

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need a visa to enter Guyana? A valid passport is sufficient for all citizens of the Commonwealth countries. Citizens of other countries should check with the Guyana Tourism Authority for more information.
2. Is Guyana a safe yachting destination? Guyana is considered a safe haven for yachters. We are located outside of the hurricane belt and usually have light to moderate trade winds. Hazards in the river include floating logs and debris but can be avoided with a good lookout.
3. What are the general exchange rates and where can I change money? The general rates are: US\$1= GY\$200, CAN\$1=GY\$193, EURO1=GY\$250, Pound Sterling1= GY\$313 Foreign currency can be exchanged with Citizens Bank located at 16 First Avenue or with Scotiabank located in 2nd Avenue. Some local businesses may accept US dollars at a rate of GYD \$200 - USD 1 but it is advisable to use local Guyana dollars.
4. What documents do I need to enter Guyana? There are very simple entry requirements to enter Bartica, Immigration requires a manifest, valid international insurance, a document that indicates the last port of departure, the boat registration and valid passports of all individuals. Customs Department requires a completed C14B form, which will be provided.
5. What are the weather patterns like during the year? There are two periods in Guyana - rainy and sunny. The rainy seasons are May - June and December - January, while there is mostly sunny days throughout the other months.
6. How accessible is the city from the port of entry of Bartica? Individuals can use the local speedboat service and journey up the Essequibo River for approximately ninety minutes. When they arrive at Parika, they can use a minibus or hire car, depending on their comfort level and travel to Georgetown. This journey takes approximately ninety minutes. Alternatively, you can travel by air with Bartica Air Services to Ogle International Airport. This takes approximately twenty five minutes and the journey by road from Ogle to Georgetown approximately twenty minutes.
7. What sorts of activities are available to me during my stay? Depending on the length of stay, visitors can engage in a number of activities.
 - a. Participate in river tours on the Essequibo River and visit old Dutch Forts or relax and picnic at Baracara or Marshall Falls.
 - b. Visit one of Guyana's premier attractions, Kaieteur Falls located in our lush rainforest.
 - c. Explore the Rupununi and enjoy the hospitality of our local Amerindians
 - d. Dine around in the city or enjoy nightlife entertainment along Sheriff or Main Streets
 - e. Depending on the time of year, you can attend regattas, motor racing events, rodeo or be part of the cultural events like Phagwah and Diwali.
8. Who can I contact in case of medical emergencies? In Bartica, you can visit the local Government hospital on First Avenue, Tel # (592) 455-3084. For private care, you will need to travel to Georgetown and some of the hospitals include :
 - a. St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, 130-132 Parade Street, tel # (592) 227-2071-5
 - b. Medical Arts Center, 256 Thomas Street, tel # (592) 225-7402
 - c. Georgetown Medical Center, 258-259 Thomas and Middle Streets, tel # (592) 226-7210, 7214, 7216, 7217
 - d. Dr. Balwant Singh's Hospital Inc, 314 East Street, tel # (592) 226-5783, 4279

Alternatively, you can contact the representatives of the anchorages Baganara Island Resort or Hurakabra Resort.

9. How long can I stay in Guyana? Visitors can stay in Guyana for a period of three months. Should you wish to stay longer, you must apply for an extension at the Immigration office in Bartica or Georgetown.

10. Are there convenience stores close by? Visitors can shop supplies ranging from grocery items, cosmetics, clothing among a range of other items from :-

- a. Nizam and Sons, 46 2nd Avenue, Bartica, tel # 455-2868
- b. Dino's Investment, 44 2nd Avenue, Bartica, tel # 455-2937, among many other small shops

11. Where can I get laundry done? There is no laundromat service at Bartica, however through contact with the Regional Democratic Council, who can source persons to do laundry. At Baganara Island Resort which is located 10 minutes away from Bartica, persons can get laundry done at a cost

12. Is accommodation available on land? If so, what type? Hotels and Bed & Breakfast establishments can be found in Bartica. Some of these include:

- a. Platinum Inn - 7 First Avenue, Tel (592) 455 3041
- b. Modern Hotel - 9 1st Avenue, Tel (592) 455 2301
- c. Prestige Inn - 50 Second Avenue, (592) 455 3123
- d. Zen's Plaza - 43 Second Avenue, Tel (592) 455 2441

You can also secure accommodation at Baganara Island Resort or Hurakabra Resort.

13. Is there going to be need for a licence to fish? There is no need for a licence if you are fishing for your own consumption.

14. Will I be able to use my mobile phone? If the phone has been activated for roaming it can work since service signals available from Bartica that can cover the radius in which the yachts are located. It is however advisable to purchase SIM cards from the local cell service provider in Bartica since this option may be more economical and reliable. The local GSM network caters for 900/1800/1900 MHz and the average mobile instrument can work within this coverage.

15. Are there any vaccinations that I need to get before travelling to Guyana? You should be immunized for yellow fever. Malaria is not a problem in the cruising area, but it is advisable to bring some antimalarial drugs, especially if you plan to travel to the interior.

16. What do I have to declare? Personal items need not be declared, but if you have a firearm or any other weapon, it must be declared to the Customs Officer. If you have pets, please seek advice from the Guyana Tourism Authority.

17. What should I do about my water supply? Use bottled water for drinking purposes. The river water is fine to use for all other purposes.

18. Where are the safe anchorages? Hurakabra Resort, Baganara Island Resort, Bartica

19. Where can I buy prepared meals or secure catering? Apart from purchasing your meals at Baganara Island Resort or Hurakabra Resort, you can visit one of the many restaurants in Bartica including:

- a. Kish Kei Restaurant and Sports Bar, 7 1st Avenue, tel # 455-0081
- b. Brazilian Restaurant, 1st Avenue
- c. Hong King Chinese Restaurant, 1st Avenue
- d. J 7 B Spicy Corner, 1st Avenue
- e. Miss Stella Balgobin, 2nd Avenue
- f. Morocco Café, 1st Avenue