



Guyana

Includes »

Georgetown	750
Berbice.....	755
Northwest Coast.....	756
Kaieteur	
National Park.....	756
Iwokrama Rainforest	757
North Rupununi.....	758
South Rupununi.....	759

Best Adventures

- » Dadanawa (p759)
- » Kaieteur Falls (p756)
- » Jordan Falls (p759)
- » Bushmasters (p751)

Best Wildlife Encounters

- » Caiman House (p758)
- » Karanambu (p758)
- » Shell Beach turtles (p756)
- » Rewa Eco-Lodge (p758)

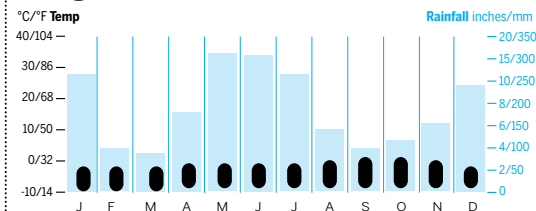
Why Go?

Few places on the planet offer raw adventure as authentic as densely forested Guyana. Although the country has a troubled history of political instability and interethnic tension, underneath the headlines of corruption and economic mismanagement is a joyful and motivated mix of people who are turning the country into one of the continent's premier ecotourism destinations.

Georgetown, the country's crumbling colonial capital, is distinctly Caribbean with a rocking nightlife, great places to eat and an edgy market. The interior of the country is more Amazonian with its Amerindian communities and unparalleled wildlife-viewing opportunities tucked quietly away from the capital's hoopla. From sea-turtle nesting grounds along the country's north coast to riding with *vaqueros* at a ranch in the south, Guyana is well worth the mud, bumps and sweat.

When to Go

Georgetown



Mid-Nov–Mid-Jan Coastal rainy season and the height of tourism for expats returning for Christmas.

May–Aug Interior and second coastal rainy season. Road travel becomes difficult.

Late Dec 'Cashew rains' in the interior – light showers provide a welcome temperature drop.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Guyanese dollar (G\$), US dollars (US\$) widely accepted
- » **Language** English
- » **Money** Not all ATMs accept foreign cards; credit cards rarely accepted
- » **Visas** 90 days on arrival for most visitors
- » **Time** GMT minus four hours

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 215,000 sq km
- » **Population** 765,000
- » **Capital** Georgetown
- » **Emergency** ☎911
- » **Country code** ☎592

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	G\$223
Canada	C\$1	G\$211
Euro zone	€1	G\$276
New Zealand	NZ\$1	G\$179
UK	UK£1	G\$325
USA	US\$1	G\$213

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** G\$5000
- » **Minibus from Georgetown to Annaï** G\$12,000
- » **Three meals at an eco-lodge** G\$4500
- » **Banks beer** G\$350

Resources

- » **Guyana Tourism** (www.guyana-tourism.com)
- » **Starbroek News** (www.starbroeknews.com)
- » **Explore Guyana** (www.exploreGuyana.org)

Connections

Guyana's only legal border crossings are at Nieuw Nickerie (Suriname) and Bonfim (Brazil), which can both be reached via minibus. Yes Venezuela shares much of the country's west coast, but crossing anywhere is technically illegal and not recommended. The only legal route from Venezuela to Guyana is to first go to Bonfim, Brazil, and then into Guyana via Lethem. Flights from Georgetown, Guyana go to/from Paramaribo (Suriname), Bridgetown (Barbados), Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), Miami and New York.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Stay in Georgetown for a night or two and take a day trip by plane to outrageous Kaieteur Falls. Next, fly or travel overland into the interior to stay in the Amerindian village of Surama for two nights. From here take road and river to either Caiman House to help with Caiman research or Karanambu to help with giant river otter protection.

Two Weeks

Follow the above itinerary but begin your adventure with a night at Iwokrama's Canopy Walkway before going to Surama. After Caiman House or Karanambu spend your last nights at either Rewa Eco-Lodge to search for arapima (the world's largest scaled fish) or put on your cowboy hat to live with the *vaqueros* at Dadanawa Ranch, near the wildlife-filled Kanuku Mountains.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Pepper pot** A savory Amerindian game-and-cassava stew
- » **Cook-up rice** Beans and rice mixed with whatever else happens to be on hand
- » **Farine** Tasty cassava meal served as an accompaniment like rice
- » **Bake and saltfish** Fried bread and salted cod
- » **El Dorado rum** The 15-year-old drop is considered one of the world's best rums, but most people settle with the less expensive, but undeniably good five-year-old variety
- » **Roti** Soft Indian flatbread, usually wrapped around a curried concoction of meat or vegetables
- » **Cow heel soup** A very popular savory Caribbean soup made with split peas, vegetables, dumplings and cow heels
- » **Banks beer** Brewed in Georgetown, comes in both regular and premium versions, both of which are delicious