



Welcome to Wichabai in 2026-2027!



A home for Family and Guests...



An award -winning all-inclusive eco-lodge...



A free range traditional cattle ranch...



A center for local conservation...



A Capybara Rewilding center...



A Base for Giant Anteater Research...



A School for Ranch children...



And a River Expedition launch point!

Accommodation



Your accommodation is in one of 4 wooden cabins, raised for the view and breeze.

Each cabin features 2 double beds with mosquito nets, verandah with hammock, and a stunning open bathroom. Drinking water, towels, solar power, fan, toiletries, welcome note and gift are provided.

All our cabins are spacious and secluded, offering beautiful vistas and ultimate privacy. We comfortably accommodate 8 guests, based on 2 persons sharing each cabin.

The SRCS research building has 2 more basic rooms for guides and tour leaders.

Meals and Socialising



Family and guests come together for 3 meals a day at the main house. Meals, local juices and evening drinks are all included. In the evenings we socialise on the verandah or at the barbeque.

When not engaged in other activities, guests are free to spend time in the flower garden, swim in the lake and relax on the big verandah.

We think we provide the best food in Guyana: inventive meals inspired by fresh local produce and Guyanese culture. All diets are catered for.

What is included in my stay?

As well as **accommodation**, all **meals**, local **drinks** and **rum**, **wi-fi**, **laundry** and a **gift basket**, your stay includes all of these **guided activities**:



Ride horses and round up the cattle



Enjoy evening hilltop sundowners



Swim and paddle in a private lake paradise



Play with the capybaras



Guided birdwatching



Learn to lasso and use a bow and arrow



Explore the Rupununi River



Take guided walks and hikes



Track animals and set camera traps



Night time animal spotting

International Rates

Included	Not Included
----------	--------------

- Accommodation in Guest Houses
- Meals, snacks and local drinks
- Evening Rum-based drinks
- Laundry, daily room cleaning
- Personal welcome note and gift

Transport to and from ranch

Off-ranch activities (see below for tours and rates)

These activities:

- Swim with capybaras
- Horse Riding and/or cattle round up
- Canoeing in Rupununi River/ lake
- Camera traps and conservation tour
- Guided Walks and hikes
- Birdwatching
- Wild Swimming
- Vaquero Skills, bow and arrow
- Evening hilltop sundowner drive
- Night time animal-spotting

	Rate, US\$	
Per person per night, all inclusive	1 - 2 nights	3+ nights
Double Occupancy	295	275
Single Occupancy	350	325
Children (5 - 14) <i>When sharing with adult</i> <i>Children under 5 free of charge</i>	115	115

Contact us for special rates for Guyanese guests, and groups of over 8 persons



Optional Additions to Your Itinerary

Add these optional half day or full day options to your itinerary!

New for 2026: Stargazing



As one of the least populated places in one of the least populated countries on the planet, we can boast extra-ordinary night skies.

For best star-gazing, plan your trip for the two weeks after full moon. During dark nights you will see the Milky Way, northern and southern constellations. You will be guided to pick out galaxies and planets using binoculars and a small telescope.

Family friendly | All year round | Depends on weather

		Price per group, US\$
Name	Description	any group size
Star gazing	1-2 hours, includes guide, use of binoculars and telescope	no charge - book in advance!

New for 2026: Rupununi Kitchen



Guyana is a melting pot of Indigenous, African, East Indian, Chinese, European, South American and Caribbean flavours.

There are ingredients you have never heard of and cooking techniques you have never experienced! So try something different in this cookery class based on your interests. Take home your own mango-infused pepper sauce, make the famous Guyanese Pepperpot, or try your hand at dhal puri.

Family friendly | Culture/Cuisine | All year round

		Price per person, US\$		
Name	Description	5 - 6 px	2-4 px	1px
Rupununi Kitchen	2- 4 hours, including harvesting ingredients, meal prep and cooking	20	30	60

Giant Anteater Tracking and Conservation with the SRCS



As headquarters of the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), Wichabai is the home of Giant Anteater research and conservation in Guyana.

You will be guided by IUCN anteater representative and conservationist, Erin Earl. Track giant anteaters and learn about their habits and conservation status.

Family friendly | Wildlife Conservation | All year round

		Price per person, US\$		
Name	Description	5 - 8 px	2-4 px	1px
Giant Anteater Tracking and Conservation with the SRCS	2- 3 hours, includes transport, expert guide, coffee and snack, and rangers	40	55	95

Red Siskin Half Day Trip



The beautiful Red Siskin was on the brink of extinction until it was discovered in the South Rupununi in 2000. The SRCS’s teams of community rangers have safeguarded the bird and its habitats, and the population is now thriving.

Search for the Red Siskin, learn its amazing lost and found story and be part of research and conservation with the SRCS.

(This tour can be added to the Ancient Landscapes tour for an additional fee.)

Conservation / Birdwatching | All year round, except during floods

		Price per person, US\$		
Name	Description	5 - 8 px	2-4 px	1px
Red Siskin	Half day trip: includes transportation, packed breakfast, expert bird guide, SRCS ranger support, village fee, contribution to SRCS conservation.	180	2px: 250 3 - 4 px: 200	420

Katoonarib Cultural Experience



This is a wonderful experience for anyone curious about Indigenous life and culture.

Join a local Wapishana family in their farm, dig and bring home cassava and provisions, make your own cassava bread and tapioca. Then have a traditional lunch with the family, taste the local beverages, learn how to spin cotton and try shooting a bow and arrow.

Family friendly | Culture/Heritage | All year round

Name	Description	6 - 8 px	2-5 px	1px
Katoonarib Cultural Experience	Approx 6 hours, includes transport (boat or 4 X 4), guides, tours, lunch, village fee.	130	145	215

Saurab Mukru Craft Tour



This immersive cultural experience is a great way to break up your drive between Lethem and Wichabai.

Uncle Morris is a local craftsman, story teller and character. He invites you into his carefully nurtured forest, teaming with spirits and stories. There you will harvest the shoots of the mukru plant, strip and weave a simple pattern to take home.

A generous lunch of local produce is provided by the Quiko women’s group and eaten in the cool of the forest.

Family friendly | Culture/Heritage/Craft | All year round

Name	Description	5 - 8 px	2-4 px	1px
Saurab Mukru Tour	2 - 3 hours, includes local buffet-style lunch, forest tour to harvest mukru, guide, mukru weaving lesson.	75	85	125

Kumu Waterfalls



A refreshing place to have lunch on your way into or out of Lethem

Kumu is just half an hour’s drive from Lethem. There is no better place to spend a couple of hours after a tiring flight or drive. Swim in the cool water flowing from the Kanuku Mountains, eat a delicious local-style buffet lunch and enjoy the forest scenery.

Family friendly | Landscapes/Waterfalls | All year round

Name	Description	5 - 8 px	2-4 px	1px
Kumu Waterfalls	2 - 3 hours, includes transport, local buffet-style lunch, guide and swim in the waterfalls.	100	110	170

Ancient Landscapes Day Trip



An adventurous day out for everyone.

Drive 2 hours through savannahs and over rivers to the charming Indigenous village of Rupunau. Visit ancient petroglyphs, taste local wines, picnic and swim in clear-water streams. Learn about the geological and anthropological history of the region, guided by a qualified geologist.

This is your opportunity to climb the spectacular Wiiwiitau Mountain (dry weather only).

Add Red Siskin birdwatching to this trip for a small extra fee (seasonal)

● Family friendly | Culture/Heritage/Landscapes | Hiking Opportunity | Dry Season only

Name	Description	5 - 8 px	2-4 px	1px
Ancient Landscapes	Full day trip, includes transportation, guides, lunch, snacks, drinks, village fee and tours	180	210	375

Mini-Rodeo at the Wichabai Corral



Join the Wichabai Vaqueros in the corral as they put the animals through the chute, count, lasso and brand them.

Try your hand cracking a bull whip, and practice with your own lasso.

When the work is done, the vaqueros demonstrate their rodeo skills by bareback bull riding.

Family Friendly | Culture/Ranching | Dry season only

Name	Description	total, all group sizes
Mini Rodeo	1-2 hours in the Wichabai Corral	100

Hikes and Walks



Ask us to add hikes or walks to suit you.

From short walks near the ranch, to epic hikes with world-beating views.

Family Friendly | Landscapes/Adventure | Some walks are seasonal

Name	Description
Hikes and walks	Many walks can be included in your itinerary at no extra cost. Ask us to recommend adventurous hikes to suit your abilities, budget and the season.

Transport

Most guests arrive in Lethem on a scheduled 1 hour Trans Guyana Airlines Flight from Ogle Airport. You can book online at transguyana.net.



The drive from Lethem to Wichabai takes 2 to 3 hours over unpaved roads and through Indigenous villages.

Kumu waterfalls and Saurab Craft tours are good ways of breaking up the journey.

Lethem to Wichabai, one way (per vehicle)	US\$300
Lethem to Wichabai, return (per vehicle)	US\$600

Including Wichabai in your Guyana Itinerary

Three ideas for how to include Wichabai in an itinerary with North Rupununi Lodges

- By Road:** From Lethem, **drive south to Wichabai**, spend a few nights and then drive back through Lethem to locations in the North Rupununi. Or reverse this trip to make Wichabai the final stop.
- By Air:** Charter a flight from Georgetown to straight to **Wichabai’s private airstrip**, with the option of going **via Kaieteur Falls**. Spend a few days at Wichabai and then drive to other Rupununi Locations. Or reverse this trip and fly directly out of Wichabai, through Kaieteur Falls.
- Exit by boat:** When water levels are high (September to November), from Wichabai travel **by boat through the Kanuku Mountain Protected Area** to locations in the North Rupununi. Camp at Kumaran and Mapari.

When to Visit

We are open: mid-August to mid-May.

Best time to visit: September to April.

(In August and May the weather can be unpredictable, and you should expect biting insects)

For river trips: September to November

History of Wichabai Ranch



Wichabai was settled over 100 years ago by a pioneering Scot called HPC Melville. Melville became famous as the man who founded Dadanawa Cattle Ranch (supposedly once the biggest cattle ranch in the world), married two Wapishana ladies (at the same time) and cut the infamous cattle trail to the coastland.

HPC, his 10 children, and their legion offspring, became rich cattle ranchers and balata traders. In the middle of the last century Wichabai was a center of commerce, with grand parties in the big house overlooking the lake.

Alas, as political policies came to disfavour the wealthy ranchers , HPC’s heirs plotted treason. In 1969 they helped lead the Rupununi Uprising. For 10 days or so, the Rupununi declared itself an independent republic. It was not to last, and the chaos that followed the failed uprising initiated the demise of Wichabai and many Rupununi Ranches.

The land was acquired by nearby Dadanawa Ranch and many years later became the home of the DeFreitas family who had managed Dadanawa for more than 30 years. In 2016, Justin DeFreitas and his family moved from Dadanawa to Wichabai. Since then, the family has built a home based on eco-tourism, conservation and small scale cattle ranching.

Conservation, Research and Green Credentials



The South Rupununi Conservation Society

Wichabai is the home of the South Rupununi Conservation Society, Guyana’s foremost grassroots conservation society. The SRCS is the winner of the Chicago Field Museum Parker Gentry Award (2023) and the Whitely Award for Conservation (2024).

Our 20-year mission to sustain the plants, animals and people of the Rupununi has led to the formation of more than **200,000Ha of Community Conservation Zones** for vulnerable species, over 2000 students from 17 communities participating in a 2-year **environmental education programme, research and conservation** of 3

critically endangered bird species, giant anteaters, giant armadillos and yellow-spotted river turtles. Find out about these and our many other projects and achievements at www.srcs-gy.com.

Wichabai’s guests join rangers and participate in the SRCS’s ongoing research and conservation efforts.

Wichabai’s dedication to Environmental Stewardship

100% of Wichabai’s power needs are provided by solar energy and all water is harvested from wells and rainwater. Grey water is used in the garden.

In an effort to reduce waste, we feed our leftovers to ranch animals, compost our biodegradables, give away useful items like bottles, send cans to Brazil to be recycled and reuse everything we can. Single-use water bottles are not used.

If we cannot fill the table with our own organic, free-range vegetables and meat, we aim to source from nearby villages and ranches. 100% of our meat is local and free-range. No wild meat is served.

Our small business has minimal environmental footprint but makes a large contribution to the local economy through expenditure, employment, training and links to schools.

Wichabai works closely with local communities and NGO partners to safeguard traditional lands and practices.

Cancellation Policy

We are a very small business, so cancellations and no-shows affect us; therefore, we ask for a non-refundable 20% deposit upon acceptance of reservations. The balance is due not less than seven days prior to arrival.



Thank you!