

ITINERARY

***Guyana: Wilderness Paradise***

*Tour I: January 13 – 24, 2018*

*Tour II: January 27 – February 7, 2018*



*The odd Hoatzin is the National Bird of Guyana. This strange creature is one of the few birds that feeds entirely on leaves, although they will also eat some flowers and fruit. Though common in the lowlands of Amazonia, they are never-the-less one of the most interesting and bizarre birds we will encounter. Photo by participant Becky Hansen.*

*We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides Guyana: Wilderness Paradise tours:*

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

*Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:*

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reference list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

**T**here are fewer and fewer truly wild places left in the world, but the vast Iwokrama Forest Reserve, which stretches across nearly a million acres in the heart of Guyana, is one of those places. From the air, the forest appears virtually intact, with only the occasional gleaming river to break the canopy. On the ground, roads are limited, but a network of

rivers gives access to many areas—with the added benefit of bringing us within arm’s reach of Capped Heron, Jabiru, Sungrebe, Rufescent Tiger-Herons, and five of the six New World kingfishers.

Guyana is still full of “forest primeval,” places where multiple species of macaw wheel together over forest clearings, where colorful Guianan Cocks-of-the-rock pose on sun-dappled perches, where Harpy Eagles stare imperiously from bromeliad-decked branches, and where a sweeping corner might reveal Gray-winged Trumpeters—or a sprawled Jaguar—in the middle of the road. Many of the Guianan Shield specialties are possible along our tour route.

Before we head to the country’s wild interior, we’ll start with a day in the rice fields, mangrove swamps, and mudflats along the coast, where Rufous Crab Hawk, White-bellied Piculet, Blood-colored Woodpecker, and Scarlet Ibis are among the possibilities. We’ll also visit the Rupununi Savanna to look for Crestless Curassow (rare), Bearded Tachuri, Crested Doradito, Giant Otter, Giant Anteater, and the many species attracted to the area’s ponds, lakes, and marshes. Join us for a comfortable wilderness adventure!



*A Field Guides group taking in the majesty of Kaieteur Falls. Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.*

### About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

Guyana is a developing third-world country. After years of isolationist policies, the country has only opened up to mainstream tourism relatively recently, and ecotourism development is still in its infancy. Travel to areas outside the greater Georgetown region is done by small boat, small passenger planes, and four-wheel-drive vehicles; expect bad roads, hard-used vehicles, and slow progress. All of the sites that we will visit on this tour are at low elevations and will have high heat and

humidity levels. Birding days will be full ones, typically

with early breakfasts (usually pre-dawn) to take advantage of cooler temperatures and peak bird activity. We’ll have a few picnic lunches, but mostly plan to take midday breaks at our lodges during the hottest part of the day and then return to the field for some late-afternoon birding. While we will definitely seek out as many of the Guianan Shield specialties as we can, listing is not the main goal of this tour—it’s more about enjoying good looks at lots of birds in a beautiful, pristine wilderness.

In order to fully enjoy this tour, you must be able to walk up to 4 miles a day at a birder’s pace (i.e. it’s not a race), sometimes on trails with rough or uneven spots or slight to moderate elevation change. We will spend at least one afternoon (and possibly another morning) on a canopy walkway and towers, which has narrow, suspended walkways linking four towers 60-80 feet off the ground. To do our boat trips, you’ll need to be able to climb into and out of low (i.e. rowboat-height) vessels with a minimum of assistance. Our flights take place on small, single-engine propeller planes which carry 15 passengers or slightly larger twin-engine propeller planes which carry 22.

It’s important to remember that much of our tour takes place “in the bush”; be prepared for the possibility that things might not go according to plan. Sometimes, generators stop working or solar batteries don’t charge properly; 24-hour electricity is not guaranteed. Sometimes, planes don’t arrive (or depart) when they’re supposed to, or weather keeps the small planes used in Guyana from flying at all. Sometimes vehicles break down or rivers flood. If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don’t hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

**Please Note:** *We have highlighted in green any text that we consider requires your special attention.*



## About the Birding Areas



The **Georgetown Botanical Gardens**, located in the heart of Guyana's capital city, contain a mix of open grassland, scattered trees and bushes, and several ponds and wet areas scattered across 185 acres. Despite its "center city" location (or perhaps because of it), the park is a bird magnet, with nearly 200 species recorded within its boundaries. With luck, we'll see the rare and elusive Blood-colored Woodpecker, a Guianan Shield endemic which is restricted to the coastal plain. Other targets will include White-bellied Piculet, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Yellow Tyrannulet, Lesser Kiskadee, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow Oriole, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Wing-barred Seedeater, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Toco Toucan, and Snail Kite. Among the parrot species we might find are Red-bellied and Red-shouldered macaws, Orange-winged, Yellow-crowned, and Mealy parrots, Brown-throated Parakeet, and (with luck) Festive Parrot, a species in serious decline due to the illegal pet trade. If the garden's trees are flowering, we should see a variety of hummingbirds, including Black-throated Mango and Glittering and White-bellied emeralds. Note that chiggers are possible here, so take the appropriate precautions.

The vast **Iwokrama Forest** stretches across a million acres (some 1430 square miles) in the heart of the country. One of the last remaining pristine tropical forests in the world, it was protected by the Guyanese government as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development in 1996. Much of the forest here has never been cut, and scientists estimate that nearly 50% of the country's bird species will eventually be found within the reserve's boundaries, between the Pakaraima Mountains to the west and the Essequibo River to the east. This region—a mixture of mostly flat primary rainforest, low isolated hills, and patches of savanna and seasonal marsh—holds the greatest birding potential for us on this tour route, and three of our lodges (Iwokrama River Lodge, Atta Rainforest Lodge, and Surama Eco-lodge) are either within or just outside the reserve's boundaries, allowing easy access to various parts of the wilderness. This area remains largely unexplored ornithologically and may well produce a surprise or two for us during our stay.

The **Rupununi Savanna** is a 5000 square mile area that lies between the Rupununi River and Guyana's borders with Brazil and Venezuela. Its extensive grasslands, dotted with massive termite mounds and scattered gallery and riparian woodlands, are largely untouched. Though cattle ranching is expanding in the south, fewer than 15,000 people live in the whole savanna region; that's less than one person for every three square miles! The word "Rupununi" means "Land of Many Waters" in one of the local Amerindian languages—and it's a good moniker for a region dotted with a myriad puddles, water-catching depressions, and oxbow lakes. This is the land of "giants." The world's largest waterlily unfurls its seven-foot wide round leaves on still ponds here, while the world's largest freshwater fish (the six-foot long, 400-pound Arapaima) swims underneath. The New World's biggest cat, the elusive Jaguar, patrols river edges in the savanna, the Giant River Otter (the world's longest weasel at five-and-a-half feet) hunts its waters, and the aptly named Giant Anteater (males are up to seven feet long) trundles across the plains in search of termites. Also present are a great variety of bird species, ranging from the tiny Crested Doradito and Bearded Tachuri to the statuesque Jabiru.

## Itinerary for Guyana: Wilderness Paradise

**Day 1, Sat, 13 Jan or 27 Jan. Flight to Georgetown, Guyana.** Flights from the US arrive after dark at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, located 25 miles south of the capital city of Georgetown. You'll be met at the airport by a representative from our ground agent (who should be carrying a sign with your name and "Field Guides" on it) and transferred directly to our comfortable hotel. The journey will take about an hour (it may vary one way or the other, depending on your arrival time). Night at Cara Lodge Hotel in Georgetown.

**Day 2, Sun, 14 Jan or 28 Jan. Georgetown and the Mahaica River.** This morning, we'll leave our hotel at 5:00 a.m. (having downed a continental breakfast and a cup or two of caffeine to help us get started!) and head southeastward along the Atlantic coast (with a few birding stops, of course) to the Mahaica River, where we'll take a boat trip along the river. Among our targets will be Guyana's national bird, the bizarre, primitive Hoatzin, which is found in abundance along the river system. We'll also look for a host of other species, including Rufous Crab Hawk (localized), Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Long-winged Harrier, Silvered Antbird, Striped and Little cuckoos, Green-tailed Jacamar, and Golden-spangled Piculet. If the tide is right, we'll check the coastal shoreline for a variety of herons, shorebirds, terns, and more, including Scarlet Ibis, Large-billed and Yellow-billed terns, and Magnificent Frigatebird. Be sure to bring your water bottle and wear plenty of sunscreen. Once the river trip is over, we'll have a late brunch at the home of our river guide Narish, who's an area farmer.

In the late afternoon, we'll visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens, the downtown home of a surprising number of species. While our chief target will be the handsome Blood-colored Woodpecker, there should be plenty of other species to enjoy as well, as the park's bird list runs to nearly 200 species. Note that chiggers are possible here, so be sure to take appropriate precautions. Night at Cara Lodge Hotel in Georgetown.



*We will watch for the lovely Green-tailed Jacamar as we take a boat ride along the Mahaica River.  
Photograph by guide Megan Edwards Crewe.*

**Day 3, Mon, 15 Jan or 29 Jan. Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge, via Kaieteur Falls.** After breakfast at our Georgetown hotel, we'll head to Ogle International Airport for our one-hour chartered flight to Kaieteur National Park, home of the spectacular Kaieteur Falls. **Please note that your luggage (checked and carry on) on this flight will be restricted to a total of 20 pounds.** We'll send anything you can do without for the day by road; our driver will collect our luggage from Cara Lodge early this morning, and head straight for our next hotel; by the time we arrive, our bags should already be in our new rooms.

Created by the Potaro River as it makes a sheer drop of 741 feet, Kaieteur is one of the world's highest free-falling waterfalls—a single, massive, thundering cataract more than 100 yards wide, nearly three times the height of Niagara Falls and twice that of Victoria Falls. The spectacle is even more impressive for its remoteness; it's likely that we'll be the only people viewing it. The 15-minute walk from the landing strip to the falls takes us right through a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek; with luck, we might spot a male or two. Other species to keep an eye out for include Paradise Jacamar, Pale-tailed Barbthroat, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, and Plumbeous Euphonia. The park provides our only chance for the range-restricted Roraiman Antbird, and with luck, we may find a pair of spectacular Orange-breasted Falcons near the falls themselves. We'll also search for the rare, endemic Golden Rocket Frog, which lives only in water held by the leaves of huge tank bromeliads on the Kaieteur plateau.

After our visit to the falls, the flight will continue on to the landing strip at Fairview Village, which is about 10 minutes from the Iwokrama River Lodge. Guest quarters here are in cabins, each with an en-suite bathroom, perched along the river's western bank. Electricity is provided 24-hours a day and meals are served buffet-style in a large dining room with lovely views out over the river. This evening, we'll take a boat trip out onto the Essequibo River in search of caiman, nocturnal birds (including Ladder-tailed Nightjar and Boat-billed Heron), and other night animals. Night at Iwokrama River Lodge.

**Day 4, Tue, 16 Jan or 30 Jan. Turtle Mountain.** After breakfast this morning, we'll head to Turtle Mountain (via the Essequibo River) and explore the trail there, taking a picnic lunch with us. The trail winds its way through beautiful primary forest, where we'll look for Red-and-black Grosbeak, Screaming Piha, Yellow-billed and Great jacamars, Golden-sided Euphonia, White-throated Toucan, Black-chinned and Spot-winged antbirds, Pygmy Antwren, Scarlet Macaw, Cream-colored and Ringed woodpeckers, Red Howler Monkey, Black Spider Monkey, and much more. **Those who are feeling adventurous can climb to an elevation of 984 feet for a spectacular view of the forest canopy below; the last part of the**



climb is quite challenging (steep and rough, with big steps that can be very slippery if wet), but the view from the top is breathtaking, and we may see a fly-by King Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Orange-breasted Falcon, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Short-tailed Hawk, or Red-and-Green Macaw. Those who'd rather not tackle the tough climb will continue to explore the lower trail, where many species are possible. In the late afternoon, we'll work our way back to the river, and return to the lodge. This evening, we'll offer an optional outing along the lodge's entrance road, where we'll search for Amazonian Pygmy-Owl, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl and Spectacled Owl. Night at Iwokrama River Lodge.



*A pair of Golden-winged Parakeets peers out of their nest in an arboreal termite mound. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

**Day 5, Wed, 17 Jan or 31 Jan. Iwokrama River Lodge to Surama Eco-lodge.** This morning, before breakfast, we'll walk out to a Capuchinbird lek, which is only several hundred yards from our cabins; the sight of the hunched bald-headed birds humming in the trees over our heads should be one of the highlights of our stay. After breakfast, we'll head south to Surama village, home to the Makushi people—and our local guide! Our road (a narrow, fairly bumpy all-weather “highway”) can be surprisingly good for such quality species as Gray-winged Trumpeter, Pompadour and Purple-breasted cotingas, Blue-cheeked Parrot, and Blue-backed Tanager. En route, we'll stop in an area of white sand forest to look for White-crowned and Black manakins and Bronzy Jacamar, and we'll plan to visit a lek of the spectacular Guianan Cock-of-the-rock. (If we don't get to the lek today, we'll have another chance to visit in a few days.) Once we've had our fill of these fabulous birds, we'll continue on to our lodge. The Surama Eco-lodge sits near rich rainforest punctuated by the rugged Pakaraima Mountains. Accommodations are rustic but comfortable, with a mix of traditional benab-style huts (all with en-suite bathrooms) and a newer brick building (also with en-suite bathrooms). Late in the afternoon, we'll bird along the Great Potoo trail, where we hope to see a Great Potoo or two roosting in good light. Additional species that can be found here include Pearl Kite, Brown-throated Parakeet, Yellow-tufted Woodpecker, Striped Woodcreeper, Lesser and Plain-crested elaenias, Cayenne Jay, Chestnut-bellied Seed-Finch, and Finsch's and Golden-bellied euphonias. As dusk falls, scores of Lesser Nighthawks typically take to the skies, Common Pauragues and White-tailed Nightjars hunt along the roadways near our hotel, and Tropical Screech-Owls may call from nearby stands of trees. Night at Surama Eco-lodge.

**Day 6, Thu, 18 Jan or 1 Feb. Surama area: Buro-Buro trail.** After breakfast this morning, we'll walk three miles through fine gallery forest to the Buro-Buro River, arriving in time for a picnic lunch. A host of species are possible here, including Tiny Tyrant Manakin, Green-backed Trogon, Amazonian Antshrike, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Pectoral Sparrow, and more. With luck, we might find an antswarm; attendant species might include Amazonian-barred, Black-banded, Olivaceous, and Chestnut-rumped woodcreepers, Rufous-throated and White-plumed antbirds, and (if we're *really* lucky) the rarely seen and highly desirable Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo, which is most often found in the vicinity of army ant incursions. After lunch and a bit of a break, we'll enjoy a quiet and skillfully guided paddle along the river, searching for birds such as Silvered, Black-chinned, and White-browed antbirds, Coraya and Buff-breasted wrens, White-banded Swallow, Green-and-rufous, Amazon, Green, and American Pygmy kingfishers, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Blue-throated Piping-Guan, Guira Tanager, Crane Hawk, Gray-headed Kite, Golden-spangled Piculet, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, and Agami and Boat-billed herons. Night at Surama Eco-lodge.



*The Bearded Tachuri is found in grasslands such as the Rupununi Savanna. Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

**Day 7, Fri, 19 Jan or 2 Feb: Surama to Atta Rainforest Lodge.**

After a final breakfast at Surama Eco-lodge, we'll make the short drive to Atta Rainforest Lodge, with plenty of birding stops en-route, including a forested area along the Harpy Eagle trail. Our target will be the eponymous eagles, which have nested for years in a huge tree about three kilometers in from the highway; even if they're not currently nesting, they may still be in the area. Other birds we might see include Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Capuchinbird, Long-tailed Potoo, Amazonian Motmot, Cinnamon-rumped Foliage-gleaner, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Short-billed Leaf-tosser, and Guianan Red Cotinga; Wedge-capped Capuchin Monkey is also a possibility.

After we've settled in at Atta (and had some lunch), we'll walk a half-mile to the nearby Iwokrama Canopy Walkway, a network of bridges and three large platforms suspended 100 feet above the forest floor. We'll spend the late afternoon on the walkway, watching for Purple-breasted and Spangled cotingas, Dusky Purple-tuft, Guianan Toucanet, Black-spotted Barbet, Red-necked Woodpecker, and more as the sun goes down. At dusk, we'll check the nearby trails for White-winged Potoo as we walk back to the lodge; again, be sure to bring your flashlights along! A night at Atta Rainforest Lodge is a night surrounded by pure nature, with no noise but the sounds of the forest. Night at Atta Rainforest Lodge.

**Day 8, Sat, 20 Jan or 3 Feb: Atta Rainforest Lodge environs.** We'll have a whole day to bird the lush rainforest around the lodge. This morning, we'll walk the trails around the lodge and the canopy walkway searching for the many remarkable birds that make this area home. Spix's Guan and Black Currawong are often seen right on the lodge grounds, and we'll look for Todd's and Spot-tailed antwrens, Guianan Toucanet, Golden-sided Euphonia, Green Honeycreeper, Black-faced Dacnis, Black-spotted Barbet, Crimson Fruitcrow, and much more in the surrounding forest. After lunch, we may explore the entrance road, or the main highway just beyond the lodge grounds. Night at Atta Rainforest Lodge.

**Day 9, Sun, 21 Jan or 4 Feb: Atta Rainforest Lodge to Caiman House and the Rupununi Savanna.** We'll spend one final morning birding trails and/or the main road south Atta, working our way slowly to Surama Junction for lunch. After lunch, we'll trade the vast Iwokrama Rainforest for the wide-open Rupununi Savanna; the drive is likely to take all afternoon, with some birding along the way. The road we'll follow takes us across open grassland, but skirts both gallery forest and wetland areas, offering the chance to encounter a wide variety of species. The wetlands should harbor such treats as Cocoi Heron and Jabiru, while the savanna might produce Double-striped Thick-knee, Gray Seedeater, Grassland Yellow-Finch, Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Yellow-hooded Blackbird, and the agile Aplomado Falcon. Raptors are common here, and Savanna and White-tailed hawks, Great Black-Hawk, Crested Caracara, and Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture are all possible.

Once we arrive at Caiman House, on the edges of the small village of Yupukari, we'll settle into the station's thatched-roof guest house. Most of the spacious guest rooms here have en-suite bathrooms, though some of the "singles" rooms share a bathroom facility. Solar panels generally provide 24-hour electricity, and wi-fi is available in the main building. After a delicious and hearty dinner at our lodge, we'll offer an outing to search for Tropical Screech-Owl and White-tailed Nightjar, if we haven't already encountered them elsewhere. Night at Caiman House Field Station.

**Day 10, Mon, 22 Jan or 5 Feb: Rupununi Savanna.** This morning, after an early breakfast, we'll spend the morning birding in the savanna, looking for Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, Brazilian Teal, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Bicolored Wren, Burrowing Owl, Maguari Stork, Savanna Fox, and more. Also among our targets will be Crested Doradito (only recently discovered here) and Bearded Tachuri, two widespread but seldom-encountered species which like to stay low in grasses close to water. This will also be our best chance to see the remarkable Giant Anteater.

We'll return to Caiman House in the heat of midday for lunch and a bit of a break before venturing out again towards evening for a leisurely boat ride along the Rupununi River. Here, we may find Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, American Pygmy-Kingfisher, Sungrebe, Pied Lapwing, Pale-legged Hornero, and more. With luck, we might spot a Bare-necked Fruitcrow or Spot-breasted Woodpecker. In addition to birds, we'll keep an eye out for Black and Spectacled caimans, Giant Otter, Capybara, several species of monkey, and the occasional Arapaima (the world's largest freshwater fish).



We'll stay out until dark, watching for Band-tailed Nighthawks and Common Potoo. Be sure to wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers, as the tiny biting flies found along the river can be voracious. And don't forget your flashlight! Night at Caiman House Field Station.

**Day 11, Tue, 23 Jan or 6 Feb: Ireng River area and return to Georgetown.** We'll leave very early this morning (after a 4:30 a.m. breakfast) and drive several hours south to the Ireng River, which makes the country's southern border with Brazil. Our targets here include two very range-restricted species: Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail. Other possible species include Crestless Curassow, Pearl Kite, White-throated Kingbird, Chestnut-vented Conebill, and Flavescent Warbler. After a morning's birding, we'll have lunch at the family-owned Manari Ranch, then make the short 15-minute drive to the Lethem airport for our late afternoon flight back to Georgetown's Ogle International Airport; the scheduled flight takes about an hour. We'll have our final dinner together at Cara Lodge. Overnight at Cara Lodge Hotel in Georgetown.

**Day 12, Wed, 24 Jan or 7 Feb: Flights home.** After one final breakfast in Guyana, you'll be transferred to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in time to catch your flight home. Safe journeys!

## About Your Guide

### Tour I

**Dave Stejskal's** love of birds and birding began at the age of nine near his childhood home in Phoenix. After teenage years consumed by birding and basketball, he went on to graduate with a degree in biology from the University of Arizona in Tucson, the desert city he and his wife, Julie Hecimovich, call home. Dave was co-editor for the Southwest Region report in *American Birds/Audubon Field Notes* for nearly 12 years, has served for many years on the Arizona Bird Records Committee, and has a solid reputation as one of the outstanding field birders in the Southwest and elsewhere. Dave is particularly skilled at identifying birds by their songs and calls and is eager to share his knowledge with others.

Since guiding his first professional birding tour with Field Guides in 1985, his over 300 tours have taken him north to arctic Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego (guiding tours in nearly every country in between), to Madagascar, and across the Pacific to Southeast Asia, New Guinea and Australia, and his enthusiasm for finding and watching birds has proven to be contagious. Dave has guided numerous tours to Thailand with Field Guides since his first visit there in 1997.

*"Dave was unflappable in the face of the inevitable logistical problems, and his knowledge of bird calls and behavior is astounding." M.B., Northwestern Argentina*

### Tour II

**Megan Edwards Crewe** has been birding since childhood, when she discovered she could have her father all to herself (rather than sharing him with her brothers and sisters) if she was willing to get up very early on Saturdays and tromp around the woods in search of birds. After graduating from Purdue University, she sampled an impressive variety of jobs before discovering Field Guides. Since joining the company more than a decade ago, Megan—who brims with information and enthusiasm—has delighted in sharing the wonders and adventures of birding and the natural world with participants.

One unexpected bonus of the job has been meeting her British husband, Mike, with whom she co-led a trip to France in 2000. They've bounced back and forth between the US and the UK during their marriage, and are now back on the edge of the historic market town of Aylsham in the east of England. There, she's busy exploring the 26-mile-long Marriott's Way (a long-distance footpath that passes within yards of their home) and reveling in the surrounding cultural history.

*"Megan was everything I could want in a guide. Superior knowledge of birds and the habitats we visited. Friendly, a people person. She was prepared for whatever might arise and seemed confident to do whatever needed to be done to ensure that we all had a quality experience." L. N., Guyana*

Visit <http://fieldguides.com/guides> for complete tour schedules for both Megan and Dave; just click on their photos.

Your Field Guides leader will be accompanied throughout the tour by a **local guide**.

## Financial Information

**FEE: \$5950 from Georgetown**

**DEPOSIT: \$1000**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE:** September 15, 2017 (Tour I); September 29, 2017 (Tour II)

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$360**

**LIMIT: 8**

## Other Things You Need to Know

**TOUR MANAGER:** The manager for this tour is Caroline Lewis. Caroline will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS:** Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

**Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

**ACCOMMODATIONS** Our rooms in Georgetown are quite modern and comfortable (with air conditioning!) despite the fact that the lovely, laid-back Cara Lodge was built in 1840. The rest of our nights will be spent at nature reserves or small, private lodges, where accommodations are simple, double-occupancy rooms, all of which have electricity (for at least part of the day), private bathrooms (in all but one spot), and bed nets. At Caiman House, some single-occupancy rooms share a bathroom facility; double-occupancy rooms there all have private bathrooms. Phones will be available only in Georgetown and at the Iwokrama River Lodge. In most of our down-country lodges, electricity is not reliably available 24 hours a day. Please note that hair dryers cannot be used at any of our down-country lodges, as they draw too much power to be supported by the lodges' solar arrays; hair dryers are provided at Cara Lodge. For your best chance of staying healthy **do not drink the tap water at any lodge during our tour.** Bottled and/or treated water is available at every location.

**DOCUMENTS:** A **passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return** is necessary for US citizens to enter Guyana. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Guyanese consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

**LUGGAGE:** Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS:** The tour fee is \$5950 for one person in double occupancy from Georgetown, Guyana. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 11, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 12, all ground transportation, internal flights, boat trips, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.



The above fee does not include your airfare to and from the tour, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the tour is \$360. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

**TOUR REGISTRATION:** To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$1000** per person. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by September 15, 2017 (Tour I) and September 29, 2017 (Tour II). We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

**SMOKING:** Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

**TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at [www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm](http://www.fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.htm) and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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