

# Guyana

Roaring falls, roaming jaguar,  
remarkable birdlife – some of the  
world's finest wildlife-watching

## THE FACTS

**Capital:** Georgetown

**Population:** 770,000

**Language:** English (official); Creole, Amerindian dialects, Hindi, Portuguese

**Time:** GMT-4

**Visas:** Not required by UK nationals

**Money:** Guyana dollar (AS), currently around G\$310 to the UK£



**E**nglish-speaking, jungle-covered and stuffed with birds, Guyana won't be a South American secret for long. Pristine rainforest dominates, but the unspoiled

wilderness also features mangroves, coastal swamps, Atlantic beaches, *tepui* (flat-topped mountains) and savannah. Keen birders can tick off more than 815 species, including 70 Guiana Shield endemics and several rare neotropical families.

In the forested interior visit the Iwokrama River Lodge and Atta Rainforest Lodge to see loads of parrots, cotingas and antbirds plus specialities such as white-winged potoo, rufous-winged ground-cuckoo and crimson fruitcrow. Further south, the sprawling Rupununi Savannah hosts 500 species including capuchinbird, Rio Branco antbird and endangered sun parakeet. Jaguars, giant river otters and giant anteaters are bonuses.

**When to go** Guyana's climate is equatorial: sunny, hot and pleasant year round, with average temperature of 28°C. Dry season is September to April.

**Getting there** Delta (0845 600 0950; [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)) flies four times weekly from Heathrow to Georgetown via JFK; return fares for the 18-hour journey start at around £767. Virgin Atlantic (0844 209 7777, [www.virgin-atlantic.com](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com)) flies to Barbados to connect with Caribbean Airlines ([www.caribbean-airlines.com](http://www.caribbean-airlines.com)) flights to Georgetown via Port of Spain. Combined return fares start at around £851. Internal transport consists of small planes, boats and taxis/4WDs.

## Spotter's ticklist



### Harpy eagle

(*Harpia harpyja*)

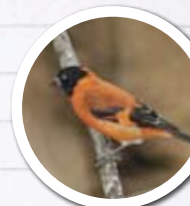
2.5m wingspan; double crest of grey head feathers

**Chances of spotting:**

reasonable near active nests

**Where:** Iwokrama Forest, Surama Village, Dadanawa Ranch

**USP:** harpies can fly at 80km/h while carrying prey such as monkeys and sloths



### Red siskin

(*Carduelis cucullata*)

10cm long, vermilion plumage; beautiful song with twitters and trills

**Chances of spotting:** good

**Where:** South Rupununi near

Dadanawa Ranch, where the South Rupununi Conservation Society protects the rare birds

**USP:** thought nearly extinct in the wild; several thousand discovered in southern Guyana in 2000



### Guianan cock-of-the-rock

(*Rupicola rupicola*)

Males radiantly orange

**Chances of spotting:**

very good at active leks

**Where:** Kaieteur Falls,

Iwokrama Forest, Wowetta Village

**USP:** Males battle for females in song and dance competitions



### Blood-coloured woodpecker

(*Veniliornis sanguineus*)

Small woodpecker; name stems from brilliant colour on wings and tail feathers

**Chances of spotting:** very good

**Where:** Abary River, Georgetown Botanical Gardens

**USP:** A Guiana Shield endemic, found only on the narrow coastal strip of the three Guianas



For information on birdwatching in Guyana, visit [www.guyanabirding.com](http://www.guyanabirding.com), [www.guyana-tourism.com](http://www.guyana-tourism.com) and [www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org)



To book your birding or nature adventure to Guyana, contact **Wilderness Explorers (020 8417 1585, [claire@wilderness-explorers.com](mailto:claire@wilderness-explorers.com), [www.wilderness-explorers.com](http://www.wilderness-explorers.com))**

