Suriname

Comprehensive



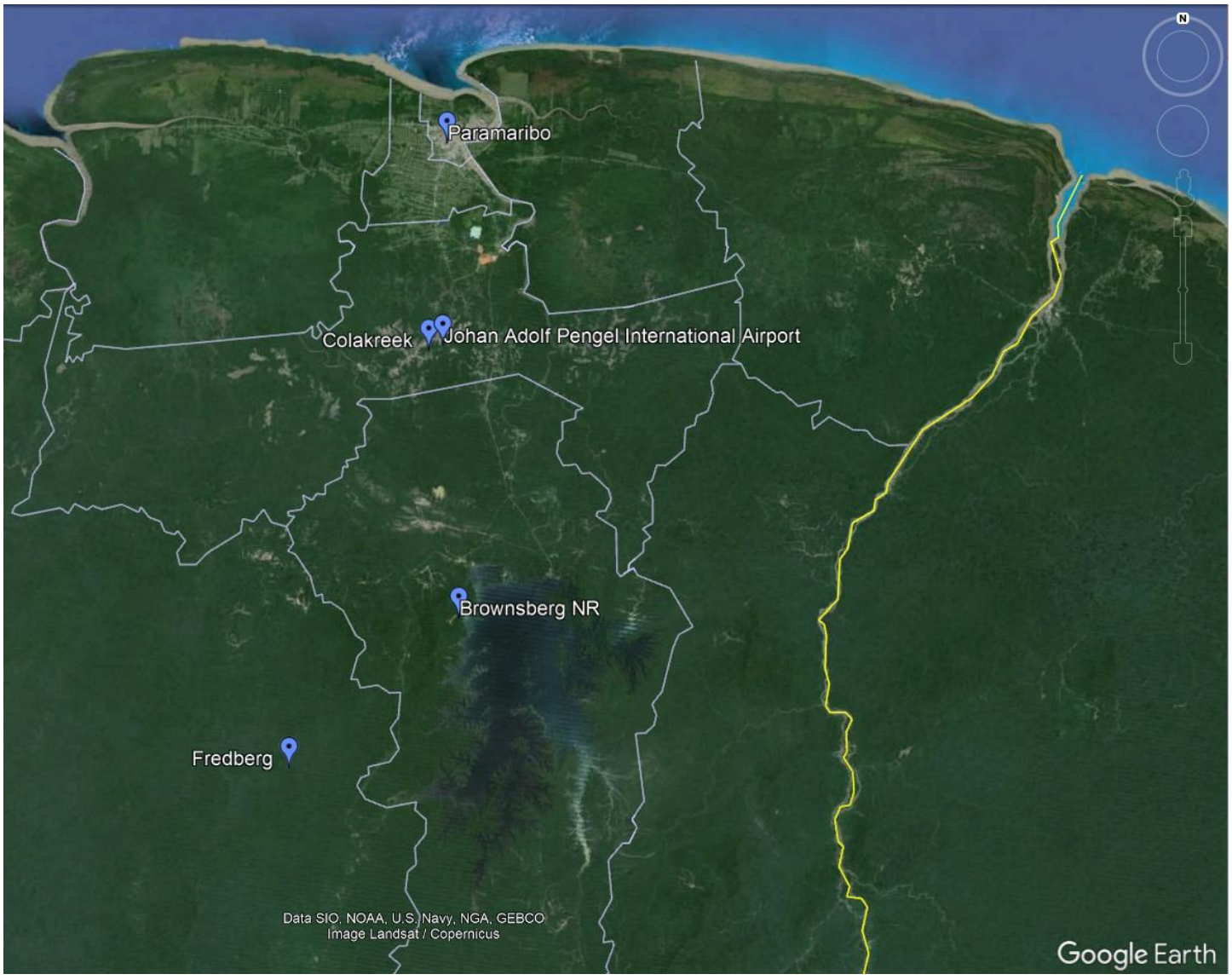
Rufous Crab Hawk by Lev Frid

Situated in the heart of South America's great tropical wilderness areas, Suriname boasts vast, unspoiled forests with a sparse population concentrated along the coast. Formerly Dutch Guiana, the country gained sovereignty from the Netherlands in 1975. Isolated from the Amazon basin and the northern Andes, Suriname has a unique natural and cultural identity. A diverse population reflects various cultures, religions, and Suriname's Dutch heritage, setting it apart from other South American countries. Improving infrastructure provides access to several birding sites, and we'll visit the core sites of Brownsberg Nature Park, Fredberg and Colakreek.

Suriname is mostly untouched, with more than 90% of the country covered by unspoiled rainforests. We'll be searching for such key species as Rufous Crab Hawk, Grey-winged Trumpeter, Blood-colored Woodpecker, Arrowhead Piculet, Red-and-black Grosbeak, Marail Guan, Caica Parrot, Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock, Crimson Fruitcrow, Dusky Purpletuft, Guianan Toucanet, Guianan Puffbird and McConnell's Spinetail.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Paramaribo**
Day 2	**Paramaribo area to Colakreek**
Day 3	**Colakreek to Brownsberg**
Days 4 & 5	**Brownsberg Nature Park**
Day 6	**Brownsberg to Fredberg**
Days 7 & 8	**Fredberg**
Day 9	**Fredberg to Colakreek**
Day 10	**Colakreek & final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Paramaribo area. Within a short drive of the city, several areas provide excellent birding opportunities in unique habitats not found in the forested interior. These include coastal mangroves, coastal swamp forests, and freshwater marshes. In coastal mangroves, we'll seek out the attractive Rufous Crab Hawk, whilst swmap forests are the haunt of the sought after Blood-colored Woodpecker, Arrowhead Piculet, Slender-billed Kite, Spotted Puffbird, Blackish Antbird (recently separated from Riparian Antbird), Crimson-hooded Manakin, Cinnamon Attila, Ashy-headed Greenlet, Wing-barred Seedeater, and more. Freshwater marshes host a range of species, from Ashthroated and Gray-breasted crakes to Long-winged Harrier and Black-collared Hawk.



Blood-colored Woodpecker by Lev Frid

The woodland habitat of Peperpot will be explored for the tiny Arrowhead Piculet, an very Guianan endemic most easily found in Suriname. Additionally, we can expect to encounter the restricted-range Green-throated Mango and Crimson-hooded Manakin.

Colakreek. The distinctive savanna habitat near Colakreek and International Airport in Zanderij, features both low bush savanna with coarse grassland, and high bush savanna with denser, taller woodland patches. We'll spend time working both areas for Crested Bobwhite, Russet-crowned Crake, Green-tailed Goldenthroat, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird, Tufted Coquette, Bronzy Jacamar, Black-headed Antbird, White-fringed Antwren, Saffron-crested Tyrant-Manakin, rare Pale-bellied Mourner, Olivaceous Schiffornis, Cayenne Jay, Campina Thrush, Plumbeous Euphonia and Black-faced Tanager.



Guianan Toucanet by Lev Frid

Brownsberg Nature Park. Located around 70 miles south of Paramaribo, the 60km^2 Brownsberg Nature Park is very close to the massive Van Blommestein (Brokopondo) Reservoir. The most prominent feature of Brownsberg is the Mazaroni Plateau, rising to over 1 500 feet. We'll traverse walking trails and rarely-used dirt roads beyond the main lodge area, providing ample opportunities to explore the diverse

forest. The elevated landscape supports a distinct avifauna, some of which are exclusive to Brownsberg area or challenging to find elsewhere.



Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock by Lev Frid

A major highlight at Brownsberg is the chance to encounter the captivating and often docile Grey-winged Trumpeters, often very close to the lodge, providing excellent photo opportunities. During our time here, we'll seek out several noteworthy species on the plateau and adjacent slopes such as Band-tailed Antshrike, Wing-banded Antbird, Black-throated Antshrike, White-fronted and White-throated Manakins, Black Curassow, White Bellbird, the scarce Glossy-backed Becard (here much easier than in northern Brazil), Sharpbill, the elusive White-throated Pewee, Red-and-black Grosbeak and the unusually large Blue-backed Tanager. One of the key targets for the entire tour Grey-winged Trumpeter is often found near the main compound.

More widespread species we may come across whilst seeking the primary targets include Little Hermit, Green-tailed Goldenthroat, Brown Jacamar, Collared Puffbird, Lined Forest Falcon, McConnell's Spinetail, Spot-backed Antbird, Double-banded Pygmy Tyrant, Todd's Sirystes, Sepia-capped, McConnell's and Dusky-chested Flycatchers, Black-capped Becard, Musician Wren, Pectoral Sparrow, White-lored Euphonia, Riverbank Warbler, and Red-billed Pied Tanager.



Capuchinbird by Adam Riley

We'll certainly see some of the intriguing mammals present, the possibility of spotting the striking White-faced Saki, Guianan Red Howler Monkey and with much luck, Rio Negro Bearded Saki.

Fredberg. This expansive lowland rainforest is situated to the southwest of Brownsberg. The vast undisturbed lowland forest habitat harbours an array of intersting species, especially cotingas. We bird along well-maintained trail system and little-used logging roads.

The surrounding swamp forest offers an opportunity to see the tricky Zigzag Heron, White-chested Puffbird (difficult), Yellow-billed and Great Jacamars, Black-faced and Rufous-capped Antthrushes, as well as Spotted and Thrush-like Antpittas. Black Nunbirds can be seen flying around the camp, while several species of hummingbirds visit the feeders daily.

Despite prior logging, the secondary forest remains interesting. The logging roads have provided easier access to leks of both Guianan Cock-of-the-rock and Capuchinbird whilst the elusive Band-tailed Antshrike is regularly found moving through the understorey. We can expect to find the likes of Blue-backed Tanager, Brown and Paradise Jacamars and even Crimson Fruitcrow with a little effort, but much more effort, and quite a bit of luck will be needed to see Glossy-backed Becard, the rare *griseigularis* sub-species of Green-backed Becard, Harpy Eagle and even Dusky Purpletuft.



Crimson Fruitcrow by Adam Riley

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. Suitable for most birding / wildlife interest levels. Has a fair amount of walking in hot & humid conditions (up to 4 miles per day). Some very early morning departures.
Birding Ease		Moderate to tricky. Low density, several tricky, skulking species typical of lowland rainforest.
Accommodation		Comfortable for the most part. Brownsberg & Fredberg accommodation is simple with shared bathrooms. Hot water is not always available due to high ambient temperatures.
Walking / Trails		Moderate walking & hiking. Trails can be rough & uneven, some trails have short, steep sections.
Vehicles / Roads		Small coach, but 4x4 & open back vehicles may be necessary depending on local conditions. Some roads can be very bumpy or muddy after rains.
Photography		Worthwhile to good. No feeders or hides.
Annoyances		Tiny bloodsucking flies can be numerous at some sites (weather dependent). Hot, with high levels of humidity.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 10;

- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels) not noted above;
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- Suriname is generally very hot and humid. On most mornings we will be up and out very early to take advantage of the cooler temperatures and wildlife activity.
- This tour does require a moderate level of fitness and participants should be in good general health as most of the forest birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- Accommodation varies from good in Paramaribo to simple at Colakreek, Brownsberg and Fredberg. Brownsberg and Fredberg have shared accommodation and facilities, whilst Colakreek has separate rooms, but some shared facilities.
- Mosquito nets are provided at some sites, but mosquitoes are rarely encountered. Electricity is available at most sites.
- Single rooming is not available at some lodges (ie: Fredberg), and may not be available at Brownsberg or Colakreek depending on the number of guests booked.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour starts with a welcome dinner on the evening of day 1 in Paramaribo. There will be one group transfer from Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport to Paramaribo. The tour will conclude here after breakfast on day 10 after a short transfer from Colakreek.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport (IATA: PBM) is the primary port of entry and departure for international flights into Guyana.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.