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# Going Off-Road... Way Off-Road

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Dear Friends,

One of the reasons Guyana's interior region has stayed so pristine and untouched is simply the lack of roads going to and through the pristine rainforests and golden savannahs. You could see this lack of infrastructure as either a blessing or a curse, but it has given rise to one of the most exciting tourism experiences Guyana has to offer today—the 4x4 safari. Read on to learn more about how these expeditions provide unique access to Guyana's natural phenomena, and encounters with Indigenous Peoples. And be sure to watch this month's video—it brings the 4x4 safari to life in spectacular fashion.

Warmly,

**Jane Behrend**

Lead Representative, North America

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

**March 17.** Hiking and Safaris in Guyana with Rainforest Tours | [Register Here](#)

**April 16.** Guyana, A Birding Paradise | [Register Here](#)

## PERSON OF THE MONTH: LISA SMITH



Lisa Smith has a mantra; knowledge is a gift that never fades. As a naturalist and tour coordinator at Rainforest Tours, Lisa has the opportunity to share her knowledge of the wilds of Guyana with travelers from around the globe. The Georgetown native received a degree in Tourism from the University of Guyana, where, when not leading tours into the Guyanese interior, she mentors current students.

## FEATURED ITINERARY

### THE NORTH PAKARAIMA MOUNTAIN SAFARI

The Pakaraima Mountain Safari offers an ideal opportunity to experience the outdoors, embrace adventure and discover the scenic beauty of Guyana's mountainous regions. The Pakaraimas are blessed with a wide array of flora and fauna, and the rich history and culture of our indigenous people is evident throughout the region



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## GOING OFF-ROAD—WAY OFF-ROAD





It all began in March 2003, when a handful of Land Rovers, tractors and trailers embarked upon a dirt road “safari” through western Guyana. Today there are four such off-road safaris offered throughout the year that cover the length and breadth of the country.

These 4x4 safaris have become increasingly popular with travelers because they are able to venture into remote, untouched parts of Guyana that would otherwise be inaccessible to visitors.

One of the most popular safaris is the North Pakaraima Safari. It takes place every spring, and runs 8-days, from Georgetown all the way to Lethem.



It traverses high mountains, dense forests with abundant wildlife, hilltop villages, and stunning campsites (including hammocks under the stars) before ending at the legendary Rupununi Rodeo which takes place every Easter weekend

It’s easy to understand the appeal of the safaris. Crossing rivers, climbing steep hillsides (sometimes with over 60-degree inclines) and bumping along the muddy trails of the rainforests is a sure way of getting the adrenaline pumping.

Safari participants get a unique opportunity to encounter not only Guyana’s pristine landscapes--rainforests, mountains, waterfalls and grasslands— but also to get to know some of the indigenous people who live in our interior. The North Pakaraima Safari passes through no less than 15 indigenous villages. Here travelers can learn all about daily life in “the bush,” and since Guyana is an English-speaking country, connect with the locals without the use of an interpreter. Most of the communities serve meals or sell fruit and handicrafts on these trips, and some even serve as home for the night.



While a 4x4 safari may not be ideal for every traveler, it definitely checks the box of anyone looking for a unique, authentic and unforgettable adventure.

# VIDEO OF THE MONTH

Follow a small caravan of 4x4s as they take the North Pakaraima Safari. The adventure begins with a 350-mile drive from Georgetown to the village of Karasabai, passing through the Iwokrama Rainforest along the way. Here the safari begins in earnest. The convoy heads into the Pakaraima Mountains, moving from village to village on dirt roads that the local villagers built by hand. The sweeping journey ends at scenic Orinduik Falls, where outcroppings of jasper make for the ideal swimming spot. Watch this spectacular video and see for yourself.



## GUYANA IN THE NEWS



**National Geographic** asked more than a dozen travel industry insiders for inspiration on [where to go and what to do in 2020](#). Guyana was among their top suggestions.

*"With a new direct flight from New York and strong eco-credentials, South America's Guyana embodies the global trend toward sustainable tourism . . . and an alternative to more crowded destinations on the continent."*



**HGTV.com** has identified Guyana as a top 20 place [where travelers can avoid the crowds](#) in 2020 thanks to a combination of remoteness and better-than-ever accessibility.

*"Neighboring Venezuela and Brazil have long overshadowed the South*

American country of Guyana, which is now emerging as an eco-friendly destination. What the country lacks in wealth it makes up for in natural bounty. Forest covers about 87 percent of this English-speaking country with ties to Caribbean, British and Dutch cultures. New flights make it easier than ever to experience a country opening up to tourism. American Airlines added a daily non-stop from New York's JFK as of December 2019, while JetBlue will start offering non-stop flights on April 2, 2020 from JFK."



February 2020

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