



# Leon Moore Nature Experience

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## Red Siskin Birding Tour

Guyana is a small English-speaking country located on the Atlantic Coast of South America, east of Venezuela and west of Suriname. Deserving of its reputation as one of the top birding and wildlife destinations in South America, Guyana's pristine



. **Birding group enjoying a great view of a Tree-toed Sloth near Atta Lodge**  
habitats stretch from the protected shell beach and mangrove forest along the northern coast, across the vast untouched rainforest of the interior, to the wide open savannah of the Rupununi in the south. Guyana hosts more than 850 different

species of birds covering over 70 families. Perhaps the biggest attraction is the 45+ Guianan Shield endemic species that are more easily seen here than any other country in South America.

These sought-after near-endemic species include everything from the ridiculous to the sublime - from the outrageous Capuchinbird with a bizarre voice unlike any other avian species to the unbelievably stunning Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. While the majestic Harpy Eagle is on everyone's "must-see" list, other species are not to be overlooked, such as Rufous-throated, White-plumed and Wing-barred Antbirds, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Blood-colored Woodpecker, Rufous Crab-Hawk, Guianan Red-Cotinga, White-winged Potoo, Black Curassow, Sun Parakeet, Red Siskin, Rio-Branco Antbird, and the Dusky Purpleuft. These are just a few of the many spectacular birding highlights that can be seen in this amazing country.

Not only is Guyana a remarkable birding destination, but it also offers tourists the opportunity to observe many other unique fauna. The elusive Jaguar can sometimes be seen along trails and roadways. Several species of monkeys including Red Howler, Black Spider, Wedge-capped Capuchin, Brown Capuchin, Goldenhanded Tamarin, Brown-bearded Saki and Squirrel Monkey are frequently seen in their natural habitats. As if that isn't enough, you are nearly certain to see Capybara, Black Caiman (the largest member of the alligator family), Sloths, and Giant Otters. Other animals that are either less common or more elusive and therefore less likely but still possible to find are Tapir, Anaconda, Puma, and Giant Anteater. The largest fresh-water scaled fish in the world, the Arapaima, can be observed, along with an amazing diversity of reptiles and amphibians that will enhance your birding adventure.

#### THE TOUR AT A GLANCE

Day 1		Arrival day
Day 2		Georgetown and Surrounding
Day 3		Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge

Day 4		Iwokrama and surrounding
Day 5		Iwokrama to Atta Lodge
Day 6		Atta and surrounding
Day 7		Atta to Surama Lodge
Day 8		Surama Lodge Surrounding
Day 9		Surama Lodge to Caiman house
Day 10		Caiman House and Surrounding
Day 11		Caiman House to Karasabai and Manari Ranch
Day 12		Iring River special and Transfer to Wichabai Ranch
Day 13		Wichabai and Surrounding
Day 14		Whichabai to Lethem Flight to Georgetown, Covid 19 test if needed.
Day 15		Final Departure

**Day 1, Arrive in Guyana:** Our tour will begin from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport. Your tour leader or driver will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to your hotel in Georgetown. The drive into Georgetown can take approximately 45 minutes to 1.5 hours depending on traffic.

Georgetown is located in the north of Guyana on the Atlantic coast, and about a one-third of the Country's population lives in this English speaking metropolis. **After arriving at your hotel, if there is time today, we will visit the Botanical Garden. Otherwise, we will do this the next day.**

The Georgetown Botanical Garden is a wonderful spot, despite their location in central Georgetown, there are exclusive grounds of large tropical trees, lawns and wetland provided for some exciting birding. Some of the species we are likely to see includes Great Black-Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Snail Kite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Great Horned Owl, Orange-winged and, Yellow-crowned Amazons in very good numbers and this is the only place to

see our target; the **Festive Parrot**. White-bellied Piculet, Wing-barred Seedeater, Wattle Jacana, White-throated Toucan, Pied Water-Tyrant, Red-Shoulder Macaw, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Grayish Salator and a number of other amazing birds.

### Overnight in Georgetown (L,D)

**Day 2, Georgetown and Surroundings:** This morning we will leave our hotel at 5:00am and head eastward along the Atlantic coast to the Mahaica River. This is where you will have your only



chance on this tour of seeing and photographing Guyana's national bird, the "Hoatzin". Our main birds would be our target; the Long-winged Harrier, Blood-coloured Woodpecker, White-bellied Piculet, wing-barred seedeater and the elusive Mangrove Rail. We have a good chance of seeing all of these targets during our trip to Mahaica river. Other species we often see in the area includes Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Barred

#### (Blood-Colored Woodpecker)

Antshrike, Black-crested Antshrike, Little

Cuckoo and Striped Cuckoo, Green, Amazon, American pygmy and Ringed Kingfisher, Striated Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Black Hawk-Eagle and many other amazing birds.

This area is also one of the best places to see and photograph the Guianan Red Howler Monkey. The entire morning will be spent on the coast. After our time on the Mahaica river, on the way back to Georgetown we will stop at some mangrove forest for a chance to see and photograph another of our target for the day, the Rufous Crab-Hawk! With reasonable luck, we hope to get some stunning views of this species. Our journey will continue to Georgetown for a late lunch.

Later in the afternoon, we will visit the Georgetown Botanical Garden. Some of the species we are likely to see includes Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Black-necked Aracari, Great Black-Hawk, Common Black-Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Snail Kite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Great Horned Owl, Mealy, Orange-winged and, Yellow-crowned Amazons in very good numbers. There will be the only place to see our target; the **Festive Parrot**. White-bellied Piculet, Wing-barred Seedeater, Wattle Jacana, White-throated Toucan, Pied Water-Tyrant, Red-Shoulder Macaw, Yellow-chinned Spinetail, Grayish Salator and a number of other amazing birds.

### Overnight at Grand Coastal Hotel (B ,L,D)

**Day 3, Georgetown to Iwokrama River Lodge,** after an early breakfast at our hotel, we will transfer to Ogle Airport to connect with our scheduled flight to Iwokrama River Lodge. The flight to Iwokrama takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Our plane will fly to the Amerindian village of Fair View, then a 5-minute drive to the Lodge.

The Iwokrama Rainforest, a vast wilderness of one million acres, is a protected area that was established in 1996 as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. The Iwokrama Forest is in the heart of one of four last untouched tropical forests



of the world – The Guiana Shield of North-Eastern South America. Iwokrama was established as a living laboratory for tropical forest management because the unsustainable utilization of these forests will result in the extinction of half the world's plant and animal species and unknown changes to global climate. This is a protected area with a difference – the full involvement of people. Iwokrama is exceptional among conservation organizations because it joins with local people in every aspect of its work. From research to business, Iwokrama ensures local economic and social benefits from forest use and conservation. The Forest is in the homeland of the Makushi people, who have lived here and used the forest for thousands of years. People are a vital part of the ecosystem, and the success of Iwokrama relies on the ownership of local people and the combined skills of specialists and communities. Iwokrama does what so many

**(Orange-breasted Falcon)**

International conventions have acknowledged as best practice. It has begun conservation locally and integrated conservation into national development.

Upon our arrival at the river lodge, we will receive a welcome by the staff and then settle in to our rooms. After lunch, depending on the time, we will either head out on the bushmaster trail or head out along the main Iwokrama road. The trail will be good to target the Capuchinbirds at a lek plus birds like Spotted Antpitta, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Guianan-warbling Antbird. If it is not too late, we may run into a forest flock where we can pick up birds like the Brown-bellied Stappplethroat, Chestnut-rumped Woodpecker, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Plain-browened Woodcreeper, Waved Woodpecker, Collared Puffbird, and the elusive Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo. If we are lucky enough with an army ant-warm, we stand a good chance of seeing White-plumed, Rufous-throated Antbird and Wing-banded Antbird. At sunset, we will then head out along the main road to an area to target the White-winged Potoo,



we may see other night bird including Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Spectacle Owl, Great Potoo and more. We will keep our eyes out for the Crested Owl as well.

Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge (B,L,D)

**Day 4, Iwokrama River Lodge and Environs:** We will start the day very early after breakfast. A



**(Rufous-winged Cuckoo)**  
and many other birds.

trip to Iwokrama is not complete without a hike/birding to the top of Turtle Mountain. We will take a boat journey downriver approximately 30 minutes and then enjoy a slow walk of about 1.5 hours up the forested trail to the summit (950 ft) for a stunning jungle vista punctuated by the powerful Essequibo River snaking through the forest. Numerous bird species can be spotted on the lower section of the trail including the Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Jacamar, Brown-bellied Antwren, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Guianan-Red Cotinga, Blue-cheeked Parrot, Pygmy Antwren, Guianan Tyrannulet, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Tiny-tyrant Manakin, Long-tailed Potoo on a day roost, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Puffbird, Green Aracarie, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Yellow-green Grosbeak, Amazonian Antshrike, Amazonian Grosbeak

We will make an extra effort to reach the top as it provides spectacular views of pristine rainforest along with many birds including one of our main targets for the day, the rare Orange-breasted Falcon! On previous trips our clients had amazing views of a pair of **Rufous-winged ground Cuckoo** at the top of the mountain and a rare site of Tepui Parrotlets few bay as well. Along with a possible sighting of the Falcon, this is another area we do not want to miss out on a chance to see the rare Ground Cuckoo. After returning the lodge, depending on the time, we will have the chance to explore the forest trails around the lodge looking for Rose-breasted Chat, Wing-banded Antbird, White-plumed Antbird, Rufous-throated Antbird, Brown-bellied and Rufous-bellied Antwrens. Spotted Antpitta, Yellow-throated and Waved Woodpeckers and a host of Woodcreeper; Chestnut-rumped, Red-billed, Amazonian-barred, Buff-throated, Lineated, and Wedge-billed. We may see Ringed Woodpecker as well. Before returning to the Lodge we will have another chance to visit the Capuchinbird lek in case we might have missed them the day before.

Overnight at Iwokrama River Lodge (B,L,D)

**Day 5, transfer from Iwokrama to Atta Lodge and Canopy Walkway:** After an early breakfast,



**(Black Nunbird)**

we will transfer to Atta Lodge and Canopy Walkway but not before stopping at a trail to visit the day roost of the Rufous Potoo. To get to the roosting site, it requires hiking for about 20 minutes on a flat terrain forest trail. This trail may have water so be prepared with your long rubber boots. After our time at this site, we will continue to Atta Lodge with another stop at the Mori Scrub/white sand forest. Mori Scrub is a unique white sand

forest about 40 minutes from the river lodge

that hosts some key bird species such as Red-legged Tinamou, Red-shouldered Tanager, Bronzy Jacamar, Rufous-crowned Elaenia, Black Manakin, and Guianan Schiffornis, all interesting birds that would be nice to add to your bird list. This area is very flat so the hike will be very easy. We will be sure to have our cameras and binoculars ready because occasionally Jaguars and other mammals are seen while driving through the rainforest. We cannot promise a big cat sighting but many have been lucky! We then continue to Atta Lodge for where we will receive a welcome by the staff before settling in to our accommodation. The lodge is located within the one million acres of protected rain forest of Iwokrama. After settling in, we will take an afternoon walk on the Canopy Walkway.

The lodge is situated approximately 750 meters from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway. The walkway has three platforms, the highest of which is over 30 meters above the ground. These platforms and the walkway will allow us to get great looks at a range of canopy species. Among the likely highlights are Painted and Golden-winged Parakeets, Caica Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Waved and Golden-collared Woodpeckers, and Spot-tailed, Todd's and Ash-winged Antwrens. The walkway is also an excellent place to look for various species of Cotinga including the Dusky Purpletuft. If there are any suitable fruiting trees nearby, we stand a good chance of seeing this bird, as well as Purple-breasted Cotinga. Another area where we will spend some time is the clearing around the lodge, as this is one of the best places to see the Crimson Fruitcrow. This species is seen here on a regular basis, coming to feed in some of the nearby trees. The clearing is also a site for Black Curassow; a family party comes out to feed at the forest edge. With reasonable luck, we should be able to add this bird to the impressive list of species we hope to see around the lodge and walkway.

Overnight at Atta Lodge (B,L,D)

**Day 6, Atta Rainforest Lodge and Environs:** This morning we will head out to the walkway at first



**( Guianan Warbling Antbird)**

light for opportunities to spot canopy species including Todd's Antwren, Spot-tailed Antwren, Pygmy-Tyrant, Guianan Toucanet, Green Aracari, Painted Parakeet, Screaming Piha, Black-headed Parrot, Guianan Puffbird, Dusky

Purpletuft, Great Jacamar, Paradise Tanager, Blue-backed Tanager, Golden-sided Euphonia, Purple and Green Honeycreepers, Black-faced Dacnis, Long-billed Gnatwren,

Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Tiny Tyrant-

Manakin and Black Nunbird. This entire

morning will involve birding on the canopy walkway and the trails around the lodge.

Within the forest that surrounds the lodge we can look for Black-faced Hawk, Spotted Antpitta, Red-and-Black Grosbeak, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Cayenne Jay, Amazonian Barred Woodcreeper, Red-billed Woodcreeper, Helmeted Pygmy-Tyrant, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Guianan Warbling Antbird, White-crested Spadebill, and Waved, Chestnut and Red-necked Woodpeckers.

After lunch, we will spend the afternoon birding on the main road through the Iwokrama Forest and also visit another nearby white sand forest to target the Pelzel's Tody-Tyrant, Yellow-throated Flycatcher, Guianan Red Cotinga, Bronzy Jacamar, Red-legged Tinamou, Guianan Schiffonis and many other amazing birds within this forest. Meanwhile, along the main road, we will be looking for Blue-backed Tanager, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Ash-winged Antwren, Spot-winged Antwren, Golden-sided Euphonia Amazonian and Mouse-colored Antshrike, Reddish Hermit, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Rose-breasted Chat, Black and Red-throated Caracaras, Guianan Trogon, Golden-winged Parakeet and Yellow-green Grosbeaks are all possibilities. While birding along the road, we will also keep our eyes open for the elusive Jaguar and Tapir which are often seen at dawn and dusk. On our way back to Atta Lodge, we will use flashlights or spotlights to do some night birding, mainly looking for Owls and Potoos. This is a great place to look for White-winged Potoo, Great Potoo, Common Potoo and Long-tailed Potoo, plus Northern Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Spectacled Owl, Black-banded Owl, Amazonian Pygmy-Owl and Crested Owl.

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



**Day 7, Atta Rainforest Lodge to Surama Lodge via Cock-of-the-Rock Lek:** Today we will rise



before dawn, have some coffee, and then take our final morning at Atta Lodge birding the clearing around the Lodge to try for a few of our target species that we might have missed or to just get better looks at ones we've seen, including Green Aracari, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Trogon, Painted Tody-Flycatcher, Guianan Tyrannulet and more. After our early morning birding and breakfast, we will venture onward to Surama Lodge with an important stop at a Guinean Cock-of-the-

**(Guianan Cock-of-the Rock)**

Rock lek, where this stunning bird is regularly seen as the males display for females. The lek's location is about a 20-minute walk on a flat forest trail. We should have a good chance to see and photograph this unique bird. Some other species regularly seen along this trail include Yellow-billed Jacamar, Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, Spotted Antpitta, Amazonian Motmot, Scarlet and Red-and-green Macaws, Painted Parakeet, White-plumed and Rufous-throated Antbird, and more. We then continue to the Amerindian village of Surama, where you will be welcomed by the staff and then settle in to your basic accommodation for the next two nights.

The Amerindian community of Surama is located in the heart of Guyana. The village is set in five square miles of savannah which is ringed by the forest-covered Pakarima Mountains. Surama's inhabitants are mainly made up of the Makushi people, one of the nine indigenous people of Guyana, and they still observe many of the traditional practices of their ancestors. After lunch, will venture out into the savanna and through the forest for a chance to find White-naped Xenopsaris and the Sooty-capped Hermit. We will continue back out along the main road to target bird like Crimson Fruitcrow, Olive-green Tyrannulet, Blue-cheeked Parrot, Caica Parrot, Dusky Parrot, Painted Parakeet, Variable Chachaca, Black Spotted-Barbet, Tiny Hawk and many other targets. We may also visit a nearby pond to look for the Great Potoo that roosts in the area.

Overnight at Surama Lodge (B,L,D)

**Day 8, Surama and Environs:** This morning we will rise before dawn for an expedition to see a



very special bird, the incomparable Harpy Eagle. This, the largest eagle in the world, (although the Phillipine Eagle weighs more), is one of the most sought-after species among birders world-wide. We will drive a short distance through the forest to a trailhead, from there we will hike the rest of the way to the Burro Burro River. We will head down river to the nesting site by boat. We often see birds like Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher, Ringed and Amazon Kingfisher along the river. In addition, birds like Cocoi Heron, Great Black Hawk, Green-tailed Jacamar, White-collared Swallow, Guianan Streaked Antwren, Great Antshrike and Black-chinned Antbird are some of the other birds we see along the river. The Harpy Eagle nests approximately every 2-3 years. The female sometime lays two eggs and takes nearly two months to incubate them. When the chicks hatch, the stronger of the two usually pushes the weaker

**(Harpy Eagle)**

from the nest; Harpy Eagles raise only one chick at a time. When a young chick is being fed, the male brings food to the female and young about once every 3.5 days. As the chick grows and both adults are hunting, they bring food to the nest about every 2.5 days. Typically, the fledgling eaglet is “branch-hopping” at the age of 4 – 6 months, and it will stay within 100 meters of the nest for more than a year after that, as the parents continue to provide its food. Even after the young eagle flies, the parents will continue to provide some food for another year or so and the birds will stay in the general vicinity of the nest.

We will be back at the lodge in time for a late lunch and then, as the afternoon cools, depending on our targets, we may either do some birding along the main road at Surama or visit the river trail. Some of the species that are likely to see includes the Rufous-capped Antthrush, Black-faced Antthrush, Capuchinbird, Fairy-tailed Aowlbill, Red-legged Tinamou, Ferruginous-backed Antbird, Rufous-throated and White-plumed Antbird, Dusky Purpletuft, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Red Cotinga and many other amazing birds.

During our stay at Surama Lodge, we also have a chance to target the very difficult Ocellated Crake. We will also try for Spotted Antpitta, Gray-winged Trumpeter, Tiny Tyrant-Manakin, Waved Woodpecker, Red-billed, Chestnut-Rumped and the Guianan Woodcreeper. We will remain alert in hopes of spotting the very elusive Rufous-winged Ground Cuckoo, and since our guides have found an area where this rare bird has been seen on several trips, we will be on the

lookout for this amazing bird. We will return to the village for sunset or return in the dark before dinner.

Overnight at Surama Lodge (B,L,D)

**Day 9, Transfer to Caiman House:** After another early breakfast, we will transfer to Caiman House



with stops along the way to check a few forest edges and many savannah ponds to see if we can locate the Sharp-tailed Ibis. As we search for the Heron, we should come across some more common species such as Grey-cowled Wood-Rail, Cocoi Heron, Maguari Stork, Buff-necked Ibis, and the stunning Jabiru Stork. Raptors in the area include Savanna, White-tailed Great Black and Zone-tailed Hawk. The morning journey will end at Caiman House where we will be welcomed by the staff, settle in to our accommodation, and then have lunch.

Caiman House Field Station was built in Yupukari by an American family who moved to the area so Peter Taylor could conduct a field study on Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), the largest member of the alligator family and a species that is listed by CITES as endangered. Black Caiman are severely depleted in

**(Double-striped Thick-Knee)**

nearly all of their former range, but are found in abundance in the waters of the Rupununi River. The field study is an attempt to gain an understanding of the Black Caiman's ecological role, as well as its context within local communities. By basing the study in a local village, and using local residents as assistants, it will hopefully

instill a better understanding of the caiman's importance in the local ecosystem. It is also hoped that a healthy population could lead to a sustainable resource, possibly through ecotourism. Guests are invited to join the caiman research crew in a night of caiman capturing. It's a bit like having a job with a National Geographic crew.

Our afternoon will be spent patrolling the gallery forest surrounding Caiman House in search for more target species including Spotted Puffbird, Green-tailed Jacamar, Blue-backed Manakin, Golden-spangled Piculet, Northern Slaty-Antshrike, Slate-headed-Tody Flycatcher, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, Yellow-Olive Flycatcher, Pale-tipped Tyrannulet, Guianan-warbling Antbird, Southern white fringed Antwren, Sooty-capped Hermit, Red-capped Cardinal, Yellow-crowned Parrot, Brown-throated Parakeet and many other amazing birds.

Overnight at Caiman House (B,L,D)

**Day 10, Caiman House and Environs:** After an early breakfast, we will have a chance to do some



birding in the Savanna and forest patches that surrounds Caiman House. We will be mainly looking for several of our target birds including the Crested Doradito, Bearded Tachuri, Jabiru Stork, Maguari Stork, White-face and Black-bellied whistling Duck, Pinnated Bittern, White-tailed Hawk, Savanna Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Aplomado Falcon and many other species.

We may also see Sharp-tailed Ibis, Yellowish Pipit, White-tailed Goldenthrout, Double striped Thick-knee, King

**(Bearded Tachuri)**

Vulture and Orange-backed Troupial. In addition, this will be the best time to see the very beautiful, Giant Anteater! If we're lucky enough to find one, we will enjoy the view and possibly take pictures. Eventually we will make our way back to Caiman House before lunch.

In the afternoon we will take a boat trip on the Rupununi river. Here we are likely to find kingfishers including both Green-and-Rufous and American Pygmy, if we are lucky, we may see the beautiful Agami Heron, Capped Heron, Sungrebe, Sunbittern, Pied Lapwings, Boat-billed Herons, Large-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Pale-legged Hornero, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, and we may have a chance to spot the very shy **Crestless Curassow**. In addition, we may see both Black and Spectacled Caimans, Giant River Otter, many species of monkeys, and largest fresh-water scale-fish in the world; the Arapaima. As the sun sets we may see Band-tailed Nightjars and possibly Nacunda Nighthawk and Common Potoo on the way back with the boat.

#### **Overnight at Caiman House (B,L,D)**

**Day 11, Caiman House to Karasabai:** This morning we will continue on our journey to Karasabai on rough road passing through very nice habitats such as open savanna and the Pakarima mountain range with gallery forest patches. Here Aplomado Falcon hunts over expansive plains with Grassland Yellow-Finches mixed with a variety of seedeaters, including Gray, Plumbeous, Chestnut, Ruddy and Lined Seedeaters. We also have good chances of encountering Giant Anteaters as they pass through the savanna. We will be passing lots of ponds, so these spots should produce very good birding opportunities for water birds such as herons, egrets and storks. We'll need to keep an eye overhead as well for the raptors likely for this area: Savanna and White-tailed Hawks along with Lesser Yellow-headed and King Vultures. Many other great birds should be seen on the drive to this very remote village of Karasabai with its exceptionally friendly residents.



Upon arrival we will take time to visit some of the locals in order to secure official permission to



bird the area. There are very few visitors here and we wish to ensure good relations and encourage ongoing conservation efforts, especially when considering that these people ultimately control the fate of the Sun Parakeet.

This riparian forest along the border of Brazil where we will be birding during the morning offers some very interesting birding opportunities. Our primary target species will be

### (Sun Parakeet)

the Sun Parakeet, but we will also have chances to observe many other birds, including Red-and-Green Macaw, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Toco Toucan and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, to name but a few.

Following lunch in the village, we will bird our way back to Manari Ranch, which is located just 15 minutes outside the town of Lethem near the Brazilian border. Upon arrival, we will meet our local guide who will be taking us to look for the very rare Rio Branco Antbird and the Hoary-throated Spinetail on our final morning in the Rupununi. We will settle in to our very simple but comfortable accommodation for the next two nights.

Overnight at Manari Ranch B,L,D

**Day 12,Manari Ranch and Surrounding:** Today well focus our attention on two birds with



exceedingly restricted ranges, the Hoary-throated Spinetail and the Rio Branco Antbird. Both species are only found in gallery forest along the Rio Branco River and other main tributaries, all of which ultimately flow into the Amazon. Recent agricultural pressures have seriously reduced the amount of available habitat for these birds, and as a result the Spinetail is now classified as endangered, with the

### (Hoary-throated Spinetail)

Antbird treated as near-threaten. In addition,

there is good news surrounding the faith of both species. The South Rupununi Conservation Society received funding from National Geographic in 2021, which would be use to carry out several bird surveys and research within the gallery forest along the Iring river and other surrounding habitats where the Rio-Branco Antbird and Hoary-throated Spinetail is found. The



ultimate goal is for this area to become a new KBA or IBA area. In order to reach suitable habitat for these birds, we will travel via 4x4 through the open Savannah.

Along the way we might come across Maguari and Jabiru Storks, Black-Collared Hawk, Ring Kingfishers, and Rufous-tailed Jacamar. Black-chinned Antbird, Orange-backed Troupial and other species before reaching our site along a comparatively short stretch near the Iring River. We will specifically target the Hoary-throated Spinetail and the Rio Branco Antbird in this area, although other interesting species may include Pale-legged Hornero, Double-striped Thick-knee, Golden-spangle Piculet, and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Flavescent Warbler, Bearded Tachuri, Aplomado Falcon, Nacunda Nighthawk and more. The entire morning will be spent birding in this area. After our time here, we will return to the Ranch for Lunch.

After Lunch, we will get ready for our journey to Whichabai Ranch in search of the highly endangered Red Siskin in South Rupununi. Our Rupununi team will be waiting with their 4x4s to take us on the journey to Whichabai. From Lethem, Whichabai is approximately 90km away, so we will not waste any time as the drive could take close to 3.5 hours, all of which will depend on the road condition. Nevertheless, Whichabai is located in the south Rupununi savanna region and along the way; we will see why this is one of the most beautiful region in Guyana. With spectacular grasslands, mountains, and forest. We will be passing through some of the indigenous Amerindian villages, plus some of the local cattle ranches before reaching our destination.

Along the way, we expect to do some birding looking out for birds like the Jabiru Stork, Double-Stripped Thick-knee, Crested Bobwhite, Yellowish Pipit, Plain-breasted Ground Dove, Ferruginous-Pygmy Owl, Brazilian Teal, Blue-winged Teal White-tailed Kite, White-throated Kingbird, South American Snipe, Giant Snipe, White-naped Xenopsaris, the very shy Sharp-tailed Ibis, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Bearded Tachuri, Yellowish Pipit, Grassland Sparrow, Aplomado Falcon and much more. We hope to arrive at Wichabai ranch in time for dinner and get ready for an early start next day.

#### **Overnight at Whichabai Ranch (B, L, D)**

**Day 13 , Whichabai Ranch and Surroundings :** Today we have an extremely early start in search of the highly endangered Red Siskin. A fairly large population of Red Siskin was discovered in this region in 2003, far removed from any previously known colony, and we stand a good chance of observing this strikingly plumage species with an estimate world population of 600-6000 pairs. Our main objective will be to focus on locating the Siskin as this activity is just for one day at this stage of the tour and also due to the very long distance we have to cover in



**(Red Siskin © Jonathan de Groot)**

getting to and from the area, the sooner we can find them the better.

While our main focus will be on the Red Siskin they are other birds that we might come across including, Pale bellied Tyrant-Manakin, White-barred Piculet, Bicolored Hawk, Savanna Hawk, and White-tailed Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Flavescent Warbler, Ferruginous-

Pygmy-Owl, White-bellied Antbird, White-fringed Antwren, Crested Bobwhite, and many more. We will return to Whichabai Ranch for Lunch. The entire afternoon will be spent either trying to locate the Siskin in case we might have missed out on seeing it during the morning. Or, perhaps birding the surrounding habitats at Whichabai looking for the rare Sharp-tailed Ibis, or even the Pale-bellied tyrant- Manakin that we often see along the nearby Rupununi river. We will keep our eyes out for the white-barred Piculet, Finsch's Euphonia and the Rufous-winged Antwren as well.

#### **Overnight at Whichabai Ranch (B,L,D)**

**Day 14 , Whichabai to Georgetown:** Today will be our final day in the Rupununi. After breakfast, our 4x4s will take back to Lethem where we will connect with our schedule flight back to Georgetown. The flight to Georgetown is 1 hour. Once we arrive in Georgetown, we will head to the Sherriff medical Center to do the PCR Covid 19 test. After that, we will mostly likely head to our hotel to check back in. We will spend our final night in Guyana and celebrate your journey and experience of this beautiful Country.

#### **Overnight in Georgetown (B.L.D)**

**Day 15, Our final departure.** This morning we will transfer to the airport to connect with your international flight back home.

#### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

2 Persons	4 Persons	6 Persons	8 Persons
US \$6,846	US\$ 5,764	US\$ 5,064	US\$ 4,941

The above cost is based on a per person change and is based on two persons sharing twin or double bed.

Single supplement is subject to availability

**The flight into the first lodge at Iwokrama is schedule to land at Fair View Village which is 5 minutes away from the River Lodge; landing at Fairview village is not part of the normal schedule for this airline, however they will divert and land here once there is 4 persons and up.**

**If it's just a couple plus the tour leader traveling and he/she want to take this flight anyway, then it means that the clients will have to pay for the 1 extra seat and the airline will divert. Extra cost is approximately US\$ 200 for the seat.**

**This includes:**

All meals as listed on the itinerary as Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (B,L,D) ; from Lunch on day one to Lunch on your final day in Georgetown Guyana; Day 15.

\* All bottled drinking water.

\*All lodging during the tour.

\*Activities as mention in the itinerary above.

\*All ground transportation and domestic flight out of the Rupununi. All ground transfer in between lodges, pick up and drop off at international Airport, all transfers for birding in Georgetown and transfers from Ogle Airport.

\* All national park and other services entrance fees., Iwokrama forest entrance fee, Surama village fee, Yupukari Village fee and Karasabai Village fee, Conservation fees for Red Siskin.

\* All guiding services.

**This does not include:**

\* Alcoholic Drinks

\* Excess weight on the internal schedule flight

\* Extra Activities

\* Extra transfers

\*Special gratuities, all phone calls and any other personal item of any nature. \*

Tourist Visa if required to enter Guyana\*



## Covid 19 Information

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Effective from Sunday, August 8, all foreign travelers must be vaccinated with at least one dose of the COVID19 vaccine and must also produce a negative PCR test prior to entry into Guyana.

According to the Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill, the Government of Guyana remains committed to achieving herd immunity in Guyana and will work assiduously to protect the health and wellbeing of all Guyanese.

Order by the Minister of Public Works



Guyana Daily News

### Covid 19 Guidelines and other important information for visitors traveling to and from Guyana

It is important to note that as the world moves forward with dealing with the coronavirus, these guidelines will continue to change. Please make a special effort to double check with your local tour agency and embassy for the latest updates. You can also visit <https://guyanatravel.gy/> for more

- In Guyana, you are still required to wear a face mask in all public places, especially in close contact with staff/local guides etc
- Guest/clients are required to sanitize or wash hands as often as possible. (Sanitizer will be provided by the tour operator and will be available at all the sites throughout the tour.)
- When in close contact with other guest/clients/staff you will be required to maintain 3-6ft distance.

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Before You Travel to Guyana, Please Note the Following:

- Port Health and Airline Officials will only accept an original copy of the negative molecular biological PCR Test result from passengers travelling to Guyana.
- If the test was completed within 72 hours of the flight and the result of that test is negative, the passenger will be free to leave the airport after arrival.
- If the PCR test is done within four to seven (4-7) days of travel, the passenger will be required to do another test upon arrival in Guyana, notwithstanding the earlier negative result.
- The passenger must bear the cost for the second test at a price of US\$85.00; this is payable at check-in with the airline. Where payment at check-in is not possible, an equivalent of GY\$16,000.00 must be paid upon arrival in Guyana to Eureka Labs at the airport.
- Please note that PCR test result is valid for 7 days from the date the sample was collected or taken.
- Rapid Test, Anti-body or Antigen tests are NOT acceptable for travel to Guyana.
- Persons travelling to Guyana are required to upload the negative PCR test result when completing the [Passenger Locator Form](#). The form should be completed at least 24 hours before travel.
- Passengers presenting false or forged information on their [Passenger Locator Form](#) will face prosecution under the laws of Guyana and will be liable to pay a fine of up to GY\$150,000.
- NOTE: Passengers presenting or submitting false or forged PCR tests reports to the airlines and port health officials will face prosecution under the laws of Guyana and will be liable to pay a fine of up to GY\$250,000. Additionally, passengers presenting or submitting false or forged PCR tests will be subjected to a PCR test at their own expense before entry into Guyana is granted.
- Persons submitting false or forged PCR tests will also be placed on Guyana's "No-Fly" list for a period of 1 year.
- Persons are reminded that the Covid-19 Emergency Measures No. 13, Section 17 states that "Any person who fails to comply with any of the COVID-19 measures, commits an offence under Section 152 of the Public Health Ordinance of Guyana; and is liable on summary conviction to the penalty provided under that section".

Rates are subject to change due to currency fluctuation.



**Please note: Tour prices are based on quoted costs from the lodges (in our local currency), estimated fuel costs, and the rate of exchange the time of itinerary publication. The erratic nature to global financial markets makes it difficult to predict changes in costs and foreign currency exchange rates over the long term. Since tours are priced well in advance of the actual operation of the tour, tour costs, fuel costs and exchange rates can change, sometimes drastically. Depending on the extent of such changes, it may be necessary to implement a surcharge on this tour. If a surcharge is necessary, every effort will be made to minimize the amount.**

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1. All requests for provisional or confirmed reservations are to be made by the Guest/Tour Operator by way of e-mail.**
- 2. No reservation will be deemed confirmed unless acknowledged and accepted in writing by Leon Moore Nature Experience. Leon Moore Nature Experience will respond to all reservation applications in a timely manner and will reply using the same medium of communication whereby the request was made.**

## **PAYMENT PROCEDURE**

### **Payment Mode**

- 3. You are required to make a non-refundable 20% deposit of the cost for the tour based on the number of clients and reservation made upon conformation of tour. And the balance no later than 90 days of the tour date.**

**All payment should be address to Leon Moore via wire transfer. Please advise [journeyguyana@gmail.com](mailto:journeyguyana@gmail.com) when deposit is made in writing.**

## **CANCELLATIONS**

**Should any reservation or payment provision not be observed by the reserving party, Leon Moore Nature Experience will be entitled to cancel the respective reservation with immediate effect. This will be done by way of written notice.**

## **CANCELLATION CONDITIONS**

**Should a cancellation be received between confirmation 50 and 40 days prior to arrival, no cancellation fee will be charged. Should a cancellation be received between 30 days prior to arrival a 50% cancellation fee will be charged. Should a cancellation be received 7 or less days prior to arrival no refund will be given. Cancellation fees are calculated on the rate per person and on the total value of the**

trip. No refunds will be made for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. All reservation amendments or cancellations are valid only if advised and accepted in writing. Leon Moore Nature Experience strongly recommend that guests consider a travel insurance policy, which may assist in offsetting any unforeseen cancellation charges. You may have the opportunity to transfer your booking to another tour or another person, provided you are unavoidably prevented from coming on the tour. In this case, you will bear any extra costs that such changes may incur.

## **INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS**

The cost of this tour does not include the price of your international flight to and from Guyana. You are responsible for arranging these flights to and from Georgetown. I recommend that you arrive a day early to rest and adjust to the time zone.

## **TRIP INSURANCE**

The purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Leon Moore Nature Experience (LMNE) cannot accept liability for airline cancellations or delays or penalties incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable airline tickets or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for this tour.

On domestic Schedule flights within Guyana, passengers are allowed a total of 20Lbs or 9kg of luggage on Aircraft; if one is over the limit, he or she is charged US\$1 or GY\$ 200 Guyana dollars for every pound over weight. It is important that clients must provide his or her body and luggage weight in advance so this can be provided to the domestic airline in Guyana.

Because most of our clients comes from either north America or the UK; we know that clients would sometimes have to travel with weather clothing/extra jacket for cold weather; these and any other clothing or items he or she wish to leave within our storage, arrangements can be made to facilitate this.

**\*Tipping:** The cost does not include any tips however, it is totally up to you, if you feel that an individual/staff performed excellent and you wish to leave a tip please do. If you feel that your tour leader provided you with excellent service, you are free to tip him as well.

- **Please Note:** Guyana is generally hot and humid. We can expect all types of weather from warm and hot to cool and rainy at times. Please be prepared for this.

- On most morning we will be up and out very early to take advantage of the cooler temperature and wildlife activity.
- This tour does not require a high level of fitness but participants should be in good general health as some of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at times but at (slow pace). Should you have any physical limitation please let us know in advance before you leave your destination.
- Accommodation is generally simple but comfortable, throughout they are no airconditioners at the interior lodges, you should not expect luxury accommodation, the lodges we use range from basic to very good, Caiman House Field Station, Surama, Atta, and Iwokrama to name a few!
- Apart from your hotel in Georgetown, none of the interior Lodges have hot shower.
- Some interior local roads can be bumpy at times based on condition.
- The vehicle we used are generally 4x4 and sometime open tops so at times we can be either sitting or standing to get a better view of possible wildlife or the forest.
- None of the Interior Lodges accept Credit cards, on arrival you can change and get money from a Bank, Cambio etc.
- Mosquito nets are provided throughout the lodges, you can expect some biting insects like mosquitos, sandflies, (noseeams).
- The risk of catching Malaria is low.
- Electricity is available at all the lodges, Generator or Solar power. Although the lodges are 110V and the outlets/plugs are USA type.
- **Immigration:** Please treat immigration checks as international standards e.g. no liquid, bug spray, cream etc. etc.
- **Clothing & footwear:** Light material clothing that can dry quickly, long sleeve, shirt and trousers for trail walks and tour activities. No brightly colored clothing, you must bring clothing that blends with the forest. Ankle height hiking boots and sneakers, with socks.
- **Trail Walks:** For extended period of tour activities, we recommend that you bring a 3 legged stool for you to sit on. Some tour excursions include standing for long hours. You will find having a 3 legged stool would come in handy. So please try your best to bring one with you.
- Thank you for traveling with Leon Moore Experience, Birding, wildlife Spotting and Photography trips at [journeyguyana.com](http://journeyguyana.com)

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JourneyGuyana/>

**Address:** Lot 485, Ornoque Drive, Mackenzie, Linden, Guyana, South America

Contact us: [leon@journeyguyana.com](mailto:leon@journeyguyana.com) or [journeyguyana@gmail.com](mailto:journeyguyana@gmail.com)



