



HARPY EAGLES AND GUIANAN COCK OF THE ROCK

GUYANA

2010

Photo from www.phototakeout.com

Guyana's verdant ecosystems, rich biodiversity, and critical linkage to the world's largest tracks of tropical rainforest, make it the ideal birding destination. Teaming with over 800 species, Guyana is renowned for the iconic Guianan Cock of the Rock and endangered Harpy Eagle. Travels to Guyana offer the enthusiast a vast territory of endless forest, waterways, and indigenous communities that support our deep understanding of the natural history and diversity of birding populations of this region. Together we will seek to witness some of the world's rarest tropical species inclusive of the Harpy Eagle or "flying wolf". With a little luck, we will marvel at the nest site and interaction between parent and fledgling of the largest and most powerful eagle in the world. With over 83,000 square miles of uninterrupted rainforest, our travels will take us deep into the forest in search of such targeted species as the stunning Ferruginous-backed Antbird, the Blood-colour Woodpecker, Pinnated Bittern, Brown-throated Parakeet, Great Horned Owl, Golden-spangled Piculet, Spotted Tody-flycatcher, Spotted Puffbird, Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanette, Guianan Red-cotinga, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, White-winged Pootoo, Rufous Pootoo, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Black-faced Hawk, and Guianan Streaked Antwren just to name a few. Whether this is your first birding expedition or your 100th, Guyana will provide an impressive bird count with exceptional quality observation. Comfortable accommodation, access to wildlife viewing, and diversity of species make this location a "not to be missed birding experience."

HIGHLIGHTS

- Observe the largest and most powerful raptor of the eagle species, the endangered Harpy Eagle in nesting sites and known territories within Guyana
- Explore the rich biodiversity through interpretive hikes and focused talks highlighting keystone species of the tropical rainforest
- Observe the Guianan Cock of the Rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), an icon of Guyana Birding biodiversity, compare and contrast this species with others in the same family
- Capture exceptional views of the endless forest and rich biodiversity from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway
- Experience traditional life of the Amerindian Village of the Pakaraima Mountains as we spend the night in a "Behabs"; a traditional thatched roof sleeping shelter
- Observe nocturnal avian, mammalian, and insect species through guided evening night hikes
- Interact with the local communities through visits to the municipal markets, vibrant craft shops, and the beautiful botanical garden in Georgetown, Guyana

TRIP DETAILS

TOUR LENGTH

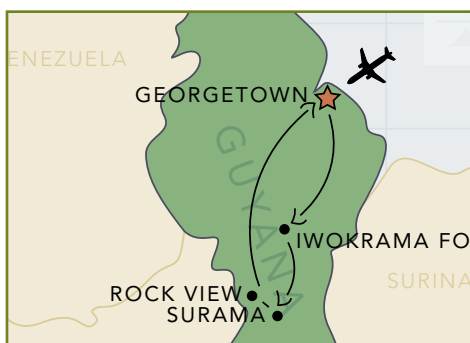
9 days

SUGGESTED TOUR MONTHS

July - April

LAND PRICING

Contact us for 2010 pricing.



This program is Carbon Neutral via a carbon offset through Holbrook's partnership with ClimateSafe.

Accommodations are in double occupancy. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$350.00 per person deposit and enrollment form will secure your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until 150 days prior to departure excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Cancellations between 149-96 days before departure will result in a loss of full deposit. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.





Picture from www.Oiseaux.com

Day 1

Georgetown

Depart for Georgetown, Guyana, connecting through Port of Spain, Trinidad. **Overnight at Cara Lodge.**

Day 2

Iwokrama Rainforest

Depart on a morning scheduled flight across the lush rainforest and extensive Rupununi savannah, landing at Annai. Following lunch at the Rock View Lodge, we'll travel by 4x4 vehicle northward to the Iwokrama Rainforest and the Iwokrama canopy walkway, a series of suspension bridges and decks up to 30 meters above the Iwokrama rain forest floor and 154 meters in length. The Iwokrama canopy walkway gives visitors a view of the mid and upper canopy of the forest and allows wildlife to be relatively free from human intrusion. Among the flora and fauna found around the walkway are endangered and protected species such as the Bullet Wood tree, Greenheart and the Waramadan (endemic in Guyana only to the Iwokrama rainforest). The forest is also rapidly gaining an international reputation for its healthy jaguar populations, so you may be lucky enough to view this elusive cat! **Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge.** (BLD)

Day 3

Iwokrama Rainforest

Welcome the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway. Short-tailed Nighthawks settle in for the day, Swifts take to the sky, White Throated and Channel-billed Toucans yodel, and Barred Forest Falcons call. You can spend the day birdwatching from the mid and upper canopy on the walkway as flocks travel past and look for Paradise Jacamar, White-necked Puffbird, Yellow-throated Woodpecker, Todd's Antwren, Black-tailed and Black-crowned Tityras and Dusky Purpletuft. Or you can bird along the jungle trails where Antbird flocks include White-plumed Antbird, Spot-winged Antbird, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Ash-winged Antwen, Long-billed Antwren, McConnell's Flycatcher, Gray-crowned Flycatcher, Plain Xenops and Wedge-billed Woodcreeper. **Overnight at Atta Rainforest Lodge.** (BLD)

Day 4

Surama Village

Bird walk this morning in the tree-tops, then travel by 4x4 to the village of Wowetta. From here we will trek along 5 kilometers of well maintained trail to a Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock lek, with over 30 birds. See them nesting in caves, performing their mating dance on the lek, bathing in pools and perched in trees for perfect viewing. In the late afternoon we'll drive into the Amerindian community of Surama, set in five square miles of savannah and surrounded by the densely forested Pakaraima Mountains. The inhabitants are mainly from the Macushi tribe and still observe many of the traditional practices of their forebears. Upon arrival receive a welcome from a village counselor followed by a short walk on trails to observe the forest and bird life as well as a tour of the village. Tonight enjoy an educational walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark. Accommodations will be in "benabs" (thatched sleeping shelters). **Overnight at Surama Ecolodge.**

(BLD)

Day 5

Surama Village

After an early breakfast, take a 1.5 hour hike to the site of a Harpy Eagle nest, assuming this is active. The nest itself is located in a huge emergent tree only a couple of miles from the village and if we are extremely fortunate, we may see one of the adult birds bringing a sloth or monkey to the nest to feed their chick. Spend the day observing the nest for views of the adults and chicks as well as other birds and wildlife. **Overnight at Surama Ecolodge.** (BLD)

Day 6

Rupununi Savannah

Explore the rainforest around Surama and visit a Harpy Eagle nest for a second time. Surama offers one of the best-known chances for seeing Rufous-winged Ground-cuckoo and to maximize the odds of us finding one, we will use expert local guides to assist us. After breakfast we will depart by 4x4 for Rock View Lodge in Annai. Here the savannah meets the forest-covered foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains. The birdlife here is markedly different from that of the rainforest. With its tropical gardens and flowering trees, the lodge attracts many species of birds, particularly nectar feeders and frugivores. Nearby patches of light forest are home to certain Antbirds and Flycatchers, and of course the grasslands support an avifauna of their own. **Overnight at Rock View Lodge.** (BLD)

Day 7

Rupununi Savannah

With its tropical gardens and flowering trees, the lodge resembles an oasis in the savannah, and attracts many species of birds, particularly nectar feeders and frugivores. Amethyst Woodstar, White-chinned Sapphire, Long-billed Starthroat and several hermits patrol around the grounds. Nearby forest patches are home to Amazonian Scrub Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and a variety of Antbirds including the White-bellied. We may also see Spotted Sandpiper, Cayenne Jay and Green Aracari. **Overnight at Rock View Lodge.** (BLD)

Days 8

Georgetown

This morning, birdwatch in the magnificent gardens, and join the vaqueros on horseback as they round up the cattle, hike along the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains or explore nearby Amerindian villages. After lunch we will fly back to Georgetown. Enjoy an afternoon Georgetown city tour to see its beautiful wooden architecture and to shop in its exciting markets and craft shops. We'll also visit the extensive and beautiful botanic garden, where, if we are lucky, the trip's ornithological finale will be Blood-colored Woodpecker, an astonishingly colorful veniliornis found only in the Guianas and even there almost wholly limited to the narrow coastal plain. **Overnight at Cara Lodge.** (BLD)

Day 9

Departure

Depart for the airport and the flight back to the U.S. (BLD)

Please be advised that all participants must provide their body weights for the internal flights. Failure to provide the information or providing the incorrect information can cause delays to flights and inconvenience other participants, and in some cases results in either participants and/or luggage being taken off the flight. To ensure a program that is enjoyable and hassle free, it is imperative for us to have this information in advance. We appreciate that some people are sensitive about providing their body weights, but all participants and their luggage are weighed at check-in to ensure that the weight of the load is within the payload limit for the aircraft, and to ensure the safety of the flight. The baggage allowance is 20 pounds per person.