

Amerindian Missions - Guyana

Guyana, a tropical country on the northern shoulder of South America is 215,000 square kilometers in area. It is approximately the size of Great Britain or the combined size of the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts and is bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, Surinam and the Atlantic Ocean.

Behind Guyana's coastlands lies a wide belt of tropical rainforest, thought to be the world's most virgin, and beyond that lies extensive savannahs. Both regions include attractive mountain and plateau terrain, with spectacular escarpments in places, most notably on Mt. Roraima. This was the setting for Conan Doyle's fictional "Lost World", supposedly inhabited by dinosaurs like an earlier "Jurassic Park", but in reality the site of a unique and still not fully explored ecosystem.

This "land of Many Waters" has four major rivers: the mighty Essequibo, the Demerara, the Berbice, and the Corentyne, and innumerable smaller rivers and creeks. Kaitetur Falls, where the broad Potero River thunders down into a great forested gorge, is four times the height of Niagra Falls and is the world's highest single drop water fall. It is undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive natural wonders.

Most Guyanese live along the coast or the lower reaches of the major rivers, where three of the country's major economic activities, sugar, rice cultivation and bauxite production, are concentrated. The interior of the country is settled mostly by Amerindians who engage in small scale agriculture, fishing and hunting for their livelihoods, together with some ranching. There are over 145 of these small Amerindian villages. The remaining interior population consists of temporary or shifting labor, who engage in gold, diamond and timber workings.

The main centers of population are reasonably well linked by paved roads and vehicle ferries across the Essequibo, the Berbice and the Demerara Rivers. The Demerara is also crossed by a bridge just below Georgetown, the capital city. Access to the rest of the country is by air or river transport. These are difficult in many places because of rapids, waterfalls and other hazards, but correspondingly attractive to those who seek adventurous recreation.



Access to the country from outside is mainly by air through the Cheddi Jagan International Airport at Timehri, but a motor able road north from Brazil to the coast is also an option. cargo movements are mostly through Port Georgetown, but ocean going vessels can navigate the lower reaches of the major rivers, in some cases for more than fifty miles.

The following list is only a guide, so you will need to personalize your packing list according to your own preferences and tastes. Use this list to help you check off what you need to take with you. Packing limitations will not allow all items to be taken.

DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- U.S. Currency
- Money belt or pouch
- Bible
- Pens & Pencils
- Note pad, journal

MISCELLANEOUS

- Earplugs (for sleeping)
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Extra pair of glasses
- Pillow & sheet set
- Canteen or Water Bottle
- Fork/spoon/knife set
- Sewing Kit (travel size)
- Small can of Lysol
- Watch, calculator, camera
- 4 Large Plastic Bags (55 gal size)
- Flashlight with florescent bulb
- Small pen light
- Travel alarm (non electric)
- Batteries (for all your things)

CLOTHES

- Travel clothes
- Ladies Pants (for travel only)
- Nice clothes (for church services)
- Skirts
- Shirts
- Underwear
- Shoes (comfortable for walking)
- Rain Gear (Umbrella, etc.)
- Men – Bermuda shorts (for bathing in the river)
- Sleeping apparel
- Dirty clothes bag

FOOD & SNACKS

- Chewing gum
- Mints, Nuts, M&M's
- Nutrition bars
- Coffee or tea (single bags)
- Crackers (peanut chees – cheese)
- Trail mix
- Your favorite munchies in zip-lock bags

PERSONAL HYGIENE & MEDS

- Toilet paper (1-2 rolls)
- Wash cloths & towels
- Small Packages of Kleenex
- Deodorant, body powder
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Toothpicks
- Hand soap
- Feminine hygiene items
- Shaving needs (Foam shave cream)
- Shampoo & hairspray
- Wash-n-Dri towelettes
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Dramamine (for motion sickness)
- Antacids, aspirin, etc.

TWO CHECKED PIECES: One personal suitcase plus one container of campaign supplies to check on airplane:

Cannot exceed 62" (length + height +width), and 50 lbs. Locked! Roll up clothing, it takes up less space. Put cosmetics and liquids in ziploc bags. Loosen (only very slightly) glass containers so they do not burst in flight.

You can get a CONTICO footlocker at WalMart for \$18 if you need it to pack as a second piece of luggage.

CARRY-ON BAG: Must not exceed 22" x 14" and cannot exceed 20 lbs. **(the airline allows 40 lbs. but this is the bag that you will fly with to Lethem and we are severely restricted in the weight we can carry on this flight.)**

You must have easy access to your passport and airline tickets at the ticket counter.

Pack a change of clothes and a snack, along with personal/prescription medications in this carry-on bag. Have prescription meds identified and in a bottle with your name on it. Do not pack knives, scissors, etc. in this bag. All liquid containers must be carried in a separate clear plastic ziploc bag that does not exceed 8" x 8" (quart size). Items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed. Liquids must be carried in individual containers on larger than 3.4 ounces.



MONEY MATTERS



You will need at least \$ 2500 for your trip.

All amounts listed is U.S. currency unless noted.

This will cover:

- U.S. plane ticket – approx. \$1200
- Plane ticket to Lethem - \$ 250

The following are estimates:

- Ground travel and luggage transportation in Guyana - \$200
- Food (supplies purchased to take into the villages for cooking two meals each day and hiring a cook.) - \$200
- Currency Exchange \$100
- Each person will pay an “Exit Tax” of \$4000 Guyanese currency (\$20 U.S.) to exit the country to return home.
- Food and hotels in Georgetown and Lethem before and after going to the village. We don't have a total for this, but this is in addition to the amount for the campaign in the village.

DO NOT



DO NOT take photos in foreign airports or of government buildings.

Please take this **VERY SERIOUSLY**. This is no joke!!



DO NOT bring any type of firearms, ammunition or fireworks. It is an offense in Guyana that is punishable by prison to possess any form of ammunition.



Medical Needs



The following immunizations are HIGHLY recommended by the Health Department:

Tetanus
Hepatitis A

Malaria Prevention: Contact your local physician to get a prescription for **Lariam** (Generic – Mefloquin). You must allow time to take 1 per week for two weeks before you leave on the trip. your physician will tell you how you need to continue taking them.

If you have any questions or need more information contact:

Jerry Davidson 251-626-9578 or 251-510-9350
e-mail – davidsonjo@aol.com