane, West Coast Demerara •
Tel: 254 2012, 254 2013

Guyana Tourism Authority

National Exhibition Centre, Sophia, Georgetown
Tel: 219 0094-6 • Fax: 219 0093
Email: info@guyana-tourism.com
Website: www.guyana-tourism.com

Institute of Private Enterprise Development

253 South Road, Bourda, Georgetown • Tel: 225 8949
• Email: iped@ipedgy.com • Website: <http://www.ipedgy.com/>

Linden Chamber of Industry and Commerce

84 Riverside Drive, Watooka, Linden • Tel: 444 2901

Ministry of Business (with responsibility for Tourism)

Address: 229 South Road, Lacytown, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: +592 226 2505, Fax: +592 225 4310
Hotlines: Small Business & Consumer Affairs: 225 0665,
Commerce: 225-2280; 225-6011, Licensing: 227-2718,
GO-INVEST: 225 0651/ 227 0653
Email: info@minbusiness.gov.gy

Ministry of Public Communications

205 Camp Street (Colgrain House),
North Cummingsburg, Georgetown
Tel: 225-0666 • 226-0079

CARICOM - The Caribbean Community Secretariat

Turkeyen East Coast Demerara
Tel: (592) 222 0001-75 • Fax: (592) 222 0172
Email: piu@caricom.org, caricompuplicinfo@gmail.com

Private Sector Commission

Umbrella organization for more private
sector business and employer's organizations.
More major companies are also members.
157 Waterloo St, Georgetown
Tel: 225 0977 • Fax: 225 0978
E-mail: office@psc.org.gy • Website: <http://psc.org.gy/>

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG)

157 Waterloo St, Georgetown
Tel: 225 0807 • Fax: 225 0817
E-mail: thag.secretariat@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.thag.gy>

ACCOMMODATIONS Georgetown & Environs

All of these properties are members of the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana, and offer the quality service we know will meet your satisfaction.



TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA
Private Sector Commission Building, 157 Waterloo Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown

The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana is a private sector-led organization dedicated to lobbying, marketing and advocating for sustainable tourism development by fostering professionalism and quality service, providing benefits to members, representing membership interests and collaborating with Government to influence tourism policies.

Contact us:

Tel: 592 225 0807, 225-0817 Email: thag.secretariat@gmail.com

Website: www.thag.co

Explore Guyana Magazine: www.exploreGuyana.org

Facebook: Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana

AMENITIES ICONS KEY

Wifi Zone	Hair Dryer	No Smoking	Dining	Money Exchange	Cycling
Email Access	Credit Cards	Television	Air Conditioning	Gym	Fishing
Wheel Chair Access	Coffee Maker	Laundromat	Bar	Swimming Pool	Transportation
Airport Shuttles	24 Hr. Security	Room Service	Cafe	Iron	Hiking
Secure Storage	Casino	Bird Watching	Sauna Masseuse	Water Slide	Smoking

1. Aracari Hotel



157-159 Plantation Versailles,
West Bank Demerara.
Tel: 592 264-2947 Ext 251
(1 Mile North of the Harbour Bridge, WBD)
Email: info@aracariresort.com
Website: www.aracariresort.com



2. Cara Lodge



294 Quamina Street, P.O. Box 10833
Georgetown
Tel: 592-225-5301-5
Fax: 592-225-5310
Email: caralodge@carahotels.com
Website: www.carahotels.com



Caribbean Inn Inc



86 Agriculture Road, Mon Repos,
East Coast Demerara, Guyana
Tel: 592 220-1855, 220-4812,
592-220-4814, 220-4840, 220-4849
Email: caribbeaninninc@gmail.com
Website: <https://caribbeaninn.gy/>



Demico Hotel



Address: Croal Street, Georgetown
Tel: 592-225-3297 / 592-225-6322
Fax: 592-226-7851
Website: <http://www.banksdih.com/>



Grand Coastal Hotel



1 & 2 Area "M" Plantation, Le Ressouvenir,
East Coast Demerara
Tel: 592-220-1091
Fax: 592-220-1498
Email: reservations@grandcoastal.com
Website: www.grandcoastal.com



Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown



Block Alpha, Battery Road, Kingston
Tel: 592-231-2480, 231-1870 Fax: 592-231-2481
Email: mhrs.geomc.reservations@marriotthotels.com
Website: www.marriott.com/geomc
Facebook: [guyanamarriotthotelgeorgetown](https://www.facebook.com/guyanamarriotthotelgeorgetown)
Instagram: [guyanamarriott](https://www.instagram.com/guyanamarriott)



Herdmanston Lodge



Lamaha & Peter Rose Streets,
Queenstown, Georgetown
Tel: 592 225-0808(Ext. 100), 592 618-0808(Whatsapp)
Email: guestcare@hl.gy
Website: www.hl.gy
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Herdmanston/>



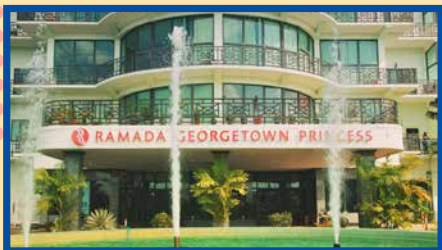
KING's Hotel & Residences



176 Middle & Waterloo Streets
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-226-1684-7
Email: reservations@kingshotel.gy
Website: www.kingshotel.gy



Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel



Track 'BS' Block 'Z' Plantation, Providence,
East Bank Demerara, Guyana, South America.

Tel: 592 265-7001, 265-7003-4,

592 265-7006-10, 265-7013, 265-7021-22

Email: sales@ramadageorgetown.com

Website: www.ramadageorgetown.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ramada.georgetown



7. Roraima Duke Lodge



94-95 Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown

Tel: 592 231 7220, 227 2213

Fax: 592 227 3816

Email: roramadukelodge@gmail.com

Website: www.roraimaairways.com



8. Roraima Residence Inn



R8 Eping Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown

Tel: 592-225-9648-52

Fax: 592-225-9646

Email: rriops@gmail.com

Website: www.roraimaairways.com



9. Windjammer International Cuisine & Comfort Inn.



27 Queen Street, Kitty, Georgetown, Guyana

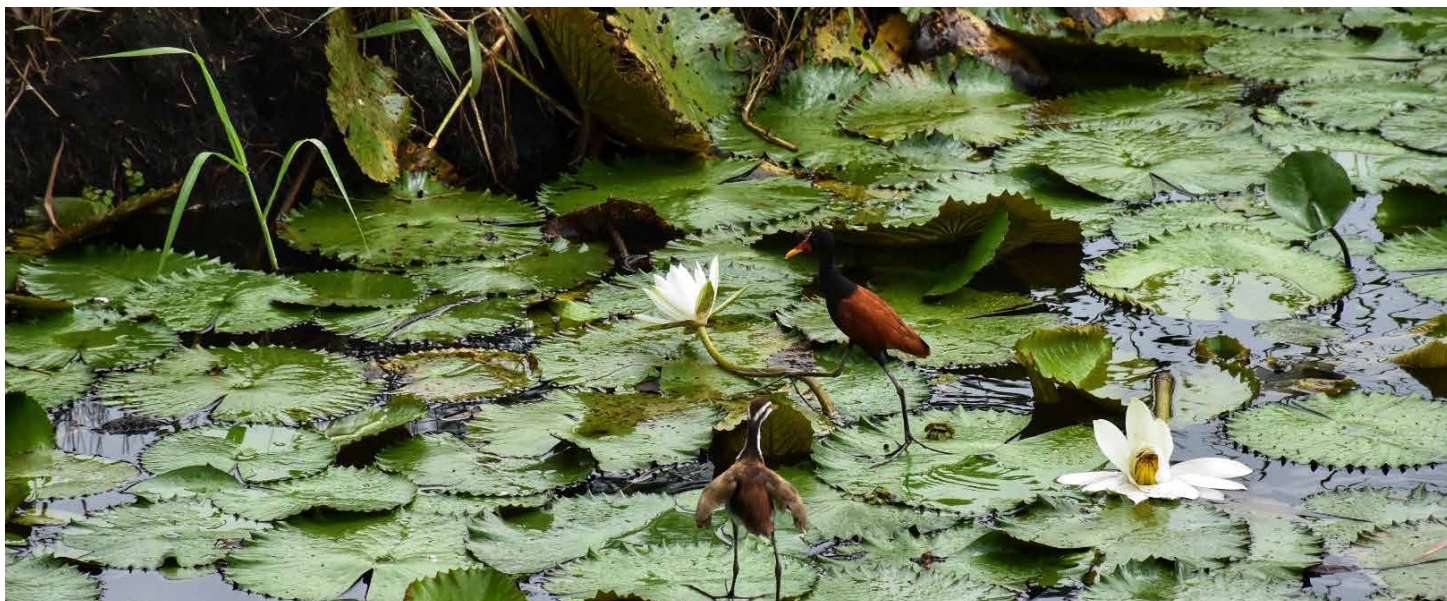
Tel: 592-227-7478, 226-3407, 231-7044

Email: windjammergy@gmail.com

Website: www.windjammer-gy.com

Facebook: WindjammerGy

Instagram: [windjammer_gy](https://www.instagram.com/windjammer_gy)



Nature Resorts, Eco-Lodges & Attractions

Adel's Rainforest Resort



Akawini Creek, Pomeroon River,
Essequibo, Guyana

Tel: 592 674-2398

International Tel: 301-938-5513

Email: pomeroon34@gmail.com

Website: www.adelresort.com



Adventure Guianas Hotel Toucana & Courtyard



3 Tabatinga Drive,
Lethem, Rupununi,
Guyana, South America.

Georgetown Tel: 592-227-4713, 673-0039, 621-7766

Email: adventreguianas@gmail.com

Website: www.adventureguianas.com



Arrowpoint Nature Resort



Kamuni Creek

Office: 94-95 Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown

Tel: 592-231-7220, 227-2213 Fax: 592-225-9646

Georgetown: Tel 225-9647-8 Fax: 592-225-9646

Email: tours.roraimaairways@gmail.com

Website: www.roraimaairways.com



Atta Rainforest Lodge (CATS)



C/o Wilderness Explorers

141 Fourth Street, Campbellville, Georgetown

Tel: 592-227-7698 Fax: 592-226-2085

Email: info@iwokramacanopywalkway.com

Website: www.iwokramacanopywalkway.com

Skype: iwokramacanopywalkway



Baganara Island Resort



Essequibo River, Guyana, South America

Head Office: Eugene F. Correia International Airport
Ogle, East Coast Demerara

Tel: 592 222 2525, 222 8053, 222 0264 Fax: 222-6117

Email: bookbaganara@baganara.net

Website: www.baganara.net

Facebook: baganaraaislandresort



Caiman House Field Station and Lodge



Yupukari Village

Tel: 592-772-9291

Email: Delene Lawrence -

rli.delenelawrence19@gmail.com

Ashley Holland ashleypholland@gmail.com

Website: www.rupununi learners.com



Hurakabra River Resort



Essequibo River
Georgetown Office: 168 Century Palm Gardens,
Durban Backlands, Lodge
Tel: 592-225-3557, 226-0240
Mobile: 592-624-8694, 640-4497
Fax: 592-226- 0240
Email: gemmadhoo@gmail.com
Website: www.hurakabra.com
Facebook: Hurakabra River Resort



Iwokrama River Lodge



Office: 77 High Street, Kingston, G/town, Guyana, S. A.
Facility Location: Kurupukari, Potaro-Siparuni, Region 8
Phone: 592 225 1504, 225 1181
E-mail: tourism@iwokrama.org
Websites: www.iwokrama.org
www.iwokramariverlodge.org, www.iwokrama.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/iwokramatourism
www.facebook.com/iwokramainternationalcentre
Instagram: lwokrama



Jubilee Resort



Dakara Creek, Timehri
Office: 106 –107 Lamaha & Carmichael Street, G/town
Tel: 592-225-8915, 623-7313
Fax: 592-226- 5340
Email: jubileeresortinc@gmail.com
Website: www.jubileeresort.com



Karanambu Lodge Inc.



Karanambu, North Rupununi, Guyana
Lodge Cell Phone: 592 624 2111
Email: karanambulodgegy@gmail.com
Website: www.karanambutrustandlodge.org



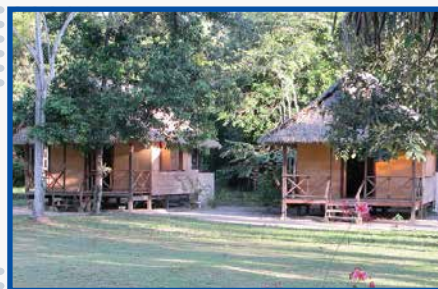
Piraiba Lodge



Upper Essequibo River, Guyana, South America,
Georgetown Tel: 227-4713-673-0039, 621-7766
Email: adventureguianas@gmail.com
Website: www.adventureguianas.com



Rewa Eco Lodge / Rewa



Contact information for reservation:
Rovin Alvin, Levi Edwards, Lorindo Honorio,
Dicky Alvin, Ceona Mack, Victor Captain
Email: ecolodgerewa@gmail.com
Website: www.ecolodgerewa.com



Rock View Lodge



Annai, North Rupununi, Region 9
Tel: 592 645 9675(Colin), 592 614 1060
Email: info@rockviewlodge.com,
colin@rockviewlodge.com
Website: www.rockviewlodge.com



Sloth Island Nature Resort



Georgetown Address:
91 Middle Street, Georgetown
Tel: 592-223-7921, 678-4969, 610-7597,
592 610-2408, 612-5493
Island address: Essequibo River
Email: slothisland@yahoo.com
Website: slothisland.com
Facebook: Sloth Island Nature Resort



Surama Eco-Lodge, Surama



Surama Village
North Rupununi, Region #9, Guyana
Email: info@suramaecolodge.com
Website: www.suramaecolodge.com
Tel: 592 653 7160



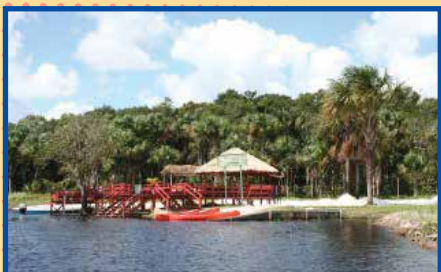
Teperu Resort & Conference Centre



Right Bank of the Mazaruni River
Tel: 592 226 5513, 226 5514
Email: bkinc@bkinc.biz
Website: www.bkincgy.com



Timberhead Eco Resort



Office Address: 10 Providence – East Bank Demerara (GEB Building)
Tel: 592 233 5108, 233 5023 Fax: 592 233 6608
Email: timberhead@solutions2000.net
Website: www.timberheadguyana.com



Waikin Ranch



Upper Takatu & Ireng Rivers,
Pirara West, Rupununi, Guyana
At Waikin Ranch: Contact Don - 592 680 8491,
Dante - 592 600 2888
Email: waikin.ranch.bullseye@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/bullseye2011/



TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES LIMITED

91-92 Avenue of the Republic & Regent Street,
Georgetown
Tel: 592-227-4271, 227-1661 Fax: 592-225-7437
Call Centre: 1-800-744- 2225
Email: mail@caribbean-airlines.com
Website: www.caribbean-airlines.com

AIR SERVICES, DOMESTIC CHARTERS AND CARGO

AIR SERVICES LTD

Eugene F. Correia International Airport
Ogle, East Coast Demerara
Tel: 592-222-1234, 222-2993 Fax: 592-222-6739
Email: res@aslgy.com
Website: www.aslgy.com

JAGS AVIATION

Address: GUYSUO Hanger, Ogle International Airport,
East Coast Demerara, Guyana, South America
Tel: (592) 222-2460-1
Email: www.bkair.biz
Website: www.bkincgy.com

RORAIMA AIRWAYS CHARTERS

Eugene F. Correia International Airport
Ogle, East Coast Demerara
Tel: 592-222-2337, 222-4032 Fax: 592-222-4033
Email: raiflightops.geo@gmail.com,
ral@roraimairways.com
Website: www.roraimairways.com

TRANS GUYANA AIRWAYS

Eugene F. Correia International Airport
Ogle, East Coast Demerara
Tel: 592 222 2525 222 3013
Fax: 592 222 6117
Email: commercial1@transguyana.net
Website: www.transguyana.net
Facebook: transguyanaairways

CASINOS

PRINCESS CASINO GUYANA

Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel
Tract 'BS' Block 'Z' Plantation, Providence
East Bank Demerara, Guyana, South America.
Tel: 265-7033
Email: casinoexesec@gmail.com
Website: www.ramadageorgetown.com
& http://www.worldofprincess.com/casinos
Facebook: Princess-Casino-Guyana

JEWELLERY

KINGS JEWELLERY WORLD

Kings Plaza
141 Quamina Street, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-226- 0704, 226-0682, 225-2524
Emails: admin@kingsjewelleryworld.com.
For orders and inquiries, Email: orders.kings@live.com
Website: www.kingsjewelleryworld.com/

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

THE BEACH SPECIALITIES RESTAURANT & BAR

86 Agriculture Road, Mon Repos,
East Coast Demerara, Guyana
Tel: 592 220-1855, 220-4812,
592-220-4814, 220-4840, 220-4849
Email: caribbeaninninc@gmail.com
Website: https://caribbeaninn.gy/

THE BISTRO CAFE & BAR

176 Middle & Waterloo Streets
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-225-8634
Email: reservations@kingshotel.gy
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bistrocafeandbar

BOTTLE BAR AND RESTAURANT

Cara Lodge
294 Quamina Street, P.O. Box 10833
Georgetown
Tel: 592-225- 5301-5 Fax: 592 -225-5310
Email: caralodge@carahotels.com
Website: www.carahotels.com

CARIBE BOARDWALK POOL BAR AND GRILL

Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown
Block Alpha, Battery Road, Kingston
Tel: 592- 231-2480, 231-1870 Fax: 592- 231-2481
Website: www.guyanamarriott.com

KOSMOS BAR, GRILL & LOUNGE

Office: 85 Dennis Street, Campbellville, Georgetown.
Movie Towne Mall, Turkeyen, East Coast Demerara,
Tel: 592-502-3955, 592- 602-1601,
Email: operations@kosmoslounge.com

OMG! RESTAURANT AND BAR

Sheriff Street & Campbell Avenue, Georgetown
Tel: 592-227-8839, 227-8840
Email: omg@banksdih.com
Facebook: OMGRestaurant

ROYAL TEPPANYAKI & SUSHI RESTAURANT

Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel
Tract 'BS' Block 'Z' Plantation, Providence,
East Bank Demerara, Guyana, South America.
Tel: (592) 265-7001, 3 & 4, 265-7006-10, 265-7013, 265-7021-22
Email: info@ramadageorgetown.com
Website: www.ramadageorgetown.com
Facebook: RoyalRestuarantInternationalTeppanyakiGuyana

TERRA MARE RESTAURANT

Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown
Block Alpha, Battery Road, Kingston
Tel: 592-231- 2480, 231- 1870 Fax: 592- 231- 2481
Website: www.guyanamarriott.com

UNDER THE MANGO TREE- Cara Lodge

294 Quamina Street, P.O. Box 10833
Georgetown
Tel: 592 -225-5301-5 Fax: 592 -225-5310
Email: caralodge@carahotels.com
Website: www.carahotels.com



Photo: Jay Banbrooke

ADVERTISING AND PUBLISHING COMPANIES

ADVERTISING MARKETING SERVICES

213 B, Camp Street
Georgetown, Guyana, South America
Tel: 592- 225-5384, Fax: 592-225-5383
Email: lokesh@amscaribbean.com
Website: www.amsstlucia.com

COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS

IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RAINFOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

7 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown
Tel: 592-225-1504, 225-1186
Fax: 592-225-9199
Email: tourism@iwokrama.org
Website: www.iwokrama.org

THE WINE VAULT

Block Alpha, Battery Road, Kingston,
Georgetown, Guyana
Email: thewinevaultgy@yahoo.com

BANKS DIH LIMITED

Address: Thirst Park, Ruimveldt, Georgetown
Tel: 592-225-0910
Fax: 592-226-6523
Email: banks@banksdih.com , marketing@banksdih.com
Website: <http://www.banksdih.com/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/BanksDIHLtd/>

RORAIMA GROUP OF COMPANIES

Roraima Residence Inn
R8 Eping Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown
Tel: 592- 225- 9647-8, 225 -9650 Fax: 592 -225 -9646
Email: rriops@gmail.com
Website: www.roraimaairways.com

WINEDAYS GY

159 Arapaima Street, Guyhoc Park, Georgetown
Tel: 641-3633 or 697-3633
WhatsApp: 641-3633
Email: cheers@winedaysgy.com
Website: www.winedaysgy.com

TOURISM CONSULTANTS

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANTS LIMITED

168 Century Palm Gardens,
Durban Backlands, Lodge, Georgetown
Tel: 592-225-3557, 226-0240

TOUR OPERATORS

BUSHMASTERS LTD

569 New Culvert City
Lethem, Guyana, South America
Email: amazon@bushmasters.co.uk
Website: www.bushmasters.co.uk

ADVENTURE GUIANAS

Mikel Plaza,
53 Pere Street, Kitty, Georgetown
Tel: 227-4713, 673-0039, 621-7766
Email: adventureguianas@gmail.com
Website: www.adventureguianas.com

DAGRON TOURS

91 Middle Street,
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-223-7921, 227-1174
Fax: 592-227-1166
Email: dagrontours@yahoo.com,
reservations@dagron-tours.com
Website: www.dagron-tours.com

EVERGREEN ADVENTURES

Eugene F. Correia International Airport
Ogle, East Coast Demerara
Tel: 592 222 2525, 222 0264, 222 8053
Fax: 592 222-6117
Email: reservations@evergreenadventuresgy.com
Website: www.evergreenadventuresgy.com
Facebook.com/evergreenadventuresgy

HURAKABRA TOURS

168 Century Palm Gardens, Durban Backlands,
Lodge, Georgetown
Tel: 592- 225-3557, 226-0240
Mobile: 592-640-4497
Fax: 592- 226-0240
Email: gemmaadho@gmail.com
Website: www.hurakabra.com
Facebook: Hurakabra River Resort

ODYSSEY SIGHTSEEING TOURS

Lot 171 A Light Street,
Georgetown
Tel 592 223 2471
Email: odysseysightseeing@gmail.com
Website: www.Odysseysightseeing.com

OLD FORT TOURS

122 Parade Street. Georgetown
Tel: 592- 225 -1035
Fax: 592 -225 -1037
Email: oldforttours@gmail.com
Website: www.oldforttours.com

RORAIMA TOURS

R8 Eping Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown
Tel: 592 -225- 9647-8 Fax: 592 -225 -9646
Email: ral@roraimaairways.com
Website: www.roraimaairways.com

WILDERNESS EXPLORERS

141 Fourth Street, Campbellville, Georgetown
Tel: 592 -227- 7698 Fax: 592 - 226- 2085
Email: info@wilderness-explorers.com
Website: www.wilderness-explorers.com
Skype: wildernessguyana or tonywildex

TRAVEL AGENCIES

ANGELLINA'S TRAVEL AGENCY

1995 Parika Highway East Bank Essequibo,
Tel: 592 -260-4536/ 37
Fax: 592- 260- 4537
Email: angellinastravel@hotmail.com
Website: www.oldforttours.com

RORAIMA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGENCY

R8 Eping Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown
Tel: 592- 225- 9647-8, 225- 9650
Fax: 592 -225- 9646
Email: rriops@hotmail.com / rriops@gmail.com
Website: www.roraimaairways.com

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

COMFORT SLEEP

49 Eccles Industrial Estate,
East Bank Demerara,
Guyana, South America.
Tel: 592- 233 -3013, 233- 2657
Email: comfortsleep49@gmail.com, info@comfortsleep.gy
Website: www.comfortsleep.gy

GAFSONS INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Lot 1 & 2 Area X Plantation Houston
East Bank Demerara. Guyana.
Tel: 227-1503, 227-1207, 225-6007
E-mail: salesmanager@gafsons.gy

REPUBLIC BANK (GUYANA) LIMITED PROMENADE COURT

155-156 New Market Street,
North Cummingsburg, Georgetown
Tel: 592 -223- 7938-39
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