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Dear Friends,

What a year this has been! Through the challenges, we have learned many lessons, not the least of which has been the importance of resilience. The Guyana Tourism Authority's reward for being resilient during these uncertain times is the good news that Guyana is once again accepting international arrivals, and tourism businesses have been working towards receiving the conditional approval to welcome travelers. This is hardly the end of the story, but a positive note to end 2020 with and usher in the new year. Everyone in the Guyanese tourism sector will continue to summon their collective grit and determination to ensure every traveler feels safe, secure and appreciated. I would like to wish you, your teams and families all the best for the holiday season.

Happy holidays,

Jane Behrend
Lead Representative, North America

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Stay tuned for January 2021 dates

PERSON OF THE MONTH: **CARLA JAMES**



The timing of Carla James' appointment to Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority was unprecedented, to say the least. Flashback to April of this year; Guyana's international airports were closed; indigenous eco-lodges and other businesses that rely on tourism saw their sources of income dry up virtually overnight; the entire world wrestled with the uncertainty of this new coronavirus, not knowing what lay ahead; and Carla took the reins at the GTA.

During the next nine months, she was part of the team of Guyanese officials working to provide guidance to the country's tourism stakeholders and plan for a safe reopening of Guyana. Carla helped establish and implement protocols that allowed them to reopen in a safe and responsible manner and opened the lines of communication to ensure everyone in the local tourism sector were informed of the steps the GTA was taking and COVID-19 updates that affected them. In short, she rose to the occasion beyond what was ever envisioned. Now that international flights are once again arriving in Guyana and travelers are being welcomed back, Carla's commitment to ensuring a safe and sustainable tourism future for Guyana will guide her day-to-day activities in 2021. However, should the world throw her a curveball, as she has demonstrated, she'll be ready.

GUYANESE CUISINE: WELCOME BACK TO NATURE. WELCOME TO GUYANA.

It's been a long, uncertain year for international travel, but there is now more than just a glimmer of hope for the future. With a COVID-19 vaccine expected to be widely rolled out in 2021, a large number of people who have been quarantined, locked down or otherwise stuck will be aching to travel again.

There is arguably no more ideally suited destination for the post-COVID traveler than Guyana. Research indicates travelers will be looking to reconnect with nature and the great outdoors. With its vast swaths of rainforest, savannahs, rivers and mountains, Guyana offers nature lovers a rich buffet of enticing experiences. Some of the densest biodiversity on the planet, including 820 species of bird, is right here.



Post-pandemic travelers will want to avoid crowds. Again, Guyana can deliver. After leaving the capital city of Georgetown, and heading into the country's interior regions, it's



entirely possible to travel for days without ever seeing another person outside of your travel group or accommodation providers. Guyana's indigenous community-owned and managed eco-lodges have small capacities and are often composed of a series of free-standing units. Even a visit to the iconic Kaieteur Falls may find travelers having the entire site to themselves.

Active adventure will once again be in demand, and Guyana will once again help get adventure travelers' hearts racing. Hiking, trekking, horseback riding, 4WD safaris--even mountain climbing--are on the menu. And so are softer adventure activities such as birdwatching and exploring the vast and varied landscape of Guyanese cuisine.

And Guyana is once again ready to welcome international travelers. Guyana's international airports reopened to commercial flights on October 12. [Eastern Airlines](#), [American Airlines](#), [Caribbean Airlines](#), and [Surinam Airways](#) are all currently offering service from the U.S. to Guyana. [JetBlue](#) recently launched its new nonstop service between New York (JFK) and Guyana (GEO). Flights will initially operate up to four times weekly. Caribbean Airlines is offering twice-weekly flights between Toronto and Guyana with connections available from Trinidad and Barbados. [Trans Guyana Airways](#) is also offering service from Barbados and Suriname.



Travelers must obtain a molecular biological PCR test with a negative result within seven (7) days of travel and complete a passenger locator form to enable contact tracing at least 24 hours prior to travel. While travelers can visit most parts of the country, non-essential travel into or out of Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni) is still not yet permitted. For more updates and travel guidance, visit Guyana Travel [here](#).

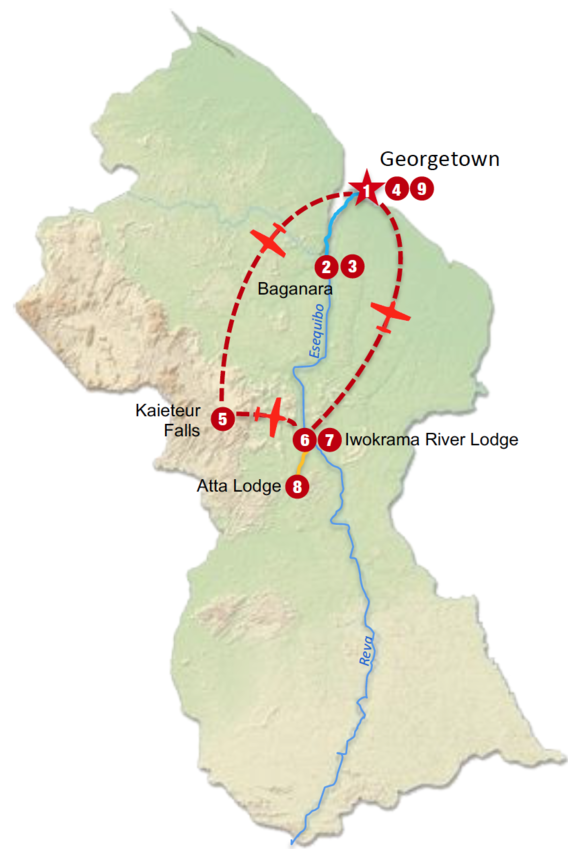
2021 is shaping up to be a banner year for international travel, and Guyana is ready to welcome travelers and give them the post-COVID travel experience of a lifetime. Check out this latest itinerary to see exactly what that can look like.

FEATURED ITINERARY: GUYANA ESSENTIALS - THE TROPICAL POST-CODVID UN-WINDER

This 9-day trip from [Evergreen Adventures](#) could be just what the doctor ordered for anyone pining to get out of the house, get out of the country, and get into an unforgettable adventure.

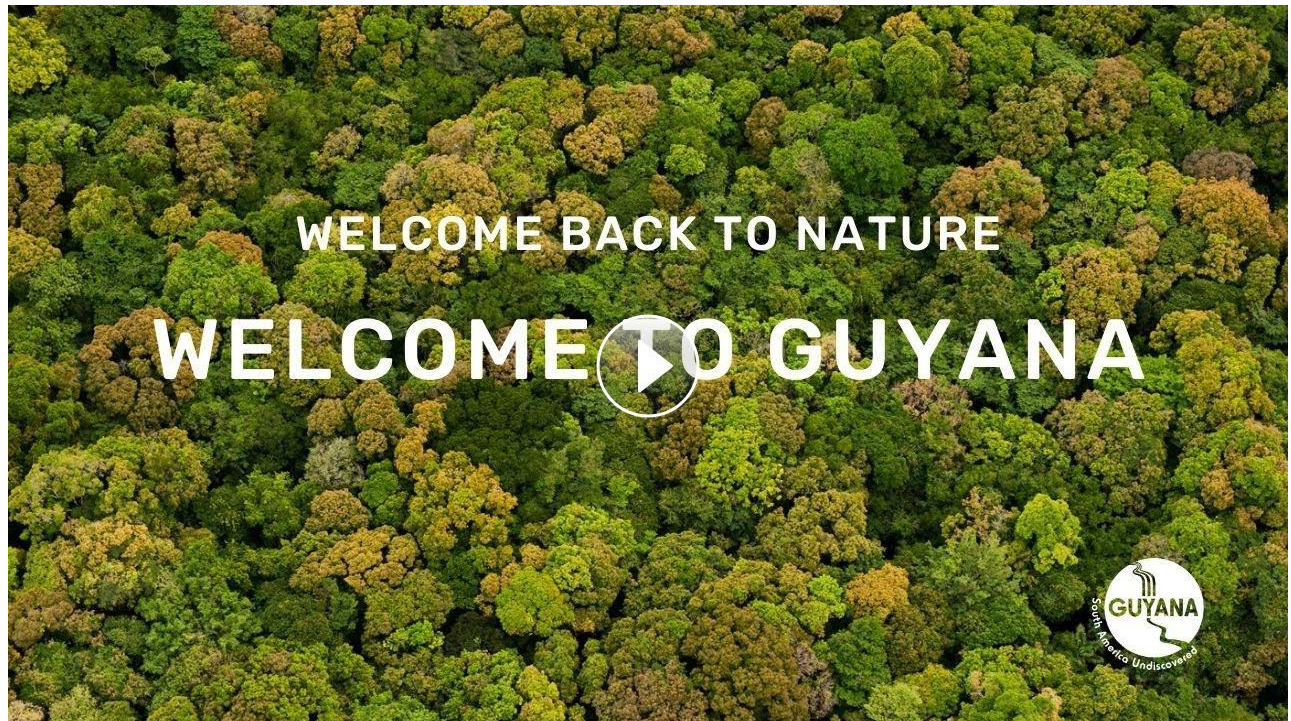
This trip will capture the cultural, historical & tropical highlights that make Guyana so special.

[SEE FULL ITINERARY](#)



VIDEO OF THE MONTH

This short video from the Guyana Tourism Authority encourages us to slow down, be in the moment, prioritize what's important, and recognize the beauty all around us. Welcome back to Nature. Welcome to Guyana.



GUYANA IN THE NEWS

Among the most under-the-radar Caribbean tourism destinations, Guyana is highlighting the launch

of new flight service this week, along with nature-based and cultural attractions that Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) officials say make the country attractive for visitors seeking to maintain safe social distancing practices. [Read the full article.](#)

The Hilton Garden Inn will break ground in January 2021 and is expected to be complete in just two years. The US\$90 million hotel will consist of 161 rooms with the programming of a further 128 suites and feature a variety of onsite dining options, conference facilities, a pool, and a 24-hour fitness facility. [Read the full article.](#)

Insider Places: Why Your Clients Should Visit Guyana Right Now: By nature of design, Guyana is not overly crowded or congested, making it attractive for travelers who want to maintain safe social distancing while traveling. And now it's easier to travel to the country because of health and safety protocols, new flights and places to stay. [Read the full article.](#)

Last month, the GTA launched a new series of community-based tours that aim to deepen travelers' connection to the Guyanese way of life with one-of-a-kind local experiences. The tours include the Moraikobai and Wakapau Village Tours, Seven Curry Tour with "Singing Chef" Eon John and the Gordon Ramsay inspired tour. Download the full press release [here](#).



December 2020

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