



**GUYANA: THE LOST WORLD – GUIANA SHIELD SPECIALS
AND SUN PARAKEET**

21 JANUARY – 03 FEBRUARY 2025



Guianan Cock-of-the-rock is one of the key species that we will search for on this trip.

Guyana conjures up visions of one of the last few truly wild places on Earth that still holds incredible landscapes covered by thousands of miles of untouched rainforest, pristine forest rivers, water lily-covered lakes, rolling grassland and savannas, and magnificent, breathtaking waterfalls. Guyana truly gives visitors the sense of being in the Lost World.

This relatively small country, found in northeast South America, has become a mandatory destination for adventurous birders as it hosts many species that are hard to find in adjacent South American countries. Some of these species include **Capuchinbird**, **Black Nunbird**, **Crimson Fruitcrow**, **Blood-colored** and **Waved Woodpeckers**, **Black** and **Crestless Curassows**, **Bearded Tachuri**, **Red-fan Parrot**, and **Rufous** and **White-winged Potoos**. It also offers great chances for **Harpy Eagle**, if there are active nests in the area. With the help of our Birding Ecotours leaders and local guides we will do our best to find this most-wanted and massive raptor. In addition, Guyana offers a unique set of species called Guiana Shield specials, including **Guianan Toucanet**, **Guianan Trogon**, **Guianan Red Cotinga**, **Guianan Streaked Antwren**, and **Guianan Puffbird**. There are also good chances for some forest species including **White-plumed Antbird**, **Rufous-throated Antbird**, and with luck **Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo**.



*The distinctive **Black Curassow** will be searched for at Atta Rainforest Lodge.*

Our 14-day Guyana birding tour is designed to explore the best that this country has to offer to birders in two parts. The first part takes in the coast at Georgetown, looking for the localized **Rufous Crab Hawk** and **Scarlet Ibis**. We will then explore the awesome Kaieteur Falls and visit a lek of the gorgeous **Guianan Cock-of-the-rock** near Surama Eco-Lodge, where we will be based. Next up are the rainforests of Atta Rainforest Lodge with its magnificent canopy walkways which should give us eye-level views of several canopy-dwelling species. The second part of the trip includes long 4x4 drives exploring remote Amerindian communities in search of two localized, Endangered, and most-wanted species, **Sun Parakeet** and **Red Siskin**. We will make all possible

efforts to provide you with these unique species as well as the localized **Rio Branco Antbird** and **Hoary-throated Spinetail**.

Finally, Guyana also offers visitors good chances of encountering interesting wildlife, with sightings of **Giant Otter**, **Giant Anteater**, and even **Puma** and **Jaguar** are not uncommon in this fantastic country.



*We may get lucky with a **Puma** sighting (photo John Christian).*

Itinerary (14 days/13 nights)

Day 1. Arrival in Georgetown and transfer to the hotel

You will arrive at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, located 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of the capital city, Georgetown, meet our local representative, and transfer to the hotel. Dinner would be for your own account tonight.

Overnight: Cara Lodge, Georgetown

Day 2. Mudflats birding, Mahaica River boat cruise, and Georgetown Botanical Gardens

Today we will have an early start to head to the Atlantic coast and check the mudflats for the beautiful **Scarlet Ibis**. We will then continue towards the village of Mahaica, where we will take a boat trip along the Mahaica River. Among our targets will be Guyana's national bird, the bizarre and distinctive **Hoatzin**. We will also look for a host of other species, including **Rufous Crab Hawk**, a localized Guyana special. Other target birds include **Black-collared Hawk**, **Black**

Hawk-Eagle, Long-winged Harrier, Barred Antshrike, Silvered Antbird, Mangrove, Striped and Little Cuckoos, Green-tailed Jacamar, Blood-colored Woodpecker, White-bellied Piculet, and Mangrove Rail. Depending on the level of the tide we may be able to check the shoreline for waders, including **White-rumped** and **Western Sandpipers, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher,** and other coastal and typical aquatic species such as **White-cheeked Pintail, Tricolored and Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Magnificent Frigatebird, Royal, Gull-billed, and Least Terns,** and **Brown Pelican.**

After lunch we will visit the famous Georgetown Botanical Gardens. This parkland area with open grass, scattered trees, bushes, and several ponds is famous for holding a good selection of species, including the localized **Blood-colored Woodpecker.** In addition we will look for **White-bellied Piculet, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Southern Beardless Tyrannulet,** the impressive **Toco Toucan, Black-capped Donacobius, Wing-barred Seedeater, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Black-collared Hawk,** and a colorful and noisy selection of parrots, including **Red-shouldered Macaw, and Orange-winged, Yellow-crowned, Southern Mealy, and Festive Amazons.** Flowering trees may support hummingbirds such as **Black-throated Mango, and White-chested and Plain-bellied Emeralds.**

Overnight: Cara Lodge, Georgetown



*The Georgetown Botanical Gardens usually hold a good selection of parrots such as **Festive Amazon.***

Day 3. Kaieteur Falls – Surama Eco-Lodge

After breakfast at our hotel we will take a chartered flight over unspoiled pristine forest to Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall. Though Venezuela's Angel Falls is greater in total

height, its filamentous drop occurs in stages, whereas Kaieteur Falls is a single, massive, thundering cascade 330 feet (100 meters) wide, as the Potaro River makes a sheer drop of 750 feet (228 meters), nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. The spectacle is even more impressive due to its remoteness – it is entirely possible that we will be the only people viewing the falls during our visit. Here we hope to find **White-chinned** and **White-tipped Swifts** swirling over the gorge. The other two targets are the astonishingly colorful **Guianan Cock-of-the-rock** and the most-wanted **Orange-breasted Falcon**. We should also be able to find the rare and endemic **Beebe's Rocket Frog** that lives in water held in the leaves of giant bromeliad plants.

Afterwards our chartered flight will take us to Fairview village, from where we will be transferred to Surama Eco-Lodge in the heart of Guyana's beautiful rainforest. Arriving at the lodge by 3 p.m., we will settle into our accommodation and should have time to look for some classic and common species around the lodge grounds before it gets dark. When darkness falls, this will be our first opportunity to look for **Tawny-bellied Screech Owl** and other species of nightjars including **Pauraque**, **White-tailed Nightjar** and **Short-tailed Nighthawk**.

Overnight: Surama Eco-Lodge



Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo at Surama Eco-Lodge (photo Anne Koke).

Days 4-5. Birding Surama Eco-Lodge

We will spend the next two full days exploring the forest interior of Surama Eco-Lodge looking for specials such as **Black-faced Hawk**, **White-bellied Antbird**, **Cream-colored**, **Ringed**, and **Waved Woodpeckers**, **Guianan Puffbird**, **Caica Parrot**, **Spix's Guan**, **Little Chachalaca**, **Red-and-green Macaw**, **White-crowned Manakin**, **Black-crested Antshrike**, **Rufous-bellied**, **Long-winged**, and **White-flanked Antwrens**, **Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant**, **Cinnamon-throated**, and **Wedge-billed Woodcreepers** and if we are lucky, we may find the elusive **Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo**.

We will spend the afternoons birding some diverse habitats such as forest edge where we could find species such as **Ochre-ored Flatbill**, **Golden-headed Manakin**, **White-throated Toucan**, **Red-fan Parrot**, **Black-necked Aracari**, and perhaps even **Pompadour Cotinga** and **Marail Guan**. The open grasslands in the area offer chances for **Finsch's Euphonia**, **Yellow-bellied** and **Wing-barred Seedeaters**, **Tropical Gnatcatcher**, **Green-tailed Goldenthrout**, and **Savanna Hawk**. With some luck we may find the secretive **Ash-throated Crake**.

Surama Eco-Lodge is also well known for **Harpy Eagle** which often nest in the vicinity. We hope to find this majestic and most-wanted species, if there are any active nests in the area.

Overnight: Surama Eco-Lodge



Harpy Eagle photographed near Surama Eco-Lodge in 2023 (photo Ron Allicock).

Day 6. Transfer to Atta Rainforest Lodge

Today we will leave Surama Eco-Lodge and head to Atta Rainforest Lodge. Here, the impressive Guianan rainforests protect a unique ecosystem in the heart of the Guiana Shield, where the high species richness of Amazonian and Guianan flora and fauna make it one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Along the drive we may spot a series of great birds such as **Spangled** and **Pompadour Cotingas**, **Black-necked Aracari**, **Red-throated Caracara**, **Gould's Toucanet**, **Blue-throated Piping Guan**, **Green-backed Trogon**, **Green Aracari**, **Black Nunbird**, **Green-tailed Jacamar**, **Black-spotted Barbet**, **Guianan Toucanet**, and **Black-crowned Tityra**, amongst others. We will start looking for our first **Crimson Topaz** from roads running along blackwater streams in the area.

We will spend three nights at Atta Rainforest Lodge, looking for species such as **Black Curassow**, **Grey-winged Trumpeter**, **Guianan Toucanet**, **Guianan Red-necked Cotinga**, **Capuchinbird**,

and **Spotted Antpitta**, amongst other targets. Canopy flocks may also produce **Ash-winged, Todd's, and Spot-tailed Antwrens, Buff-cheeked and Lemon-chested Greenlets, Olive-green and Guianan Tyrannulets, Zimmer's Flatbill, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, and Guianan Puffbird**. Before arriving at our lodge, we will look for **Rufous Potoo** and if any birds are at their day roosts, we will be able to enjoy this very rare and elusive bird.

Overnight: Atta Rainforest Lodge

Days 7-8. Atta Rainforest Lodge

We will have two full days to explore the forests around Atta from which we will visit the canopy walkway to look for passing flocks of canopy-dwelling species. Time will be spent looking for **Todd's and Spot-tailed Antwrens, Short-tailed Pygmy Tyrant, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Guianan Trogon, Dusky Purpletuft, Paradise and Opal-rumped Tanagers, Golden-sided Euphonia, and Black Nunbird**. The entire morning will involve birding from the canopy walkway and walking the trails around the lodge. This wonderful area is famous for its variety of colorful cotingas, and if we can locate a few fruiting trees, we will be in for an avian spectacle with possibilities of **Pompadour, Purple-breasted, and Guianan Red-necked Cotingas** as well as the most-wanted **Crimson Fruitcrow**. The forest interior is our best bet for **Grey-winged Trumpeter, Amazonian Barred and Red-billed Woodcreepers, Helmeted Pygmy Tyrant, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Waved, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers, as well as Guiana Spider Monkey and White-faced Saki**.

The white-sand forest patches are good habitat to look for **Black Manakin, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Amazonian and Mouse-colored Antshrikes, and Black-chinned, and Grey Antbirds**. Other interesting birds to look for here include **Rufous-bellied Antwren, Collared Puffbird, White-throated Manakin, Cinnamon-crested Spadebill, Common Scale-backed, White-plumed, Ferruginous-backed and Rufous-throated Antbirds**.

At night we will look for the localized **White-winged Potoo** which is one of the targets for this area as well as **Amazonian Pygmy Owl, and Crested and Black-and-white Owls**.

Overnight: Atta Rainforest Lodge

Day 9. Atta Lodge to Rock View Lodge - Northern Rupununi

Before leaving the lodge, we will have a final morning's birding session around the lodge, scanning the treetops looking for **Marail Guan, Green Aracari, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Black-spotted Barbet, Golden-collared Woodpecker, Black-bellied Cuckoo, Green Oropendola, and Crimson Fruitcrow**.

After breakfast we will depart for Rock View Lodge, with our journey taking us across the North Rupununi Savannah. The road skirts numerous gallery forests and wetlands, offering great views of a variety of herons, ducks, **Jabiru, Pinnated Bittern, Plumbeous and Grey Seed eaters, Bicolored Wren, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, White-fringed Antwren, Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, the colorful Orange-backed Troupial, and Double-striped Thick-knee**. On the drive we will make several stops to look for **Crested Doradito** and

Bearded Tachuri, two key species on our target list. This is also the best chance of finding **Giant Anteater** – we have a high success rate of spotting these most-wanted and bizarre animals on our tours. We will then continue our journey to Rock View Lodge, where we hope to arrive early in the afternoon in time for check in and our dinner.

Overnight: Rock View Lodge



Pinnated Bittern is reliable in the Rupununi marshes (photo Paul Newman).

Day 10. Rock View Lodge birding and Rupununi River excursion

The morning will start with a cup of coffee before heading out by boat on the Rupununi River. We will be in small engine-powered boats as we head downstream. Depending on the water level we will visit some of the many oxbow lakes found in the area and focus on seeing the rare **Crestless Curassow** – our best chances of seeing this bird are along the river banks as the birds come to drink in the morning. We are also likely to find **Green-and-rufous** and **Amazon Kingfishers**, **Rufescent Tiger Heron**, **Agami**, **Boat-billed** and **Capped Herons**, **Sungrebe**, **Sunbittern**, **Pied Plover**, **Bare-necked Fruitcrow**, and **Spot-breasted Woodpecker**. In addition, we may be lucky enough to see **Giant Otter**, **Capybara**, **Black Caiman**, **Spectacled Caiman**, and many species of monkeys. Afterwards, we will return for lunch back at the lodge.

In the late afternoon, as the temperature cools down, we will visit a nearby gallery forest to look for **White-tailed Nightjar**, **Spot-tailed Nightjar**, and **Rufous Nightjar**. This is also a good opportunity to see hundreds of **Least** and **Lesser Nighthawks** as they feed at dusk.

Overnight: Rock View Lodge

Day 11. Rock View Lodge to Karasabai Village

Moving on, today we head for Karasabai village, a distant border village perched between the northern Rupununi Savannah and Pakaraima Mountains along the Brazilian border. Here we are delighted to have the rare opportunity to see the Endangered Sun Parakeet. In the early 1990s this species was on the brink of extinction due to extreme pressure from the pet trade, at which point local villagers took aggressive action to rehabilitate the population. Down to a mere seven individuals, conservation efforts have battled to regain their former numbers, but signs are hopeful, and the current population census suggests that at least 300 birds are thriving in the area today. Karasabai Village is well off the standard tourist track, offering a government guesthouse with adequate but sparse accommodations for our group. Nonetheless, local hospitality reigns, and when not on the trail looking for **Sun Parakeet** we'll have a great opportunity to meet and interact with an Amerindian community that sees very few tourists and is eager to share their stories and learn about a world outside of their own. We will see plenty of other species during the day, but our focus will be on finding and observing this gorgeous parakeet. After seeing the **Sun Parakeet** we will enjoy a delightful lunch before departing Karasabai village in the afternoon and continue to Manari Ranch near the town of Lethem.

Overnight: Manari Ranch, Lethem



The beautiful and rare Sun Parakeet (photo John Christian).

Day 12. Full day looking for Red Siskin

Today we leave the lodge very early at 3 a.m. in our 4x4 vehicles and drive roughly 55 miles (90 kilometers) southeast of Lethem. The drive will take us about six hours depending on what we see along the way. The 'road' is a traffic-less sandy track meandering through the hilly savannas, with many opportunities for spontaneous birdwatching stops. Along the way, we may scan numerous

wetland areas for **Maguari Stork**, **Brazilian Teal**, **White-tailed Hawk**, **Double-striped Thick-knee**, and **Bearded Tachuri**. We will also pass the Amerindian communities of St. Ignatius and Shulinab, where the traditional homes and lifestyles of Amerindian Guyana are on display and remind us just how different their lives are. We will meet one of our local guides who has been studying the rare and localized **Red Siskin**, a bird only discovered in Guyana in 2000 and one of the holy grails of South American ornithology.



Red Siskin will be our target southeast of Lethem (photo John Christian).

Apart from the magnificent **Red Siskin** we will look for **Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin** and **Sharp-tailed Ibis** – both are most-wanted species, so our efforts will be concentrated on seeing these special birds, although many other species will be seen while searching for these targets. In the surrounding areas we could also find **Little Chachalaca**, **Black-collared Hawk**, **Amazonian Scrub Flycatcher**, **Plain-crested Elaenia**, **Pale-tipped Inezia**, **Brown-crested** and **Vermilion Flycatchers**, **White-naped Xenopsaris**, **Burnished Buff Tanager**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Tropical Gnatcatcher**, **Glittering-throated Emerald**, **Ashy-headed Greenlet**, **Hooded Tanager**, and **Flavescent Warbler**. We will enjoy a delightful lunch at Dadanawa Ranch before making our way back across the savanna to Manari Ranch.

Overnight: Manari Ranch, Lethem

Day 13. Takutu and Ireng Rivers excursion, flight to Georgetown

Another early morning start will see us leaving our delightful base to access the dry scrub and savanna alongside the Takutu and Ireng Rivers. Once again, our 4x4 vehicles will come into play as we must get to an area where two highly restricted and poorly known species occur, namely

Hoary-throated Spinetail, and **Rio Branco Antbird**. We will explore wetlands as well as the dry desert for a variety of species such as **Pinnated Bittern**, **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, **Masked Duck**, **Maguari Stork**, **Double-striped Thick-knee**, **South American Snipe**, **Pied-billed** and **Least Grebes**, **Crested Bobwhite**, **Pearl and White-tailed Kites**, **Savanna Hawk**, **Aplomado Falcon**, **Brown-throated Parakeet**, **Red-bellied Macaw**, **Pale-legged Hornero**, **Fork-tailed Palm Swift**, **Sooty-capped Hermit**, **White-tailed Goldenthrout**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **White-bellied Piculet**, **Black-crested** and **Barred Antshrikes**, **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**, **Yellow-olive** and **Ochre-lore Flatbills**, **Vermilion**, **Short-crested**, and **Fork-tailed Flycatchers**, **Yellowish Pipit**, and **Orange-backed Troupial**. With two exceptionally rare birds hopefully under our belts, we will return to our lodge for lunch. After lunch we will head to the Lethem Airport to board our flight to Georgetown.

Overnight: Georgetown

Day 14. Georgetown, your international flight home.

Today you will be escorted to the international airport to connect with your flight home.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes must use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Duration:	14 days
Group Size:	5-8
Dates:	21 January - 03 February 2025
Start:	Georgetown
End:	Georgetown
Price:	US\$8,990 (includes expensive charter flights that we will book for you) – based on 5-8 participants (2025)

Single Supplement: US\$580 (2025)

Price includes:

Domestic and charter flights within Guyana All transfers airport/hotel/airport
All accommodation described in the itinerary
All meals (except where indicated)
All land transportation including 4x4 vehicles
River excursions
Entrance fees
Private tour leader services
Local guides
Bottles of water and snacks

Price excludes:

International flights
Visa
Medical and trip cancellation insurance
Any activity not included in the itinerary
Items of a personal nature (alcoholic drinks, laundry, phone calls, internet access)
Meals on day 1
Soft/alcoholic drinks
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))