Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

March 9 – 23, 2018
866.900.1146
800.426.7781
520.558.1146
naturalistjourneys@gmail.com
www.naturalistjourneys.com
or find us on Facebook at Naturalist Journeys, LLC

"[Guyana] is still so wild, and in the very best sense of the word."

— Patty Kusler Riexinger
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

This tour is designed to showcase two top birding destinations in one: Trinidad and Guyana. As flights to Guyana route through Port of Spain, Trinidad, it’s a natural addition. We have taken the top field trips from our partner company Caligo Ventures’ classic Trinidad birding tours and combined it with a shortened version of our standard Guyana tour. This tropical birding tour is a great way to return, or to be introduced to Trinidad, while exploring Guyana in detail with expert guides.

Our tour starts at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC), where you start birding from the famed verandah and then venture out on trails in search of manakins, bellbirds, and more. See scores of Scarlet Ibis at Caroni National Park and colorful mixed tanager flocks and trogons on the scenic mountain terrain of the Northern Range that surrounds the Centre. The final night in Trinidad is at a boutique, beachfront lodge on Trinidad’s northern coast, where lush forests provide a stronghold for the endangered Trinidad Piping-guan. As you travel between lodges, we take time to visit savannah and lowland habitats, great for finding additional species, especially raptors.

Guyana is South America’s hidden gem. This unspoiled wilderness, off the radar for many travelers, offers an amazing experience — birds and mammals abound! The substrate here is the ancient granitic Guianan Shield, which, along with the Brazilian Shield to the south of the Amazon River, forms the primeval geologic heart of South America. Tropical rainforest has been growing here for millions of years, slowly adapting to changing conditions as nutrients leached from the soils. Today Guyana still holds endless forest, myriad rivers, and expansive savannah. We also explore the vibrant multi-cultural urban center at Georgetown and its well-known botanic gardens.
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

Trinidad Highlights
- Explore with AWNC’s expert guides, who share robust knowledge and friendly, world-class guiding skills
- Savor four nights at the classic AWNC; relish morning coffee and birding on the famed verandah
- See enigmatic Oilbirds in the grotto of Dunston Cave
- Witness skies turned crimson with thousands of Scarlet Ibis returning to roost in Caroni National Park
- Look for the highly-endangered Trinidad Piping-guan while at Grande Riviere

Guyana Highlights
- Spot members of the odd cotinga family: brilliant Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, wine-and-white Pompadour Cotinga, and elfin Dusky Purplefut ... the birding here is awesome!
- Stay in cozy casitas at Surama Village, where the Makushi tribe are very proud of their ecotourism efforts
- See rare predators — six of South America’s elusive wild cats patrol the forest by-ways
- Find Crimson Topaz Hummingbird, Red Howler Monkey, and Amazonian Motmot
- Float down a river in search of Giant Otter, Jabiru, up to five species of kingfisher, Harpy Eagle, and Green-tailed Jacamar
- See spectacular Kaieteur Falls, travel with local expert guides, and find rare and iconic species
- Support local people who are deeply committed to conserving their native forest and wildlife

Tour Summary
15-Day / 14-Night Neotropical Birding & Nature Tour with Expert Local Guides
$5890, from Port of Spain, Trinidad, departing Georgetown, Trinidad
Arrival Airport is Piarco International Airport (POS) in Trinidad, Departure Airport is Cheddi Jagan International Airport (GEO), Georgetown in Guyana
Fri., Mar. 9
Arrive & Explore at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC)
Upon arrival at Piarco International Airport, you are met by an AWNC guide for a one-hour drive from the bustling metropolis of Port of Spain to the quiet seclusion of the Centre, about an hour’s trip up into the Northern Range. Lush forests of the Arima Valley offer untamed vistas and provide the perfect place to learn about Trinidad’s abundant natural heritage.

Step out onto the Centre’s wide verandah to marvel at the almost tame hummingbirds, tanagers, honeycreepers, Bananaquit, and other birds that frequent the feeders. The views of the valley (and the birds) are breathtaking. Beyond the verandah, an extensive trail system beckons you to explore. During our stay, the entrance road is an easy walk if you would like some time on your own, where under a lush canopy Trinidad Motmot and a host of other species can be found. Centre naturalists are on hand to help identify species. Tea time is at 4:00 PM, followed by Rum Punch at 6:00 PM, and then dinner.

Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (D)

Note: If your flight arrives late, consider arriving a day early (additional cost), and enjoy an unscheduled morning. While our guides meet all flights, many travelers prefer to start the group tour well-rested.

Sat. Mar. 10
Introductory Walk into AWNC’s Forests / Night Bird Outing
This morning begins with 6:00 AM coffee and
tea served on the verandah, and a Centre naturalist on duty to help us spy as many as 40 life birds before breakfast! After breakfast, enjoy an introductory walk on the Centre’s Discovery Trail, learning more about the forest and discovering additional species. Many enjoy the challenge of spotting the Bearded Bellbird as their distinctive “bonk!” echoes throughout the forest. Near a known bellbird lek in the trees are two species of manakins attending their leks closer to the ground.

Tonight, there is the option to join a night-birding field trip to lower elevation areas, departing from the Centre between 3:00 and 4:00 PM. Don’t worry about missing out — our rum punch and hot dinner are packed to go. An unused airfield is the first birding stop (pre-sunset), then we venture to the old USA airbase at Waller Field where we enjoy dinner, then set off on a slow drive looking for key species.

_Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,L,D)_

**Sun., Mar. 11  Birding Trinidad’s Northern Range**

Today’s scenic, day-long excursion takes us high into the Northern Range on the Blanchisseuse Road. We make frequent birding stops and then enjoy a local lunch in picturesque Brasso Seco (minimum of four participants; if minimum is not met, a picnic lunch is provided). We then continue through the mountains to the village of Morne la Croix for afternoon tea and cakes (yum!) as we enjoy watching parrots head in to roost.

Today also offers the opportunity to examine the strange world of leaf-cutter and army ants, as well as the chance to photograph butterflies, orchids, and other tropical flora.
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature
With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,L,D)

Mon., Mar. 12
Rare Oilbirds / Caroni Marsh
This morning, enjoy coffee, tea, and breakfast on the verandah, followed by a walk to see the Centre’s resident Oilbirds. We start on a short, but steep, path to Dunston Cave, a riparian grotto at AWNC. We enjoy access to a breeding colony of Oilbirds — queer nocturnal, fruit-eating birds that congregate here at one of the world’s most accessible nesting caves.

By mid-afternoon we depart for Caroni Swamp, birding along the way, and then arrive at a dock in Caroni National Park. There is a Visitor Center and restrooms here, and the mangroves are good to check for new species. From here we bird by boat (watch for Ruschenberger’s Tree Boa and Silky Anteater, too), then moor up at a quiet spot in the mangroves to let the sunset show begin. Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of Scarlet Ibis cloud the sky as they come in to roost. Tonight’s experience is one we won’t soon forget.

Accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre (B,L,D)

Tues., Mar. 13  Birding Transfer to Grande Riviere / Trinidad Piping Guan & Possible Leatherback Turtles
This morning we say goodbye to the Centre and staff, then travel south down the Arima Valley before turning east. In these Northern Range foothills lies the savannah (open) agricultural region of Trinidad, and short stops allow us to seek plenty of new species.

Our destination is Grande Riviere in Trinidad’s Northeast corner. We enjoy lunch en route and make scenic stops on the rugged coastline. Endemic Trinidad Piping-guan, known locally as Pawi, lure us to this side of the island. In Grande Riviere, we
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

explore this critically endangered bird’s final stronghold. Experts estimate there may be fewer than 500 left on Earth.

For part of the year Grande Riviere’s beaches are home to the world’s densest congregation of nesting Leatherback Sea Turtles. On some nights, hundreds of these gigantic turtles populate the beach. Most nest between April and July, however they’re also likely to be seen from the second half of March through August, and occasionally they are spotted at other times of the year.

As we arrive at our hotel, relax and enjoy gourmet local cuisine while dining alfresco at the eccentric and relaxing Mt. Plaisir Estate Hotel. Our rooms overlook the beach, so we enjoy a perfect view of nesting turtles if any have arrived a bit early. Leave your patio door open at night and drift off to sleep as waves crash on the beach below.

Accommodations at Mt. Plaisir (B,L,D)

**Wed., Mar. 14  Early Morning in Search of Trinidad Piping-guan / Georgetown, Guyana / Cara Lodge**

Once hunted to near extinction, the Trinidad Piping-guan has been the focus of considerable local conservation efforts. The bird has responded well, slowly increasing in numbers and visibility. This morning we scrutinize the wild nutmeg trees that are their preferred feeding habitat.

The birding is excellent in Grande Riviere and the morning may reveal 60 or more species. Much of the birding is done from a wide forested track, where you can easily enjoy superb viewing areas. Having hopefully found the Piping-guan, we continue driving down a steeply wooded slope into riverine forest where we continue birding.
The food and hospitality of Mt. Plaisir are excellent. Since we rose early for birding, we plan to have a big brunch, pack up, and head to the Port of Spain airport for our afternoon flight to Georgetown, Guyana, only about an hour away!

We arrive at Cheddi Jagan International Airport on the outskirts of Georgetown, a coastal colonial city. Georgetown today is a modern capital city and the chief port of Guyana. Along tropical, tree-lined streets, the city sports a fascinating mix of British, French, and Dutch colonial architecture.

We are met at the airport and transferred to the lovely and historic Cara Lodge. One of the first birds we often see en route is the Rufous Crab Hawk, very much at home in mangroves around the city.

Cara Lodge is a bit of a splurge, and a long-standing tradition for our trips to Georgetown. Built in the 1840s and originally consisting of two houses, the hotel is one of the oldest wooden buildings in Georgetown. It has a long and romantic history ... over the years it has hosted many dignitaries, including Great Britain’s King George V, who stayed at the house in 1923 and planted the sapodilla tree in the front garden to mark the occasion.

**Accommodations at Cara Lodge (B,L,D)**

**Thurs., Mar. 15**

**Off to the Wilds! Kaieteur Falls / Surama Village & Eco-Lodge**

After breakfast at our hotel, we experience a chartered flight over unspoiled pristine forest to Kaieteur Falls, the world’s highest free-falling waterfall, impressive in its remote setting. Though Venezuela’s Angel Falls is greater in total height, its filamentous drop occurs by stages, whereas Kaieteur is a single massive, thundering cascade 100 meters wide, created as the Potaro River makes a sheer drop of 228 meters. This is nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. It’s quite
possible that we are the only people viewing it, and pending good weather conditions, we land to see it up close, also viewing birds.

Near the falls, we hope to find White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and perhaps we are lucky enough to spot Orange-breasted Falcon hunting for its favorite prey, the swifts. There is also a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek here, so we have a good chance at our first look at this brilliant species. Along the trail, look carefully to find the rare Golden Poison-dart Frog that lives in water held in bromeliad leaves.

We spend about two hours at the falls, then our flight continues to Surama Village Airstrip, from which we are driven to Surama Eco-Lodge in the heart of Guyana’s beautiful savanna and rainforest. We arrive in time for a late lunch before birding the trails around the lodge and visiting a nearby Great Potoo roost. At dusk, we look for White-tailed Nightjar and a few owls.

Tonight, we settle into our simple, but comfortable casitas with private bath and open air ventilation through large windows; mosquito netting keeps you comfortable in your bed. Views overlook the savanna to the encircling mountains — stunning. Meals feature local foods prepared by a well-trained culinary staff … a treat so far out in the wilds!

Accommodations at Surama Eco-Lodge (B,L,D)
Fri., Mar. 16  Surama Eco Lodge / Harpy Eagle Trail / Village Life

Don’t be surprised if you are awakened by the dawn calls of Spectacled Owl or Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon and Little Chachalaca. No matter, as we are up early to bird, then take a short drive to the Harpy Eagle trailhead. This trail winds its way through beautiful primary forest where Red-and-black Grosbeak, Golden-sided Euphonia, Orange-breasted Falcon, Blue-and-yellow and Scarlet Macaws, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Cream-colored Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Cinnamon Attila, Black-headed Antbird, Amazonian Antshrike, Ferruginous Antbird, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, and possibly Guianan White-faced Saki Monkey reside. We arrive at the viewpoint where in some years, a Harpy Eagle pair is attending their nest; they are always in the area, here and near the river corridor. We can hope that they are present today!

Back in the village we learn about community conservation efforts. Visit the local school and perhaps the community building for the Guyana Wildlife Club. It was here in the pastoral setting of mountain and savanna that Charles Waterton passed through in 1812. He journeyed in search of the secrets of the useful Wourali poison known as Curare. Waterton was so impressed by this spot that he wrote in his memoirs, “The finest park that England boasts falls short of this delightful scene.”

Surama’s inhabitants are mainly from the Makushi tribe and still observe many of the traditional practices. Our guide takes us on a village tour, an experience most find far more enjoyable than they expect — it’s inspirational how the local people relate to nature and how they see their place in this modern world. We visit the local school, medical center, and church, along with some of the village houses.
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

As the afternoon cools, a local guide shares knowledge of nature and birding on trails to seek out resident mammal and bird life. See the forest through the eyes of your indigenous guide and learn about the medicinal plants and their uses in the Amerindian culture. The whole experience here is unique.

Tonight, we enjoy another walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark. We hope to locate the recently split Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, as well as Tropical Screech-Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, White-tailed Nightjar, and both Great and Common Potoos.

Accommodations at Surama Eco-Lodge (B,L,D)

Sat., Mar. 17  Surama Eco Lodge / Burro Burro River

Morning here is a treat … imagine waking so close to the wilds. However, just a step away is fresh coffee and breakfast.

During our stay, here we hope to encounter Red-legged Tinamou, Painted Parakeet, Dusky Parrot, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Pale-throated Barbthroat, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Great and Paradise Jacamars, Black-spotted Barbet, Golden-spangled Piculet, and Chestnut-rumped Woodcreeper. The South American clan of antbirds is well-represented here; we look for Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Rufous-bellied, Spot-tailed, and Todd’s Antwrens, Dusky, White-browed, White-bellied, Ferruginous-backed, Rufous-throated, and Guianan Warbling Antbirds, and other birds including Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Lemon-chested and Ashy-headed Greenlets, and Finsch’s Euphonia. Hopefully it won’t be too long before our attention is drawn to the far-carrying, growling song of the bizarre social lek displaying Capuchinbird. The skilled local guides sometimes know of the territories of these canopy-dwelling birds, their bald heads and strange hump-shouldered appearance an unforgettable sight if we are lucky enough to spot them.

To find all these gems, we might choose to explore the surrounding habitats on trails, or we can venture out in small boats on the Burro Burro River for a quiet and skillfully-guided paddle, hearing the voices of many birds singing, and with luck coming down to the shore. We also search the banks for mammals like Giant River Otter, Tapir, Tayra, Black Spider Monkey, and more.
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature
With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

The Burro Burro River trail is known for reliable sightings of Blond-colored Woodpecker, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Red-legged Tinamou, Guianan Puffbird, Fiery-tailed Awlbill, and Blue-throated Piping Guan. We count ourselves extremely fortunate if we succeed in getting good looks at some of these more elusive species.

Back in the village, the dining room’s upstairs bar boasts views all around (as well as cold sodas and beer). Local crafts and artwork are displayed here as well. We gather here ahead of dinner to recap our bird list, enjoy the sunset, and each other’s company.

Accommodation at Surama Eco-Lodge (B,L,D)

Sun., Mar. 18
Atta Rainforest Lodge / Canopy Walkway / Iwokrama Forest

This morning we depart Surama to head to nearby Atta Rainforest Lodge where we spend the next two nights surrounded by pure nature with no sounds but the noise of the forest. But first, en route, we walk a trail to a Guianan Cock-of-the-rock lek where we hope to have another opportunity to see this beautiful bird as it displays ahead of nesting. We then continue on to Atta for lunch and a well-deserved cold beer or cold drink of your choice.

After a rest, we spend the afternoon birding on the main road through the Iwokrama Forest, just a short way away. The road has little traffic and makes an ideal place for us to wander at a birder’s pace. The trees are impressive, their height deceiving as we sort through mixed flocks. Thankfully a number of large, loud, and colorful species exist here, including several species of parrots and macaws. We look for Black Manakin and Rufous-crowned Elaenia, as well as Blue-backed Tanager, Swallow-winged, Black-chinned, Scale-backed, and Gray Antbird, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Amazonian and Mouse-
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature
With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

colored Antshrike, Reddish Hermit, Tiny Tyrant Manakin, Rose-breasted Chat, Black and Red-throated Caracara, Violaceous Trogon, Golden-winged Parrot, and Yellow-green Grosbeak. While birding along the road, we also keep watch for the elusive Jaguar and Tapir, which are often seen at dawn and dusk.

Beside a small wetland, we could find Dwarf Caiman, Uniform, Ash-throated, and Russet-crowned Crakes, and Zigzag Heron — all of which are difficult. This is a good night birding route, and there are possibilities for White-winged Potoo, Rufous Potoo, Great Potoo, Common Potoo, and Long-tailed Potoo, plus Spectacled and Crested Owl.

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

Mon., Mar. 19  Atta Rainforest Lodge / Canopy Walkway
At dawn, we visit the canopy walkway to look for passing flocks of canopy-dwelling species. Time is spent looking for 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, Paradise Tanager, Opal-rumped Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, and Black Nunbird. The rest of the morning we spend on the grounds, taking in all we can see.

The grounds of Atta Rainforest Lodge are wonderful and support some great post-lunch leisurely birding! This wonderful area is famed for its variety of colorful cotingas and if we can locate a few fruiting trees we are in for an avian spectacle with possibilities of Pompadour, Brilliant, Purple-breasted, and Guianan Red Cotinga, as well as White Bellbird. Within the forest that surrounds the lodge we can look for Red-legged and Variegated Tinamous, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Waved, Chestnut, and Red-necked Woodpeckers, as well as Black Spider Monkey and White-faced Saki Monkey.

This is one of the best places to see another of Guyana’s “must see” birds: the outrageous Crimson Fruitcrow. This species is seen here on a reasonably regular basis; it often comes to feed in nearby trees. The clearing is also a reliable site for Black Curassow — there is a family party that has become habituated to people and regularly passes by. With reasonable luck, we should be able to add this bird
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

to the impressive list of species we hope to see around the lodge and walkway. Few places in the world rival this experience, with nature so abundant and right outside the door.

A 20-minute walk along a very good trail takes us to Atta’s celebrated Canopy Walkway. The trail leads partially up a steep hillside, and from it we step onto a series of suspended walkways and decks, each anchored to a giant rainforest tree. This nearly-level system of walkways carries us to vantage points up to 35 meters high, which overlook the surrounding canopy. From these decks, we train our binoculars and scope on any wildlife we find. Among the 134 bird species recorded at the walkway are Painted Parakeet, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Guianan Puffbird, Green Aracari, Waved Woodpecker, Pygmy Antwren, Guianan Streaked-Antwren, Dusky Purple-tuft, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Guianan Toucanet, Pompadour Cotinga, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Caica Parrot, and a host of other canopy specialists. From this treetop vantage, we can sometimes see Red Howler Monkeys and Black Spider Monkeys, too.

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

Tues., Mar. 20  Caiman House Lodge / Northern Rupununi Savanna

Today our journey takes us across the Northern Rupununi savanna. The North Rupuni area of southern Guyana is an extraordinary and pristine natural area. We travel by truck to the river, then boat both upstream and downstream to get to varied habitats. Grasslands host Bicolored Wren, while forest patches host Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Guianan Trogon, Blue Ground-Dove, Plain-crowned Spinetail, and Great Antshrike.

We explore the maze of lagoons along the Rupununi River with our hosts in search of Giant Otter, scanning the treetops for family parties of Red Howler Monkey, and the exposed riverbanks for Capybara and Black Caiman. These quiet backwaters are also home to the legendary Arapaima, the largest of all scaled freshwater fish. We visit lakes and ponds crammed with Jabiru, egrets, herons, and other water birds, and blanketed by enormous Victoria amazonica water lily, Guyana’s national flower. Black-capped Donacobius whistle their entertaining calls.

The river is home to Wood Stork, White-faced and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Stripe-backed Bittern, Least Grebe, Purple Gallinule, and both Capped and Little Blue Herons.
The road we follow skirts numerous gallery forests and wetland areas offering great views of a variety of herons, ducks, Jabiru, possibly Pinnated Bittern, Great-billed Seed Finch, Bicolored Wren, Gray Seedeater, Grassland Yellow Finch, Yellowish Pipit, White-fringed Antwren, Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Yellow-bodied Blackbird, the colorful Orange-backed Trouspial, and the agile Aplomado Falcon. We may even encounter a Giant Anteater if we are lucky.

In the afternoon, we bird the local forest and some ponds where we hope to see Sunbittern, Azure Gallinule, White-faced Whistling-Duck, White-headed Marsh-Tyrant, White-browed Antbird, Buff-breasted Wren, Pale-tipped Inezia, Blue-backed Manakin, Striped Woodcreeper, and maybe Undulated Tinamou. An evening excursion to the open grasslands should see the end of a magical day with Nacunda, Least, and Lesser Nighthawks.

**Accommodations at Caiman Lodge (B,L,D)**

**Wed., Mar. 21**

**Northern Rupununi — Crested Doradito & Bearded Tachuri Quest**

This morning we start with a cup of Brazilian-style coffee before heading out into the Rupununi Savanna by 4x4. As we move across the savanna we scan the vast wetland areas for the sought after Bearded Tachuri, plus Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, Pinnated Bittern, Brazilian Teal, White-tailed Goldenthroat, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicolored Wren, Double-striped Thick-knee, Burrowing Owl, and Maguari Stork. We also check an area where the rare and localized Crested Doradito was recently discovered. This is also our best chance to see the remarkable Giant Anteater and Savanna Fox.

In the afternoon, we have an opportunity to travel on the Rupununi River again. This time we head down river to Simony Lake where we are likely to find Green-and-rufous Kingfisher, Amazon Kingfisher, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Agami Heron, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Pied Lapwing, Boat-billed
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature
With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

Heron, Common Potoo, Band-tailed Nightjar, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and Spot-breasted Woodpecker. With a lot of luck, we may come across the secretive Crestless Curassow and we have even seen fresh Jaguar tracks in the past!

Additionally, we may be lucky enough to see Black and Spectacled Caiman, Giant River Otter, Capybara, and many species of monkeys and even the occasional Arapaima or River Stingray. Colorful butterflies accompany us much of the day.

Our sunset boat expedition wraps up and we return to a delicious dinner back in the restaurant of the lodge.

**Accommodations at Caiman House Lodge (B,L,D)**

---

**Thurs., Mar. 22  Fly to Georgetown**

This morning we enjoy our last breakfast and a birding outing to find a few more gems, the Rio-Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail.

We then depart either from the Rock View airstrip, or alternately via Lethem on an afternoon flight back to Georgetown’s Ogle International Airport on a scheduled flight that takes about 90 minutes. Soak in the vast expanse of green, Guyana’s tropical rainforest.

We have a chance to clean up, enjoy the luxury of air-conditioned rooms, and a final dinner at our hotel in Georgetown. Dinner is at your leisure tonight since your guide does not travel back with you to Georgetown. There is someone to meet you however, and you can order drinks and dinner as you wish — on your own or joining others from the group, and pay with credit card at the end of your stay.

**Accommodations at Cara Lodge Hotel (B,L)**

---

**Fri., March 23**

**Departures / Option to Visit Georgetown Botanical Garden**

Today you depart Guyana. Depending on your flight schedule we arrange to get you to the airport in good time for your check in time and departure. Those that can take afternoon flights back have the opportunity to visit the Georgetown Botanical Garden. This occurs at dawn, and is a super place to find the endemic Blood-colored Woodpecker, along with a host of other species. This is with a local guide, at
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

an additional cost of $50 – $75 depending on how many on are the tour. Let us know of your interest as you book your flights.

Tour Leaders
On Trinidad, our group leader is either Dave Ramlal or Mahese Ramlal, both of the Asa Wright Nature Centre. In Guyana, our leader is either Ron Allicock or Gary Sway. With eight or more participants, a host from Naturalist Journeys/Caligo Ventures also joins the group.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the Journey
Cost of the journey is $5890 DBL / $6485 per person, from Port of Spain, departing Georgetown, based on double occupancy and a group of 6, (max. 12) persons. This cost includes all accommodations, most meals as specified in the itinerary (a few in Georgetown not included), group airport transfers, in-country transport including flights, professional guide services including local guides, park and program entrance fees, and miscellaneous program expenses.

Tour cost does not include: transportation from your home city to Port of Spain, the flight from Port of Spain to Georgetown, Guyana, or your return international flight home. It also does not include optional activities, or items of a personal nature such as laundry, porterage, telephone charges, maid gratuities, or beverages from the bar.

Travel Information
Plan to arrive in Port of Spain at your convenience on March 9. If your flight comes in very late, the drivers will still meet you, but as the tour starts early, you may wish to arrive one night ahead to rest up and enjoy the verandah birding at the Asa Wright Nature Centre.

Caligo Ventures/Naturalist Journeys will arrange your flight from Port of Spain, Trinidad to Guyana if you request them to, at the cost of your flight. You can do a round trip ticket to POS, and then another to GEO from POS, or you can do a multi-city flight. There is a direct flight back from GEO to New York and Miami as a choice for departures. We can help with your planning!

Leaving Georgetown, it is about an hour out to the international airport, and then you need to be there 2.5 – 3 hours ahead of your flight. So, if you can take a late-morning or afternoon flight, this will give you a gentle end to your vacation, rather than rushing to catch an early flight.

Pace of the Tour
Moderate, but adventurous, due to travel to remote locations, with potential heat and humidity. As in all tropical countries, we plan to rest during the hottest hours of most days. Participants should be able to walk on uneven terrain up to 3 miles.

A flexible attitude and sense of adventure is always appreciated by the group. Guyana is still on the frontier of ecotourism and there may be some adventures! Part of the stay is at a remote field camp...
Guyana & Trinidad: Birding & Nature
With Caligo Ventures & Naturalist Journeys

(Atta), and part is in a local village where casitas are simple but comfortable, with bath. We think it’s well worth it to explore some of the most fabulous tropical forests on the planet, and we balance that with the lovely Cara Lodge in Georgetown at the start and end of the tour.

Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.

Photo Credits
Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Dave Wagner; Giant Anteater, Peg Abbott (PA); Orchids at Atta, Narca Moore-Craig (NMC); Purple Honeycreeper Cluster, PA; Juvenile Harpy Eagle, Pat Lueders (PL); Kaieteur Falls, NMC; Scarlet Ibis and Egrets at Caroni Marsh, Rich Wagner | WildNaturePhotos (RW); Copper-rumped Hummingbird, Buck Snelson; Green Kingfisher, PA; Asa Wright Nature Centre, Naturalist Journeys/Caligo Ventures Stock (Stock); Bananaquit Feeding Frenzy, Noel Snyder (NS); Asa Wright Nature Centre Trail, Stock; Bellbird Lek, Dodie Logue (DL); Guianan Trogon, NS; Olibirds, RW; Boating into Caroni Marsh, Lynn Tennefoss; Scarlet Ibis, RW; Grand Riviere Beach, PA; Looking for the Trinidad Piping-guan, DL; Trinidad Piping-guan, PA; View from Cara Lodge in Georgetown, Guyana, PA; Rufous Crab Hawk, PA; Kaieteur Falls, NMC; Orange-breasted Falcon, PL; Guianan Cock-of-the-rock, PA; Bromeliads, Greg Smith (GS); View in Suraama Village, PA; Harpy Eagle, PA; Scarlet Macaw, GS; Walk at Suraama Village, PA; Savanna at Suraama, NMC; Boat Ride, Bud Ferguson (BF); Giant River Otter, BF; Red-necked Woodpecker, NS; Atta Canopy Walkway, NMC; Red-throated Caracara, PA; Great Potoo, GS; Channel-billed Toucan, Robert Martinez; Red Howler Monkey, PA; Victoria Amazonica Water Lilies, NMC; Giant Anteater, PA; Capped Heron, PA; Capybara Family, PA.; Jabiru, PA.