ABARY BIRDING TRAIL AND HOATZIN TOUR

Before dawn we depart the hotel with a packed breakfast; we will travel eastward from Georgetown to The Abary Trail. The trail is just 60 kilometers from the center of Georgetown but offers a rare chance to see the range-restricted blood-colored Woodpecker and Rufous Crab Hawk, both of which have been badly affected by habitat loss in the Guianas' coastal region. The Woodpecker is only known to live along a narrow coastal strip which runs eastward for just a few hundred miles from Guyana, and finding this species is one of the main reasons for visiting Abary. Along the trail we will also look for the poorly-known White-bellied and White-barred Piculet as well as Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, and the threatened Great-Billed Seed Finch.

Typical sightings along the shoreline include Scarlet Ibis, Black Skimmer, Brown Pelican and Magnificent Frigate bird. The sugarcane fields along the coastal highway are a good place to look for Long Winged Harriers. Depending on tide, it may also be possible to visit a nearby heronry where Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-herons, Little Blue Herons and Cattle and Snowy Egrets breed alongside Snail Kites.

On our return journey to Georgetown, we travel along the coast to the Mahaica River.

This is one of the best places to spot Guyana's national bird, the hoatzin (Opisthocomus Hoatzin), also known as the Hoatzin, Stinkbird, or "Canje Pheasant". This odd bird is an unusual species of tropical bird found in swamps, revere forest and mangrove of the Amazon and the Orinoco delta in South America. It is a pheasant-sized bird about 65 cm (25 in) long, with a long neck and small head. It is brown in colour, with paler under parts and has an unfeathered blue face with maroon eyes, and its head is topped by a spiky, rufous crest. The chicks are unusual in that two of their wing digits possess claws. The hoatzin is herbivorous; it eats leaves and fruit, and has an unusual digestive system with an enlarged crop which functions as a rumen. It also produces a horrible smell to scare away potential predators.

Our journey down the Mahaica River begins in the small commercial area near the main coastal road. The river bends away from the road and takes us through an area that has been largely cultivated for sugarcane and other agriculture but, fortunately for us, the area surrounding the
river itself has been well preserved and provides an excellent riverfront ecosystem inhabited by flocks of egret, heron, ibis, various marsh tyrants, and of course the hoatzin.

Duration: 7 hours inclusive of transfers

**Net Rate:**
- US$ 481.00 per person
- US$ 251.00 per person, minimum of 2 persons
- US$ 281.00 per person, minimum of 3 persons
- US$ 215.00 per person, minimum of 4 persons
- US$ 183.00 per person, minimum of 6 pax

**Rate Includes:** Transport, packed breakfast, VAT and local guide.

**RATES are subject to change without notice**