

Giants of Guyana

Guyana's lush, virgin rainforest is teeming with numerous species of birds, plants, fishes and mammals. This haven is home to the rare and elusive Jaguar. The Jaguar is probably the most famous animal in South America and is considered to be the largest cat and top terrestrial predator on this continent.

The Arapaima, the world's largest fresh water fish, can be found in the Essequibo and Rupununi Rivers as well as the Amazon River Basin. Arapaimas eat other fishes and are top freshwater predators. As such, this fish is important in regulating the populations of other fish species in rivers and wetlands. They are best seen in large numbers in isolated ponds during the dry season from September through March.

The Kanuku and Iwokrama Mountains are home to South America's largest eagle. The Harpy Eagle is also one of the most powerful birds of prey in the world. Guyana has a healthy population of Harpy Eagles due to the vast expanses of untouched tropical forests that they use as hunting grounds.

The Giant Anteater, the world's largest anteater can be found in the Iwokrama Forest and the Rupununi Savannahs. With tiny eyes and ears that greatly contrast its large snout, body and tail, the Giant Anteater is truly an extraordinary animal to see.

Of the more than a dozen otter species in the world, the Giant River Otter is the largest and rarest. It only lives in South America, and is only one of two otters recorded in the Iwokrama Forest. They are only found in the more remote waterways of the Guianas such as the Rupununi, Essequibo, Abary and Mazaruni Rivers (as well as the Amazon Basin).

Guyana's Giant River Otters were first documented at the Karanambo Ranch in the North Rupununi in 1988. A stable population has been present in the area since then and has been chronicled through the Giant River Otter rehabilitation work of Diane McTurk at Karanambo Ranch.

Visit Guyana and explore its spectacular rainforest, the roaming grounds for these magnificent giants.

www.guyana-tourism.com



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Highlights of Guyana's Giants

Jaguar - South America's largest cat

Giant River Otter - the world's largest and rarest otter

Harpy Eagle - South America's largest eagle and world's most powerful raptor

Arapaima - the world's largest freshwater fish

Giant Anteater - the world's largest anteater

False Vampire Bat - the largest bat in South America

Capybara - the world's largest rodent

Green Anaconda - the world's largest snake

Black Caiman - the world's largest of subfamily Alligatorinae (alligators and caimans)

Giant South American River Turtle - the world's largest freshwater turtle

Victoria Amazonica Lily - the world's largest lily

