



SOUTH STAR TOURS, Inc.

P.O. BOX 12707 • Marina Del Rey, California 90295
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Guyana

When to Go

The best time to visit Guyana may be at the end of either rainy season, in late January or late August, when the discharge of water over Kaieteur Falls is greatest. Some locals recommend mid-October to mid-May, which may be wet, but not as hot. If you want to travel overland to the interior, come during the dry seasons.

Events

The national celebrations marking **Republic Day** (February) last about a week and are the most important cultural event of the year. Hindu and Muslim religious festivals are also celebrated and include **Phagwah** (early March) and **Divali** (November).

Attractions

Guyana's capital and only large city lies on the east bank at the mouth of the Demerara River. Today, parts of the city, notably the central area and the botanic and zoological gardens are well maintained. A profusion of flowering trees lend it the somewhat optimistic name 'Garden City of the Caribbean', despite its location on the Atlantic coast.; locals pass their time there swimming, sunbathing and strolling arm-in-arm.

Most of the sights are on or near Main St, including the Gothic-style St George's Cathedral, reputedly the world's tallest wooden cathedral, and the neoclassic Parliament Building, built in 1833. Much of the city centre is dwarfed by the Stabroek Market, an imposing cast-iron building with a striking clock tower. Good value also are the idiosyncratic Museum of Guyana, which has exhibitions of excellent Guyanese paintings and sculpture, and the Botanical Gardens & Zoo, a beautifully laid out enclosure of Victorian bridges, pavilions, palms and lily ponds.

Kaieteur Falls Guyana's number one attraction ranks alongside the Niagara, Victoria and Iguazú falls in power and majesty - with the added bonus of being surrounded by virgin forest. Its waters drop 250 precipitous metres (820ft) from a sandstone tableland and, depending on the season, are nearly 100m (328ft) wide. Its isolated location means wildlife thrives in the area, but it also requires determination to reach. Small planes fly to the falls from Georgetown. Orinduik Falls, southwest of here, on the Brazilian border, is another popular destination.

Guyana

Dutch and British colonization made an indelible mark on Guyana, leaving behind a now dilapidated colonial capital, a volatile mix of peoples and a curious political geography. The country's natural attractions, however, are impressive, unspoiled and on a scale that dwarfs human endeavor. Guyana has immense falls, vast tropical rainforest, and grasslands teeming with wildlife.

Full country name: Co-operative Republic of Guyana

Area: 215,000 sq km

Population: 698,000

Capital City: Georgetown (pop 350,000)

People: 51% East Indian, 43% Afro-Guyanese, 4% Amerindian, 2% European & Chinese

Language: English, Hindi, Urdu

Religion: 57% Christian, 33% Hindu, 9% Muslim

Government: republic within the Commonwealth

GDP per capita: US\$4,000

Inflation: 5.8%

Major Industries: Sugar, bauxite, alumina, gold, rice, timber and shrimp.

Major Trading Partners: UK, USA, Canada, France and Japan

Facts for the Traveler

Visas: A visa is 16 for three months. If that length of visa is not required, 30-day visas are granted at the borders.

Health risks: Malaria (Malaria is endemic in the interior), Cholera, Dengue Fever, Typhoid

Time: GMT/UTC -4

Dialling Code: 592

Electricity: 120/240V, 50/60Hz

Weights & measures: Metric



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Environment

Roughly the size of the UK, Guyana is bordered by Venezuela to the west, Suriname to the east, and overshadowed by Brazil to the south. Its northern coast abuts the Atlantic Ocean. The country's most prominent geological feature is the Guiana Shield, a vast crystalline upland north of the Río Solimões, the Amazon's major channel. From Mt Roraima (2772m/9092ft), on the Brazilian border, the shield recedes in steps all the way to the coast. Thick rainforest covers great chunks of the interior, though southwestern Guyana features extensive grassland. About 90% of the population lives on the agriculturally rich coastal plain.

Guyana's varied and spectacular wildlife includes brightly plumed birds and mammals such as tapirs, ocelots and monkeys. The equatorial climate results in high temperatures, tempered by cooling sea breezes. There are two rainy seasons: from May to mid-August and from mid-November to mid-January.

The interior regions, which were never dominated by Europeans, retain some of the worlds best remaining tropical forests, although these ecosystems are constantly threatened by both uncontrolled gold mining and logging by multinational timber companies.

South Star Tours, Inc.'s Local Representatives:

Wilderness Explorers: Cara Suites- 176 Middle Street – Georgetown-Guyana
Ph# (592) 2277698 - Fax# (592) 2262085