

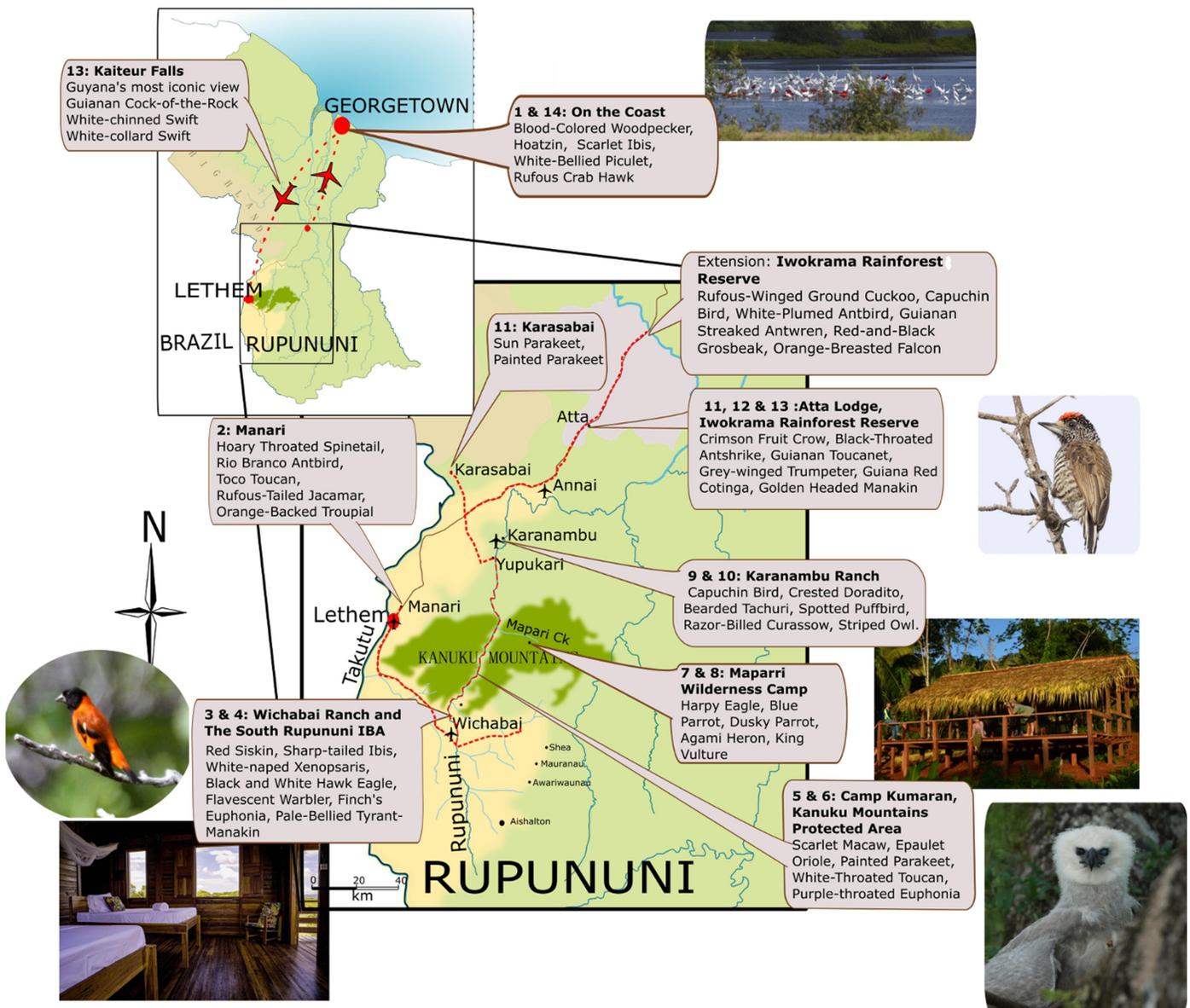
GUYANA'S BIRDING SECRETS

*TRAVEL WITH RUPUNUNI TRAILS AND THE SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY THROUGH GUYANA'S ONLY
IMPORTANT BIRD AREA AND THREE NATIONAL PARKS.*

*SLEEP IN THE HEART OF THE KANUKU PROTECTED AREA, JOIN IN GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION, AND SEE THE BEST OF
GUYANA'S BIRDS IN ALL HER MAJOR HABITATS.*

This **two week** itinerary transports you through all the major habitats of Guyana's extraordinary bird and wildlife biodiversity: from the bustle of the coast to ancient savannahs of the South Rupununi, by river through the heart of the rainforested Kanuku Mountains, and into North Rupununi savannahs and wetlands.

Through observation and research, our guides have learned the secrets of Guyana's wild birds and animals





DAY ONE

Arrive in the bustling coastal city of Georgetown and make yourself comfortable at your hotel. Drive out along the marshy flatlands to view the **coastal and sea birds**. Scarlet Ibis flock with Egrets and other sea birds.

Guyana's coastland is populated by all of the 'six nations' that make up Guyana's modern ethnic mix. Experience the diversity of foods, architecture and music that give the city its vibrancy.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Scarlet Ibis
Hoatzin
Rufous Crab Hawk

SLEEP: Georgetown Hotel



DAY TWO

After early morning birding at **Georgetown Botanical Gardens**, a one-hour flight from a small airport will take you over hundreds of miles of rainforest and into the savannahs of Guyana's interior.

Check into your accommodation along a creek just outside the border town of Lethem. Then bird along Takatu River for the **Rio Branco Ant bird** and the **Hoary-throated Spinetail**. In the evening, soak in your first of many unforgettable Rupununi Sunsets.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Blood-coloured Woodpecker
White-bellied Piculet
Rio Branco Antbird
Hoary-throated Spinetail
Orange-billed Troupial

SLEEP: Manari Ranch,
Central Rupununi



DAY THREE

Travel through South Rupununi to **Wichabai Ranch**, passing through indigenous villages and stopping for birds like the Spine-tailed Creeper along the way.

Wichabai is the home of **Rupununi Trails and the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS)**, and our new cabins and SRCS Research Station have just opened up. At mealtimes overlooking the lake, and on short walks from your guest houses, you will see **Sharp-tailed Ibis**, herons and Jabiru, and in the evenings, Double-striped Thick-knees, Nacunda Nighthawks, and Great Horned Owls.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Rufous-tailed Jacamar
Spine-tailed Creeper
Purple Gallinule
Sharp-tailed Ibis
White-naped Xenopsaris
Bearded Tachuri

SLEEP: Wichabai Ranch,
South Rupununi



You can combine your birdwatching with **Giant Anteater conservation and Research**: Wichabai is the centre of SRCS's Giant Anteater programme, and you can join our local researchers as they track anteaters and set camera traps in the afternoon. Any new anteater you find can be named in your honour!



DAY FOUR

This day is dedicated to birding through the spectacular landscapes south of the Kanukus, Guyana's first 'Important Bird Area' in search of the **Red Siskin**.

The siskin was the first bird to be placed on the IUCN Red List, and it was known only from a vanishingly small population in Venezuela before an entirely new population was discovered in this part of the South Rupununi just 20 years ago. Members of Rupununi Trails set up the **South Rupununi Conservation Society** to protect the species, and since then our organization has grown into the major grassroots conservation society in Guyana.

Visit petroglyph sites at spectacular Barowadtau Mountain, and bird along the ponds on the way back to Wichabai.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Red Siskin
Cayenne Jay
Azure Galinule
Sun Bittern
Pinated Bittern
Aplomado Falcon
Crested Bobwhite

SLEEP: Wichabai Ranch,
South Rupununi



DAY FIVE

This is the start of our **River Birding adventure**. Travel downstream on the Rupununi River, birding as you go, through the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area. Deep in the Kanuku Mountains, sleep in hammocks at Camp Kumaran, our thatched open-walled cabin perched high above the river. Look down on Scarlet Macaws and eagles flying over the rainforest canopy.

Camp Kumaran hosts the **SRCS Yellow-spotted River Turtle Conservation team**. In season, you can join them as they do population counts and protect the nesting sites of this threatened species.

Spend the rest of the day birding around the trails in the surrounding foothills. In the evening, drift along the river and nearby creeks looking for wildlife and sleeping birds in the overhanging gallery forest.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Scarlet Macaw
Great Black Hawk
Purple-throated Euphonia
Painted Parakeet
Epaulet Oriole
Southern Rough-winged Swallow
Pied Plovers

SLEEP: Camp Kumaran,
Kanuku Mountains,
Rupununi River



DAY SIX

Today, **explore the deep forest by foot and canoe**. A place rarely travelled by tourists, the Crabwood Creek winds its way through the forest to a waterfall. Bird from canoes and along forest trails before returning to camp and another evening's night drift before bed.

You are likely to see any of 6 species of monkeys, giant river otters, and perhaps some of the rarer species like tapir, capybara, peccary and occasionally even jaguar in this extremely isolated area.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

White-throated Toucan
Black-necked Aracari
Amazon Kingfisher
Ringed Kingfisher
White-winged Swallow
White-banded Swallow
Spectacled Owl
Tawny-bellied Screech Owl

SLEEP: Camp Kumaran,
Kanuku Mountains,
Rupununi River



DAY SEVEN

Break camp early and travel downstream Rupununi, and up **Maparri Creek**, to a beautiful camp below the Maparri Waterfalls. On the way, you will see Kingfishers, of which there are five species here. Macaws and many species of parrots screech overhead. Vultures, of which the King is the most magnificent, can often be seen.

At Maparri, bathe at the base of the waterfalls in a natural Jacuzzi. Here there are tool marks made by early indigenous peoples who used the area for living, hunting and fishing.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Pinnated Sunbittern
Agami Heron
King Vulture

SLEEP: Maparri Wilderness
Camp,
Rupununi River



DAY EIGHT

Spend a whole day around Maparri. Early morning, and late in the afternoon, drift downstream, birding along the dense, overhanging forest.

From here, we will check out a **Harpy Eagle nest**. The birds nest in the fork of massive Silk Cotton trees and patrol the canopy for miles around. We often see them at the nest when they come to feed their single chick.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Harpy Eagle
Dusky Parrot
Blue Parrot
Antbirds (many species)

SLEEP: Maparri Wilderness
Camp,
Rupununi River



DAY NINE

A long day on the river as we **travel out of the mountains** and into the gallery forest in North Rupununi savannahs. Stop for birding and to see the giant caiman prowling the shallows. Giant River Otters play in large family groups and make dens in the river banks.

This evening, enjoy **great food and comfortable beds** at your lodge. Karanambu Ranch is world-renowned for its orphaned Giant River Otter rehabilitation. If you are up for it, night time birding for Striped Owls and other nocturnal creatures is possible.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Spotted Puffbird
Razo-billed Curassow
Striped Owl

SLEEP: Karanambu,
North Rupununi



DAY TEN

All day **birding around your lodge**. In the morning, hike into the low woodlands on the Capuchin Trail. This seasonally flooded gallery forest connects the Rupununi River with larger bush islands in the Savannah, and provides important habitat for bush wildlife.

In the evening, see the Victoria Amazonica Water lilies at sunset, and drink a famous rum punch from the boat.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Agami Heron
Capuchin Bird
Crestless Curacao
Black-crested Antshrike

SLEEP: Karanambu,
North Rupununi



DAY ELEVEN

Leave early for the **small village of Karasabai**. This isolated village, surrounded in the picturesque foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains, is the only place in Guyana you can see the beautiful **Sun Parakeet**. On the road out, find the Crested Doradito hiding in the thick grass of the wetlands. Stop at the area where waters from the Essequibo river basin mingle with the mighty Amazon river basin.

From Karasabai, travel north to Atta in Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve and overnight. This 371 000 hectares of intact primary rainforest is managed sustainably to show that a forest is more than a sum of its parts.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Sun Parakeet
Painted Parakeet
Crested Doradito

SLEEP: Atta Lodge,
Iwokrama Rainforest



DAY TWELVE

Very early, bird at a nearby bridge looking for Crimson Topaz and Curacao, Grey-winged Trumpeters and many parrots. As soon as the mist clears, get up onto the **Canopy Walkway** for wonderful birding right in the treetops. The canopy walkway is the only recreational canopy walkway in South America.

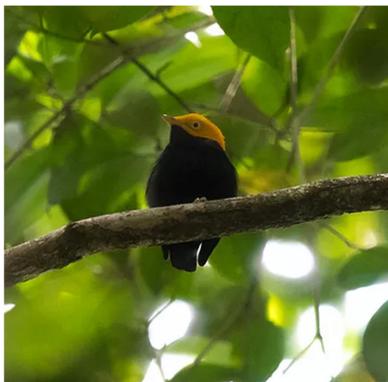
Back at the Lodge is a beautiful hummingbird garden, and black curassow and deer often come to feed under the trees. This is where you will find the **Crimson Fruitcrow**.

In the evening, look for owls and potoos along the roads and trails.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Crimson Fruit Crow
Black-Throated Antshrike
Guianan Toucanet
Grey-winged Trumpeter

SLEEP: Atta Lodge,
Iwokrama Rainforest



DAY THIRTEEN

This morning's missions are in two different habitats: the Rufous Potoo in a flooded palm tree forest and Black Manakins found in a low, white-sand based forest. Guiana Red Cotingas are also sometimes found around this area.

Look for white-plumed Antbird, Black-chinned Antbird, Antpittas and many other rainforest birds in the trails around the lodge this afternoon.

And later, back on the road are Crested and Green Oropendolas, Aracaris, and parrots of every colour.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Rufous Potoo
Black Manakin
Guiana Red Cotinga
Golden Headed Manakin

SLEEP: Atta Lodge,
Iwokrama Rainforest



OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY

Take an extra day to explore at Iwokrama River Lodge, famous for Orange-breasted Falcons, Guianan Streaked Antwren and other deep forest birds.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:

Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo
White-plumed Antbird
Guianan Streaked Antwren

SLEEP: Iwokrama
River Lodge



DAY FOURTEEN

Early morning birding, then take a charter flight back to Georgetown.

There is an option to fly to **Kaitetur Falls**, astonishing for its sheer drop (the longest single drop in the world) and for the absence of any crowds. Your small plane of passengers will likely be the only group at the Falls, so you can take your time and take in the unobstructed view.

If not, engage in some more birding along the coast.

HIGHLIGHT BIRDS:
Guianan Cock-of-the-rock
White-chinned Swift
White-collared Swift

SLEEP: Georgetown Hotel

DAY FIFTEEN

Join your onward connections

Difficulty Level: EASY - MODERATE

(Requires a basic level of fitness but no technical expertise)

Comfort Level: BASIC-MODERATE

(Mostly in staying lodges, but includes sleeping in hammocks under tarpaulin camps)

PARTS OF THIS TOUR CAN BE LENGTHENED OR SHORTENED TO SUIT YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS: defreitasduane@yahoo.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER ITINERARIES, AND STAYING IN THE RUPUNUNI: www.wichabai.com

PHOTOS: KESTER CLARKE, DUANE DEFREITAS, MESHACH PIERRE, ATTA RAINFOREST LODGE, ERIN EARL, SOUTH RUPUNUNI CONSERVATION SOCIETY,
IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST, GUYANA TOURISM SOCIETY.