



Wilderness Explorers

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MAHAICAN RIVER & HOATZIN TOUR

0430hrs pickup and transfer eastward from Georgetown to the Mahaica River. The narrow winding road to the landing runs parallel to the river and takes us through an area that is mainly used for the cultivation of rice and other crops. Fortunately for us, the area along the river has been well preserved and provides an excellent riverfront ecosystem inhabited by flocks of egrets, herons, ibis, various marsh tyrants, and Guyana's national bird, the Hoatzin. Howler Monkeys also frequent these riverside trees. Giant River Otters are also often seen in the river.

Upon arrival at the river landing, you may enjoy a cup of coffee, tea or juice before heading out onto the river. The river offers a rare chance to see the range-restricted Blood-colored Woodpecker which has been badly affected by habitat loss in the 'Guianas' coastal region.

This river is one of the best places to spot Guyana's national bird, the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus Hoatzin*), also known as the Stinkbird, or "Canje Pheasant". This odd bird is an unusual species of tropical bird found in swamps, riverine forest and mangrove between the Amazon and the Orinoco delta in South America. 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, hence one of its local names.

After our tour we will head back to Georgetown. On the way we will make a brief stop to look for shore birds on the mudflats beyond the seawall. Flocks of Scarlet Ibis, Herons and Egrets are common here as is the rare endemic Rufous Crab-Hawk.

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Duration: 5 hours inclusive of transfers

Rate Includes: Transport, guide and boat transfer, packed breakfast, water and juice VAT

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Offices in Guyana, Australia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden and United States of America