

4x4 OFF-ROAD VENTURE

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Maximum Participants: 10

This 4 x4 off-road driving adventure will take you to the jungles of Amazonia, set upon some of the oldest geological formations in the world. This is where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dreamt up the stories of "The Lost World".

Initial training will take place in the savannahs and jungle of the Rupununi; the site where Sir Walter Raleigh searched for the fabled city of gold, El Dorado in the 16th century. You will be based in the middle of the savannahs, with stunning views to the far jungle-clad mountains. Here you'll learn all about the capabilities and limitations of the vehicles as well as how to live from them in the savannahs and jungle.



After training we're off again in the 4x4's (don't forget you do drive!) and head back into the jungle.

The jungle is a complete contrast to the savannahs. Huge trees which keep even bright daylight out, let alone the stars, winding rivers teeming with life and of course the most ecologically diverse place on the planet. We'll fish for dinner, explore the depths of the forest, drink water from vines, abseil off mountains and set up hammocks between trees to sleep away the long darkness hours. In the jungle you have to do everything yourself, so that means carrying all the gear, lighting all the fires and making all the meals, once you've caught the fish of course.

Next we head south, around the massive Kanuku mountain range and into the heart of the savannahs and cattle country. We'll spend several nights at the Ranch. Here you'll have the chance to sample life as a ranch hand would have been hundreds of years ago and still are today. You'll have to milk the cows in the morning, lasso the young ones in the corral to separate them from their mothers so mama can go graze, round up the herds in the afternoon and maybe even brand the new-borns. The ranch is a stunning place set in thousands of acres of savannah, surrounded by jungle clad mountains and views of the stars at night you only dream of. The creeks are stunning, crystal clear and you can bathe here, even go snorkelling with spear gun to shoot your fish dinner that night though be warned the caiman and anacondas are there too! Bring a waterproof camera.



We leave the ranch and head back to the border town of Lethem to wash off the grime and drink some (more) cold beers.

The following day we have to leave the Rupununi behind and head by light plane back to Georgetown, for your last night in Guyana. You are free to travel home from the Saturday morning!

The map below shows Guyana and its location in South America



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Day	Event	Remarks
Sun	Meet up day. Please plan your arrival flight so as to be available to meet with the rest of the course members today. We will arrange an exact time and venue to meet closer to the date, as there are a variety of flights with different arrival times into Guyana that people may wish to take..	Accommodation will be in a local hotel in en-suite shared rooms. No meals are provided on this first day.
Mon	Late today we head off by light aircraft, deep into the heart of Guyana and on to the Amerindian community of Surama.	Accommodation is in the community eco-lodge, in shared benabs with basic facilities. All meals cooked by local staff at the lodge and served in the central benab.
Tue	<p>Today we check you have all the right equipment for the jungle, plus show you how to use most of it and more importantly pack it so it stays dry. We'll also go through some basic lessons about the jungle.</p> <p>Later on we start going through the vehicles, their set up and equipment they carry ready for the upcoming 4x4 training phase.</p>	Accommodation is in the community eco-lodge, in shared benabs with basic facilities. All meals cooked by local staff at the lodge and served in the central benab.
Wed Thur Fri	<p>For the next several days we will be out in the savannahs and jungle. Here we'll get to practice with the vehicles. Everyone will get to drive off road, learn the capability and limitations of the vehicles, use the winch safely, hi-lift jack, how to put on mud chains, how to repair a flat tyre and many other vehicle skills. There will also be the not so small task of learning to live in the environment. The environmental hazards, making a camp, cooking over a fire that you lit, setting up a tent or even a jungle hammock.</p> <p>We will also have chance to leave the vehicle for a few days and venture further into the rainforest by boat. The jungle mountains cover a huge area, so we can decide on the spot, how far and where we want to go. It is home to Jaguar, Harpy Eagles, Giant Otters, and a host of other amazing jungle wildlife, so there is a good chance of seeing some of it, especially so deep into the pristine forest. We will do some fishing, and hopefully our guides can catch us a peccary (wild pig) or some other bush meat to add to the standard rations!</p>	Accommodation is in hammocks in the bush. Meals are military style rations and what we catch in the jungle.
Sat	Time to head south, away from the jungle and into the savannah to the border town of Lethem, where we overnight and refuel.	

<p>Sun Mon Tues Wed</p>	<p>South again, across more savannahs and around the massive Kanuku Mountain Range to Saddle Mountain Ranch.</p> <p>Here on the ranch you will work with the team of vaqueros to help with the daily jobs of the ranch. Everything from milking the cows to rounding up the cattle on horseback, to lassoing the calves in the corral and then branding the new-borns, you'll be involved in every aspect of life as a vaquero and will have your own trusty steed throughout. We will teach you everything you need to know, including how to ride bare foot (local style) if you fancy it, so no previous riding experience is needed, though if you've spent a few hours in the saddle before you'll certainly appreciate it, or your 'rawhide' will at any rate.</p> <p>Of course we have the vehicles with us and there will be basic maintenance to do on these as well as the chance to go and explore deeper into the savannah, maybe by night spotting for animals or hunting deer.</p>	<p>Accommodation is in the ranch house either in beds or hammocks.</p> <p>Bathing is courtesy of a well or in the beautiful crystal clear creek a few hundred metres away.</p>
<p>Thur</p>	<p>We leave the ranch behind and again in the 4x4's head back to the border town of Lethem to de-kit and where we spend our last night in the interior.</p>	<p>Accommodation will be in a local hotel in ensuite shared rooms. No meals are provided whilst in the main towns of Guyana.</p>
<p>Fri</p>	<p>Today we leave the Rupununi behind and head back to the capital city of Georgetown for your last night in Guyana.</p>	<p>Accommodation will be in a local hotel in ensuite shared rooms. No meals are provided whilst in the main towns of Guyana.</p>
<p>Sat</p>	<p>Departure day I'm afraid. Your flight home can be arranged for anytime today, though you may have a slight hangover to help you on your way</p>	