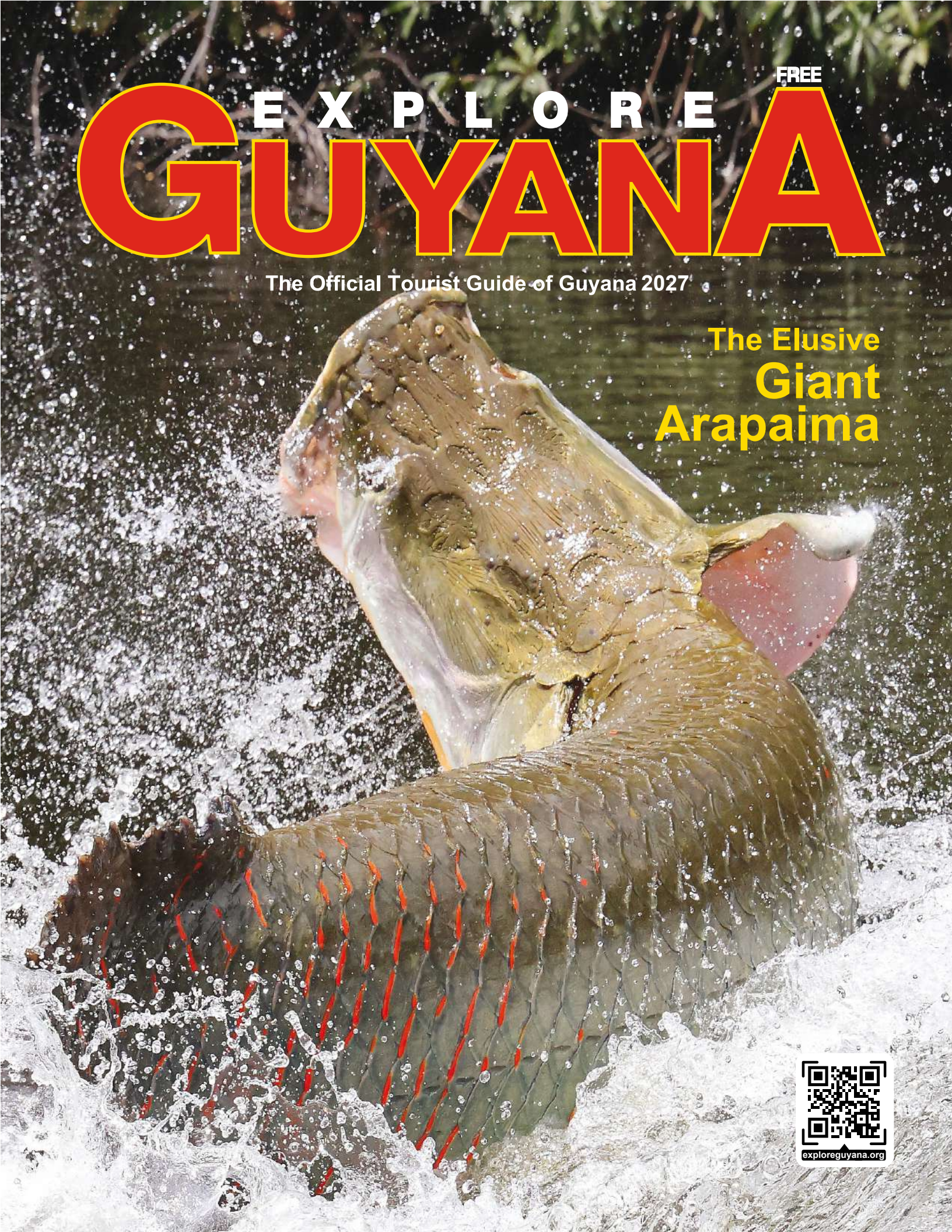
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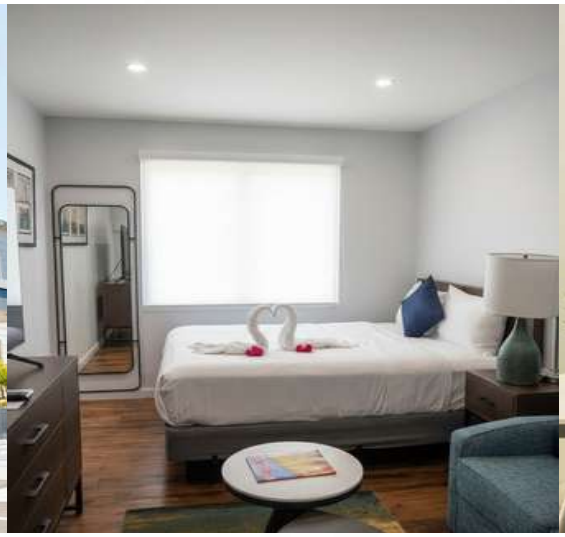
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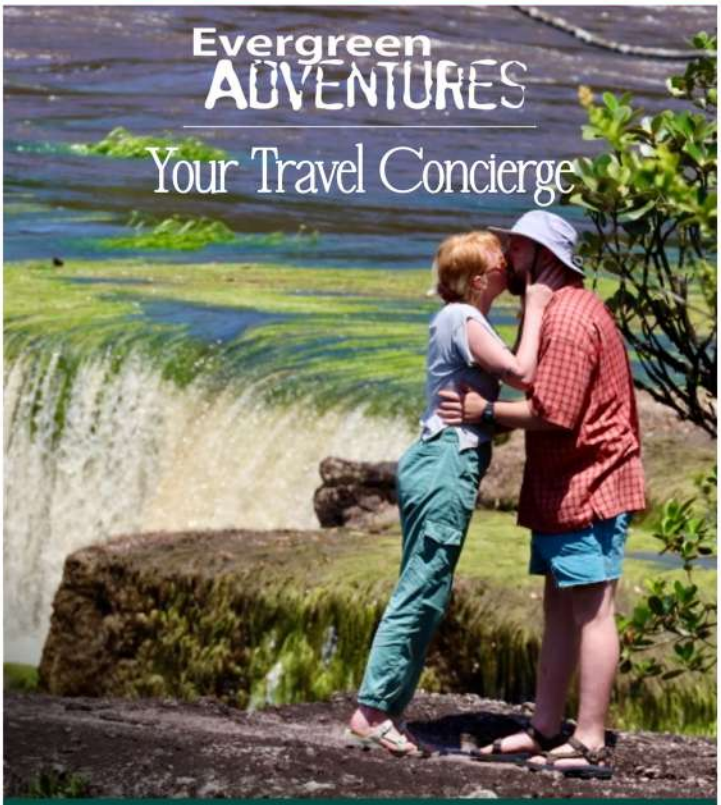
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EXPLORE GUYANA is designed and published annually by Advertising & Marketing Services (AMS) for the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) in association with the Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Commerce, and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA).

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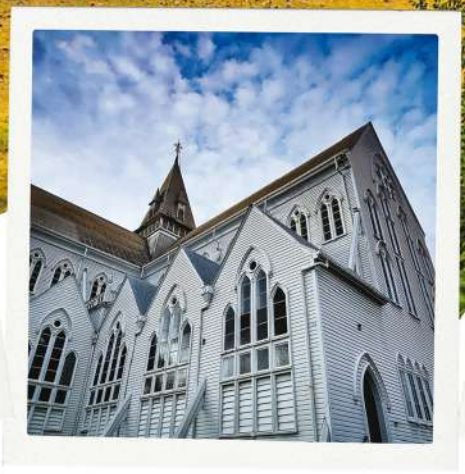
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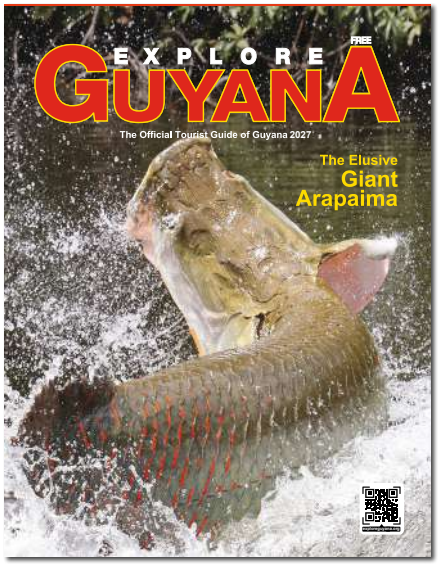
Somewhere between the first light over the rainforest and the last golden rays on a winding river, you begin to understand Guyana.

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On the Cover:

The elusive Giant Arapaima, the world's largest fresh water fish found in Guyana in the Essequibo River and its tributaries. It is a PROTECTED Specie. Indigenous Communities are allowed to harvest for food a limited number annually as authorised by the village Toshao. Anglers on Fishing Tours are ONLY allowed a Catch, Tag and Release System exclusively, as guided by a Certified Fishing Tour Operator.

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His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Welcome to Guyana

Your Journey starts here

There are places you visit, and then there is **Guyana**—a place that visits you, imprints itself on your soul, and refuses to let go.

In this edition of ***Explore Guyana***, we celebrate not just a destination, but a revelation. For years, this magazine has stood as the definitive chronicle of our nation's breathtaking natural beauty, from the thunderous majesty of Kaieteur Falls to the silent, primal expanse of the Rupununi savannahs. We have captured the warmth of a hospitality that doesn't just welcome you but embraces you as family and we have mapped a tourism product so diverse that it defies simple definition.

Today, we are not merely showcasing what we have; we are inviting you to witness what we are becoming.

Guyana is in the throes of a remarkable transformation. We are meticulously building a tourism ecosystem as rich and varied as our landscape. Picture yourself exchanging vows on the banks of our great rivers or on one of our spectacular resorts as the sun sets, painting the sky and water in hues of gold and amber. Or, imagine saying "I do" beneath a canopy of trees.

Our rise as a premier wedding destination is only the beginning. We are opening our doors to the world with state-of-the-art facilities for conferences, expositions, and meetings, proving that business and adventure can coexist. We are empowering our communities through community-based tourism, offering authentic journeys that honour our heritage.

Our calendar pulses with energy: from the electrifying thrill of sports tourism to the vibrant tapestry of cultural tourism, where our religious and national festivals paint the towns and communities in colour, rhythms, and light. We invite you to savour our culinary delights and to lose yourself in our eco-tourism experiences that set the global standard for sustainability.

So, to the dreamers, the investors, businesses and the adventurers: come. Come and experience the unspoiled magic of the land of many waters. Come and be part of a story still being written.

Witness a country transformed before your eyes. This is Guyana. Not just a destination on the map, but the next great chapter in travel.•



His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana


Photo: MINTIC



Welcome!

Hon. Susan Rodrigues, M.P.
Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

It is my pleasure to present the 2027 edition of *Explore Guyana*, a publication that for more than two decades has helped tell Guyana's tourism story, showcasing our natural beauty, cultural richness, communities and the people who continue to shape the sector.

Tourism continues to be a key pillar of Guyana's economic diversification and development. As of August 2026, we welcomed 370,174 visitors, with every month recording a new record. August alone saw 48,582 arrivals, our highest August figure to date, and we are on track to welcome more than 500,000 visitors by the end of the year.


Photo: MINTIC



Photo: MINTIC

This growth is being supported by improved connectivity and continued investment in our tourism infrastructure. Since 2020, twelve new airlines have been added to the Guyana route, while nine new international hotels have expanded our accommodation offering. With 738 rooms added in 2025 and more than 1,000 additional rooms expected in 2026, our national room stock is projected to exceed 5,600 by year end.

At the same time, we are focused on expanding the range and quality of experiences available to visitors. Fifteen new experiential tourism products were launched in 2025, with continued development alongside Indigenous and local communities, particularly in the Rupununi. The passage of the Marriage (Amendment) Act 2026, which removes the 15-day residency requirement for destination weddings, also strengthens Guyana's position in this growing market.

Guyana is also developing its potential as a destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions. More than 18 conferences and several expos have been hosted this year, creating opportunities across hotels, restaurants, transportation, events and other businesses. This momentum was further strengthened by Guyana's hosting of the Caribbean Tourism Organization's State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) in October 2026, bringing regional tourism stakeholders together to discuss investment, connectivity, sustainability and collaboration.

Our approach is simple: **Tourism is Everybody's Business.** Growth in visitor arrivals must translate into opportunities for Guyanese — from taxi drivers, farmers and craft producers to restaurant owners, tour guides and small accommodation providers.

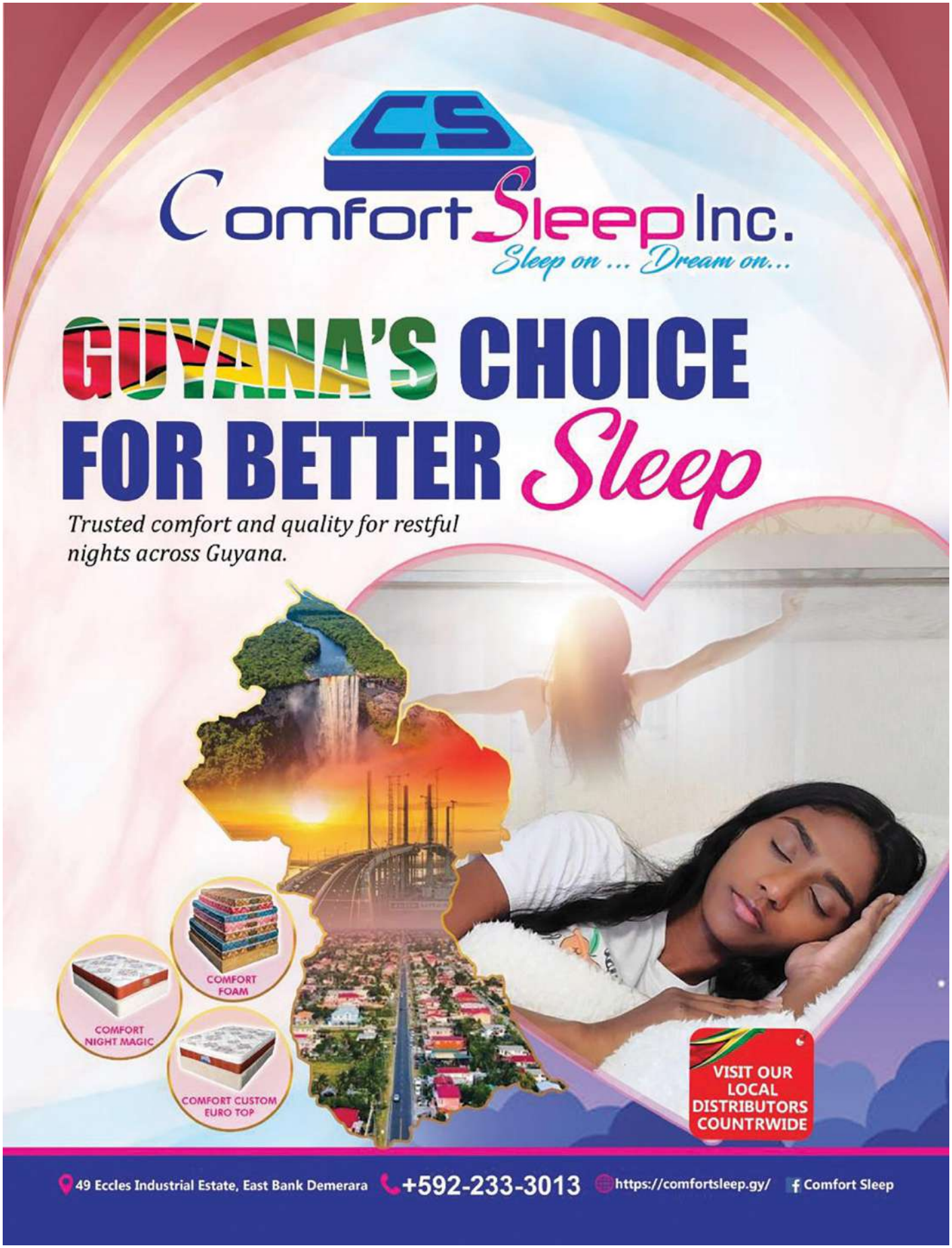
As Guyana continues to establish itself as a leading eco-tourism destination in the Caribbean and South America, *Explore Guyana* remains an important platform for sharing our story and connecting our destinations and experiences with audiences around the world.•


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Mitra Ramkumar
President THAG

Guyana is experiencing an exciting period of growth and transformation. The developments of the past year alone reflect a country moving forward at a remarkable pace, with new investments, improved connectivity and experiences continuing to reshape what is possible for our tourism sector.

As we grow, however, we must continue to push the envelope and innovate while remaining grounded in what makes us uniquely Guyanese — our diverse cultures, our food, our extraordinary natural landscapes and, above all, our people and the stories they carry.

In this, the 26th edition of Explore Guyana, we offer you a snapshot of just how much there is to experience. From day tours and multi-day adventures into our interior, to culinary discoveries, cultural celebrations and an expanding range of evening experiences, there are more ways than ever to explore Guyana.

And we are still evolving.

With every new experience, Guyana adds another reason to answer that beckoning call — to come, to explore and to discover.

The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana, together with our publisher AMS and our editorial, photography and industry contributors, is proud to once again bring Explore Guyana to life and share the people, places and experiences moving our destination forward.

Welcome to Guyana, where every journey begins a new chapter. Come explore and write your own story.•







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About THAG

Formerly known as the Tourism Association of Guyana, THAG was founded on January 6, 1992, by dedicated industry professionals. It stands as the premier umbrella organization representing all facets of Guyana's vibrant tourism sector. THAG encompasses restauranteurs, tour operators, travel agents, accommodation providers, community-based tourism providers and supporting services, uniting them under one common banner.

THAG's mission revolves around fostering a productive partnership with the Government of Guyana, aimed at nurturing and expanding various dimensions of the tourism industry. This includes initiatives related to generic marketing, comprehensive training and development programs, and elevating individual members to excel with unparalleled standards within the industry, both locally and on a global scale.

At the helm of THAG is an Executive Board, led by a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and four Committee Members. Assisting in the day-to-day management of the Association is an Executive Director, supported by both an Executive Officer and a Marketing Officer. THAG takes pride in its invaluable collaborations with a diverse array of stakeholders, all working tirelessly to enhance Guyana's cultural, social, architectural, and natural environments, positioning our beautiful nation as a top-tier tourism destination.

Join us in celebrating the Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana as it continues to make strides in shaping the future of tourism in our beloved country.

Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana
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Discover Guyana



Kamrul Baksh
Director
Guyana Tourism Authority

Every day, I see Guyana's tourism sector from a perspective few people do. I see the work behind experiences visitors discover. I meet operators, guides, communities, accommodation providers and entrepreneurs finding new ways to share what Guyana has to offer every day.

That is what I see in Explore Guyana. The magazine captures the finished experience, but behind every story is a person, community, business or idea helping to shape Destination Guyana.

Tourism continues to evolve. New experiences are emerging across the country, and more Guyanese are recognising tourism as a pathway for business, employment and entrepreneurship.

As Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, I believe our role is to help create the conditions for that growth. That means working with people building tourism on the ground, strengthening standards, supporting product development, investing in training, and helping tourism businesses reach new markets.

We must also protect what makes Guyana worth discovering. Our forests and rivers, wildlife, biodiversity, Indigenous cultures, food, history and people are part of the experience we offer.

That is why authenticity matters. Guyana's natural and cultural assets already offer meaningful experiences, and our responsibility is to help develop and share them in ways that create value for the people and communities who make these experiences possible.

I hope you find that story throughout this edition of Explore Guyana. Look beyond the places to visit and experiences to try. Look at the people and communities shaping our tourism sector and destination.

There is always more of Guyana to discover.

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POPULATION: 1,025,324 (2025 est.)
LOCATION: Guyana is located on the north eastern shoulder of the South American Continent between latitudes 1° and 9° and longditudes 57° and 61°.
The Atlantic Coast stretches for 432km/270m and extends south to a depth of 720km/450m. Guyana is bound by Suriname in the East, Venezuelan the West , Brazil on the South and Southwest and the Atlantic Ocean in the North-Northeast.
CLIMATE: Tropical, hot, humid, moderated ny northeast trade winds. mean temperature of 27.5°C. Coastland ranges from 20°C to 34°C. Interior ranges from 18°C to 4o°C.
CURRENCY: Guyana Dollar (GYD).
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St. George's Cathedral

St. George's Cathedral in the heart of Georgetown, Region Four, illuminated for a concert featuring Spanish guitarist Armando Orbón, presented by the Euro-Guyana Classical Music and Opera Association in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain.

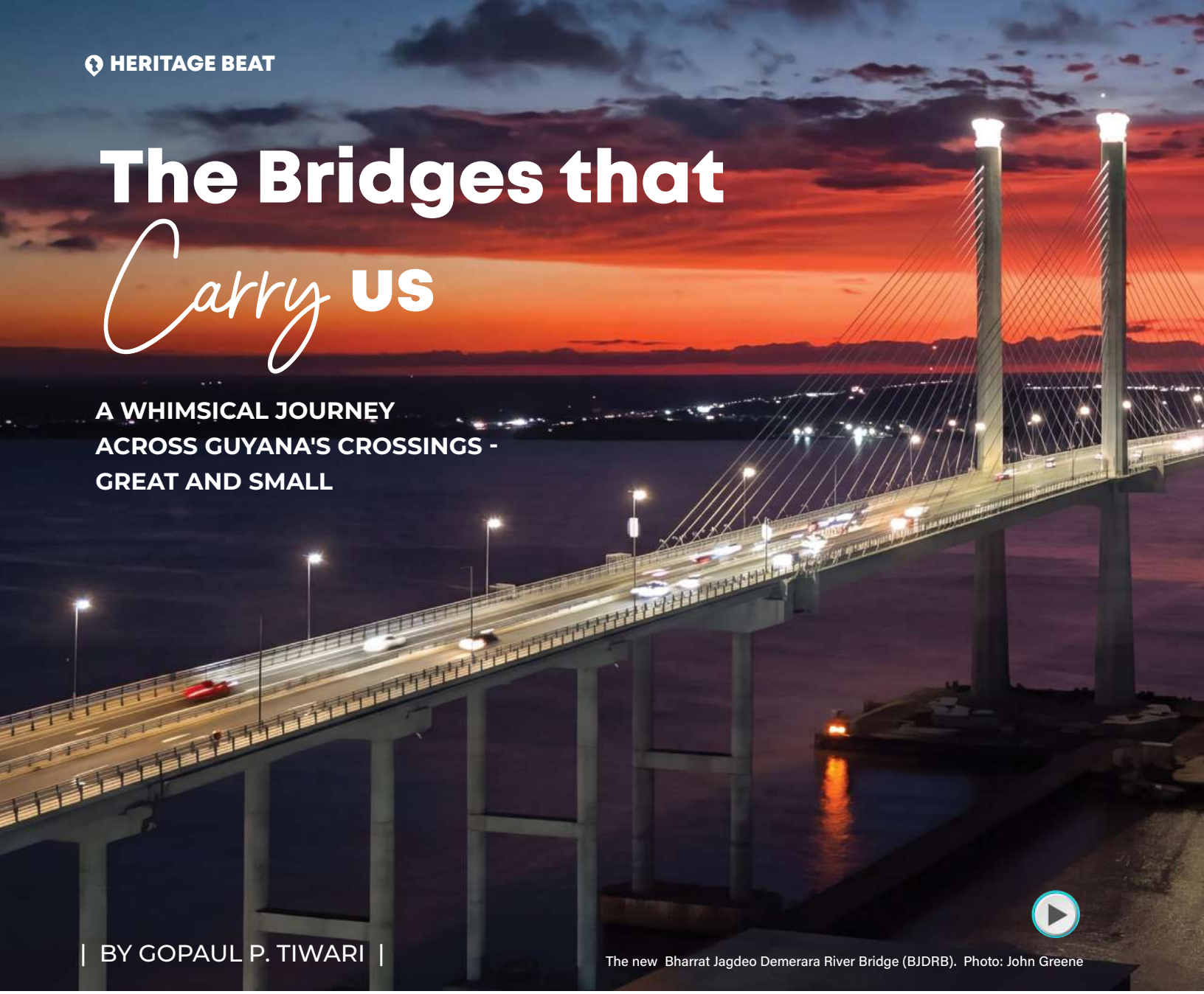
Photo: Javin Singh, European Union Delegation to Guyana



The Bridges that Carry US

A WHIMSICAL JOURNEY ACROSS GUYANA'S CROSSINGS - GREAT AND SMALL

| BY GOPAUL P. TIWARI |



The new Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge (BJDRB). Photo: John Greene

There is something poetic about a bridge.

It does not boast like a skyscraper, nor shimmer like a hotel chandelier. It simply stretches out its arms and says, "Come across." In Guyana, it carries exam hopes, market baskets, long-distance romances, Sunday lunches, and the quiet ambition of a nation finding its stride.

As the new **Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge (BJDRB)** rises confidently over the Demerara River, it joins a lineage of crossings that have shaped our rhythms, routines, and relationships and occasionally our blood pressure.

Once upon a school morning, a child on the West Bank Demerara stood with polished shoes balanced carefully above the mud. The river lay between home and homework. Some days the boat came early. Some days it didn't. Rain meant delay. Low tide meant waiting. And occasionally, the river seemed to require a motivational speech before cooperating.

Today, that same journey is measured not in tides but in minutes. With the new bridge, there is no guessing, no watching the water like a dramatic aunt at a wedding. The school bell is no longer in competition with currents. Attendance improves, and excuses are officially harder to invent.

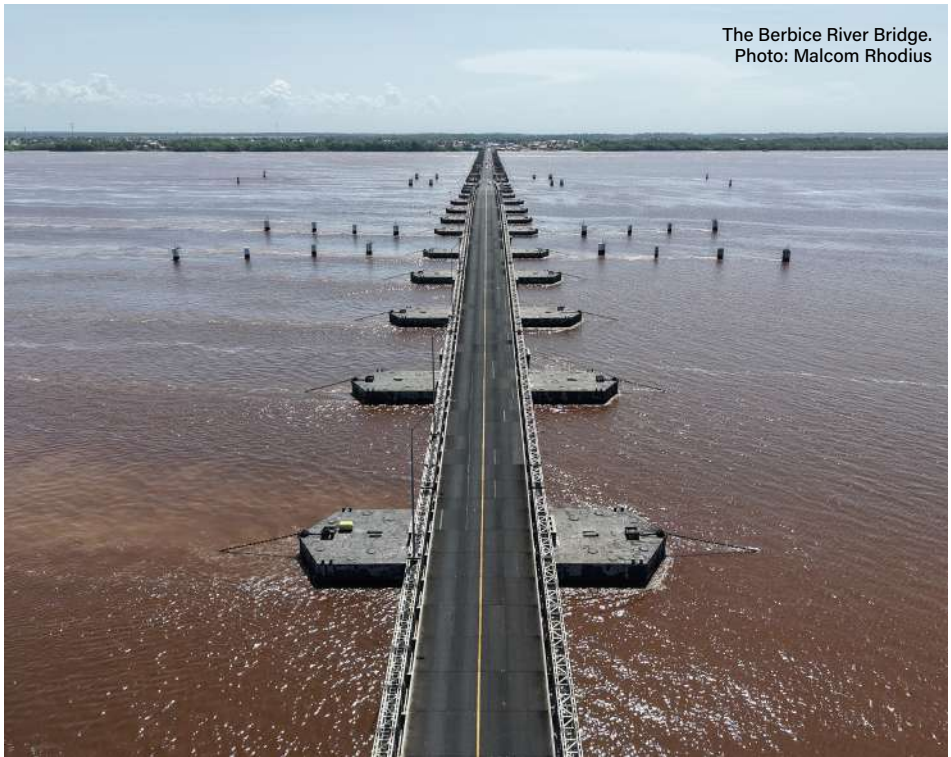
For decades, commuters had their own peculiar morning theatre: the retraction of the **Demerara Harbour Bridge**.

Ships were given passage and commuters were given patience lessons. Miss it, and you were late. Beat it, and you felt like you had conquered Everest before breakfast.

Entire office cultures were built around the phrase, "Bridge deh open." Meetings began with knowing nods. Alarm clocks were set not by time but by tide. The new **BJDR Bridge** promises something quietly revolutionary: predictability. No more racing the horizon. No more calculating marine traffic before coffee. Just steady passage, morning after morning.



The BJDRB lit up in National Colours at night. Photo: GTA



The Berbice River Bridge. Photo: Malcom Rhodius

In Berbice, the opening of the **Berbice River Bridge** changed daily life in ways no engineering diagram could capture.

Before it, farmers crossed by ferry, watching both the sky and the clock. After it, produce reached markets earlier, fresher, and with far less drama. Time, once lost to logistics, became profit. The bora stayed crisp. The plantains arrived unbruised. The explanation "traffic hold me up" began to lose its power.

Multiply that across regions and industries, and the story becomes national. Improved crossings mean smoother supply chains, faster commutes, and a country that moves with greater confidence.



Takutu River Bridge. Photo: A Path to Travel

On the savannah frontier, the **Takutu River Bridge** stretches not just across water, but across borders.

Linking Lethem with Brazil, it turned what was once a ferry crossing into a permanent handshake between neighbours. Today, trucks roll across with goods, families visit with ease, and travellers drive from Georgetown to Boa Vista without wondering whether the river is in the mood for cooperation.

The Takutu Bridge quietly expanded Guyana's horizon. It reminded us that connectivity is not only about moving within our country, but about reaching beyond it. And for many in the Rupununi, it transformed isolation into opportunity with far fewer soggy shoes.

A visitor lands at Cheddi Jagan International Airport with a carefully planned itinerary: waterfalls, rainforest lodges, island hopping. There was once an unspoken line in every schedule allow extra time for the bridge (and perhaps a snack).

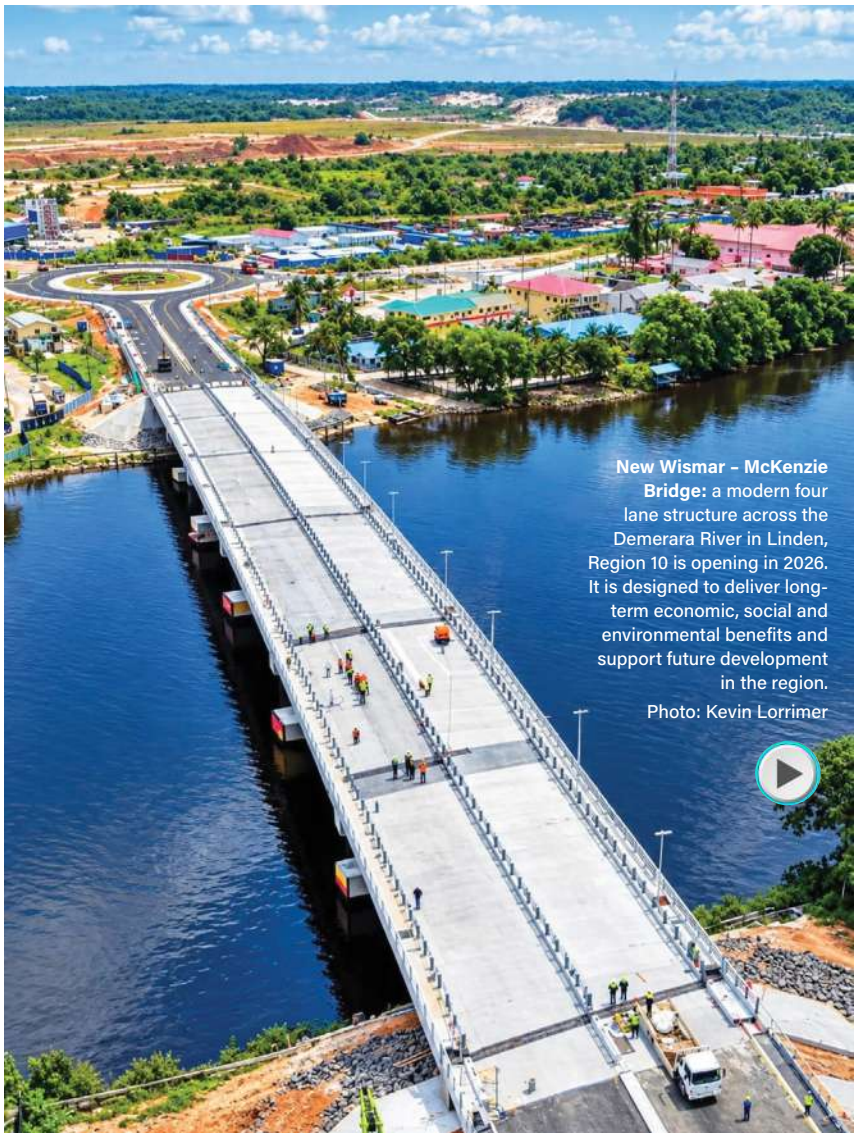
Modern travel thrives on ease. When roads and bridges flow smoothly, destinations feel closer, friendlier, more accessible. Reduced crossing times mean more sunset cocktails, more river tours, more spontaneous stops for coconut water by the roadside.

After all, wanderlust fades quickly when one spends forty-five minutes admiring the same lamppost.

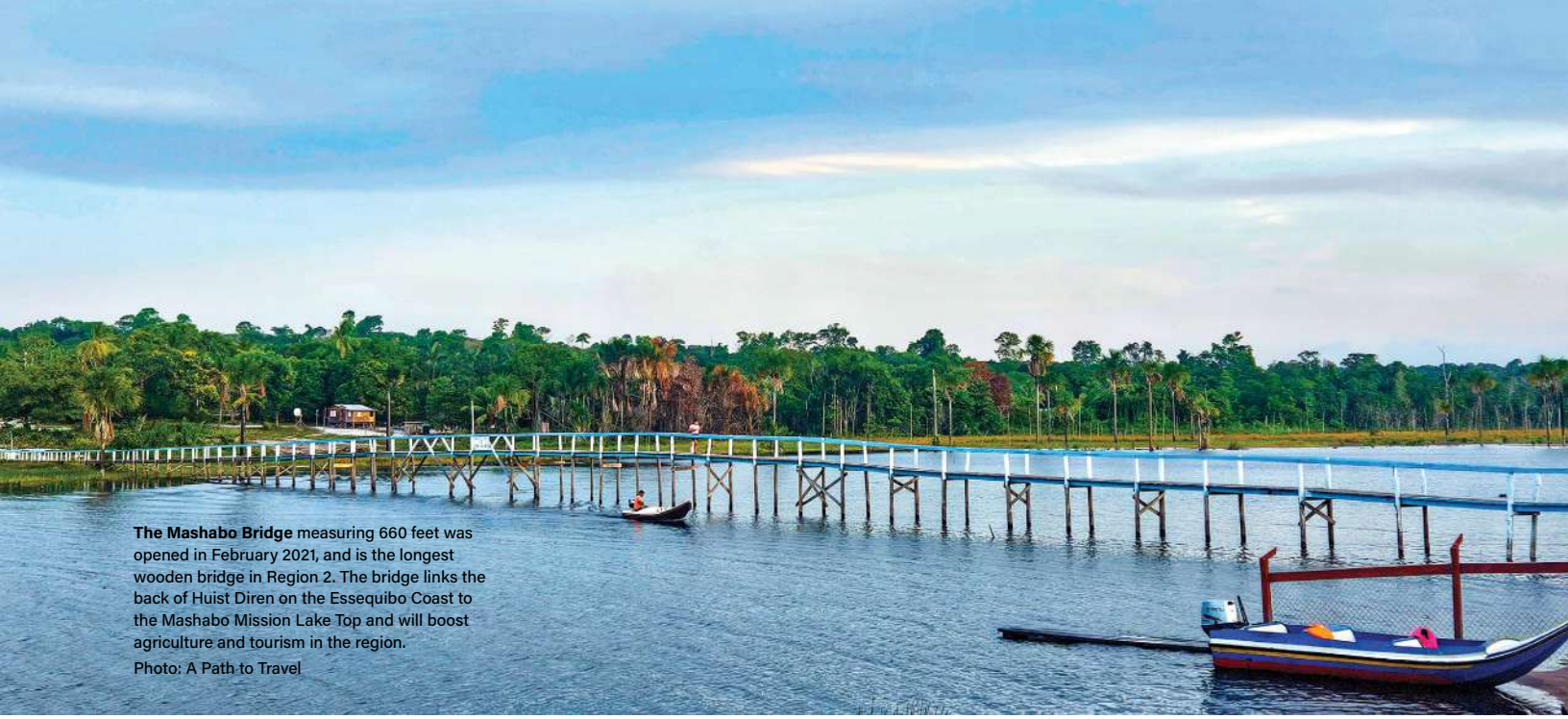
Rivers are beautiful, but they can divide as easily as they inspire. Before reliable crossings were available, visits required planning. Sunday lunch meant scheduling around tides and traffic. Weddings demanded logistics. Casual drop-ins were anything but casual.

Now, grandparents attend school plays without consulting a marine timetable. Cousins appear "just so." And occasionally, someone can say, "We're five minutes away," and mean it.

A bridge does not merely shorten kilometres. It shortens absence.



New Wismar – McKenzie Bridge: a modern four lane structure across the Demerara River in Linden, Region 10 is opening in 2026. It is designed to deliver long-term economic, social and environmental benefits and support future development in the region.
Photo: Kevin Lorrimer



The Mashabo Bridge measuring 660 feet was opened in February 2021, and is the longest wooden bridge in Region 2. The bridge links the back of Huist Diren on the Essequibo Coast to the Mashabo Mission Lake Top and will boost agriculture and tourism in the region.
Photo: A Path to Travel



Community bridge over canal.
Photo: A Path to Travel

Beyond the grand spans are Guyana's quiet connectors: wooden trench bridges in villages, narrow concrete culverts linking rice fields, modest crossings that wobble just enough to make you reconsider your footwear choices.

They may never feature in glossy brochures, yet they carry schoolchildren, bicycles, market loads, and entire communities' routines. Without them, modernisation would stall at the first trench after heavy rain.

They remind us that national progress depends as much on humble planks as on headline-grabbing megastructures.

Guyana's bridges chart our evolution — from colonial timber spans to floating pontoons, from ferries to fixed crossings, from waiting on tides to moving on time.

The BJDR Bridge is more than infrastructure. It is intention cast in concrete and steel. It signals that Guyana's modernisation is not tentative. Commerce will move swiftly. Regions will integrate more seamlessly. Opportunity will not pause for the river's mood.

Steel may span the river, but it is people who truly cross it — school children, farmers, workers, tourists, families.•





Botanical Gardens Entrance

Botanical Gardens Restoration

| Article and Images By Protected Areas Commission |

A Taste of Guyana

In Guyana, you can taste before you buy.

There is a tropical fruit called a guinep that is often bought this way. You break the skin, taste the fruit and decide if you want more. It is deeply Guyanese, and carries an idea worth considering as the country opens itself to the world. Sometimes a taste is enough to know there is more.

That is part of the ambition behind the transformation of Georgetown's **Botanical Gardens and Wildlife Sanctuary**: to bring Guyana into its capital.

As Georgetown grows, its green spaces become more important. They give people places to walk, gather, watch birds and enjoy nature. They are public spaces and part of the city's environmental infrastructure.

The Botanical Gardens has done this for generations. Established in the nineteenth century, it has been botanical garden, agricultural experiment, zoo, park and meeting place. Now plans are underway to make its deeper stories more visible.



Wildlife Sanctuary

The journey begins at a new **Entrance and Discovery Centre**, where multimedia rooms will introduce visitors and students to Guyana's mountains, plains, forests, rivers and geological foundations.

The story then moves into water. A new **Waterways Experience** and **Walk-through Aquarium** will let visitors move around, above and into the water. The Canoe Terminal brings them closer still. Water carries minerals from mountains, shapes land and links interior to coast. It is a force that has shaped Guyana.

From water, the visitor rises. An **Elevated Sky Trail** will move through the canopy and five towers, telling stories of Guyana's great mountain landscapes from north to south. The interpretation will show how trees literally build themselves from the air, drawing carbon from the atmosphere and combining it with water, nutrients and the energy of the distant fires of the sun.



Walk-through Aquarium



Elevated Sky Trail and Towers

THE GARDENS IS BEING SHAPED AS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN ENCOUNTER THE DEEPER STORY OF GUYANA: ITS FORESTS, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS, COAST AND WILDLIFE.

The journey culminates at a replica of Mount Roraima, with waterfalls gathering in a pool below, reached by canoe.

Then comes the **Giving Gardens**, where the story turns to what plants give. They give us food, medicine, shade, timber, fibre, fragrance and beauty. They give us oxygen, hold soil, filter water and provide habitat. They turn earth, water, air and sunlight into the living world around us.

This is especially Guyanese. We sing of a "Green Land" in our National Anthem. Forests and plants are part of how we describe ourselves.

Even Guyana's oil belongs to this story: ancient life and sunlight transformed over millions of years through burial, pressure and geological time. Beneath us is ancient energy; above us, forests continue to capture the sun.

From plants comes wildlife. The renewed **Wildlife Sanctuary** will provide more natural enclosures, rainforest safari experiences, and space for conservation. Restored habitat will support resident and migratory birds that have long made the **Gardens** home.

An internal shuttle connects the experiences, while an **Amphitheatre** beneath the trees becomes a story grove for music, performance and gyaffing.

This is ambitious work. It will take years to build and more for the landscape to mature.

But its purpose reaches beyond creating a new attraction. The **Gardens** is being shaped as a place where people can encounter the deeper story of Guyana: its forests, rivers, mountains, coast and wildlife.

For a visitor with only a day in Georgetown, it can offer a Taste of Guyana!

For a Guyanese child, it can make the mountains, rivers, forests and wildlife feel closer and more real.

Come for a Taste of Guyana.

Then go and discover the country that gave it to you.•

Restoration works are expected to be completed by December 2029.

The Protected Areas Commission manages Guyana's National Protected Areas System and urban parks, conserving nature while creating spaces and experiences that connect people with Guyana's natural heritage.



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Guyana's Stories, Set in Stone

Monuments and heritage sites that tell our story

Historical information courtesy of the National Trust of Guyana.

1763 Monument

Square of the Revolution, Georgetown, Region Four

Popularly known as the Cuffy Monument, Philip Moore's striking bronze sculpture commemorates the 1763 Berbice uprising against enslavement. Unveiled in 1976, its powerful figure and intricate symbols express resistance, freedom and unity. Look closely: the sculpture's details are part of its story.

Photo: Malcom Rhodius





Fort Zeelandia

Fort Island, Essequibo River, Region Three

Located on Fort Island in the Essequibo River, Fort Zeelandia was completed in 1744 and preserves a chapter of Guyana's Dutch colonial history. Its surviving brick walls, ramparts and cannons reveal the outlines of a defensive stronghold. Seen from above, the fort's distinctive shape becomes especially clear.

Photo: Malcom Rhodius



Hog Island Windmill

Hog Island, Essequibo River, Region Three

This surviving tower recalls an eighteenth-century Dutch attempt to harness wind power on Plantation Luyksberg. Built around 1768, it outlasted the enterprise it served. Today, its weathered masonry and distinctive openings make it an intriguing stop in the Essequibo's heritage landscape.

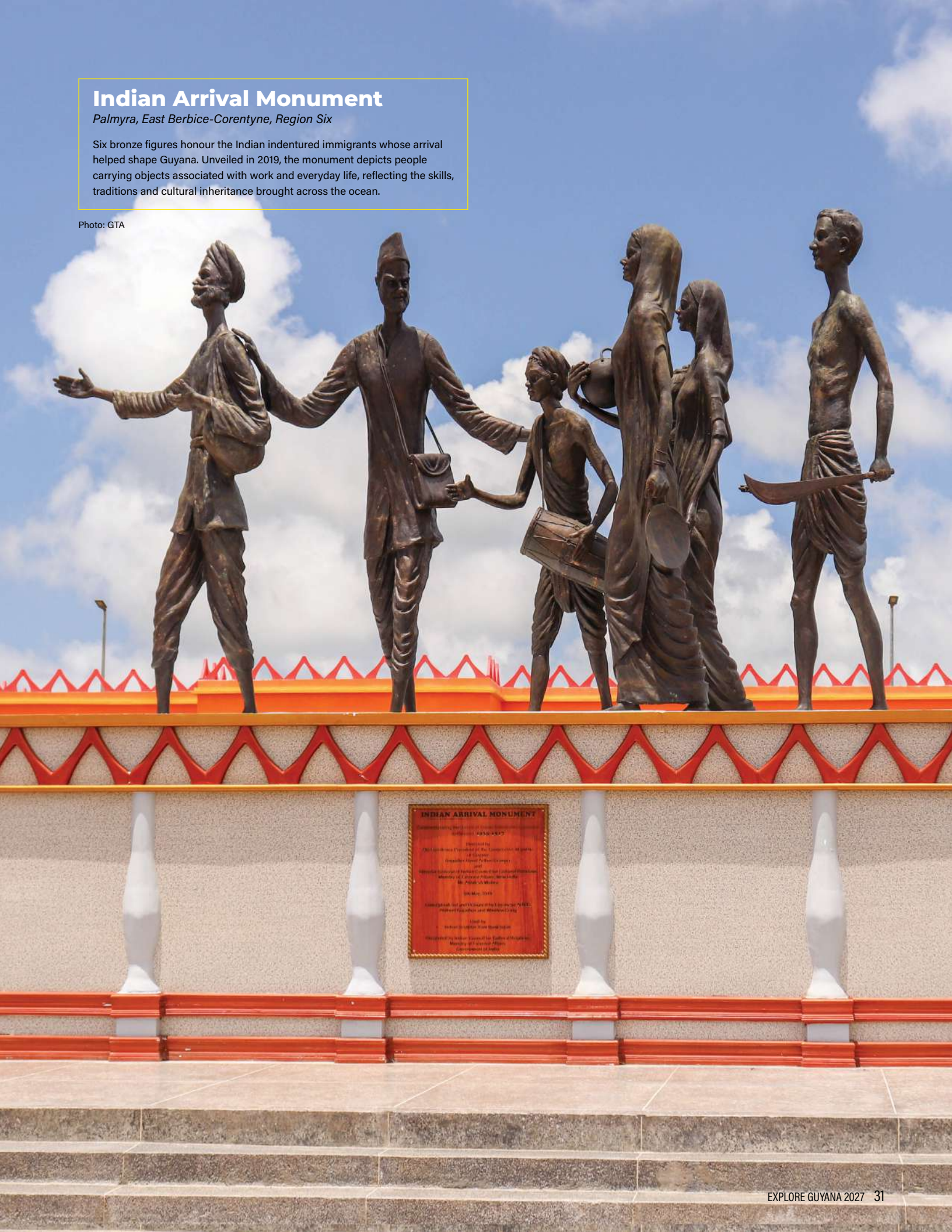
Photo: A Path to Travel

Indian Arrival Monument

Palmyra, East Berbice-Corentyne, Region Six

Six bronze figures honour the Indian indentured immigrants whose arrival helped shape Guyana. Unveiled in 2019, the monument depicts people carrying objects associated with work and everyday life, reflecting the skills, traditions and cultural inheritance brought across the ocean.

Photo: GTA



Kyk-Over-Al

Essequibo Islands, Region Three

Established by the Dutch around 1616, Fort Kyk-Over-Al stands on a small island in the Mazaruni River, near its meeting with the Cuyuni. Its name means "see over all," reflecting the strategic view it once commanded over the surrounding waterways. The fort served as a trading outpost and administrative centre before being abandoned in 1748. Today, its surviving brick archway offers a striking reminder of Guyana's early colonial history.

Photo: Malcom Rhodius





Aishalton Petroglyphs

Rupununi, Region Nine

Across the Aishalton district, rock carvings offer glimpses into the lives and surroundings of Guyana's First Peoples. Human, animal and plant forms appear alongside geometric designs, preserving traces of expression and knowledge within the savannah landscape.

Photo: A Path to Travel

AROUND GEORGETOWN























1 THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Was designed by an Englishman, Sir Leonard Stokes. Granite obtained from the quarries of Dalli and Wolga on the Essequibo River and sand from Leguan was used in the construction of this structure whose foundation stone was laid on 15 August 1915.

2 THE RED HOUSE
The Red House on High Street is famous for its bright red wallaba shingles. It is a 19th century, 3-storey colonial style building and now houses the Cheddi Jagan Research Centre.

3 AUSTIN HOUSE
Originally known as Kingston House and was the residence of the first Anglican Bishop of Guyana - Bishop William Percy Austin (1807-1892). It was renamed Austin House in recognition of his contribution to the Anglican Church in the country.

4 PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE
The official residence of the Prime Minister of Guyana,it was originally constructed for Mr. Sandbach of Booker Bros. in the late 19th century. The residence is one of the most picturesque Great Houses in Guyana.

5 CHRIST CHURCH
This edifice was built in 1836 for those Anglicans who were dissatisfied with the ritualistic services at the St. George's Cathedral. It is located in Waterloo Street. The church held its consecration service on November, 21 in 1843.

6 WALTER ROTH MUSEUM
This museum of artifacts relating to Guyana's nine Amerindian tribes is located on Main St. It is also a research centre for the indigenous peoples.

7 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
Also known as the Carnegie Building after its famous benefactor. It is located at the corner of Main and Church Streets.

8 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
Opened in 1951 on North Road, this museum contains many geological, animal and Amerindian exhibits including eclectic pieces such as a Rolls Royce, given as a gift to the government.

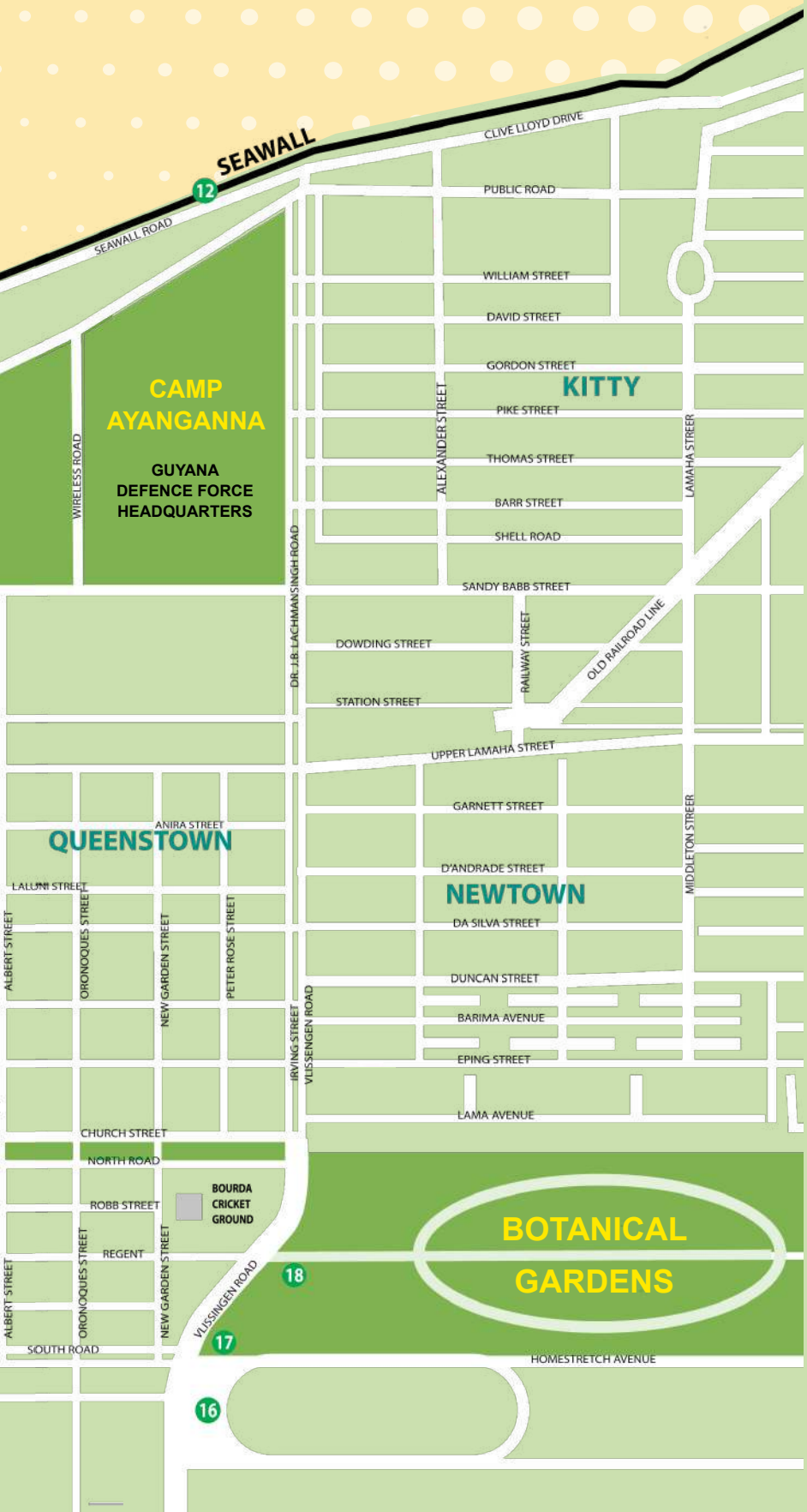
9 ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL
St. George's Cathedral was once named the world's tallest wooden building. This, the main Anglican church in Guyana, can be found on North Road.

10 CITY HALL
Georgetown's beautiful wooden City Hall was built in 1889 at the corner of Regent St. and Avenue of the Republic.

11 THE HIGH COURT
Opened in 1887 The High Court sits between Brickdam and Croal Streets.



ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES





SEAWALL
This 280 mile wall is a Dutch-designed and British-built dyke that protects Georgetown against flooding. It is a favourite "liming", jogging and kite-flying spot.



ST. ANDREW'S KIRK
St. Andrew's Kirk is the oldest building continuously used as a church. Located at the corner of Brickdam and the Avenue of the Republic, it was completed in 1818.



STABROEK MARKET
Georgetown's favourite market on Water St. is also one of the city's prized landmarks Check out the four-faced clock before browsing the bountiful market for everything from vegetables to gold.



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
This landmark building housing Guyana's Parliament was completed in 1834. It was designed by James Hadfield.



THE 1763 MONUMENT
This statue commemorates the unsuccessful 1763 slave rebellion led by Cuffy, an enslaved African It stands in the Square of the Revolution at the top of Brickdam. The monument was designed by renowned Guyanese Artist Philip Moore.



CASTELLANI HOUSE Once the residence of former Guyana President Forbes Burnham, it is now the home of the National Art Gallery and the National Art Collection. It is also a venue for important exhibitions and other cultural features.



JENMAN EDUCATION CENTRE
Once the residence of former research botanist George Jenman now recently refurbished. Its objectives are to raise awareness, conduct environmental research and promote environmental activities.



GEORGETOWN LIGHT HOUSE
The Georgetown Light House was first built by the Dutch in 1817 and then rebuilt in 1830 to help guide ships into the Demerara River from the Atlantic Ocean. The 31m (103 feet) high brick structure is a famous Georgetown, Guyana monument.

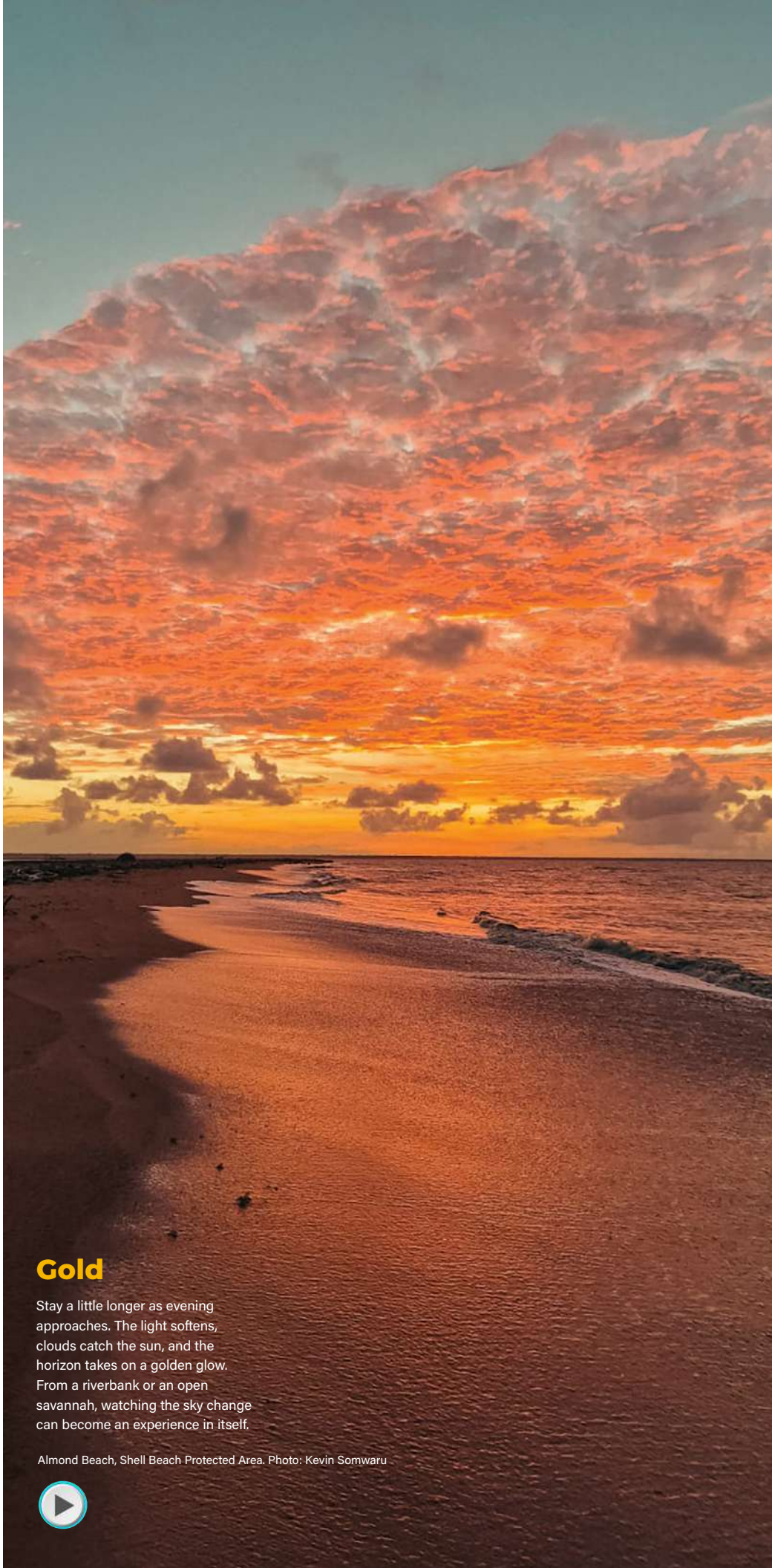


STATE HOUSE Formerly known as the Government House, this building dates back to 1858. It was the residence of the Governor General and in 1970, the country's first President, Arthur Chung, resided there. This building is currently the residence of the Governor

Guyana Colour by Colour

Nature's Palette

Follow a different kind of trail through Guyana: gold across an evening sky, green along a river bend, orange on a forest perch. These colours invite you to pause, look closer and discover the places and wildlife behind the picture.



Gold

Stay a little longer as evening approaches. The light softens, clouds catch the sun, and the horizon takes on a golden glow. From a riverbank or an open savannah, watching the sky change can become an experience in itself.

Almond Beach, Shell Beach Protected Area. Photo: Kevin Somwaru

Green

Follow the river's curves through a landscape crowded with treetops. From above, Guyana's forest opens into a patchwork of greens, interrupted by water, rock and the occasional clearing. Beneath that canopy, a much closer view awaits

Burro Burro | Surama Village heading towards harpy eagle nesting site. Photo: Kevin Somwaru

Orange

The male Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock brings a startling splash of orange to the forest. Its rounded crest and trailing feathers reward a patient look through binoculars—or a quiet moment beside a guide who knows where to watch.

Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock. Photo: Kevin Loughlin

Blue

Linden changes the palette. Here, blue water meets pale sand and green shores, creating a striking contrast with the town's industrial heritage. From a kayak, the view shifts again: ripples, reflections and a shoreline seen at water level.

Linden Blue Lakes (AerialView). Photo: Aerial Guyana

Red

At the market, red appears in ripe tomatoes, glossy peppers and handfuls of fiery wiri wiri. Bright, fresh and full of flavour, it is the colour that brings unmistakable Guyanese heat to the stall, and later, to the pot.

Photo: A Path to Travel

White

Among the broad, raised rims of its floating leaves, the Victoria amazonica opens white as evening falls. Guyana's National Flower offers a quieter spectacle: pale petals against dark water, with the giant lily pads completing the scene.

Photo: Karanambu Lodge

Purple

Phagwah powder, traditionally known as gulal or abir, is a vibrant, brightly colored powder used during Phagwah (Holi) to celebrate the arrival of spring, joy, and the victory of good over evil.

Photo: DPI





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Arapaima

Face-to-face with the Giant Arapaima

The World's Largest Freshwater Fish



| STORY AND PHOTOS BY OLIVIER PORTRAT |

Olivier Portrat travels the world as expedition leader, journalist, author, photographer and TV producer on all waters. He is passionately committed to animal welfare, nature conservation and the preservation of the way of life of indigenous peoples, such as the nomads in Mongolia, the Nubians along the Nile or the natives of the Amazon.



It is hot, it is humid – and sweat is running into our eyes. We are on a small lake not too far from the mighty Essequibo River. We are searching for one of the rarest and biggest sportfish of our planet – *Arapaima gigas*!

We wait for an Arapaima taking his breath at the surface – just like a dolphin would do. Arapaimas belong to the few species of fish that can live in waters exempt of oxygen! They can breathe air…

That is good for us. It allows us to spot one of these monsters giving us a chance to present our bait right in front of him. Not that easy at 30 to 50 m of distance – they are shy fish!

And, suddenly, one of these marvellous looking fish is grabbing our bait! Strike! The hook is set and just seconds later the Arapaima is propelling himself in the air! What a rare & spectacular sight of a fish in excess of 100 kilos!

Arapaima fishing is definitely one of the most spectacular adventures an angler can do… but Arapaima are just one of hundreds of species of fish lurking in the jungle-waters of Guyana. All other great sportfish of the Amazon also live there: the mighty Piraiba (Lau Lau,






Arowana

Brachyplathystoma filamentosum), the talking Pirarara or Redtail Catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*), the Jau (*Paulicea luetkeni*), the striped Surubi (*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*), but also fat Dogfish (*Hoplias lacerdae*), toothy Payaras (H*ydrolycus scomberoides*), jumping Arowanas (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*) and at least two species of Peacock Bass (*Cichla ocallaris* and *Cichla cataractae*) wait for us anglers!

And this broad variety of all the interesting sportfish of the Amazon basin is at home in Guyana's iconic Essequibo River. Having travelled and fished a lot on various rivers of the Amazon basin, I can tell you that it is exactly this variety of great sportfish that makes Guyana and the Essequibo River unique and exceptional: it is the only place I know where all these great sportfish live together!

The Brazilian Rio Negro for example is good for big Peacock Bass, but there is almost no Arapaima fishing and the Dogfish and Payaras are much smaller than in Guyana…

In other words: Guyana is the most interesting multi-species destination for anglers willing to meet all the great sportfish of the Amazon rainforest!

Give it a try – you'll not be disappointed!

INFO TEXT ON ARAPAIMA AS RED-LIST SPECIES

Arapaimas are an endangered and protected species – across Guyana and everywhere else in South America.
Only "CATCH & RELEASE" is allowed – meaning that the fish is not killed after having been caught, but released alive.

As the natives (first nations) of Guyana are still allowed to kill some of them, sportfishing without killing them might be a good solution to preserve this species for the future. If the local fishing trip organizers involve the help of the native people for sustainable fishing tourism, the locals may preserve the Arapaimas for the income generated by that fishing tourism instead of killing these great animals for food. That approach already works quite well, for example in regard of the siberian Taimen in Mongolia or in different Atlantic Salmon fisheries.

Fishing tours are available through Adventure Guianas and other Licensed Tour Operators

The Arapaima: PROTECTED SPECIES

Fishers note: CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY!


Photo: Olivier Portrat

The Arapaima, one of the largest freshwater scaled fish in the world, found in the Amazon Basin is known for its impressive size and ability to breathe air. This magnificent fish plays an important role in its freshwater ecosystem. Help protect this remarkable species by practising responsible fishing and ensuring that every catch is released safely.

It is one of the Giants of Guyana - found primarily in the Essequibo River basin, specifically confined to its major tributaries like the Rupununi and Rewa Rivers in the North Rupununi District.

Scientific Name:	*Arapaima gigas*
Common Names:	Pirarucu, paiche
Native Habitat:	Amazon River Basin in South America
Lifespan:	15 to 20+ years
Diet:	Carnivorous/Omnivorous (fish, crustaceans, fruits, insects, and small land animals)
Size:	Typically 7 to 10 feet long; historical reports note lengths up to 15 feet.
Weight:	Commonly 200 to 440 pounds (90 to 200 kg).
Appearance:	Streamlined, torpedo-shaped body with dark green-grey scales that transition to a brilliant red-orange gradient near the tail.
Scales:	Large, thick, armour-like scales protect them from predators like piranhas.
Unique Adaptations	Air Breathing: They possess a modified swim bladder that acts like a lung. They must surface every 5 to 20 minutes to gulp air.
Feeding Strategy:	They use a "gulper" technique, opening their large mouths rapidly to create a powerful suction vacuum that pulls in prey.
Mating Season:	Occurs during low-water/dry seasons. Nesting: Parents prepare circular nests in sandy shallows to lay thousands of eggs.
Parental Care:	Both parents protect the young. Males protect the babies by drawing them close or into their mouths when danger approaches.



Golden Rocket Frog perched between the leaves at Kaieteur Falls National Park

Imagine standing in front of one of the world's largest waterfalls, but that's not what you're looking at. Punched on a leaf over a 700 foot drop, the gleam of gold keeps your attention. Meet the Golden Rocket Frog, one of the many creatures that give Guyana the nickname El Dorado.

FORGET THE ZOO. GO TO GUYANA

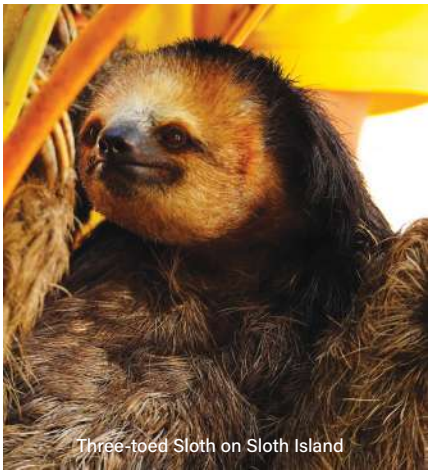
| STORY & PHOTOS BY JOEL CHEVAILLIER |

Forget the image of Guyana as a place only for the rugged adventurer, as often portrayed on TV and social media. This place is surprisingly easy to reach. A trip to one of the public parks in Georgetown can reveal everything from exotic birds to the docile Manatee. Sloths and howler monkeys are just an hour-long boat ride away from the city, surrounding destinations like Waia Lodge. Looking for literal bushes full of tropical birds? Perhaps rare and unique bouquets of flowers? You can visit the Mahaica River in about the same time as some people commute to work.

The sheer amount of flora and fauna is overwhelming, and this is where having a local guide becomes invaluable. What might look like ordinary forest, can be full of clues to the trained eye.

"The forest provides everything you need" our guide, Lionel James explains as he leads us through the jungle near Surama Lodge.

He stops beside a palm tree, picking up a small palm nut. "Now you see the little hole in the nut, that tells me there is a grub in there." He cracks the nut open with the back of his machete revealing the little squirming creature. "You could eat it like this if you were hungry enough, some people like to roast them. But what they're really perfect for is bait! Fish love these little guys. You see the forest is our all in one store. Food, water, bait and tackle. It has it all."



Three-toed Sloth on Sloth Island



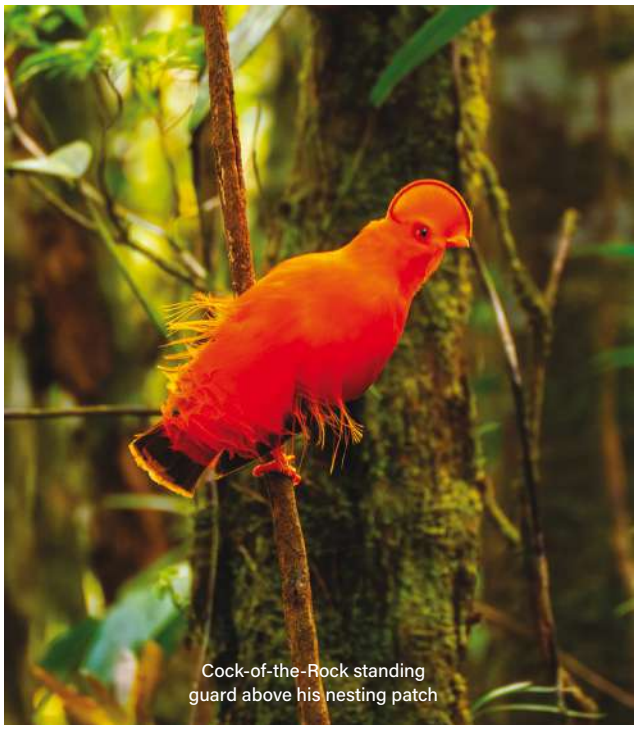
Canje Pheasant perched on a branch on the Mahaica River

It's hard to express the feeling of being inside an ecosystem that feels untouched by man. The biome of the jungle can, at times, feel like something you would only read about in children's books. It's impossible not to become infatuated with your surroundings once you understand more about them. Every tree, vine, sound and movement seems to have a purpose. The more you learn, the more you realise just how little you noticed before.

Now as a wildlife photographer, I know animals can be fickle. No guide can guarantee a sighting and if they could I'm sure they would charge a lot more. That said, after countless journeys waiting for that perfect shot that never came, I can confidently say Guyana offers a unique opportunity. Whether you're simply walking through a park in Georgetown or traveling to the heart of the Interior, you have a good chance of stumbling across unique specimens like the Canje Pheasant, spectacled Caiman, or the famous Cock of the Rock.

Young Caiman held by guide at night on Canje Creek

Whether you have a week's journey into the Rupununi or only a long weekend to explore just outside of Georgetown, Guyana provides access to some of the world's most beautiful wildlife for everyone. From the parks and waterways surrounding the capital to the vast forests of the Interior, there is an incredible variety of wildlife waiting to be discovered.•



Cock-of-the-Rock standing guard above his nesting patch

Joel Chevaillier is an adventure traveller, photographer and expedition leader, and the founder of Global Convoy. After years of taking himself and others to remote corners of the world, he writes about the wildlife, people and unexpected adventures found along the way.



The Mystique of the Rupununi River and Wetlands

One the most biodiverse areas of the world



On the pond near Karanambu Lodge at sunset Photo: Kirsten Harrington

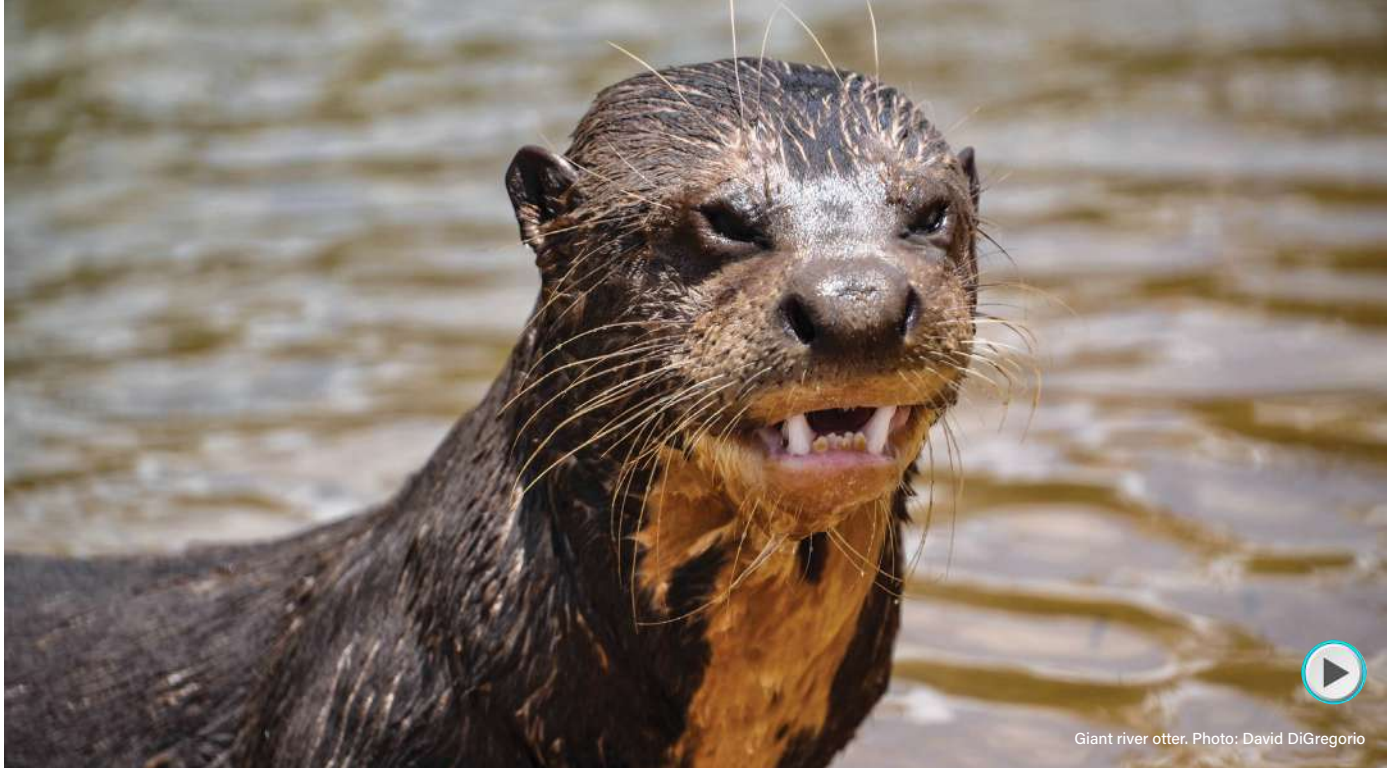
| By Kirsten Harrington |

I sit rain-soaked and smiling in the boat as the sunset in Guyana collides with a rainbow over the water. The storm passes and a red-tailed hawk circles above as an anhinga dries its wings on a nearby tree. Herons, egrets, and black caimans call this pond their playground, as do the small silver fish that jump on the giant lily pad like a trampoline, occasionally landing in my lap.

The birds' calls keep me company as I wait for the *Victoria amazonica* water lily to open. The cooler night air forces the petals of the world's largest water lily to bloom. I watch, impatiently at first, and then become transfixed by such a rare sight. The creamy, white petals open before my eyes as night falls. The sweet fragrance attracts pollinating beetles, which are trapped inside the female plant's petals. During the pollination cycle, the petals turn from cream to pink, showing off for a brief two-day period before the flower closes, dies, and sinks below the surface.



Victoria Amazonica lily in bloom. Photo: Karanambu Lodge



Giant river otter. Photo: David DiGregorio

The heartland of Guyana's Rupununi wetlands is one of the few places on earth to witness this floral display. I ponder Mother Nature's mysterious ways as I walk back through the dark to the grass-thatched clay cabin at Karanambu Lodge, where I'm staying.

At dawn the next morning, I cruise the Rupununi River, one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. I'm greeted by a giant river otter and capybara on the shore and see tracks left in the mud by a giant tapir. Blue herons, kingfishers, red-capped cardinals, egrets, and turkey vultures fill the sky as we motor slowly down the river. Capuchin monkeys watch from the trees, and dozens of black caimans linger nearby. My eyes shift quickly between the river, the land, and the sky, counting more birds and animal species in two short hours than I've seen in my lifetime.

Located 600 miles from Guyana's capital of Georgetown, Karanambu Lodge started in 1927 as a cattle ranch. The wildlife and remote location have attracted famous guests from Sir David Attenborough to Mick Jagger. The lodge is a pioneer of ecotourism in Guyana, famous for its work in caring for orphaned giant river otters and protecting the ecosystem of the diverse Rupununi Savanah. Local Amerindian villagers share their wildlife and cultural expertise with guests.

Water lilies blooming before my eyes, dozens of birds circling above, playful giant otters waiting on the riverbank, and the hospitality of the local people are just a snapshot of my Guyana adventure.•



Karanambu Lodge: Kristen Harrington



Howler Monkey. Photo: Karanambu Lodge

Kirsten Harrigton
Kirsten Harrigton is a Florida-based freelance travel writer, always looking for the next adventure. She has traveled to over 40 countries and hopes to inspire others to explore the world and connect with different cultures. Follow her on Instagram @ Wintergardenfoodie.

WINGS OVER GEORGETOWN

A personal reflection on Guyana's wild treasures

A changing skyline

Growing up in Georgetown, I knew the sounds of our garden by heart: Kiskadees calling at dawn, Egrets passing overhead, Parakeets chattering between fruit trees. Macaws and Toucans belonged to another world. To see them, we expected to travel inland, towards the Rupununi or the forests of Guyana's interior.

Over the past two years, that familiar picture has begun to change. Deep calls now rise above the morning traffic. Toucans move through high branches, while Macaws sweep over rooftops in brilliant pairs. What once seemed extraordinary has become an increasingly familiar part of our days in Georgetown.

For me, these encounters bring a particular joy. They draw the country's wild beauty into ordinary life, reminding us that the boundary between city and forest is less distant than we sometimes imagine.

Seven visitors, one afternoon

In October 2026, that feeling became unforgettable. Our family gathered in Subryanville at the home of my grandfather, Dr. Keshav Mangal, where my father, Lars, and my uncle Mike now live. The garden has always been a sanctuary, shaped by years of care and family memories.

That afternoon, seven wild Macaws settled in a single coconut palm: five Blue-and-Yellow Macaws and two Red and Green Macaws. Gold and cobalt flashed among the fronds, beside vivid red and blue. We had not travelled to a remote lodge or followed a forest trail. This remarkable gathering was unfolding in our own back garden.



Blue-and-Yellow Macaws in the back garden in Subryanville, Georgetown, 2026

For nearly an hour, we watched them preen, lean towards one another and call across the yard. Then they lifted away together, carrying their colours into the afternoon sky. Sharing the moment with my father and uncle, beneath a tree in the garden my grandfather had nurtured, made it more than a wildlife sighting. It connected three generations through a place we love.

The garden's significance was not simply that the birds chose it. It was that a place woven into our family's everyday life could also belong to something larger. My father and uncle had grown up here; now we were watching wild visitors share its canopy. In that moment, family heritage and natural heritage seemed inseparable, each giving the other meaning.



A rare sight in Georgetown: Red and Green Macaws alongside elegant Blue-and-Yellow Macaws in a coconut palm in Subryanville on an October 2026 afternoon



The ever-present Kiskadee in Subryanville, Georgetown, 2026

I cannot say that one afternoon explains a wider change in Georgetown's birdlife. But it made the possibility of a greener, more welcoming city feel immediate. The birds had found somewhere to rest; we had been given a reason to look again at the familiar trees around us.

A city worth sharing

Why are we seeing these birds more often? Seasonal movements, changing food supplies and shifts in surrounding habitats may all play a part. Establishing the causes would require careful observation over time. What we can see is the value of Georgetown's mature gardens, where palms, mangoes, guavas and other trees offer food, shelter and resting places.

In neighbourhoods such as Subryanville, Bel Air and Prashad Nagar, these green spaces deserve attention as living habitat. Their importance reaches beyond the boundaries of any one property. Together, gardens, canals, parks and tree-lined streets can help wildlife move through the capital.

Lessons from the coast

Along the coast, mangroves offer another reminder of how closely our wellbeing is tied to nature. Their protection and restoration help defend the shoreline while sustaining places where birds can feed and roost. Near the Demerara Harbour Bridge, Scarlet Ibis and White Egrets gather above the water, waiting for low tide to expose the mudflats.

The sight of red and white plumage against green foliage is beautiful, but its meaning goes deeper. Protecting habitat gives wildlife room to live. That principle belongs in the city as much as it does along the coast.

Keeping Guyana's wild heart

Welcoming birds also means respecting their freedom. Wild Macaws, Parrots and Toucans should be admired in the trees, never captured to decorate a cage. We can enjoy their presence without disturbing their resting places or encouraging the trade in wild birds.

Education can turn that respect into a lasting habit. Children should have opportunities to recognise local birds, learn their calls and explore Guyana's biodiversity through school lessons and visits to green spaces. Familiarity can build the pride that makes conservation personal.

Practical choices matter too: protect mature trees, plant suitable native species, strengthen the Botanical Gardens and preserve greenery as Georgetown develops. Residents, schools, businesses and public authorities each have a part to play.

As Guyana grows, these decisions will shape what future generations inherit. New buildings and roads need not erase the spaces that make urban life richer. A tree retained today may shelter birds for years to come; a garden protected can keep a small but meaningful connection to the wider natural world.

I hope a child standing in our garden decades from now will still look up to see Macaws flying freely overhead. The seven birds in my grandfather's coconut palm offered a glimpse of that future. Keeping it possible is a responsibility we share.•



Sole Mangal writes on environmental preservation, family heritage and Guyana's evolving natural landscape.

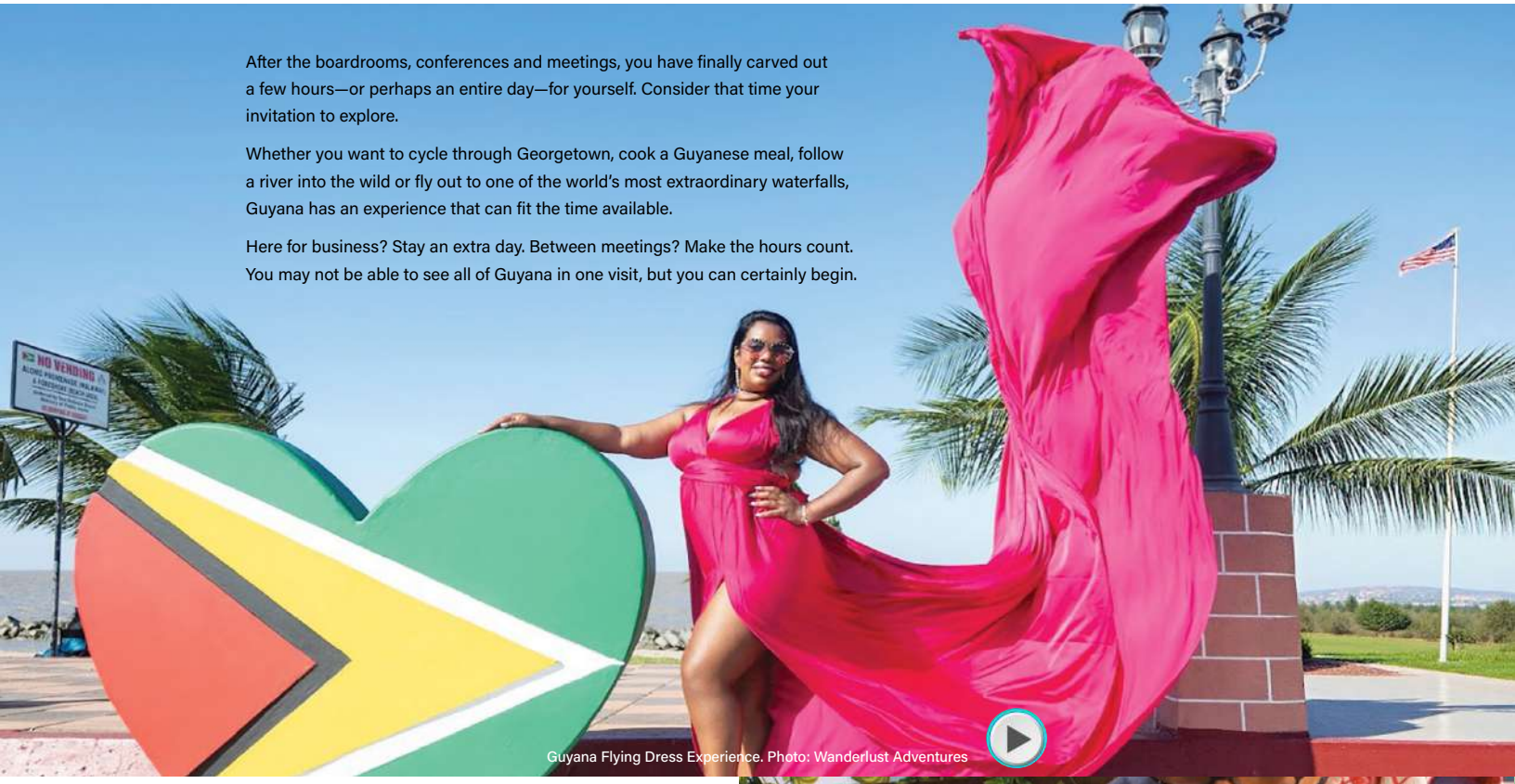
Birding tours are available across Guyana through Licensed Tour Operators

Got a Day?

After the boardrooms, conferences and meetings, you have finally carved out a few hours—or perhaps an entire day—for yourself. Consider that time your invitation to explore.

Whether you want to cycle through Georgetown, cook a Guyanese meal, follow a river into the wild or fly out to one of the world's most extraordinary waterfalls, Guyana has an experience that can fit the time available.

Here for business? Stay an extra day. Between meetings? Make the hours count. You may not be able to see all of Guyana in one visit, but you can certainly begin.



Guyana Flying Dress Experience. Photo: Wanderlust Adventures

A Few Hours to Spare

Short on time? Georgetown still has plenty to show you.

Seawall Crawl

Walk, jog or unwind beside the Atlantic as Georgetown gathers along one of its favourite social spaces.

Georgetown Heritage and History Tour

Discover the architecture, canals, markets and landmarks that preserve the capital's stories.

Georgetown Bicycle Tour

Trade four wheels for two and notice the neighbourhoods and everyday details easily missed from a vehicle.

Guyana Flying Dress Experience

Turn Georgetown's architecture and scenery into the backdrop for a colourful, professionally styled travel portrait.

Cook Like a Guyanese

Prepare popular Guyanese dishes, learn local techniques and discover whether clapping roti is as effortless as experienced cooks make it look.



Cook like a Guyanese. Photo: Karishma Chunilall

Guyana Has an Adventure for It!



Market Tour. Photo: GTA



Farm to Table. Photo: A Path to Travel

Half a Day, A Whole Experience

With half a day, move beyond sightseeing and into the experience.

Seven Curry Experience

Discover the preparation and traditions surrounding this culturally significant meal, traditionally served on a water-lily leaf and eaten by hand.

Street Food and Market Tour

Follow the aromas through bustling markets while meeting vendors and tasting familiar local favourites.

Farm-to-Table Experience

Visit a working farm, meet the growers and enjoy a meal shaped by fresh produce.

Mahaica River Hoatzin Tour

Journey along the Mahaica River in search of the hoatzin, Guyana's national bird, along with monkeys and other wildlife.

Abary River Birding Tour

Explore mangrove and wetland habitats with guides who know where to look and listen.



Water skiing on the Canje Creek. Photo: Blackwater Adventiures

When the Sun Goes Down

As evening settles in, Guyana offers a different rhythm of adventure.

Demerara Sunset Cruise

Board a boat a stone's throw from Stabroek Market for birds roosting at dusk and the river turning gold.

Canje Creek Adventure

Combine history, wildlife and golden evening light along one of Berbice's scenic waterways.

The Pergola Experience

Pair chef-prepared food with scenery and hospitality during a journey along the Demerara River.

After-Dark Caiman Experience

Listen for nocturnal wildlife and search for caimans under the guidance of experienced hosts.

Give Guyana the Whole Day

A full day takes you farther—to rivers, communities, trails and waterfalls.

Essequibo River Tour

Explore islands, historic sites and riverside communities along part of Guyana's largest river.

Fishing Adventures

Cast a line during a guided experience shaped by the location, season and target species.

Bimichi Cultural Tour

Learn through food, craft, archery and other activities shared by community hosts.

Santa Mission, Aratack and Arrowpoint

Follow blackwater creeks towards Indigenous communities, forest activities and welcoming riverside experiences.

Lake Capoey Experience

Experience community hospitality, village life and a refreshing swim beside one of Essequibo's inviting lakes.

Pomeroon River Tour

Cruise past farms, coconut estates and riverside villages shaped by life along the Pomeroon.

ATV Jungle Ride

Navigate forest trails, creeks and changing terrain during a guided off-road adventure.

Teperu Falls Adventure

Combine river travel and forest scenery with the reward of reaching this man-made falls.

Splashmins Day Out

Enjoy blackwater, white sand and family-friendly activities along the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

Linden Kayak Getaway

Paddle through Linden's distinctive landscape while enjoying its lakes and surrounding scenery.



Chef Kester preparing a meal for the Pergola Experience. Photo: Pose and Pixel

Follow the Story

Not every journey is measured only by distance. Some take visitors backwards through time—to the villages, industries, buildings and waterways that helped shape modern Guyana.

Taste of Freedom Tour
Explore the stories, food and resilience of historic villages such as Victoria and Buxton.

Linden History Tour
Discover how bauxite, industry and community helped shape the town.

Plantation Heritage Drive
Trace the histories of plantation agriculture, labour, village formation and life along the coast.

New Amsterdam Heritage Tour
Explore the streets, architecture and landmarks of one of Guyana's oldest towns.

Guyana Heritage Museum Tour
Encounter photographs, documents and everyday objects preserving memories of earlier Guyanese life.

Tri-Island Tour: Hog Island, Wakenaam and Leguan
Visit Essequibo islands where history, agriculture and riverside village life meet.

Nassau
Journey along the Berbice River to the remains of a former Dutch administrative centre.



Sloth enjoying the sun on Sloth Island. Photo: Old Fort Tours



Kaieteur Falls. Photo: GTA

Worth the Flight

Take to the skies for rainforest, waterfalls and savannah.

Kaieteur Falls
Fly above rainforest and walk to viewpoints overlooking Guyana's most celebrated natural wonder.

Kaieteur and Orinduik Falls
Where schedules allow, experience two contrasting waterfalls during one fly-out adventure.

Kaieteur Falls and Baganara Island
Pair the power of Kaieteur with a relaxed finish beside the Essequibo River.

Lethem Day Trip
Fly into the Rupununi for savannah scenery, community encounters and the atmosphere of Guyana's southern border town.

Plan Your Day

Experiences, itineraries, departure points and inclusions may vary according to weather, group size and availability. Book through a licensed tour operator or guide and confirm the latest schedules, accessibility and requirements before travelling.



Come Explore the Award-winning Toka Village

Toka Village

Where Makushi Culture and Nature Meet

| BY INDRANEE ROOPSIND |

Photos: Candace Phillips

In the Makushi Village of Toka, tourism begins with a warm village welcome. Set within the remarkable Rupununi landscape, at the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains, Toka offers visitors an opportunity to experience Guyana through its indigenous people, their traditions and extraordinary natural surroundings.



Making traditional Makushi pottery

Preparation of clay for pottery-making

Toka's tourism is village-led, with culture, local knowledge and conservation at its heart. The Makushi Village and community are proud to have been recognised and honoured with the 2026 Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Community-Based Tourism Award.

A visit to our Innî Lodge, opens the door to discovering the skill and stories carried through traditional Makushi pottery, then venture into a landscape rich in wildlife, where encounters with an impressive variety of birds, the Giant Anteater on the open savannah and groups of Giant River Otters frolicking playfully along the Bununi River can take your breath away.

At Taiwii, a beautiful waterfall and gathering place, visitors can experience traditional fishing methods and learn knowledge passed from one Makushi generation to the next. For another exciting adventure, become a vaquero on horseback, herding cattle and experiencing Toka's strong ranching heritage.



Visitors can also try their hand at traditional Makushi archery and the skills passed down through the years. As evening falls, gather around the campfire for a night of stories, where the Rupununi landscape comes alive through the voices, memories and knowledge of the people who call it home.

The Toka experience extends beyond the culture and landscape and into the kitchen, where our indigenous Makushi food traditions meet the diverse influences of Guyanese and Brazilian cuisine. Visitors can taste the farm-fresh local ingredients and dishes shaped by the forests, rivers and savanna, in a culinary mash-up of the wider Guyanese and Rupununi experience.

Toka invites visitors to slow down, connect with its people and experience the Rupununi through those who call it home. Come stay with us, learn our culture and experience the wildlife of the Rupununi from our perspective.

Over Land to Iwokrama via Linden and Lethem

Beautiful Views, Five-Star Food and Steps Nobody Warned Me About!

| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY SWETLANA KINGSTON |



Let's normalise exploring our own country! Guyana has breathtaking destinations that will make you wonder why you're always checking flights when paradise is right here!

For our weekend getaway, we decided to visit and explore Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve including the Iwokrama River Lodge, Atta Lodge and the Canopy Walkway. There was adventure, wildlife, exceptional food and a staircase that nearly made me reconsider my relationship with tourism!

The Journey

Travelling from Linden to Kurupukari Crossing took approximately 4½ hours at night, compared with just under three hours during the day.

Night travel offered exciting glimpses of wildlife, but daytime travel is definitely safer. The animals can enjoy their nightlife without us!

At the time of our visit, the new asphalt highway extended to the Mabura Police Outpost, with roadworks ongoing. Beyond that it was laterite road. During the dry season, various vehicles can manage the journey, but road conditions matter. Please don't suddenly convince yourself your car is a Land Cruiser!

We booked Iwokrama River Lodge through their Facebook contact and paid at their Georgetown office on Barrack and High Streets in Georgetown.

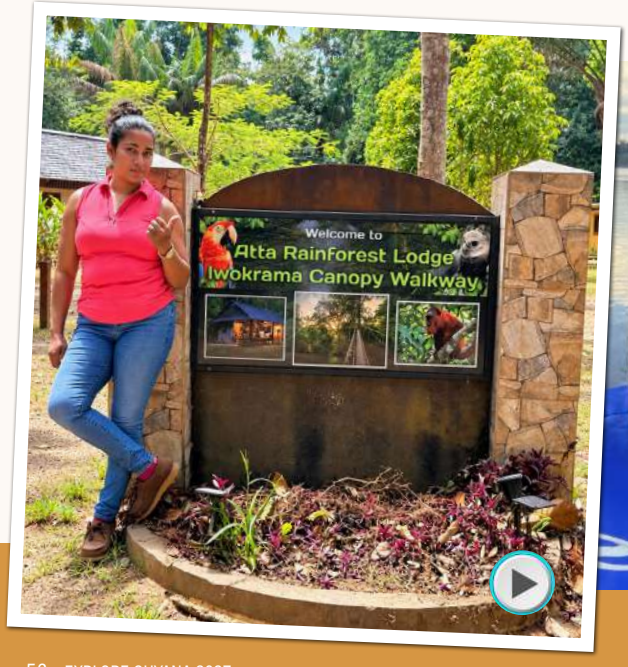
Important tip: Arrange your ferry ticket for the Kurupukari Crossing beforehand! We purchased ours through Western Union after being advised that payment wasn't accepted at the Crossing. Always confirm arrangements before travelling.

Iwokrama River Lodge

Just three minutes after crossing the river, we spotted the sign leading to the Lodge. The hospitality was exceptional! Staff were courteous, welcoming and attentive. But let's discuss something VERY important.

THE FOOD!

Anyone who knows me know I can complain about food. A disappointing meal will absolutely make it into my review! But these meals? FIVE STARS!









Swetlana (at left) enjoying a meal at Iwokrama with her husband and friend

Beautifully prepared, balanced, three-course menus. In the middle of the rainforest?! I came expecting trees and wildlife, not to be excitedly awaiting my next course! Whoever was in that kitchen deserves a standing ovation!

Our cabin featured one king-sized bed and two single beds, surrounded by nature. And the bathroom amenities? Toothbrushes, shower caps, shavers and, my personal favourite… LOOFAHS!

Some people get excited about rare birds. Apparently, I can also be impressed by a well-stocked bathroom!

The grounds were beautifully maintained, and there was even a resident Caiman basking in the sunshine. Naturally, swimming was discouraged. He looked comfortable, but I wasn't confusing "resident" with "lifeguard." I respect a fellow who was there before me!

Days were warm, so lightweight clothing is essential. Surprisingly, the nights were much cooler. After the daytime heat, I was almost ready to announce Christmas in New York!

Iwokrama also offers guided fishing, hiking and visits to the rapids, best enjoyed when river levels are low.

Atta Lodge & The Canopy Walkway

Approximately another 1½ hours along the road brought us to Atta Lodge, a peaceful rainforest retreat where nature replaces everyday noise. Our guide took us on a pleasant 15-minute forest walk towards the canopy walkway. Everything was going beautifully. Until I discovered… APPROXIMATELY 200 STEPS!

Yes!! Two Hundred. Steps. "I didn't realise I had to climb steps, and so many at that or I never would have gone!"

Unfortunately, I had already paid. My legs were protesting, but my money was committed! So up I went. There were pauses, heavy breathing and possibly a few private negotiations with the Lord!

But when I finally reached the top? ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING!



Once I recovered the breath I'd misplaced along the staircase, I could appreciate the incredible views. Standing among the treetops, overlooking the rainforest and watching birds overhead was unforgettable.

The bird activity was remarkable, and the entire experience felt magical. Suddenly, those 200 steps made sense. I still believe they should have introduced themselves earlier, though!

My Final Thoughts

This getaway reminded me that Guyana is filled with extraordinary places waiting to be explored. From Iwokrama's exceptional hospitality and delicious meals to Atta's peaceful surroundings and the breathtaking Canopy Walkway, every moment was worthwhile.

We don't always need a plane ticket to discover something beautiful. Sometimes adventure is waiting right here at home! My advice? Book ahead, confirm travel arrangements, pack comfortable clothing and shoes, and bring plenty of enthusiasm.

> And if you're visiting the Canopy Walkway… **PLEASE PREPARE YOUR KNEES!**

Let's normalise local tourism, support our tourism industry and appreciate the beauty of our own backyard! Because Guyana is absolutely beautiful, and those steps are just very enthusiastic about making sure you earn the view!•



Kaieteur Falls:

Where the Journey is as Magical as the Destination

| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY JANET SILVERA |

An unforgettable flight over Guyana's emerald rainforest leads to one of the planet's most breathtaking natural wonders, where ancient landscapes, extraordinary wildlife and the sheer power of nature leave visitors longing for more.

There are some journeys that begin long before you purchase an airline ticket. Mine to Kaieteur Falls began years ago, with a photograph, a dream and an overwhelming desire to stand before one of the world's most magnificent waterfalls. And when that day finally arrived, I was almost giddy with anticipation.

Our small Cessna aircraft lifted off from Georgetown, Guyana, for the approximately one-hour flight into the country's vast interior. But nothing had prepared me for the journey itself.

Below us stretched an extraordinary tapestry of green. Rainforest upon rainforest, broken occasionally by winding rivers and the rugged contours of ancient mountains. There was something almost hypnotic about the landscape, an endless wilderness seemingly untouched by time.

Guyana's natural wealth is breathtaking. Here was a country whose greatest treasures were not locked away in vaults, but spread across millions of hectares of living, breathing rainforest. And somewhere within that green infinity was Kaieteur.

When our aircraft finally descended towards a small airstrip carved into the wilderness, I felt as though we were landing in another world. No traffic. No sprawling resorts. No crowds rushing between attractions. Just rainforest, fresh air and the extraordinary privilege of being somewhere that still belongs almost entirely to nature.

The moment I had waited years for

Kaieteur National Park, established in 1929, stretches across 626.8 square kilometres, almost the size of the entire Caribbean island of Saint Lucia. At its heart, the Potaro River



Journalists being greeted by tour guide Sebastian on arrivals at the Kaieteur National Park



Tour guides Carl Simon (left) and Sebastian

plunges 741 feet over a sheer cliff, creating one of the world's most powerful single-drop waterfalls. But numbers cannot capture Kaieteur's majesty.

Our guides led us along rainforest trails to three viewing points: Johnson's View, Boy Scouts View and Rainbow View. Each revealed another perspective of the waterfall, framed by ancient rock formations and seemingly impenetrable greenery.

And then there it was!!!

The sheer magnificence of Kaieteur stopped me in my tracks. The water plunged into the gorge below, its immense power contrasting beautifully with the serenity of the surrounding rainforest. I had waited years for this moment, and no photograph seemed capable of doing it justice.

Our guide, Carl Simon, explained that Boy Scouts View was named after British Guiana Scouts who made the challenging overland journey decades ago.

Today, visitors with sufficient stamina can undertake an adventurous five-day overland expedition through the rainforest. "It's a hike of your life," Simon declared.

The forest has secrets

Kaieteur is not simply about a waterfall. It is an extraordinary living sanctuary.

Simon introduced us to its remarkable biodiversity, including jaguars, ocelots, peccaries, monkeys, harpy eagles and the tiny golden rocket frog, which lives within giant water-collecting bromeliads.



A Rufous-crowned Elaenia

Wildlife sightings are rare as many animals emerge after dark. Yet knowing these creatures inhabit the forest adds another dimension to the experience. Every rustle of leaves becomes a reminder that this wilderness is very much alive.

A paradise that must remain paradise

Most travellers experience Kaieteur on a day excursion from Georgetown. Visitors flying on domestic charters should carry their passports and confirm identification requirements with their operators before departure.

But I hope Guyana never loses sight of what makes Kaieteur so extraordinary. It is that rare privilege of entering a place where nature has been allowed to remain magnificent on its own terms.



The terrain

The forest is sacred to the Indigenous Patamona people, whose cultural connection to the falls adds another layer of significance to this remarkable landscape.

As our Cessna carried us back towards Georgetown, I looked down once more at the vast green wilderness and felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Kaieteur had given me something far greater than another destination checked off my bucket list.

It had reminded me that some of the world's greatest luxuries can only be experienced, respected and preserved. I had travelled an hour from Georgetown. Yet I felt I had journeyed into another world. And I would do it all over again.•

About the Author: Janet Silvera is an award-winning Caribbean journalist, who has spent the last 32 years specializing in tourism and travel coverage.

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How We Marry

Culture, Community & the Guyanese Wedding

| BY RUSSEL LANCASTER |



Wedding on Massarie Island, Wakapoa.
Photo: Craig Henry



Hindu wedding. Photo: Ameer Sattaur Photography

Long before there was a country called Guyana, people were falling in love, forming families and building lives together on this land — Kwe Kwe had not yet crossed the Atlantic, Dig Dutty and Nikkah has not yet arrived from India.

Among the Makushi and Lokono Indigenous tribes, marriage was tied to practical responsibility — bride-service, where a prospective husband cleared land, hunted, fished and built for his future in-laws. Could you plant, hunt, fish and build? Could the two of you make a life together?

Then came church bells and wedding rings with European colonisation. Our African ancestors brought Kwe Kwe — the groom's party singing "Open de door, leh de man come in" outside the bride's home, followed by drumming, dancing, call-and-response singing and teasing. Our ancestors had found a way of doing marriage counselling with drums, dancing and rum.

From India came Dig Dutty [or Matikore], women dancing to the earth for fertility and purification, while beneath the mandap the marriage continues with sacred fire, prayers, vows and ritual. Then there is Seven Curry, one of the great pleasures of the Guyanese table. Curries arranged and served on a water-lily leaf , with absolutely no need for knife and fork.

Muslims brought the nikkah, witnessed according to Islamic requirements, together with the mahr, an obligation from groom to bride — and henna often crosses the religious divide between Hindu and Muslim brides alike.



Cutting of the cake. Ian De Freitas

Portuguese and Chinese immigrants added their own traditions, and others came from the Caribbean and elsewhere. We began living together, working together, eating one another's food and attending one another's weddings — and, inevitably, we married one another.

Today an African-Guyanese Christian couple may have a Kwe Kwe before church. A Muslim bride may have henna before her nikah. A Hindu wedding may move from sacred fire to a reception filled with soca. And tassa seems to have escaped almost every cultural boundary anybody ever tried to place around it.

This is Guyana. Our traditions do not have to become identical to belong to the same national story.



Wedding in the Rupununi/Wichabai Ranch. Photo: Yusuf Ali



Christian wedding. Photo: Jamie Norville, Fusion Creative Studio



Elegant wedding setup at Cara Lodge Hotel. Photo: Cara Lodge Hotel

BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM BRITAIN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, THE CARIBBEAN AND ELSEWHERE. LET THE WEDDING BE THEIR INTRODUCTION OR REINTRODUCTION TO GUYANA.

About the Author:
Russel Lancaster is a communications and marketing professional with over 39 years' experience in media, production and cultural development. He is an accomplished creative director, producer, lecturer, choir conductor, tenor soloist and actor. His work reflects a lifelong commitment to celebrating Guyanese culture and developing the country's next generation of creative talent.

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And getting married here has recently become easier for overseas couples. In 2026, Guyana removed the previous residency requirement to 48 hours for persons seeking a special marriage licence, making it easier for couples living abroad to choose Guyana for their wedding.

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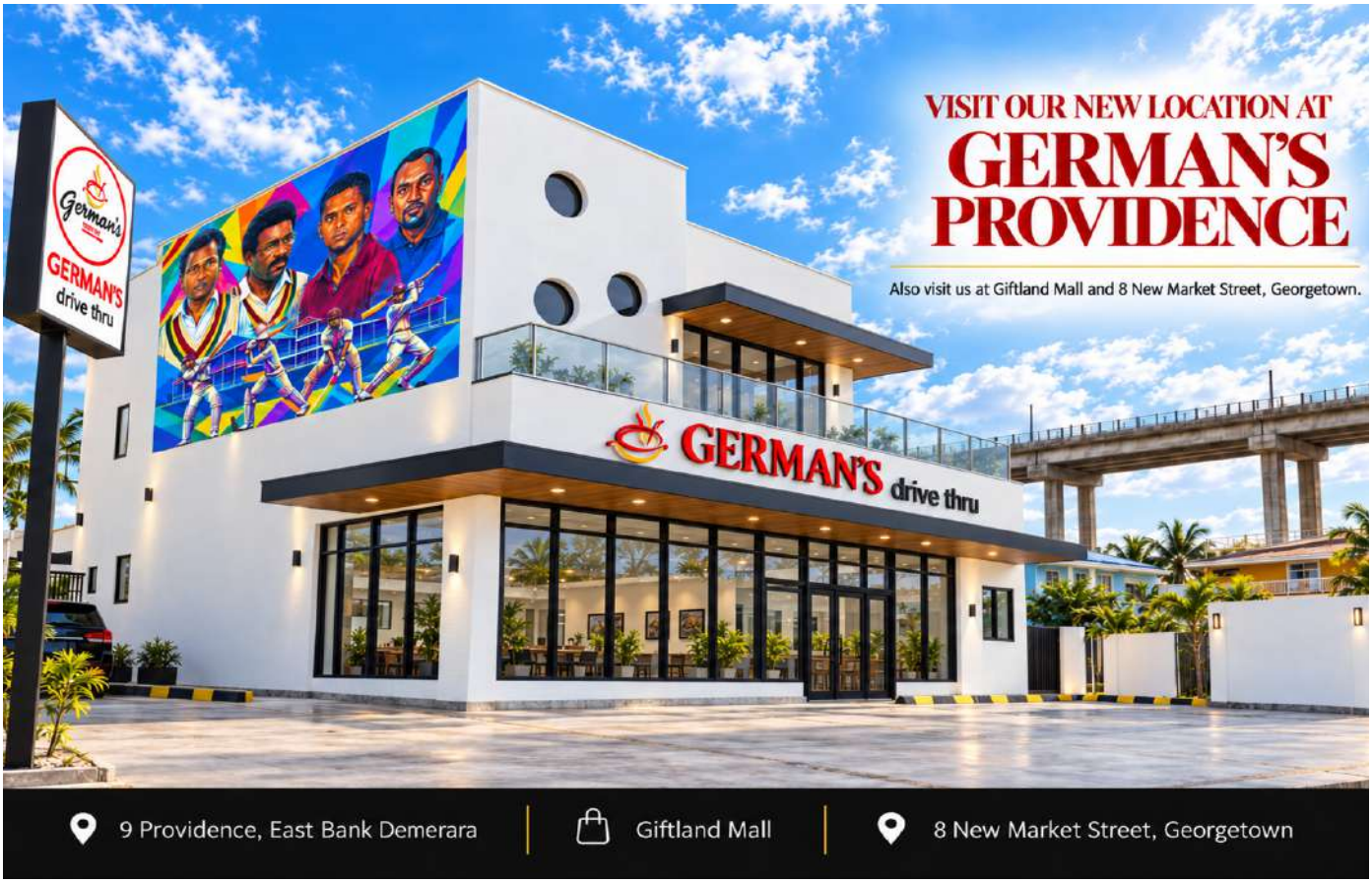
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A FOOD CULTURE that Starts at Home

| BY BEAUNCE ATKINSON |



Photo: Grand Coastal Hotel



Photo: New Thriving Restaurant

In Guyana, some of the best meals still come with very little ceremony. It might be a generous plate of cook-up rice from a neighbourhood favourite, curry and roti collected from a busy cook shop, or something picked up at a roadside stop where the line itself tells you that you have come to the right place.

Guyana's food story has never belonged to just one kind of table. African, Indigenous, Indian, Chinese, Portuguese and European influences have shaped a food culture in which pepperpot, curry, metemgee and chow mein all belong to the same national conversation—each dish carrying its own history, yet all equally at home on a Guyanese plate. Many of these recipes have never been written down—passed from one generation to the next by hand, by memory and by taste.

Some of the most authentic encounters remain remarkably uncomplicated. Neighbourhood restaurants, markets, cook shops and roadside vendors are places locals return to because they already know what to order, and where visitors discover that experiencing Guyanese food does not require a white tablecloth. There is a certain local wisdom too: if the line is long, pay attention.

Beyond cook-up and curry, the everyday table stretches further—garlic pork at Christmas time, souse on a Saturday morning, black pudding from a roadside vendor. Pepperpot, cook-up and curry remain the dishes that tell you where you are.•

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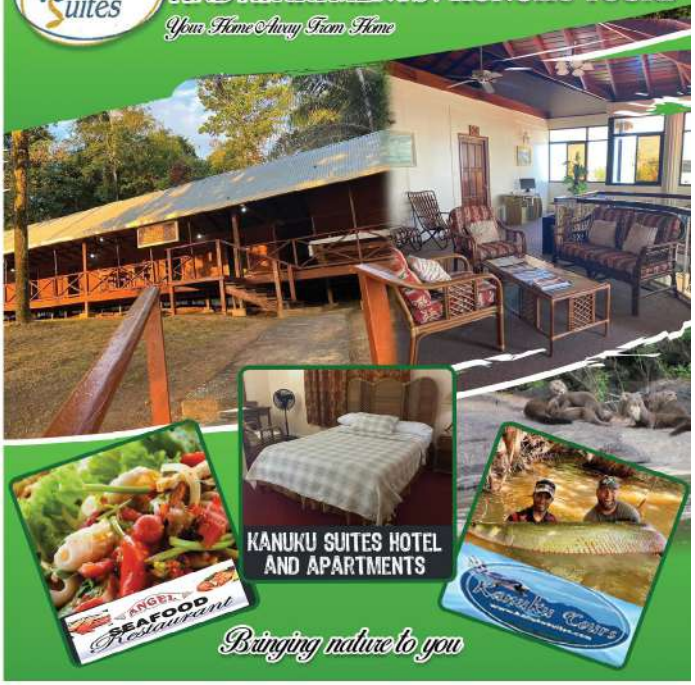
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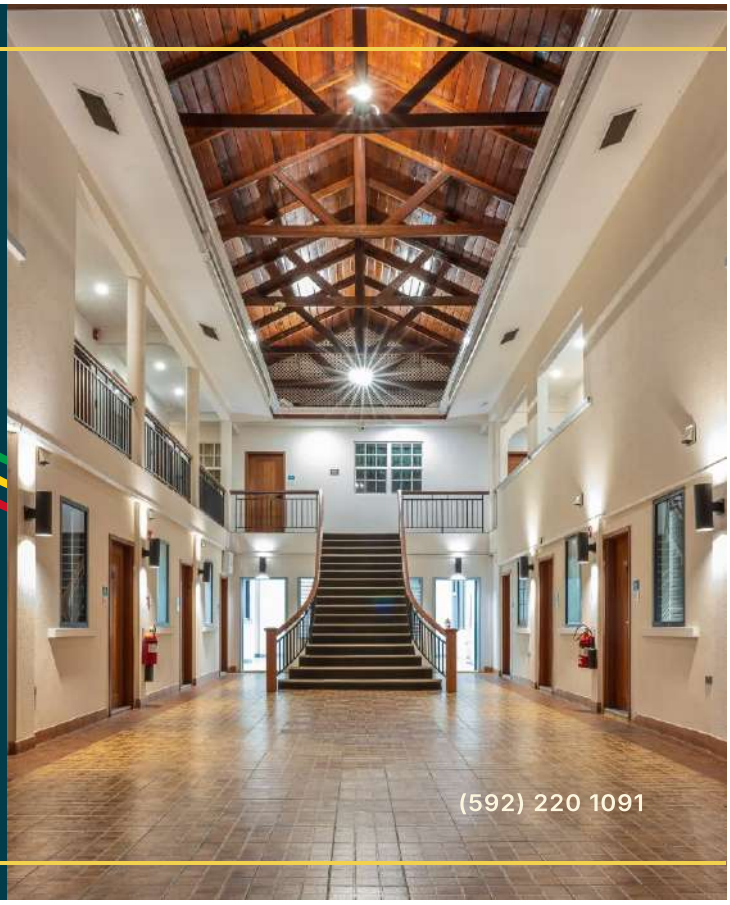
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Guyanese Pepperpot

by Althea Brown (metemgee.com)

Guyanese Pepperpot is a rich meat stew that gets its flavor and dark color from cassareep, a sauce made from the juice of bitter cassava. Historically made by Guyana's First Peoples as a way of preserving wild hog after a hunt, Pepperpot evolved as it moved through Guyanese communities and today is Guyana's national dish. In Indigenous communities, Pepperpot is served with cassava bread and enjoyed year-round, but in my family, it is reserved for Christmas and New Year's and always served with plait bread.



Prep Time:15 minutes
Cook Time: 3–4 hours
Serves: 4–6

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs bone-in beef (such as short ribs, oxtail or stew beef with bones)
2 lbs cow heel (beef feet), cleaned and cut into pieces
2 teaspoons salt
2 tablespoons oil
¾ cup pure cassareep
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
1 teaspoon whole cloves
2 sprigs fresh thyme
4 whole wiri wiri peppers
2-inch piece dried orange peel
Water, as needed



INSTRUCTIONS

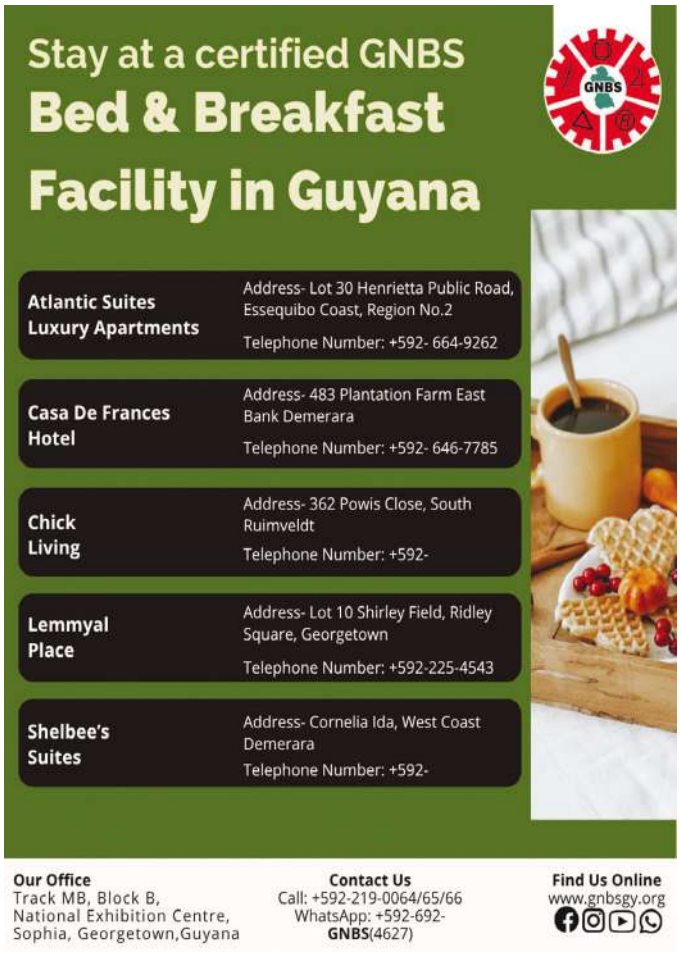
1. Add the cow heel to a large pot with 1 teaspoon of salt and cover with water. Bring to a boil and cook until scum rises to the surface. Drain, discard the water, and rinse the cow heel and the pot.
2. Return the pot to medium-high heat. Heat the oil, then add the beef and a sprinkle of salt. Cook the beef, stirring occasionally, until its natural juices have released and cooked off.
3. Return the cow heel to the pot. Add the cassareep, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves, thyme, wiri wiri peppers, orange peel and any remaining salt. Then add enough water to cover the meat and bring to a boil.
4. Reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer for 3–4 hours, or until the meat and cow heel are very tender. Add water a cup at a time, as needed during cooking. Taste and adjust salt before serving.

Note: Pepperpot gets even better with time. Make it a day or two ahead and reheat before serving for deeper flavor and even more tender meat.




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Local Chefs, New Expressions

A Table Still Growing



| BY BEAUNCE ATKINSON |

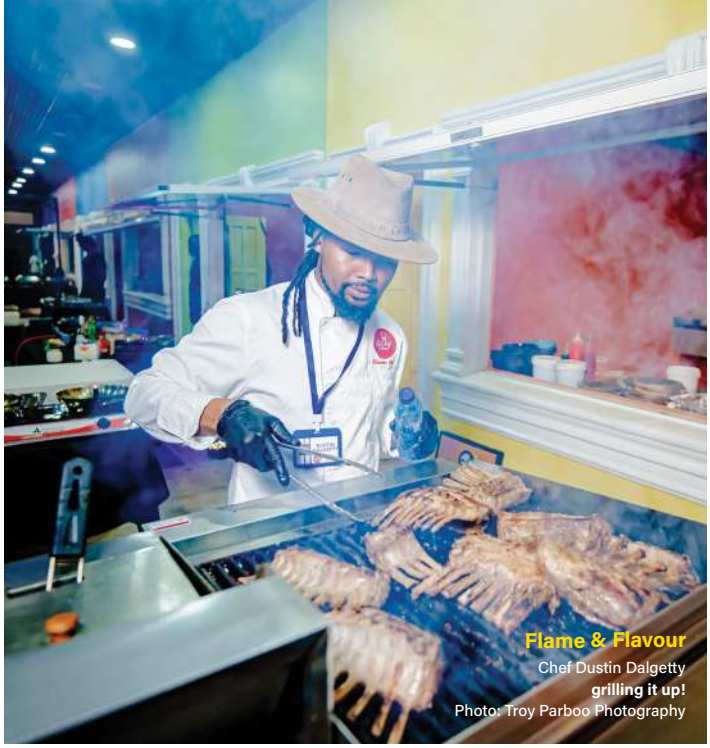
Photo: Padrón Mediterranean

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY NO LONGER HAVE TO COMPETE; INCREASINGLY, THEY ARE SHARING THE SAME TABLE.

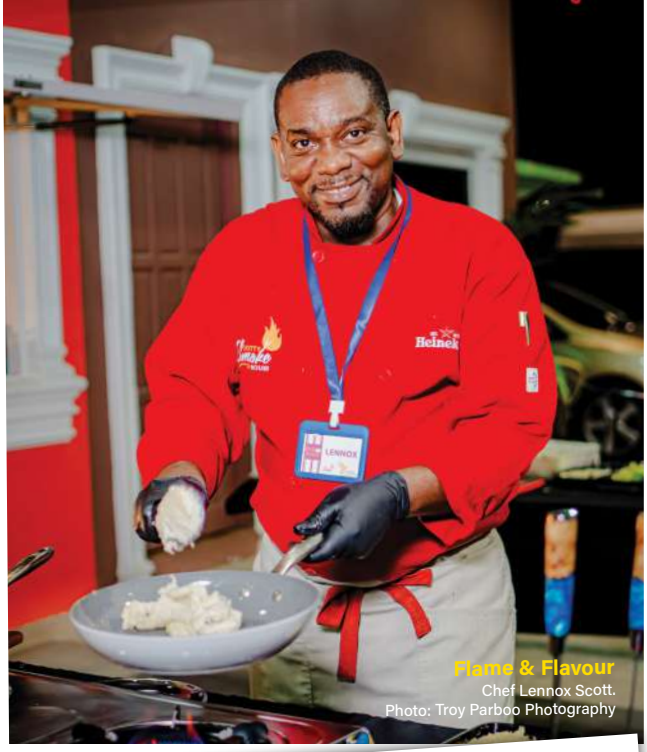
Across Guyana's hotels and restaurants, familiar dishes hold their own alongside international selections. Herdmanston Lodge includes Guyanese favourites in its Sunday brunch, Grand Coastal Hotel presents local dishes through its weekly Flavours of Guyana buffet, and Cara Lodge serves pepperpot throughout the year.



Local brunch special at Grand Coastal Hotel. Photo: Grand Coastal Hotel



Flame & Flavour
Chef Dustin Dalgetty **grilling it up!**
Photo: Troy Parboo Photography



Flame & Flavour
Chef Lennox Scott.
Photo: Troy Parboo Photography



Tapas, Rum & Wine
Carlos Valderrama, Executive Chef at Guyana Marriott
Photo: Omari Joseph

At the centre of this evolving scene is a community of culinary professionals finding their own ways forward. Chef Delven Adams has built one of Guyana's most distinctive culinary experiences at Backyard Café—food, conversation and hospitality in a setting that is, quite literally, somebody's backyard. Chef Kester Robinson's Pergola Experience takes dining onto the Demerara River, while chefs such as Dustin Dalgetty, Lennox Scott and Kwsi Welcome reflect other sides of that development.

There is simply more to explore, too. Mediterranean flavours, contemporary steakhouse concepts and other international cuisines now sit alongside Guyanese, Caribbean, Indian and Chinese influences, at places such as Realm SteakHouse and Padrón Mediterranean.

Through its signature events, the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) is creating further opportunities for chefs and restaurants to experiment, showcase their creativity and connect with diners. **Guyana Restaurant Week** invites both local and international diners to discover specially curated menus across a growing range of establishments, while encouraging chefs to push creative boundaries.

Tapas, Rum & Wine brings chefs together with beverage-pairing partners to present thoughtfully crafted small plates in a shared setting where food, drinks and entertainment complement one another.

Flame & Flavour takes the experience further, placing chefs and live cooking at the heart of an outdoor culinary showcase that brings together flavour, music and atmosphere.



Tapas, Rum & Wine
Patrons **connecting over food in a relaxed atmosphere** at TRW.
Photo: Troy Parboo Photography



Flame & Flavour
Patrons enjoying this **must-attend event** on Guyana's food calendar.
Photo: Troy Parboo Photography



Tapas, Rum & Wine
It's always exciting to **discover a new Guyanese cocktail.**
Photo: Troy Parboo Photography

Yet, innovation does not mean leaving Guyanese identity behind. It can be found in something as simple as transforming sorrel into a contemporary cocktail, reimagining familiar ingredients while preserving their cultural significance. Experienced professionals including Lennox Scott, Dustin Dalgetty and locally based Victor Padrón are also passing their knowledge to emerging talent, giving a new generation the foundation to build on.

THERE IS ROOM IN GUYANA'S EVOLVING FOOD STORY FOR BOTH THE FAMILIAR AND THE UNEXPECTED. FOR VISITORS, DISCOVERING GUYANA MAY REQUIRE MORE THAN SEEING IT. THEY MAY HAVE TO TASTE IT.•





Vending at Bourda Market, Georgetown. Photo: GTA

Market Days, Guyanese Ways

| BY BEAUNCE ATKINSON |

"Who gah money gah bargain!"

In Guyana, you hear the market before you can properly discover it. Vendors' calls carry across colourful stalls piled with produce, the unmistakable Guyanese twang giving the everyday chatter a rhythm that stays with you long after you leave.

The stalls hold both food and knowledge. Guyanese understand the ground—what grows, how to use it and which bush generations have turned to for different ailments. "Got a cold? Boil some fever grass" [also known as lemongrass], a vendor might advise.

That same knowledge extends to helping you find your way. Ask for something a stall doesn't have, and you won't just hear "no." You'll hear, "Come back next week, yuh gon get that." Or, "Try the back of the market." Or the classic Guyanese direction: "Turn left, then right by the fire station, and yuh gon see a woman with a red bucket." It's not exactly a map, but it works.

All the while, the market keeps talking.

A customer squeezes a fruit, inspecting it like an expert before asking, "Wha' is de price for dis?" The answer determines whether it goes into the bag or the search continues at another stall. Somewhere in the middle of it all, a voice rises as you pass by, determined to make the next sale.

"Taste and buy!"

A walk through the market offers a glimpse of just how much Guyana's land provides. Peppers come in every shade, and bundles of fresh herbs are so fragrant that the scent fills your entire bag. Familiar mangoes, pineapples and citrus sit alongside fruits that may be new to visitors: bright orange awara with its sweet, fibrous flesh that can linger between your teeth; bunches of genip, their green skins hiding sweet-tart pulp to suck from the seed; and juicy cashews, sweet with a mouth-puckering finish. The market has its own rhythm, rules and relationships.

Stalls spill over just a little farther than they probably should, narrowing the passage until moving through becomes a careful dance—a turn here, a squeeze there, a quick "'scuse me" as someone passes by juggling three heavy bags.

Somewhere close by, an icicle vendor cuts through the heat: "Long and hard!"

Regular shoppers know the drill: which day the fresh produce comes in, what's in season and most times, where to find what they need. Customers have their favourite stalls, and vendors remember faces, orders and sometimes your business too.

Walk with your market bags or be ready for "Yuh need a bag there?" You might come looking for one thing and be convinced to leave with more if you don't hold your ground.

Perhaps that is what makes the Guyanese market worth experiencing. You leave with more than fresh produce—you take away a piece of everyday Guyana, loud, crowded and full of character.•

An Expedition to Kumerau Falls

Experience the Wilder Side

| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY CAPT. DILLON ROSS |

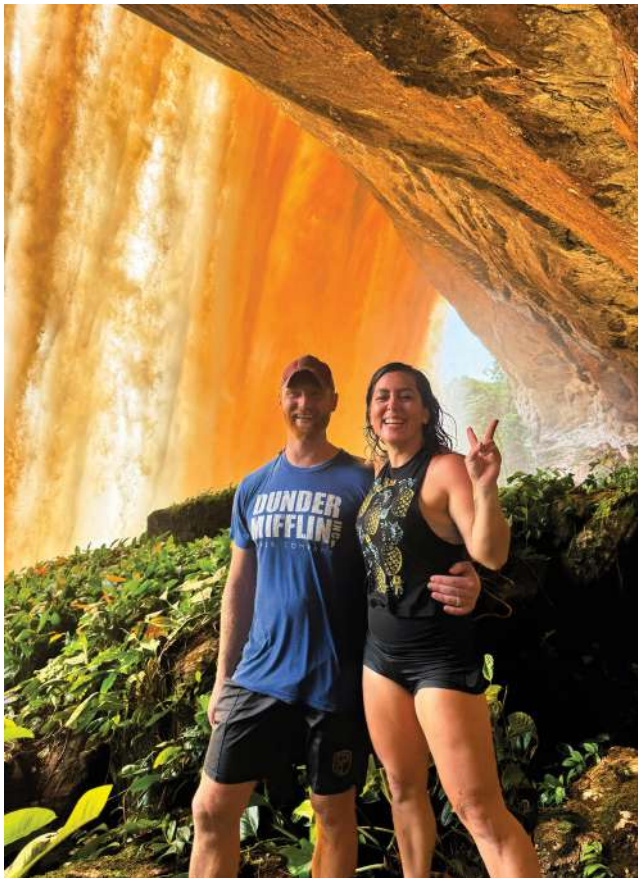




There are waterfalls you visit for the view, and then there are places where the journey becomes just as memorable as the destination. Kumerau Falls located deep in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni region is one of those places. Formed on the Kurupung River in the Merume Mountains, a part of the Pakaraima Mountain range, Kumerau Falls is heard before you can see it. A stunning sight to behold as this powerful wall of water plunges some 623 feet (190-meter) below.

Hidden deep in Guyana's interior, reaching Kumerau Falls means leaving the usual tourist routes behind. The trip combines river travel, jungle trails, ATVs, hiking and remote camps as guests make their way into one of the country's most impressive wilderness areas.

Then Kumerau Falls appears in the heart of the jungle. A huge curtain of water cascading with force over ancient rock formations, surrounded by dense rainforest and towering cliffs teeming with diverse flora and fauna, making it a paradise for nature enthusiasts. Behind the Falls is an extensive cave system, adding another layer of adventure to a destination that already feels far removed from everyday life.



This is not a polished resort experience, and that is exactly what makes it special. There are no paved walkways, crowds or souvenir shops. You can expect wet boots, muddy trails, changing weather, challenging terrain and a genuine sense of exploration.

Blackwater Adventures specializes in expeditions for travellers who want to experience the wilder side of Guyana. The Kumerau trip is designed to be challenging enough to feel like a real adventure while still being carefully guided and supported throughout the journey. By the time you finally stand beneath the Falls, surrounded by jungle and mist, you understand why getting there matters so much.

Kumerau is not just somewhere you see. It is somewhere you experience. It's a serene yet adventurous destination that offers a glimpse into the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of the region. Visitors can enjoy hiking trails, and even cool off in the natural pools formed by the cascading waters.

And in a world where so many destinations have become crowded and predictable, there is something refreshing about reaching a place that still feels truly wild.•

About the Author: Captain Dillon Ross is a licensed Boat Captain and Adventurer with many years of experience operating Boats and Tours in Guyana's Creeks and Rivers and Wilderness Adventures in Guyana's Rainforest. He is the Owner and Lead Operator of Blackwater Adventures offering tours across Guyana.

Tours to Kumerau Falls in Guyana are available through Blackwater Adventures and other LIcensed Tour Operators



COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM IN GUYANA

| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY CANDACE PHILLIPS |



Uncle Morris on the Mukuru Tour, Shulinab, Region 9

"It's a good thing that I am good at my job, there is no way that I could do this for a living," I remarked as I flipped the cassava bread over on the baking pan, all the while fighting with the smoke from the fire as it burned my eyes. Aunty Deen, our host of Lokono ancestry, smiled and added- "you know, we believe that if the smoke follows you, you are a jealous person." I laughed heartily, and replied, "I am not sure but today I might have leant something about myself."

This exchange exemplifies Guyana's community-based tourism- light moments effortlessly flowing between host and guest, techniques exchanged from teacher to student, a place where traditional knowledge, beliefs and humour form part of the storytelling experience. In this setting, there is simplicity – no performance: life and culture are represented and intertwined.

Tourism is an evolving sector for Indigenous peoples with each Indigenous group bringing its own heritage, stories, traditions to the fore. I have often marveled at Indigenous knowledge- their ability to foretell the coming rainy or dry seasons, what the positioning of the stars means or what a particular vine or plant can be used to remedy, the sighting or sound of a particular bird- this list can go on endlessly.



Candace taking part in the cassava-making experience at Dagg Point, Bartica, Region 7

As I shift my mind back to the scene before me. The kitchen is her classroom. A simple structure standing as a reflection of ancestral way of life- a fireside, wooden cutouts formed tables, pots, baking pans, matapees, sifters and graters. As I look around, I sense familiarity; a place where stories and laughter were shared over bags of cassava to be scraped and prepared. The matapee stood in the corner, from its appearance, I can tell it has done its fair share of extracting cyanide from the grated cassava. I felt tradition: a warm connection amplified by a trail of Indigenous knowledge grounded in lessons handed down through the generations. I departed from Aunty Rita's home feeling accomplished because I had baked my own cassava bread and richer for having her impart her knowledge.

Across Guyana, Indigenous peoples have recognized that community-based tourism can be their way of harnessing the allure of their natural attractions, uniqueness of their culture, promotion of social well-being, generating income for their communities, preservation of their cultural practices and language together with an opportunity to create conservation programmes that will safeguard their way of life and natural resources. It is this recognition that has led to an increase in communities crafting and pursuing their tourism dreams. They are in essence defining what the future will look like for successive generations.

Travel to places like Paruima in Region 7, the country's only Arecuna community, where you will marvel at its mountains as they rise in stunning beauty while understanding why their culture differs from the eight other Indigenous nations of the country. Or Rewa, Yupukari, Sand Creek and Shulinab in Region 9 where conservation and tourism come together to illustrate that care for the environment and its species can be supported by responsible travellers. Closer to Georgetown, which allows for quicker nature and cultural immersions, day or overnight visits can be done to Santa Aratack, Pakuri, Moraikobai and the communities along the



Welcome to Kato sign, Region 8



Bird watching experience, Aishalton, Region 9



Guest Experience, Rewa, Region 9



Conversations along the way, Wayalayeng, Region 7

INDIGENOUS LIFE IS NOT TO BE JUDGED, IT IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Essequibo Coast. Along the scenic landscape path of Region 8, communities like Kopinang and Kato add to the array of tourism offerings with their cascading waterfalls and open spaces meant for the adventurous spirited. Some experiences tug at your heart as they offer insights into Indigenous way of life and resilience. Travel far enough to Kanashen to experience the hospitality of our Wai Wai people and maybe you, like me, will find yourself in a life changing moment. I have always credited my visit to this community with refining the vision for my life. That is testament to the power of travel that no matter where you go- you learn and leave enriched for having had the experience.

When the opportunity comes your way, choose the option to visit one of our community-run locations, you are sure to leave impacted by a warm welcome, the sharing of a meal, the gaff under a tree or listening to the carefully preserved wisdom and stories of our community elders. Community based tourism is reflective of our Indigenous Peoples identity, connection to the natural environment and a people shaping their future.

Indigenous life is not to be judged, it is to be understood.•

Candace Phillips is a tourism development specialist with a love for writing and photography. Her creative lens captures Guyana and uses that medium for story telling, connecting locals and travellers to places least explored. Her work is featured on her social media platform, A Path to Travel.

Coastal Charm Restored

A New Era of Family, Leisure and Scenic Beauty

| PHOTOS DPI |

Nestled along the sweeping shoreline of Region Six, the newly commissioned **No. 63 Beach Recreational Park** stands as the largest recreational park developed under Guyana's National Beautification Project to date.

Spearheaded by First Lady Arya Ali, this ambitious initiative transforms coastal stretches into modern hubs of community life and relaxation. The park builds upon the beach's legacy as a cherished seaside retreat, elevating the visitor experience with well-lit walking paths, gazebos, safe children's play areas and dedicated vending kiosks. It is a project designed with purpose—making Guyana's natural beauty accessible to families, regional travelers, and international tourists alike.



First Lady Arya Ali (seated at centre) with Bishop Juan Edghill MP, Minister of Public Works and patrons at the commissioning of No. 63 Beach Recreational Park









This drive to transform public spaces extends across the coast to places like **Unity Beach**, where similar developmental efforts focus on revitalizing coastal areas into well-maintained, family-friendly hubs.

Together, projects at No. 63 Beach and Unity Beach showcase a nationwide effort to preserve Guyana's natural scenic beauty while empowering local communities through enhanced public infrastructure and inclusive space design.







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Where the Blackwater Moves You!









| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY CAPT. DILLON ROSS |

There are few places in Guyana that combine adventure and relaxation quite like a tour on the Canje Creek. Flowing through the forests of Berbice, the Canje Creek is known for its dark, beautiful blackwater, calm stretches of river and rich wildlife. It is the kind of place where the journey slows down just enough for you to notice how wild the surroundings really are.

Blackwater Adventures, a licensed and experienced Tour Operator has pioneered tours of Canje Creek which is now one of its signature wilderness experiences, providing the comfort, safety, and several years of experience and knowledge, offering visitors the opportunity to see and enjoy an undiscovered side of Guyana that most travellers may never reach.

One minute, you can be carving across the glassy blackwater on water skis, with untouched jungle lining both banks. The next, you can be drifting quietly with a fishing rod in hand, waiting for one of Guyana's most iconic freshwater fish to strike. The Lukanani, better known internationally as the Peacock Bass, is one of the Canje Creek's prized catches. Powerful, aggressive and beautifully coloured, it is the kind of fish that can turn a quiet afternoon into a serious battle in seconds.

But a Canje Creek trip is about more than fishing and watersports. It is about swimming in clean blackwater, exploring narrow creeks, spotting birds and wildlife in their natural habitat, cooking by the river and experiencing a part of Guyana that still feels wonderfully untouched.

If you are lucky, you may be able to see Giant River Otters frolicking in the blackwater, Howler Monkeys high up in the treetops and exotic Birds including Guyana's National Bird – The Canje Pheasant (Hoatzin) putting on a show.



Photo: Blackwater Adventures

There are no crowds here. No packed beaches. No overdeveloped resorts. Just blackwater, rainforest and space to enjoy it. Canje Creek offers exactly what Guyana does best: the opportunity to experience and enjoy a real adventure without losing the simple pleasure of being outdoors.

Whether you come to ski, fish, explore or simply disappear into nature for a while, Canje Creek delivers something increasingly rare. If you're looking for real adventure in an untouched part of this beautiful country we encourage you to let the blackwater move you on the Canje Creek!•

About the Author: Captain Dillon Ross is a licensed Boat Captain and Adventurer with many years of experience operating Boats and Tours in Guyana's Creeks and Rivers and Wilderness Adventures in Guyana's Rainforest. He is the Owner and Lead Operator of Blackwater Adventures offering tours across Guyana.

Canje Creek Tours in Guyana are available through Blackwater Adventures and other Licensed Tour Operators.





Beyond the Map

The Real Secrets of Jungle Expeditions

| ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY ANDERS ANDERSEN|

Travelling into the Guyana Jungle on an expedition is always best approached with planning and involvement of experienced guides.

There is a point on every serious jungle expedition where the familiar world disappears. The road ends, phone signal fades, established trails become uncertain, and the rainforest begins to dictate the pace of travel.

This is where preparation matters most whether you are travelling by Air, Land or River.

Travelling safely into remote parts of Guyana is not simply about being tough or adventurous. It requires careful route planning, reliable communications, medical contingency plans, suitable equipment, food management, weather awareness and the ability to adapt when conditions change and this can happen with short or no notice. Rivers rise, trails disappear, the terrain becomes more difficult, aircraft can be delayed and distances that look short on a map can take days to cover.

But perhaps the greatest secret of the jungle is that technology can only take you so far.

Many of the places The Wild Tales reaches are made accessible through close partnerships with Indigenous communities across Guyana. Local guides bring something no satellite image, GPS or expedition manual can replace: knowledge built through generations of living, travelling, hunting, fishing and navigating these environments.

They understand where water can be found, where rivers become dangerous, how conditions change with the seasons, where camps can safely be established and when the jungle is telling you that a plan needs to change.







This knowledge does not replace modern expedition planning; it strengthens it. Satellite communication, medical preparation and professional expedition systems work alongside traditional knowledge and local experience.

For anyone preparing for a jungle survival course or remote expedition, this may be the most important lesson: You do not conquer the rainforest.

You prepare for it, adapt to it and learn from the people who know it best.

The deeper you travel, the more you realise that reaching truly remote places safely depends less on how fearless you are and more on the knowledge, preparation and trust behind the journey.

We want you to have an enjoyable and memorable experience. It is important to be prepared, follow safety protocols and the guidance of your knowledgeable and experienced Team Leader and the Local Guides.•





Jungle Expeditions in Guyana are available through The Wild Tales Inc. and other Licensed Tour Operators

About the Author: Anders Andersen has over ten (10) years of experience as a Jungle Survival Instructor and Expedition Leader in Guyana. He is the Owner and Lead Instructor, of The Wild Tales Inc.- a Guyana based expedition and wilderness training company built around local knowledge and Indigenous Partnerships and real experience in Guyana's rainforest, connecting visitors with the people, cultures and wild landscapes that make Guyana extraordinary.

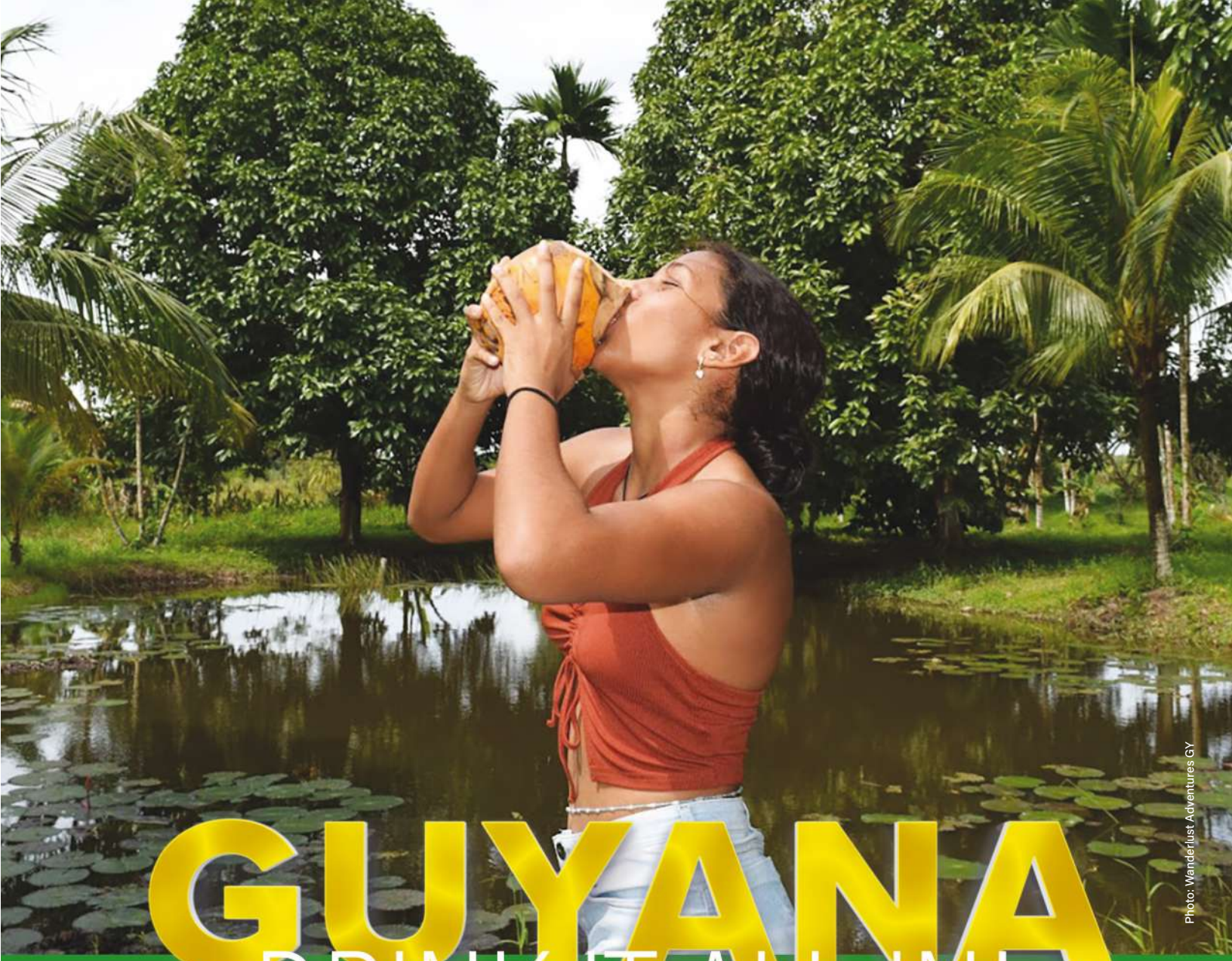


Photo: Wanderlust Adventures GY

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Plot GG, Block ECV, Houston, Georgetown
Tel: 592 743 1386
Email: frontdesk@somahospitalitygroup.com
Website: www.somahospitalitygroup.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/SOMA-Hotel-Restaurant-Lounge-61581517555536/
Instagram: somahotelrestaurant

TERRA MARE RESTAURANT
Guyana Marriott Hotel Georgetown
Block Alpha, Battery Road, Kingston
Tel: 592 231 2480 / 231 1870 Fax: 592 231 2481
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Facebook: /www.facebook.com/
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Instagram: maggies_catering_gy

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AMSCaribbean/

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Website: http://www.banksdih.com/
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49 High & Barrack Streets, Kingston, Georgetown
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Website: www.iwokrama.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IwokramaInternationalCentre/

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/592Tours
Instagram: 592tours

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TOUR GUIDE

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/mattais_supermarket/

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/RepublicBankLimited
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Website: www.sonic.gy
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sonicevents592/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/sonic_business_services?igsh=ZDZmNmh4M3VpZGNy

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Website: www.stride592.com

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Kayaking on the Blue Lake in Linden, Region 10.

Photo: GTA

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