

The Ultimate Jungle Survival Experience

Wai Wai remote tribe expedition

Guyana, South America

20 days - minimum 8 Participants

We are going to visit the Wai Wai tribe, one of Guyana's most remote communities. This tribe lives in the most southern part of Guyana, only accessible via air or extensive river travel in some of the least explored areas left of the country. The Wai Wai still live a very traditional life in a sacred relationship with nature and have upheld a lot of traditional traditions, such as using blow pipes, making the mysterious curare poison, and predominantly using their land for fishing, hunting, and farming. This is a deep jungle expedition with amazing wildlife, fishing, and cultural experiences awaiting the participants.



Arrival

The participants will arrive in the capital for a meetup before flying to a small landing strip in Rupununi in small planes. From here, we travel overland with vehicles or trucks to the community of Parabara, then onwards on either the river in dugout canoes or continue in truck to travel to the next river system, depending on the height of the water.

River expedition

Depending on the height of the water, we will be traveling for several days on the rivers. The villagers only use these remote rivers to enter and exit their remote land. While traveling, they frequently encounter enormous anacondas, jaguars, pumas, and reputedly record-sized river monsters while fishing. We will be camping on the riverbank in expedition-style camps and eating what we catch, and rations brought along.

Visiting Masakenari village

The main village of Wai Wai Masakenari is located deep within the jungle. Families are dispersed throughout the area on small trail systems. Here, about 350 villagers live and rely on the surrounding forest to sustain their traditional lifestyle. We will join the villagers to go out and look for wildlife and visit their farms, and we will be introduced to their blowpipes, special bows, and fishing techniques. We will not have to travel far from the village to experience petroglyphs, sleeping grounds for parrots and macaws, and the famous Cock of the Rock, among many other exciting experiences.

What to know before you book

This is a remote expedition, and there will be a high chance of changes and adaptations as we go. This is a trip for true adventure seekers, and participants can expect a true old-fashioned expedition style with amazing adventures but also bumps and challenges that we as a team will overcome alongside the community's villagers. All participants will be required to participate in all aspects of setting up a group camp, including pushing boats and trucks and setting up their own individual camps. This will be hard work, but also a lot of fun.

Itinerary

Day	Itinerary	Details
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1	<p>Arrival in Guyana</p> <p>The group met up at a hotel in Georgetown, the capital. The first night we meet each other, we make sure to have time for any last questions and queries before departure into the interior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meals included • Sleep in bed in a shared room
2	<p>Take off to the interior</p> <p>In the morning, we go to Ogle Airport, where, after check-in, we will get into a small prop plane.</p> <p>From the moment we fly away from the capital, one will truly see why Guyana is one of the most forested countries in the world. The rainforest stretches down to the little village of Surama, where we will land.</p> <p>After the plane journey, we have a short stop in Lethem where equipment is issued, and then we will begin our journey south towards Parabara in 4x4. This will be a whole day of driving, and the goal will be to reach the Parabara community at the edge of the Wai Wai territory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner included • Sleep in a hammock
3	<p>Rest Day in Parabara village</p> <p>Today we will relax in the little, remote village of Parabara. Here, we will be doing small tours around the community to experience daily life. There will be a chance to see their traditional farming, how they sustain themselves from small scale gold mining, and learn about their lives in this little village.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals included • Sleep in a hammock
4-9	<p>Traveling to Wai Wai</p> <p>Today we continue our journey deeper into the rainforest.</p> <p>Depending on the height of the water, there will be two options for how we will get to the community.</p> <p>Option 1 We will board dugout canoes and head towards Masakenari village if the river's height permits it. This trip will take around 5 days, and we will set up camp each afternoon at the shores of the river. Here we will also be spending time fishing, looking for wildlife, and exploring the river system.</p> <p>Option 2 If there is unexpectedly low water, we will transfer from Parabara to a Bedford truck, which will transport us to the next river system. This is an extremely adventurous off-road ride through trails deep within the jungle. This trip is estimated to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals included • Sleep in a hammock

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	<p>take around one full day of travel. Once we reach the next river system, we will camp for the night. The following day, we will board dugout canoes and head for Masakenari village. We will camp along the way.</p> <p><u>(We will only be able to tell which options is chosen until arrival at Parabara)</u></p>	
10-12	<p>Stay in Masakenari village.</p> <p>Once we arrive in the village, we will start to explore traditional village life. During this stay, we will accompany the Wai Wai to understand their way of life. This will include going with them to their traditional and sustainable farm in the forest, going hunting with them using traditional bows and arrows, fishing with them, and learning more about their cultural ties to the jungle that surrounds them.</p> <p>We would not have to travel far from the village to reach the almost-untouched rainforest, and we will have boats available to explore. We want to go to a cultural site near the village that is supposed to be in some caves, and we will also travel into the jungle with a villager who is said to be able to imitate the jaguar call to see if we can get a response.</p> <p>As the nature of this type of expedition dictates, we will undoubtedly encounter a plethora of exciting opportunities while we are there, and there will also be the option of going out in smaller groups for special interest trips arranged while we are in the village.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals included • Sleep in bed in shared rooms
13-117	<p>Traveling out back</p> <p>Depending on the height of the water, we'll begin our journey back. Once again, the height of the river will determine our route and whether we are using the river all the way to Parabara or if we have to utilize Bedford trucks to get back from Kassikaituy. One thing is for sure: we will be back in our expedition-style camps, exploring the river systems as we go.</p> <p>We will eventually arrive back in Parabara, where we will once again will have a night in the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals included • Sleep in a hammock
18	<p>Traveling to Lethem</p> <p>Today we start our travel back towards Lethem. This journey will take us back through the South Rupununi Savannah, and once we arrive in Lethem, we will be accommodated at a local hotel for the night.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast included • Sleep in bed in shared rooms

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19	Back to the capital The following day, the group will travel back to the capital, Georgetown, and will have one final night out in town.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Meals • Sleep in bed in a shared room
20	Continue travel or departure back home On the final day, the participants say goodbye, and they continue their travel either home or to their next destination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meals included • No accommodation included

What is included?

- 47 Meals (16 Breakfast, 15 Lunch, 16 Dinner)
- 20 Days / 19 nights
- Domestic flights with 25LB included luggage
- Vehicle and truck hire in Rupununi
- Boats, Guides, expedition leader, 4x4 transfers
- Village fee
- Kit for jungle see below

What is not provided?

- International airfare
- Meals in the capital (Georgetown)
- Taxi from airport to the capitol (cost approx. 70 USD each way)
- Alcohol
- Excess luggage for domestic flight
- Tips for guides (Is paid collectively to one portion and shared equally among guides)
- Personal travel insurance (Will have to be sent in advance)
- Cost of medical clearance (If needed)
- Malaria Prophylaxis (Consult personal doctor)
- Anything not mentioned in the document

Kit You Need to Bring:

Torch:	Small using AA or AAA batteries. Head torches are ideal, especially those with a red filter, which will stop bugs bothering you at night. Ensure you have spare batteries.
First Aid kit	We will have a group medkit, but you need to be able to look after small injuries like cuts and blisters from your gear: You will need Zinc oxide tape, antiseptic wipes, assorted plasters, wound dressings, lip balm, rehydration sachets, blister dressing, hydrocortisone cream, antifungal foot powder, pain killers, Vaseline. Most high street pharmacists sell a ready-made kit.
Strong string:	Paracord is ideal, bringing about 10 meters, it has loads of uses. It must be a dark color (green) and fine – 5mm maximum.

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Mosquito repellent:	Preferably with 50% DEET. No more. 1 x 50ml bottle is ample.
Sun cream:	Including sunblock if necessary. Get UVA & UVB sunblock, no more than factor 30 which is waterproof and non-scented, so as not to attract insects.
Notebook & Pencil:	A pencil is better as it will not run out or explode all over the notebook etc. Waterproof, breast pocket size notebooks are ideal. Check out www.riteintherain.com
Sarong / Towel:	Multiple uses include a towel and hiding your modesty! The neoprene, water-absorbent travel towels are good, but a small normal towel is fine, though a sarong is best.
Sandals:	Do not bring the flip flop variety or diving/surfboard slipper type. You will need to wear them when swimming in rivers so need to be fixed to your feet as Teva type do, but also allow your feet to dry and air. A pair of Crocs is perfect!
Sewing kit:	For those running repairs. Not too bulky, but enough to last. Most repairs will be the likes of clothing rips.
Sun hat:	The full brim is best, keeps the sun off in the heat of the day.
Washing kit:	Keep to a minimum. Do not use pop-top caps; get screw top otherwise, your toothpaste will explode in your pack – nice! Bring all the sanitary items you need too. A 200ml bottle of liquid soap is ideal. A small pack of wet wipes is also very useful.

What You Wear / Miscellaneous:

Boots:	Comfortable boots. Do not bring Gore-Tex lined boots. US Army jungle boots are by far the best. Get If you possibly can, you will be grateful. They are pretty cheap at about 100 USD and after the trip you can always leave them for the locals' jungle guides, who love them. They are black with a speedlace system. Do not bring the cheap copies; the soles tend to come off quickly. Get the real thing. But the crucial thing is that your boots are comfortable and don't rub your feet to blisters!
Trousers x 2 pairs:	Lightweight, which dries quickly and is full leg length. You wear one pair during the day and change into your spare pair for the nighttime. You may want a basic cloth

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	adjustable belt if they do not come with one already. Do not bring leather belts! Do not bring bright colors or flowery patterns. They attract insects.
Shirt x 2:	Lightweight, long-sleeved with breast pockets and collar to keep the sun off your neck if possible. Ensure pockets can be buttoned so your gear does not fall out. Do not bring heavier jackets. Ensure shirttails fit into your trousers well and do not always pull out, leaving a nice bit of skin for bugs to bite! You wear one during the day and change it into your spare one for the nighttime.
Underwear x 2 pairs:	Whatever is comfortable and quick drying. Non-padded cycling shorts and standard boxer shorts are the best, as they tend to prevent chafing problems. Everyone needs to think about this as chaffing of the thighs is painful, so prevent it with the right underwear. You wear one pair during the day and change into your spare pair for the nighttime.
Socks x 2 pairs:	Hiking type. Ensure they do not have too many man made fibers in them. You wear one pair during the day and change into your spare pair for the nighttime. Lighters: Plastic cheapo types. Zippo's etc will be lost. Just bring one or two. Sweat rags: Old T-shirt cut up is perfect, or a bandana – neutral colors: nothing bright and flowery!!!
Watch:	Waterproof, alarm and light on it.
Photocopies:	A good idea generally when traveling is to have copies of passport, vaccination card, flight tickets, etc. We will store any valuables and spare kits you do not want to take into the jungle.
Cash:	US\$ cash is best, we can change it into GY\$ cash for you as you cannot get this easily outside of Guyana. Traveler's cheques and credit cards are no good outside of Georgetown as you need a bank, and you will be at least 450kms from the nearest one in the jungle. Depending on your course and how many souvenirs you want anywhere from US\$200 to \$400 will suffice.
Vaccination Card:	Essential, Yellow fever vaccination is an entrance demand upon arrival-
Shades:	The cooler the better.

Additional / Extra Kit:

The following are items you may want to bring but are not essential. Don't forget you have to keep your luggage weight to 25lbs or less.

Cameras/memory stick:	Bring it! The main thing is to protect your equipment from the wet and knocks. A bag, which is 100% waterproof, plus a load of silica gel bags to keep moisture down, then pad the lot out with useful items, like a sarong. It is worth the risk! Small, waterproof digital cameras are great, but make sure you have spare batteries and memory cards, there is limited recharging available. The new Lithium batteries are excellent. AAA/AA/C/D Cell all available now – they last
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	ages! Bring the download cable too. And make sure you bring a decent size memory stick/external hard drive to get everyone's photos. With GoPro and other movies, it can be around 100GB at times!
Books:	For those quiet nights. It would be great if you could bring a few to leave behind so we can build a small library for the local people. Anything at all is great, novels, pictures, biographies, travel guides – anything if they are in English! A kindle is great.
Extra clothes:	T-shirts, shorts, warm tops, extra sarong, trousers, shirts, etc. for last night's drink-up, international travel, and so on.
Goodies	The likes of a favorite snack bar, sachets of coffee, sugar, your favorite tea, and so on. Keep it very basic and to a minimum, it is purely a little luxury for you when you get out of the jungle. If you have a multi-tool like a leatherman, bring that too. Centrum type multivitamin tablets are a good idea as is a tube of superglue. You never know what precious item will break, like the sole of your boot, and only superglue has a chance of working in the jungle!!

What We Will Provide:

Hammock	Lightweight, with a built-in mosquito net
Basha/Tarp	To keep the rain off.
Rucksack	You can bring your own or we will provide it. It needs to be robust and big enough to carry your gear plus group stores. A 75 Liter pack is fine.
Belt kit	PLCE belt to carry a machete, fish kit, fire kit, water bottle, etc.
Iodine:	1 x 20ml bottle of iodine droplets. Do not bring anything else including iodine tablets unless you have an allergy or other such medical problem with iodine.
Blanket	We will provide a lightweight sleeping bag. If you do have your own, please feel free to bring it along, but it must be very small and lightweight.
Hydration bag	They hold 2 or 3 liters. It means you can sip water on the move.
Canoe Bag	To line your rucksack and keep the contents dry during river crossings etc
Machete/knife	With leather sheath
Bow and Arrow	Locally made bow and arrow
Dry bags	Water-resistant bags you use to compartmentalize your kit within your rucksack.
Eating kit	Mess tin and spoon.

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Sleeping mat	For powdering your feet under your basha and the likes
Compass/Whistle:	Silva type, marked in degrees and or mils + orange emergency whistle.
Safety kit:	As needed and includes climbing helmets, lifejackets, karabiners, light sticks, radios, satellite phones, med kit, rope, etc.
Miscellaneous kit:	We will provide all sorts of odds and ends like ziplock bags, duct tape, extra string, fishing kit, etc.

If you have some of this kit yourself and wish to bring it as you are more comfortable with it then fine, bring it.

Please keep your kit to the minimum and as light as possible. Some of the small planes will not take off if you bring the kitchen sink, so it will be left behind.

All the gear you bring with you should weigh no more than 10kg