



# Guyana

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## Best Adventures

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## Best Wildlife Encounters

- ➔ Caiman House (p761)
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- ➔ Rewa Eco-Lodge (p761)
- ➔ Karanambu Ranch (p761)

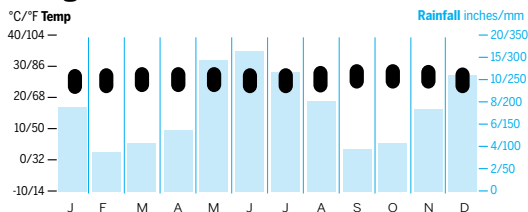
## Why Go?

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 inter-ethnic tension, underneath the headlines of corruption and economic mismanagement is a joyful and motivated mix of people who are turning the country into the continent's best-kept ecotourism destination secret.

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* (cowboys) 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 expat Guyanese.

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

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

## Connections

Guyana's only legal border crossings are at Nieuw Nickerie (Suriname) and Bonfim (Brazil); both can be reached by minibus. Venezuela shares much of the country's west coast, but crossing anywhere is illegal and not recommended. Flights from Georgetown, Guyana, go to destinations including Paramaribo, the Caribbean islands and Miami.

### ITINERARIES

#### One Week

Stay in Georgetown for a night then 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 Lethem to explore the nearby Kanuku Mountains, waterfalls and villages.

#### 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 spend your last nights at either Rewa Eco-Lodge to search for arapaima (the world's largest scaled fish) or put on your cowboy hat to live with the *vaqueros* at Dadanawa Ranch or Saddle Mountain in South Rupununi.

## 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 for the less expensive, but undeniably good five-year-old variety.
- ➔ **Roti** Soft Indian flatbread, usually wrapped around a curry concoction of meat or vegetables.
- ➔ **Ox heel soup** A very popular savory Caribbean soup made with split peas, vegetables, dumplings and ox heels.
- ➔ **Banks beer** Brewed in Georgetown; comes in both regular and premium versions, both of which are delicious.

### 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 countries
- ➔ **Time** GMT minus four hours

## Fast Facts

- ➔ **Area** 215,000 sq km
- ➔ **Population** 799,613
- ➔ **Capital** Georgetown
- ➔ **Emergency** ☎ 911
- ➔ **Country Code** ☎ 592

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	G\$150
Canada	C\$1	G\$156
Euro Zone	€1	G\$231
New Zealand	NZ\$1	G\$136
UK	UK£1	G\$312
USA	US\$1	G\$203

## Set Your Budget

- ➔ **Budget hotel room** US\$35
- ➔ **Minibus Georgetown to Annai** US\$50
- ➔ **Three meals at an eco-lodge** US\$22
- ➔ **Banks beer** US\$2

## Resources

- ➔ **Guyana Tourism** ([www.guyana-tourism.com](http://www.guyana-tourism.com))
- ➔ **Stabroek News** ([www.stabroeknews.com](http://www.stabroeknews.com))
- ➔ **Explore Guyana** ([www.exploreGuyana.org](http://www.exploreGuyana.org))