

# RUPUNUNI IN DEPTH: SAVANNAH AND RIVER

THIS TWO WEEK\* ITINERARY TRANSPORTS YOU FROM THE WAPISHANA COWBOYS OF THE SOUTH RUPUNUNI SAVANNAHS, BY RIVER THROUGH THE HEART OF THE KANUKU MOUNTAINS, AND INTO THE HOME OF THE MACUSHI PEOPLE OF THE NORTH RUPUNUNI.

ALONG THE WAY YOU WILL IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WILD HEART OF THE RUPUNUNI AND HER PEOPLE: THEIR LONG HISTORY, RICH CULTURES, EXTRAORDINARY BIODIVERSITY AND CHALLENGING FUTURE.

## DAY ONE

Fly into Lethem and drive south to Wichabai Ranch. Settle into your guest cabins overlooking the corral, lake and mountains.

A short drive takes you to Dadanawa Ranch, fabled to once have been the largest ranch in the world. Cattle are still rounded up on horseback by Wapishana vaqueros, and you can join the vaqueros as they work in the corral; lassoing, branding and castrating.

A tour of the ranch with the ranch manager will give you an insight into the colourful history of the South Rupununi.

Overnight in Wichabai Guest Cabins.



## DAY TWO

This morning you will be joining the South Rupununi Conservation Society in Giant Anteater research and conservation activities. This means heading out in vehicles and motorbikes to look for anteaters, check camera traps and record tracks and other signs of the animals. You get the honour of naming any newly identified anteaters.

After breakfast, travel to the home of a Wapishana family. Immerse yourself in their way of life: help them harvest cassava in the farm and spend the morning processing it into bread, grain, drink, porridge and preservative. You will also get some experience with a bow and arrow and cotton spinning. Lunch is with the family, feasting on the produce of their farm and garden.

In the afternoon, relax at Wichabai in a hammock, take a guided walk or go for a swim in the lake.

Overnight in Wichabai Guest Cabins.





## DAY THREE

An early drive takes you to Rupunuu village and to the beautiful mountain of Ikwitau. Here you might be able to see the endangered Red Siskin. Nearby is Barawatau Mountain, covered in Petroglyphs. These undeciphered rock carvings tell a story of thousands of years of habitation.

In the village, visit a family and learn how to weave the traditional Wapishana hammock.

On your return to Wichabai, take a short climb for an unforgettable panoramic sunset view. We will come back slowly, shining flashlights to look for nocturnal mammals and birds.

Overnight Wichabai in Wichabai Guest Cabins



## DAY FOUR

You begin your journey through the mountains by driving to Sand Creek Village and walking to their Rainforest Camp. For the next few nights you will be sleeping in carefully made hammock camps deep in the rainforest. Completely isolated from civilisation, you can fully submerge yourself in nature.

At every opportunity we will show you how humans have interacted with the forest for centuries and the methods people have used, and continue to use, to survive here.

Overnight at Sand Creek Rainforest Camp (Hammock Camp).



## DAY FIVE TO SEVEN

In boats and canoes we will travel down to our home for the next three nights: our new wood and leaf camp house in a family forest farm on the river's edge.

Spend the days exploring the rainforest around the camp, walking bush trails and visiting a Harpy Eagle nest. Canoe down into Crabwood creek; an area that is rarely travelled by locals or tourists. You will have a chance to see neotropical river otters, tapir and other animals not seen on the main river.

After the extraordinary events of the day, drift downstream to listen to the birds, watch the monkeys and soak in the spirit of the forest.

3 nights at Camp Kumaran (hammock camp).





## DAY EIGHT AND NINE

We will break camp and travel downstream to Tawah, a wide river bank at the base of a mountain, where we will set up camp. Along the river are monkeys, forest birds and beautiful scenery.

Explore the area around Tawah, walking through the bush, and taking our time investigating the river edge. Along the river are monkeys, forest birds and beautiful scenery. Your guide will teach you how to track animals in the forest; go at night to spy nocturnal creatures\*\*.

2 nights at Tawah (Hammock Camp).



## DAY TEN TO TWELVE

We will move camp again, this time up into Mapari Creek, where there are options to sleep in a wilderness camp or a new lodge. The waterfalls here are beautiful and wonderful for swimming and fishing. We will walk to the top of the cataracts, take river drifts and explore the trails around the camp.

3 nights at Mapari Lodge or Mapari Wilderness Camp.



## DAY THIRTEEN

Leave beautiful Mapari, and travel downstream to Yupukari village, through river framed by gallery forest.

At Yupukari, make yourself comfortable at Caiman House and engage in some of the lodge's activities, including Caiman catching. You will find out more about their Black Caiman and river turtle research and conservation, and the excellent work they have done in the local village school.

Overnight at Caiman House.

## DAY FORTEEN

Drive from Yupukari back to Lethem and catch your onward transport.

**Difficulty Level: EASY**

*(Requires only a basic level of fitness and 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.

\*\*NOTE THAT WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE HUNTING ON OUR TRIPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS: [defreitasduane@yahoo.com](mailto:defreitasduane@yahoo.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STAYING IN THE RUPUNUNI: [www.wichabai.com](http://www.wichabai.com)