

GUYANA

Guyana is a small English-speaking country located on the Atlantic Coast of South America, east of Venezuela and west of Suriname. Deserving of its reputation as one of the top birding and wildlife destinations in South America, Guyana's pristine habitats stretch from the protected shell beach and mangrove forest along the northern coast, across the vast untouched rainforest of the interior, to the wide open savannah of the Rupununi in the south. Guyana hosts more than 850 different species of birds covering over 70 families. Perhaps the biggest attraction is the 45+ Guianan Shield endemic species that are more easily seen here than any other country in South America.

These sought-after near-endemic species include everything from the ridiculous to the sublime - from the outrageous Capuchinbird with a bizarre voice unlike any other avian species to the unbelievably stunning Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. While the majestic Harpy Eagle is on everyone's "must-see" list, other species are not to be overlooked, such as Rufous-throated, White-plumed and Wing-barred Antbirds, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Blood-colored Woodpecker, Rufous Crab-Hawk, Guianan Red-Cotinga, White-winged Potoo, Black Curassow, Sun Parakeet, Red Siskin, Rio-Branco Antbird, and the Dusky Purpletuft. These are just a few of the many spectacular birding highlights that can be seen in this amazing country.

Not only is Guyana a remarkable birding destination, but it also offers tourists the opportunity to observe many other unique fauna. The elusive Jaguar can sometimes be seen along trails and roadways. Several species of monkeys including Red Howler, Black Spider, Wedge-capped Capuchin, Brown Capuchin, Golden-handed Tamarin, Brown-bearded Saki and Squirrel Monkey are frequently seen in their natural habitats. As if that isn't enough, you are nearly certain to see Capybara, Black Caiman (the largest member of the alligator family), Sloths, and Giant Otters. Other animals that are either less common or more elusive and therefore less likely but still possible to find are Tapir, Anaconda, Puma, and Giant Anteater. The largest fresh-water scaled fish in the world, the Arapaima, can be observed, along with an amazing diversity of reptiles and amphibians that will enhance your birding adventure.

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE **Nov. 28 – Dec. 11, 2018**

14 days / 13 nights

Day	1	Arrive in Georgetown
Day	2	Georgetown and surrounding area
Day	3	Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge Via Kaieteur Falls
Day	4	Iwokrama and Surround
Day	5	Iwokrama to Atta Rainforest Lodge
Day	6	Atta Rainforest and Surrounding
Day	7	Atta Rainforest Lodge and Surrounding
Day	8	Atta Rainforest Lodge to Surama Lodge
Day	9	Surama Lodge and Surrounding
Day	10	Surama Lodge to Caiman house
Day	11	Caiman House and Surrounding
Day	12	Caiman House to Karasabai and Manari Ranch
Day	13	Manari Surrounding & Schedule flight to Georgetown

DETAILED ITINERARY

- *Please note that some people might opt to arrive a day early, depending on airline schedules. If you decide to arrive early, we will assist with your hotel reservations for the pre-tour night. Birding is scheduled to begin on arrival day.*

Day 1, November 28, 2018

Arrival in Georgetown

Georgetown is located in the north of Guyana on the Atlantic coast, and about one-third of the country's population lives in this English-speaking metropolis. You will be met as you exit the airport and transferred to our comfortable air-conditioned hotel. After a short rest, we will spend the remainder of the day birding at the Georgetown Botanical Garden. This wonderful spot featuring exclusive grounds of large tropical trees, lawns and wetlands provides for some exciting birding. Some of the species we are likely to see include Great Black-Hawk, Snail Kite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Great Horned Owl, Orange-winged Amazon, Yellow-crowned Amazon, and Festive Parrot. We are also likely to spot White-bellied Piculet, Wing-barred Seedeater, Wattled Jacana, White-throated Toucan, and a number of other amazing birds.

Overnight in Georgetown (L,D)



Festive Parrot by Leon Moore

Day 2, November 29

Mahaica and Abary

This morning we will leave our hotel at 5:00 AM and head eastward along the Atlantic coast to the Mahaica River and Abary. This area is where you will have a chance to see Guyana's national bird, the Hoatzin. This pre-historic bird is found in abundance along these river systems, along with many other species, including Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle, Barred Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Striped Cuckoo, Mangrove Cuckoo, Little Cuckoo and a host of flycatchers. There will also be opportunities to see monkeys along the river.

At our first stop, Mahaica, we will make good use of the earliest hours of the day to enjoy birding along the river by boat. This is the best time of day and the best vantage point to observe the Hoatzins while they are out on the tree tops along the river during the cooler part of the morning. After our boat tour we will enjoy breakfast before continuing eastward along the coast to Abary.

By the time we complete the short drive to Abary, we will notice a significant change in temperature. The sun will likely be very hot as we walk northeast on a flat road in the direction of the seawall for about .5 – 1 km. In addition to sunscreen and sunhats, insect repellent will be needed for this part of the day as the area is known to harbor sand flies and mosquitoes. We will be on the lookout for birds such as Mangrove Cuckoo and Blood-colored Woodpecker. The rare and elusive Blood-colored Woodpecker is a species most birdwatchers visiting Guyana want to see. This woodpecker is restricted to the narrow coastal plains and is considered a Guianan Shield endemic species. A few other target species can be found here, including Rufous Crab-Hawk and White-bellied Piculet. We might see some Red-rumped Agoutis before returning to our hotel for lunch.

After lunch at our hotel, we will visit the Georgetown Botanical Garden again for a chance to find any species we might have missed yesterday. Possibilities include Toco Toucan, Zone-tailed and Common Black Hawks, Cinereous Becard, and the restricted Guianan Shield endemic Blood-colored Woodpecker. As the sun gets low in the sky, we will return to our hotel for dinner.

Overnight in Georgetown (B,L,D)



Hoatzin © Leon Moore



Blood-colored Woodpecker ©Leon Moore

Day 3, November 30

Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge via Kaieteur Falls

After an early breakfast at our hotel, we will transfer to nearby Ogle Airport where we will catch a flight (by small aircraft) to Kaieteur Falls. Kaieteur Falls is the world's longest single drop waterfall, located on the Potaro River in the Amazon Forest of the Kaieteur National Park. It is 226 meters (741 ft) high when measured from its plunge over a sandstone and conglomerate cliff to the first break. It then flows over a series of steep cascades that, when included in the measurements, bring the total height to 251 meters (822 ft). While many falls with multiple drops have greater height, few have the combination of height and water volume, and Kaieteur is among the most powerful waterfalls in the world with an average flow rate of 663 cubic meters per second (23,400 cubic feet per second). Kaieteur Falls is five times higher than the Niagara Falls and about twice the height of the Victoria Falls.

Kaieteur Falls is impressive for its remoteness, and it is altogether possible that we'll be the only people viewing it when we are there. We will use the opportunity to observe White-chinned Swifts and White-tipped Swifts swarming over the gorge and we will search for the brilliant and colorful Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock at a small lek. Another of our target species, Orange-breasted Falcon, can often be seen soaring over the gorge as it hunts for swifts. Some other species we might find include Roraiman Antbird, Musician Wren, Cliff

Flycatcher and Red-shouldered Tanager. We might even see the Golden Poison Frog that lives in the forest that surrounds the falls.

After our time at the falls, our flight continues to the Amerindian village of Fairview where we will board our 4x4s or Bedford truck and take a 10-minute transfer to Iwokrama River Lodge. The Iwokrama Rainforest, a vast wilderness of one million acres, is a protected area that was established in 1996 as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. The Iwokrama Forest is in the heart of one of four last untouched tropical forests of the world – The Guiana Shield of North-Eastern South America. Iwokrama was established as a living laboratory for tropical forest management because the unsustainable utilization of these forests will result in the extinction of half the world's plant and animal species and unknown changes to global climate. This is a protected area with a difference – the full involvement of people. Iwokrama is exceptional among conservation organizations because it joins with local people in every aspect of its work. From research to business, Iwokrama ensures local economic and social benefits from forest use and conservation. The Forest is in the homeland of the Makushi people, who have lived here and used the forest for thousands of years. People are a vital part of the ecosystem, and the success of Iwokrama relies on the ownership of local people and the combined skills of specialists and communities. Iwokrama does what so many International conventions have acknowledged as best practice. It has begun conservation locally and integrated conservation into national development.

Upon our arrival at the river lodge, we will receive a welcome by the staff and then settle in to our rooms. The afternoon will be used to venture into the forest for an interpretive walk looking at the different trees, flowers and orchids. There is a Capuchinbird lek along one of the trails which we will be visiting, and you may also have chances to see several species of monkeys, including Red Howler, Black Spider, and Guianan Saki Monkey. We will return to the lodge at sunset. After dinner, we will venture out on the Essequibo River by boat in the dark with an expert boat captain looking for night animals including Tree Boas, Black Caiman, Ladder-tailed Nightjars, and, if the water is low enough, along the sandbanks you may have the chance to see some freshwater stingrays.

Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge (B,L,D)



Kaieteur Falls ©Leon Moore

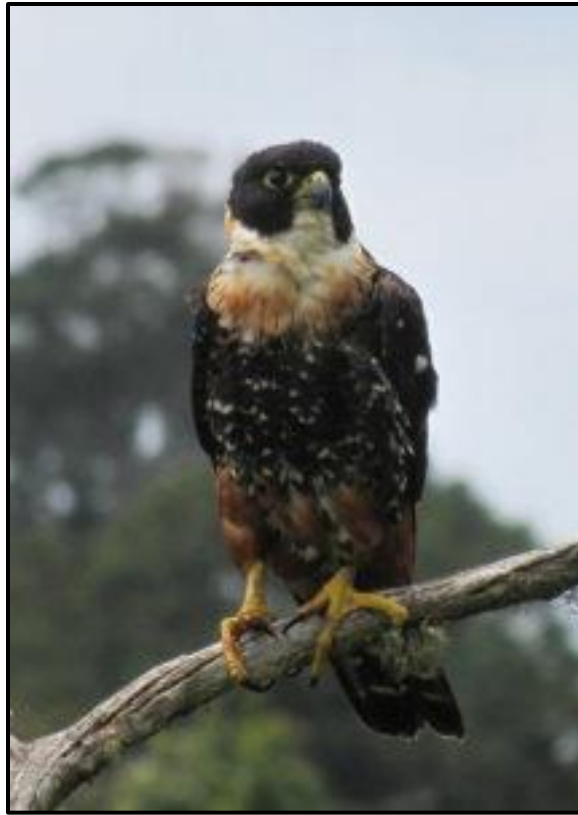
Day 4, December 1

Iwokrama River Lodge and Environs

We will start the day very early after breakfast. A trip to Iwokrama is not complete without a hike to the top of Turtle Mountain. We will take a boat journey downriver approximately 30 minutes and then enjoy a slow walk of about 1.5 hours up the forested trail to the summit (950 ft) for a stunning jungle vista punctuated by the powerful Essequibo River snaking through the forest. Numerous bird species can be spotted on the lower trail including the Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Jacamar, and Brown-bellied Antwren. On the way up, we will have chances to learn and study the amazing plant-life along the trail, and once we're on top we will look for Scarlet and Red-and-green Macaws flying at eye level or below us as they fly above the rainforest. If we are lucky, we will catch a glimpse of the very uncommon and unique Orange-breasted Falcon.

In the late afternoon, depending on the time we return, we will have the chance to explore the forest trails around the lodge looking for Rose-breasted Chat, Wing-banded Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Rufous-throated Antbird, Brown-bellied and Rufous-bellied Antwrens, Spotted Antpitta, Yellow-throated and Waved Woodpeckers and a host of woodcreepers: Chestnut-rumped, Red-billed, Amazonian-barred, Buff-throated, Lineated, and Wedge-billed. Before returning to the Lodge we will have another chance to visit the Capuchinbird lek.

Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge (B,L,D)



Orange-breasted Falcon

Day 5, December 2

Transfer from Iwokrama to Atta Lodge and Canopy Walkway

After an early breakfast, we will transfer to Atta Lodge and Canopy Walkway via Mori Scrub. Mori Scrub is a unique white sand forest about 40 minutes from the river lodge that hosts some key bird species such as Red-legged Tinamou, Red-shouldered Tanager, Bronzy Jacamar, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Black Manakin, and Guianan Schiffornis, all intriguing birds that would be nice to add to your bird list. This area is very flat so the hike will be very easy. We will be sure to have our cameras and binoculars ready because occasionally Jaguars and other mammals are seen while driving through the rainforest. We cannot promise a big cat sighting but many have been lucky! We then continue to Atta Lodge where we will receive a welcome by the staff before settling in to our humble accommodation. The lodge is located within the 1,000,000 acres of protected rain forest of Iwokrama. After settling in, we will take an afternoon walk on the Canopy Walkway.

The lodge is situated approximately 750 meters from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway. The walkway has three platforms, the highest of which is over 30 meters above the ground. These platforms and the walkway will allow us to get great looks at a range of canopy species. Among the likely highlights are Painted and Golden-winged Parakeets, Caica Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Waved and Golden-collared Woodpeckers, and Spot-tailed, Todd's and Ash-winged Antwrens. The walkway is also an excellent place to look for various species of Cotinga including the Dusky Purpleletuft. If there are any suitable fruiting trees nearby, we stand a good chance of seeing this bird, as well as Purple-breasted Cotinga. Another area where we will spend some time is the clearing around the lodge, as this is one of the best places to see the Crimson Fruitcrow. This species is seen here on a regular basis, coming to feed in some of the nearby trees. The clearing is also a site for Black Curassow; a family party comes out to feed at the forest edge. With reasonable luck, we should be able to add this bird to the impressive list of species we hope to see around the lodge and walkway.

Overnight at Atta Lodge (B,L,D)



Black Curassow ©LeonMoore



Wedge-capped Capuchin

Day 6, December 3

Atta Rainforest Lodge and Environs

This morning we will head out to the walkway at first light for opportunities to spot canopy species including Todd's Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Great Jacamar, Paradise Tanager, Blue-backed Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, Long-billed Gnatwren, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin and Black Nunbird. This entire morning will involve birding on the canopy walkway and the trails around the lodge.

Within the forest that surrounds the lodge we can look for Great and Variegated Tinamous, Spotted Antpitta, Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Guianan Warbling Antbird, White-crested Spadebill, and Waved, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers. We should spot Black Spider Monkey and White-faced Saki Monkey as we bird.

After lunch, we will spend the afternoon birding on the main road through the Iwokrama Forest. Blue-backed Tanager, Black-chinned, Scale-backed and Grey Antbirds, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Amazonian and Mouse-colored Antshrike, Reddish Hermit, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Rose-breasted Chat, Black and Red-throated Caracaras, Guianan Trogon, Golden-winged Parakeet and Yellow-green Grosbeaks are all possibilities. While birding along the road, we will also keep our eyes open for the elusive Jaguar and Tapir which are often seen at dawn and dusk. On our way back to Atta Lodge, we will use flashlights or spotlights to do some night birding, mainly looking for Owls and Potoos. This is a great place to look for Potoos, but it must be stressed these birds can be very hard to find. Nevertheless, there are possibilities for White-winged Potoo, Great Potoo, Common Potoo and Long-tailed Potoo, plus Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Spectacled Owl, Black-banded Owl, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl and Crested Owl.

Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge (B,L,D)



Spotted Antpitta



Crimson Fruitcrow

Day 7, December 4

Atta Rainforest Lodge and Environs

Today we will continue birding along several forest trails, the main road and possibly the walkway. We will rise early and begin our birding at dawn, spending some time around the clearing before taking the trails at the lodge. Our primary focus will be on our targets including Crimson Fruitcrow, Guianan Toucanet, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Blue-backed Tanager, and Golden-sided and Plumbeous Euphonias. We will then continue birding the trails looking for Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Royal Flycatcher, Spotted Antpitta, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, White-throated Manakin, Red-billed, and Chestnut-Rumped and Amazonian-barred Woodpeckers.

We hope to encounter some mixed forest flocks that typically include the likes of Rufous and Brown-bellied Antwrens, Dusky-throated and Cinereous Antshrikes, Long-winged, Gray and White-flanked Antwrens, Olivaceous Flatbill, Whiskered Flycatcher and Tawny-crowned Greenlet. The walkway will be a good spot to look for some high canopy specialists such as Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Lineated Woodcreeper, Todd's and Spot-tailed Antwren and Guianan Puffbird. While on the walkway we will keep our eyes out for Blue-Cheeked and Red-fan Parrots, Guianan Trogon, Painted Parakeet and the high-flying and typically difficult-to-see Lilac-tailed and Sapphire-rumped Parrotlets. If the trees are blooming, we should see Fiery-tailed Awlbill, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Fork-tailed Woodnymph, and possibly Crimson Topaz.

After breakfast we will spend some more time around the clearing looking for Crimson Fruitcrow, Green Aracari, Blue-backed Tanager, Guianan and Olive-green Tyrannulets and, frequently found in the forest at the lodge, Guianan Red Cotinga and Red-billed Woodpecker. We will then head back to the trails looking for Black-throated Antshrike, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, the very elusive Rufous-winged Ground-Cuckoo, all the while keeping a very close eye out for Black-faced Hawk. After lunch, the entire afternoon will be spent looking for birds that we might have missed during the morning. We will eventually venture out along the main road to a spot where the Crimson Topaz guards its territory.

Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge (B,L,D)



Guianan Toucanet © Mike Barners

Day 8, December 5

Atta Rainforest Lodge to Surama Lodge via Cock-of-the-Rock Lek

Today we will rise before dawn, have some coffee, and then take our final morning at Atta Lodge, birding the clearing around the Lodge to try to tick off a few of our target species that we might have missed or to just get better looks at ones we've seen, including Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Trogon, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Guianan Tyrannulet and more. After our early morning birding and breakfast we will venture onward to Surama Lodge with an important stop at a Guinean Cock-of-the-Rock lek, where this enigmatic bird is regularly seen as the males display for females. The lek's location is about a 20-minute walk on a flat forest trail, and once there, we should have a good chance to see and photograph this unique bird. Some other species regularly seen along this trail include Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Spotted Antpitta, Amazonian Motmot, Scarlet and Red-and-green Macaws, Painted Parakeet, White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbirds, and more. We then continue to the Amerindian village of Surama, where you will be welcomed by the staff and then settle in to your basic accommodation for the next two nights.

The Amerindian community of Surama is located in the heart of Guyana. The village is set in five square miles of savannah which is ringed by the forest-covered Pakarima Mountains. Surama's inhabitants are mainly made up of the Makushi people, one of the nine indigenous people of Guyana, and they still observe many of the traditional practices of their ancestors. After lunch, as the afternoon cools, we will have the option of touring the village or continuing to bird. Participants who opt for the latter will venture out into the savanna and through the forest for a chance to find White-naped Xenopsaris, Fiery-tailed Aowlbill, Tufted Coquette and more. We may also visit a nearby pond to look for the Great Potoo that roosts in the area.

Overnight at Surama Lodge (BLD)



The Guianan-Cock-of-the-Rock ©Leon Moore

Day 9, December 6

Surama and Environs

This morning we will rise before dawn for an expedition to see a very special bird, the incomparable Harpy Eagle. This, the largest eagle in the world, (although the Phillipine Eagle weighs more), is one of the most sought-after species among birders world-wide. We will drive a short distance through the forest in 4x4 vehicles to a trailhead. From there, the hike to the Harpy Eagle nest site is about an hour each way on flat terrain. We won't know if the eagles are actively nesting until shortly before the trip, but we have a chance of seeing them in the area even if their nest is inactive when we visit.

The Harpy Eagle nests approximately every 2-3 years. The female usually lays two eggs and takes nearly two months to incubate them. When the chicks hatch, the stronger of the two usually pushes the weaker from the nest; Harpy Eagles raise only one chick at a time. When a young chick is being fed, the male brings food to the female and young about once every 3.5 days. As the chick grows and both adults are hunting, they bring food to the nest about every 2.5 days. Typically the fledgling eaglet is "branch-hopping" at the age of 4 – 6 months, and it will stay within 100 meters of the nest for more than a year after that, as the parents continue to provide its food. Even after the young eagle flies, the parents will continue to provide some food for another year or so and the birds will stay in the general vicinity of the nest.

Along the trail to the Harpy Eagle nesting area, as our naturalist guide teaches us interesting facts about the forest, we may see monkeys and a variety of other wonderful birds including the White-crested Spadebill, Brown-bellied Antwren, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Black-throated Antshrike, and Capuchinbird.

We will be back at the lodge in time for lunch, and then, as the afternoon cools, we will take a walk or transfer across the savannah and through the rain forest to the Burro-Burro River. Our guides will paddle us along the Burro-Burro River for opportunities to observe Giant River Otters, Tapir, Tayra, and Spider Monkey in addition to many species of birds, including Ocellated Crake, Lesser Nighthawk, Chapman's Swift, Spotted Antpitta, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, White-throated Manakin, and Red-billed, Chestnut-Rumped

and Amazonian-barred Woodpeckers. We will remain alert in hopes of spotting the very elusive Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, and since our guides have found an area where this rare bird has been seen on several trips, optimism is justified. We will return to the village for sunset or return in the dark before dinner with flashlights looking for mainly Owls, Potoos and other night animals.

Overnight at Surama Lodge (B,L,D)



Harpy Eagle ©Leon Moore

Day 10, December 7

Transfer to Caiman House

After another early breakfast, we will transfer to Caiman House with stops along the way to check a few forest edges and many savannah ponds to see if we can locate the highly elusive Zigzag Heron. As we search for the Heron, we should come across some more common species such as Grey-necked Wood-Rail, Cocoi Heron, Maguari Stork, Buff-necked Ibis, and the stunning Jabiru Stork. Raptors in the area include Savanna, Great Black and Zone-tailed Hawks. The morning's journey ends at Caiman House where we will be welcomed by the staff, settle in to our accommodation, and then have lunch.

Caiman House Field Station was built in Yupukari by an American family who moved to the area so Peter Taylor could conduct a field study on Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), the largest member of the alligator family and a species that is listed by CITES as endangered. Black Caiman are severely depleted in nearly all of their former range, but are found in abundance in the waters of the Rupununi River. The field study is an attempt to gain an understanding of the Black Caiman's ecological role, as well as its context within local communities. By basing the study in a local village, and using local residents as assistants, it will hopefully

instill a better understanding of the caiman's importance in the local ecosystem. It is also hoped that a healthy population could lead to a sustainable resource, possibly through ecotourism. Guests are invited to join the caiman research crew in a night of caiman capturing. It's a bit like having a job with a National Geographic crew.

In the afternoon we will take a leisurely boat trip on the river beside our lodge. Here we are likely to find kingfishers including both Green-and-Rufous and American Pygmy, the superb Agami Heron, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Pied Lapwings, Boat-billed Herons, Large-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Pale-legged Hornero, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Spotted Puffbird and, with luck, we may come across the secretive Crestless Curassow. In addition, we may see both Black and Spectacled Caimans, Giant River Otter, Capybara, many species of monkeys, and even the occasional Arapaima or River Stingray. As the sun sets we may see Band-tailed Nightjars and possibly Nacunda Nighthawk and Common Potoo.

Overnight at Caiman House (B,L,D)



Giant Otters ©Leon Moore



Giant Anteater ©Leon Moore

Day 11, December 8

Caiman House and Environs

This morning we will have a chance to do some birding in the open savanna and forest patches where many species, including Blue-backed Manakin, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, White-bellied Antbird, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Finch's Euphonia, Ochre-lore Flatbill and even Tropical Screech-Owl, reside. We will then set off into the savanna in our 4x4's in search of several seldom-seen birds, namely the Crested Doradito and Bearded Tachuri, both of which like to keep low down in short grasses close to water. The rare and localized Crested Doradito was only recently discovered here and we have a very good chance of finding it. Other species on our morning hike "wish list" include Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Double-striped Thick-knee, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Maguari Stork. This is also our best chance to see the breathtaking Giant Anteater in its natural habitat surrounding this area.

Overnight Caiman House B,L,D



Bearded Tachuri

Day 12, December 9

Caiman House to Karasabai

This morning we will continue on our journey to Karasabai on rough road passing through very nice habitats such as open savanna and the Pakarima mountain range with gallery forest patches. Here Aplomado Falcon hunts over expansive plains with Grassland Yellow-Finches mixed with a variety of seedeaters, including Gray, Plumbeous, Chestnut, Ruddy and Lined Seedeaters. We also have good chances of encountering Giant Anteaters as they pass through the savanna. We will be passing lots of ponds, so these spots should produce very good birding opportunities for water birds such as herons, egrets and storks. We'll need to keep an eye overhead as well for the raptors likely for this area: Savanna and White-tailed Hawks along with Lesser Yellow-headed and King Vultures. Many other great birds should be seen on the drive to this very remote village of Karasabai with its exceptionally friendly residents.

Upon arrival we will take time to visit some of the locals in order to secure official permission to bird the area. There are very few visitors here and we wish to ensure good relations and encourage ongoing conservation efforts, especially when considering that these people ultimately control the fate of the Sun Parakeet.

This riparian forest along the border of Brazil where we will be birding during the morning offers some very interesting birding opportunities. Our primary target species will be the Sun Parakeet, but we will also have chances to observe many other birds, including Red-and-Green Macaw, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, to name but a few.

Following lunch in the village, we will bird our way back to Manari Ranch, which is located just 15 minutes outside the town of Lethem near the Brazilian border. Upon arrival, we will meet our local guide who will be taking us to look for the very rare Rio Branco Antbird and the Hoary-throated Spinetail the next morning. We will settle in to our very simple but comfortable accommodation for the next two nights.

Overnight at Manari Ranch B,L,D



Sun Parakeets

Day 13, December 10

Manari Ranch and environs, scheduled flight to Georgetown

Today we will focus our attention on two birds with exceedingly restricted ranges, the Hoary-throated Spinetail and the Rio Branco Antbird. Both species are only found in gallery forest along the Rio Branco River and other main tributaries, all of which ultimately flow into the Amazon River. Recent agricultural pressures have seriously reduced the amount of available habitat for these birds, and as a result the Spinetail is now classified as endangered, with the Antbird treated as near-threatened. In order to reach suitable habitat for these birds, we will travel by 4x4 through open savannah. Along the way we might come access Maguari and Jabiru Storks, Black-Collared Hawk, Ringed Kingfishers, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Black-chinned Antbird, Orange-backed Troupial, and other species before reaching our destination along a comparatively short stretch near the Iring River. We will specifically target the Hoary-throated Spinetail and the Rio Branco Antbird in this area, although other interesting species may include Pale-legged Hornero, Double-striped Thick-knee, Golden-spangled Piculet, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Flavescent Warbler, and more.

We will enjoy lunch before transferring to the airstrip in Lethem where we will catch a flight back to Georgetown. We will have a farewell dinner at the hotel and say our goodbyes tonight, using the remaining time in the evening to prepare for our international departures tomorrow.

Overnight in Georgetown (B,L,D)



Hoary-throated Spinetail ©Leon Moore

Day 14, December 11

This morning we will transfer to the airport to connect with our international flights back home.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- ~ All meals as listed on the itinerary as Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (BLD)
- ~ All bottled drinking water
- ~ All lodging during the tour
- ~ Activities as mentioned in the itinerary
- ~ All ground transportation
- ~ Domestic flights from Georgetown to Kaieteur Falls, Kaieteur Falls to Fairview and from Lethem to Georgetown
- ~ All national park and other services entrance fees
- ~ All guiding services
- ~ Two Cheepers! tour leaders (Jim and Cindy Beckman)
- ~ Pre-trip prep package, including customized checklist
- ~ Post-trip photo collection on flash drive or dvd

NOT INCLUDED

- ~ Alcoholic Drinks
- ~ Emergency evacuation insurance
- ~ Excess weight on the internal schedule flight
- ~ Departure tax on international flights
- ~ Gratuities, all phone calls and personal items of any nature