

ITINERARY

Guyana: Wilderness Paradise

Tour I: January 20 – 31, 2024

Tour II: February 3 – 14, 2024



The odd Capuchinbird is a specialty of the Guianan Shield. We've had some excellent experiences with these bizarre cotingas on our tour! Photograph by participant Holger Teichmann.

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 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

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- 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 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

There 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. 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 a Harpy Eagle might stare imperiously from a bromeliad-decked branch, where a lekking Capuchinbird might serenade us with a song that sounds like a cross between a cow and a chainsaw, where a Crimson Fruitcrow might chase a Red-fan Parrot off a perch and where driving around a sweeping corner might reveal Gray-winged Trumpeters 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 Hoatzin, 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 Bearded Tachuri, Giant Otter, Giant Anteater, and the many species attracted to the area's ponds, lakes, and marshes, and will finish with a visit to the Ireng River along the border with Brazil, where the range-restricted Hoary-throated Spinetail and Rio Branco Antbird will be our primary targets. Join us for a comfortable wilderness adventure!



*We'll take several boat rides such as this one on the Essequibo River near the Iwokrama River Lodge.
Photograph by participant Sid England.*

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace:

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** We will walk up to 4 miles a day; some trails may be rough and uneven, but most will have little elevational change. There are some exceptions: you'll need to climb roughly 170 steps (up and down) to reach the canopy walkway, there are a few short, inclined sections along the Kaieteur Falls and Turtle Mountain trails, and getting to one of the Guianan Cock-of-the-rock leks requires a short, steep scramble.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** Travel to areas outside the greater Georgetown region is done by small boat, small passenger planes, minibus and four-wheel-drive vehicles; expect bad roads, hard-used vehicles, and slow progress. We will make one visit a canopy tower and walkway with narrow suspended walkways and multiple platforms approximately 60-80 feet high. We will take several boat trips that will require climbing into and out of a low boat with little assistance. Flights will be in small single-engine or twin-engine propeller planes.
- **PACE:** Days will generally start pre-dawn, with breakfasts taken at 5 or 5:30 on most days. We'll try to have a mid-day break on most days, then return to the field in late afternoon; on some days, particularly when we're changing locations, this will not be possible. We'll offer optional night-birding outings on several afternoons extending into evenings.
- **ELEVATION:** All of our sites are at low elevation.
- **WEATHER:** Expect high heat and humidity.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** On the coast and much of the interior, we'll use a minibus that will accommodate the entire group. In the Rupununi savannah, we'll use 4-wheel drive vehicles; these will carry local guides and drivers as well as clients and your Field Guides guide. Your guide will implement a rotation system so that everyone has a chance to be "up front". We will carry radios that will allow us to communicate between vehicles.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.

- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

Other considerations: Guyana is a developing third-world country. After years of isolationist policies, the country has opened up to mainstream tourism only recently, and ecotourism development is still in its infancy. 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.

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.

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 for the tour.

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 over 270 species recorded within its boundaries. With luck, we'll see the scarce and often 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, Black-capped Donacobius, Yellow Oriole, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Wing-barred and Gray seedeaters, 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-throated and Plain-bellied emeralds. Note that chiggers are abundant 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 area. This wilderness 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 border with Roraima, Brazil. 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 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 Bearded Tachuri to the statuesque Jabiru.



The Blood-colored Woodpecker has a limited range in the coastal regions of the Guianas. We'll watch for this local specialty along the Mahaica River and when we visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens. Photograph by participant Jerzy Majka.

Itinerary for Guyana: Wilderness Paradise

Day 1. Flight to Georgetown, Guyana. International flights arrive at the recently renovated 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, though it may vary one way or the other, depending on your arrival time. **If you cannot arrange a flight that arrives before dinner time, we strongly recommend that you plan to arrive for the tour a day early. Those arriving on late flights tonight are unlikely to arrive to the hotel until well after midnight and we have a very early departure tomorrow.** Night at Cara Lodge in Georgetown.

Day 2. Georgetown and the Mahaica River. This morning, we'll leave our hotel at 5:00 a.m. (having downed a cup or two of caffeine to help us get started and carrying a boxed breakfast with us) and head southeastward along the Atlantic coast 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, Long-winged Harrier, Silvered Antbird, Striped and Little cuckoos, Green-tailed Jacamar, and White-bellied Piculet. If the tide is right, we'll check the coastal shoreline for a variety of herons, shorebirds, terns, and more, including Scarlet Ibis, Mangrove Cuckoo, and Magnificent Frigatebird. Be sure to bring your water bottle and an umbrella, and wear plenty of sunscreen. Once the river trip is over, we'll have a late brunch at the home of our river guide Naresh, who's an area rice farmer.

In the late afternoon, we'll visit the Georgetown Botanical Gardens, the downtown home of a surprising number of species. While our chief targets will be the handsome Blood-colored Woodpecker and the uncommon Festive Parrot,

there should be plenty of other species to enjoy as well, as the park's bird list surpasses 270 species. Note that chiggers are abundant here, so be sure to take appropriate precautions. Night at Cara Lodge in Georgetown.



*A highlight of the tour is our visit to the spectacular Kaieteur Falls. We'll visit the park on our way to Iwokrama River Lodge.
Photograph by participant Marshall Dahl.*

Day 3. Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge, via Kaieteur Falls. After breakfast at our Georgetown hotel, we'll head to nearby 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 on the afternoon of Day 2 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; we may well be the only people viewing it. The walk from the landing strip to the falls takes us right through a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek, and with luck, we might spot a male or two. Other species to keep an eye out for during our two-hour visit include Paradise Jacamar, White-tipped Swift, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Plumbeous Euphonia, and (with luck) 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. Depending on our arrival time, we may venture onto the river for a dusk float, or head to the main "highway" to look for night birds, including White-winged Potoo, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl and Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl. Night at Iwokrama River Lodge.

Day 4. Turtle Mountain and Iwokrama River Lodge environs. After an early breakfast this morning, we'll head downriver to Turtle Mountain; there, we'll walk a well-marked trail from the river to the lower slopes of the "mountain" – in reality a 950-foot-high hill. Species we may encounter along the river and trail include Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Large-billed Tern, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Guianan Toucanet, Black-spotted Barbet, Yellow-billed and Great jacamars, Red-necked, Crimson-crested, Waved and Ringed woodpeckers, Cinnamon-throated and Chestnut-rumped woodcreepers, Cinereous and Dusky-throated antshrikes, Rufous-bellied and Guianan Streaked- antwrens, Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo (if we're

very lucky), Black-faced Antthrush, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, Black-collared Swallow and many more. We'll return to our lodge around midday for lunch and a break.

In the late afternoon, we'll take a short boat trip across the Essequibo River and head for a patch of white sand forest on the opposite side. Growth on this poor soil is markedly different from that of the surrounding rainforest: trees here are stunted, shorter and thinner, but their growth can be quite dense. This unique habitat offers a variety of white sand specialists, including Black Manakin, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, Bronzy Jacamar, Red-shouldered Tanager, Guianan Schiffornis, Dusky Parrot, and (with luck) the stunning Guianan Red-Cotinga or Red-billed Woodcreeper. Night at Iwokrama River Lodge.



*The Bronzy Jacamar is a species we'll look for in white sand forest.
Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

Day 5. Iwokrama River Lodge to Atta Rainforest Lodge. This morning, before breakfast, we'll walk out to a Capuchinbird lek, which is only 500 yards or so from our cabins; the sight of the hunched bald-headed birds mooring in the trees over our heads should be one of the highlights of our stay. After breakfast, we'll head south to Atta Rainforest Lodge. 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. We'll arrive at our lodge in time for lunch. Atta's hummingbird feeders and pollinator garden should keep us well entertained as we eat, potentially bringing Long-tailed and Reddish hermits, Black-eared Fairy, Gray-breasted Sabrewing, Fork-tailed Wood-nymph, Plain-bellied Emerald and more into view.

After a bit of a break (which many of us may spend on benches in the lodge's magnificent clearing, where a host of species can be seen), we'll bird along the lodge's driveway as far as the main highway, hoping to run into the large mixed flocks that sometimes work along the track's edge. Towards dusk, we'll hop in our vehicles to drive a bit further along the road in search of nightbirds as the sun goes down. Our target tonight will be Black-banded Owl, though Spectacled and Crested owls, as well as Blackish Nightjars, are also possible. Night at Atta Rainforest Lodge.

Day 6. Atta Rainforest Lodge environs. We'll have a whole day to bird the lush Iwokrama rainforest. Before breakfast, we'll take a trail out to Atta's canopy walkway, where we'll climb the 120+ steps to the towers and spend some time watching for canopy dwellers. If we're lucky, Todd's and Spot-tailed antwrens, Black-spotted Barbet, Guianan Toucanet, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Amazonian Motmot and more may move past at eye level. After breakfast, we'll spend the remainder of the morning searching for the many remarkable birds that make this area home. Spix's Guan and Black Curassow are often seen right on the lodge grounds, and we'll look for Golden-sided Euphonia, Green Honeycreeper, Black-faced Dacnis, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Guianan Trogon, Collared Puffbird, Golden-headed Manakin, Rainbow Parakeet, Amazonian Barred-Woodcreeper and much more in the surrounding forest. After lunch, we'll venture out along the main road again. The Iwokrama Forest is famed for its colorful cotingas and if we can locate some fruiting trees, we'll

be in for an avian spectacle with possibilities including Pompadour, Purple-breasted, Guianan Red- and Spangled cotingas, as well as the outrageous Crimson Fruitcrow. At small stream crossings, we'll watch for Rose-breasted Chat, Guianan Streaked-Antwren, Crimson Topaz and Riverbank Warbler, and we'll keep one eye skyward for Black and Red-throated caracaras, Black and Ornate hawk-eagles, Harpy Eagle and Golden-winged Parakeet. As dusk descends, we'll try again for any nightbirds we may have missed yesterday, plus hope for a glimpse of a Jaguar. Night at Atta Rainforest Lodge.



The Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock is a must-see bird, and we'll have a chance to view them on a lek near Surama Lodge. Photograph by participant Holger Teichmann..

Day 7. Atta Rainforest Lodge to Surama. After a final breakfast at Atta Rainforest Lodge, we'll make the drive to Surama village, with plenty of birding stops en-route, including a forested area along the Cock-of-the-rock trail. Our target will be the eponymous cocks-of-the-rock, which have had a lek here for years. With any luck, we'll find several males showing themselves to perfection as they pose on sunlit branches against shadowy backgrounds. Once we've had our fill of these gorgeous birds, we'll continue on to the Surama Eco-lodge, which sits near rich rainforest punctuated by the rugged Pakaraima Mountains. The 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'll 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 Pauriques 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 8. Surama area: Buro-Buro trail. After an early breakfast, we'll walk three miles through fine gallery forest to the Buro-Buro River. Many species are possible here, including Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Green-backed and Black-tailed trogons, Amazonian Antshrike, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Rufous-capped Antthrush, Pectoral Sparrow, and more. With luck, we might find an ant swarm; attendant species might include Amazonian Barred-, Black-banded, Olivaceous, and Wedge-billed 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 break at the lodge, we'll venture to a savanna area near outskirts of the village, where we'll search for White-naped Xenopsaris, Cinereous Becard, Grassland Sparrow and Bicolored Wren. Once dusk falls, we continue along the road, watching for Least Nighthawk, Spectacled and Crested owls and Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl. Night at Surama Eco-lodge.

Day 9. Morning birding and onward to Manari Ranch. After an early breakfast, we'll head for one of the area's trails (either the Harpy trail or the Buro-Buro trail again) for one final walk in the Iwokrama forest before turning our sights to the south. We'll have lunch at Surama Junction, then begin the journey to our next hotel, trading the vast Iwokrama rainforest for the wide-open Rupununi savanna. The drive is likely to take all afternoon, though we'll make some birding stops 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 Cocoli Heron and Jabiru, while the savanna might produce Double-striped Thick-knee, Plumbeous 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 Manari Ranch, near the outskirts of Lethem, we'll settle into our rooms in two wings extending from the main ranch house. Each room has its own en-suite bathroom, the property has 24-hour electricity, and wi-fi is available in the main building. Depending on our arrival time, there may be enough daylight to check the grounds around the lodge for Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Venezuelan Troupial and Hooded Tanager. Night at Manari Ranch.



Rio Branco Antbird is a specialty we'll look for along the Ireng River. This species has a very small range and can be difficult to locate, but we've had success in recent years. Photograph by participant Holger Teichmann.

Day 10. Ireng River and the Rupununi savanna. After an early breakfast, we'll head to the Ireng River, which forms part of Guyana's southern border with Brazil. Our main targets here are two very range-restricted species: Rio Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail. However, the savanna we'll cross to get there (and back!) and the scrubby forest that lines the river contain a number of other possibilities too, including Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Pearl Kite, Maguari Stork, Pinnated Bittern, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, White-tailed and Green-tailed goldentthroats, White-fringed Antwren, Pale-legged Hornero, Ochre-ored Flycatcher, Bearded Tachuri, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, Chestnut-vented Conebill, Yellowish Pipit and Flavescent Warbler.

We'll return to the ranch in the heat of midday for lunch and a bit of a break before venturing out again in the late afternoon, possibly to the nearby J. R. Ranch, where a huge lake and marshy area attracts a myriad waterbirds, and tree-studded grasslands may yield Least Nighthawks and a Giant Anteater or two. After dinner at our lodge, we'll offer an outing to search for Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Tropical Screech-Owl and White-tailed Nightjar, if we haven't already encountered them elsewhere. Night at Manari Ranch.

Day 11. The Moco Moco area and return to Georgetown. This morning, we'll take a packed breakfast and head for the Amerindian community of Moco Moco near the base of the Kanuku Mountains, not far from Lethem. There, a quiet road

meanders through wetlands, agricultural fields and gallery forest. Species we might see include Sunbittern, King Vulture, Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, Orange-breasted Falcon, Painted Parakeet, Long-billed Starthroat, Rufous-throated Sapphire, White-bellied Antbird, Lesser Kiskadee, White-throated Kingbird, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, White Bellbird, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Black-capped Donacobius, Finsch's Euphonia, Burnished-buff Tanager, and many more. After a morning's birding, we'll return to our lodge for showers and lunch, then make the short 15-minute drive to the Lethem airport for our 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.

Day 12. 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 Guides

Tours I & 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 two decades 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 across the Atlantic since then, and are now settled in a small coastal village in Norfolk, England, where they're enjoying long walks around their "local patch" and slowly converting their half-acre garden into a wildlife refuge. She has led ten previous tours to Guyana.

"Megan was GREAT!!! She did everything she possibly could to find the target birds. She tried her to make sure everyone saw all the birds she saw. Of course, she has a real talent for spotting birds! Plus, she is very congenial, sharing lots of interesting (and funny!) stories. D.G., Guyana

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for Megan, just click on her photo.

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

Financial Information

FEE: \$6925 from Georgetown

DEPOSIT: \$700

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 24, 2023 (Tour I); August 7, 2023 (Tour II)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$375

LIMIT: 8

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

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. 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 \$6925 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 \$375. 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, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$700** per person, or see <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/> for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by July 24, 2023 (Tour I); August 7, 2023 (Tour II).** We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 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 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation 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 that 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 airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. 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, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (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 information from us 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, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

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 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. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides

Incorporated is not responsible 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.

2/23-MEC; 6/23peg