



Inside this issue

- International News
- Local News
- Statistics
- Public Relations
- Upcoming Events
- What's next
- Educational

Guyana is participating in



Expedition hails Rewa Point as among best biodiversity in world

An expedition to Rewa Head, Region Nine, which turned up unspoiled wilderness and mind-boggling biodiversity, is urging protection for that area.

The researchers, in just six weeks, stumbled on the world's largest snake (anaconda), spider (the aptly named Goliath bird-eating spider), armadillo (the giant armadillo), anteater (the giant anteater), and otter (the giant otter), leading them to dub the area 'the Land of the Giants'.

"During our brief survey we had encounters with wildlife that tropical biologists can spend years in the field waiting for.

On a single day we had two tapirs paddle alongside our boat; we were swooped on by a crested eagle and then later charged by a group of giant otters. I think that about sums the place up. There is little human disturbance in the Rewa Head and as a result, wildlife flourishes in blissful naivety," one of the expedition members, Rob Pickles, said in a press statement.

Pickles, a PhD student studying giant river otters, teamed up with another PhD student, tapir-expert Niall McCann, to explore the area with the aid of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Astonishingly the team encountered six anacondas during their expedition, four of which were over 16 feet long.

But it wasn't just big species that the team recorded, but rare ones as well. Pickles and McCann recorded the presence of half of Guyana's listed threatened species during their expedition, including crested and harpy eagles, as well as the little-seen bush dog.



"Visiting the Rewa Head felt like we were walking in the footsteps of Wallace and Bates, seeing South America with its natural density of wild animals as it would have appeared 150 years ago," Pickles told mongabay.com in a recent interview regarding their expedition.

Despite the good news that Guyana has banned gold mining in the area, the Rewa

Head remains threatened.

"[The area] currently lies in a logging concession. Unless Guyana is given alternative financial incentives, its government will be forced to lease its land to oil drillers, miners and loggers. One of the world's last Edens is on the brink of destruction," explains Niall McCann.

Currently, the US-owned company, Simon and Shock International, has a license to extract timber from 400,000 hectares, while oil drilling concessions cover 78 million hectares.

McCann and Pickles are working with ZSL conservationists to gain international support for the government of Guyana's plan to conserve its vast forests as a carbon sink for financial returns.

According to the conservationists, the area is a perfect testing ground for projects like REDD+ (Reducing Emissions through Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

"Guyana is in an incredibly fortunate position in that it still retains 76 percent of its forest cover which constitutes some of the most carbon-rich forests of South America. As such, and with a president keen to offer his nation's forests as part of the world's carbon sink, Guyana should be embraced by the international community," Pickles told mongabay.com.

In all, Pickles and McCann recorded 251 bird species and 33 large mammal species in Rewa Head.

"In the wake of Copenhagen and the build up to the Convention on Biological Diversity, reducing biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions are high on the political agenda. Protecting areas such as the Rewa Head through sustainable management is a positive strategy for addressing these key issues," said Professor Jonathan Baillie, Director of Conservation at ZSL, adding that "global leaders need to recognize that real economic benefits are to be gained through the conservation, not destruction, of our world's living things."

(Excerpt taken from Kaieteur News dated March 2, 2010)

world travel market


 8-11 Nov 2010 ExCeL London

 The Premier Global Event for the Travel Industry

Upcoming Local Expo

BERBICE EXPO 2010

 JULY 23RD -26TH, CANJIE

 GROUND - BERBICE

Removal of British airline passenger levy brings relief to Caribbean tourism

The newly elected Tory-Liberal administration in the United Kingdom has won plaudits from the regional tourism sector for its dropping of the controversial Air Passenger Duty (APD) on individual airline tickets to the Caribbean in favor of a new “per plane” levy.

The former Labour administration in London had attracted widespread political and tourism sector criticism here in the Caribbean last year after it slapped a so-called ‘green levy’ on airline tickets, designed to discourage long-haul flights by putting a financial burden on passengers. The tax was originally set at around 40 pounds sterling per ticket and rose to around 50 pounds last November. It was due to increase further, to around 75 pounds sterling by November this year.

Caribbean governments and regional tourist sector officials had lobbied the Labour administration hard in an effort to have the tax removed, coming as it did in the midst of the global economic recession and one of the more difficult years in the recent history of the regional tourism industry. Apart from the

additional financial burden which the tax had placed on passengers, Caribbean governments and tourism officials had argued that the levy was discriminatory since some areas in the United States which were not affected by the heavy tax were actually further away from the United Kingdom than the Caribbean.



The abandonment by the British government of the APD in favour of the so-called per plane levy now means that airlines will now be charged per plane, a move that forces them to make efforts to fill their seats or, alternatively, to more aggressively pursue investment in fuel-efficient fleets.

Regional tourism officials were earlier this week cautiously optimistic that the move to drop the APD was good news for Caribbean tourist destinations, including Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia, which get around 1.5 million visitors annually from the UK market. They conceded though that the “per plane” option would mean that air fares to the region might still rise although not to the extent envisaged under the APD arrangement.

In Barbados, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism Andrew Cox was quoted by the Barbados Nation as saying that the APD had resulted in loss of tourism to that country. “If it is cheaper to fly to another destination because of that tax, that can’t be good for us,” Cox is quoted as saying.

Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Secretary-General Hugh Riley was decidedly upbeat about the removal of the APD, saying that he was “extremely happy” that the newly elected Tory-Liberal government in London had given the APD issue priority attention so early in its tenure. Meanwhile, Andy Harrison, Chief Executive of Britain’s largest airline, British Airways which expects to carry more than 50 million passengers in 2010, reportedly said he was looking forward to working with the new government in the United Kingdom, adding that it was desirable that there be a fairer and greener tax without increasing the burden on the flying public.

Up to Wednesday no government official here had offered a public comment on the issue though this newspaper understands that the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) would probably make a statement after some of the considerations associated with the removal of the APD and the application of the per plane levy were clarified.

(Excerpt taken from <http://www.stabroeknews.com> Posted By [Stabroek staff](#) On May 21, 2010 @ 5:09 am)

Do you know?

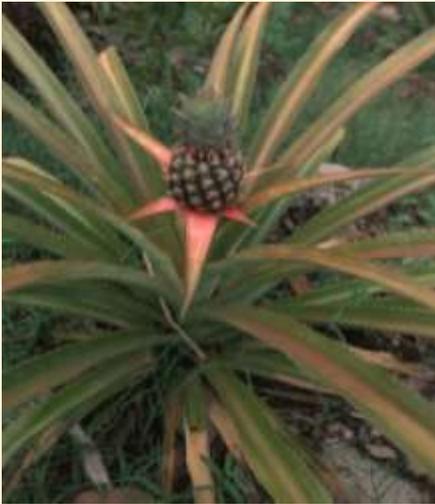
All visitors require a passport which is valid for at least 6 months to enter Guyana. Those arriving by plane are required to have an onward plane ticket.

Visas are necessary for all visitors except nationals of the following countries:

Commonwealth Countries, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, USA

Visitors are advised to check with the nearest Guyana Embassy or Consulate or their travel agent.

IICA to help boost agro-tourism



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will intensify its work to boost organic food production by working with organic food producers to meet certification standards.

IICA is working closely with the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) in developing the local agro-tourism potential in Guyana through several seminars held on various agro-tourism projects mainly in the **Mainstay Whayaka tri-lake area in the Essequibo.**

More Affordable airlifts needed in Guyana

Hon. Manniram Prashad, Minister of Tourism Industry and Commerce disclose that there is need for more affordable airlift to Destination Guyana due to the continued increases in arrivals to the country.

This disclosure was made to the media in light of the increases in air fares charged by Caribbean Airlines operating from Trinidad to Guyana. Prashad stated that there were numerous complaints from passengers about ticket pricing and availability of flights to Guyana. Prashad said, last January visitor arrivals to Guyana showed a 14 percent increase over the same period last year and the trend will continue especially with numerous upcoming activities and Guyana is becoming a newer getaway destination for tourists. The minister is encouraging local and overseas investors to try and bring another airline service to Guyana due to this demand.

Rituals Coffee Shop and Ice Cream Parlour opens at CJIA

Passengers passing through the Cheddi Jagan International Airport can now enjoy the taste of hot brewing coffee and ice cream from the Rituals Coffee Shop located at the Airport. The \$100 Million Rituals Coffee shop was opened on March 9, 2010 and a grand opening was held in the departure lounge at the CJIA. Rituals Coffee Shop will not only help enhance the airport but will also provide good services to passengers by serving coffee, ice cream and other snacks at affordable prices.

Wedding Expo 2010

Guyana's second Wedding Expo was held in April 2010 at the Roraima Duke Lodge in Kingston, Georgetown. This year the expo featured top designers of wedding wears, photographers, videographers, jewellers, decorators, caterers, event planners, designers, tailors, make-up artists, party suppliers, seam-stresses and beverage suppliers. The event was launched on March 10, 2010 under the theme "Magnificent Beginnings".

MV Vistamar dock in Guyana



241 visitors, mostly from Germany arrived on the MV Vistamar cruise to port Georgetown on March 11, 2010. MV Vistamar travelled from Amazonia in Brazil to port Georgetown and departed on March 12, 2010 for Tobago and then to Grenada. A simple welcome ceremony for the cruise passengers was held at the GNSC wharf where passengers were greeted by Hon. Manniram Prashad and

Officials from Dagron Tours. Passengers were given a city tour while some went on a trip to the majestic Kaieteur Falls.

Katie Spotz visit to Guyana



The youngest person to sail solo across the Atlantic Ocean, Katie Spotz, 22, recorded history by sailing from Dakar Senegal to Georgetown Guyana, some 2817 miles. It was a very adventurous and risky trip for anyone but Katie showed the strength, endurance and commitment needed to get the job done. Katie was greeted by her father, brother, Tourism Minister, Manniram Prashad, members of the Guyana Tourism Authority, the International Rotary Club and several other persons who were following Katie on her journey via the internet.

New Boat Service for St. Monica/Karawab



The St. Monica/ Karawab indigenous community in the lower Pomeroon is now accessible with the commissioning of a boat service to the community. The community is located about 35 miles from Charity and the only means of transportation is by boat. The new boat service is capable of carrying 45 passengers and will be utilized to greatly enhance community based tourism projects in the area. In the St. Monica/ Karawab area mostly subsistence farming is done and farmers were finding it difficult to transport their produce

Pakaraima Safari 2010 Launching



The eight annual Pakaraima Safari was launched on April 15, 2010 at a simple launching ceremony held at the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) Office, Sophia, Georgetown. The Pakaraima Safari introduces participants to the Adventure type of tourism which is offered in Guyana. The Pakaraima Safari takes participants from the Coast through the undulating mountains of the Pakaraimas and is a good expedition to see at first hand, Guyana's community tourism potential. The journey is estimated to take more than 8- days through 14 indigenous communities spanning two regions (Regions 8 & 9) and 'safarians' will get a chance to see Orinduik Falls. The Pakaraima Safari is organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Guyana Tourism Authority, and Rainforest Tours with sponsorship from GUYOIL, Air Services Limited, GT&T, Mekdeci Mining Company and Geddes Grant Guyana Limited.

Local Tour Operators' operating in Guyana has increased over the years.

In 2005, Guyana was relatively unknown as a country that offers tourism to the rest of the World, however in 2010, things have improved. Five years ago there were approximately 10 local tours operators operating in Guyana, that list now exceeds 25. Guyana has grown over the years in becoming a good nature, adventure and eco tourism destination and is now listed on the itineraries of some top tour operators worldwide such as British-run Explore Tours (www.explore.co.uk). The country was also mentioned recently in an article 'Forty places to change your world' published in TheNational on January, 01 2010.

Guyana is not known for conventional five-star comforts, but it offers a different kind of luxury – the chance to enjoy world-class sights such as one of the most powerful waterfall on the planet – Kaieteur, the Rupununi Savannahs, Mount. Roraima, the stunning Orinduik Falls, the mighty Essequibo River, Shell Beach and the Pakaraimas.

Local tour operators in Guyana are willing to offer tourist an opportunity to experience some of the best Nature and Eco sites in Guyana and also enjoy the adventure along their journey. Some of our local tour operators who are operating in Guyana are as follows:

Tour Operators	Fax /Tel. No. (592)	Email:	Website:
Adventure Guianas	227-4713/227-3158/673-0039. Fax: 227-3196	navinroopnarain@yahoo.com	www.adventureguianas.com
Amazon Adventures	231-7141 / 647-3537	amazon@networksgy.com	
Ayanganna Tours	231-3687/615-1558	vwelch@ayangannatours.com	www.ayangannatours.com
Bushmasters	682-4175 / 685-3988	amazon@bushmasters.co.uk	www.bushmasters.co.uk
Christine's Executive Tour Services	645-7333 / 225-2566	cets09@hotmail.com	N/A
Coral Adventures and Tours	218-1372	coraladventures@yahoo.com	N/A
CORTOURS	339-2741. Fax: 339-2430	cortoursinc@yahoo.com	N/A
Dagron Tours	223-7921 / 227-1174. Fax: 227-1166	dagrontours@yahoo.com	www.dagron-tours.com
Delta Chartered Speed Boat Services	455-2544	N/A	N/A
Evergreen Adventure Inc.	225-1171	reservations@evergreenadventuresgy.com	www.evergreenadventuresgy.com

Guyana Tropical Birds Society Feathered Friends	225-2190	guyanabirdsociety@yahoo.com	N/A
Hurakabra Tours	455-3200 / 225-3557 Fax: 226-0240	gem@hurakabra.com	www.hurakabra.com
Kanuku Tour	226-4001 Fax: 227-4588	reservation@kanukusuites.com	www.kanukusuites.com
Nature Tours	233-2454 / 233-2280	naturetours@live.com	N/A
Old Fort Tours & Resorts	260-4536-7/225-1035/225-1037	angellinastravel@hotmail.com	www.angcam.com
Rainforest Tours	231-5661 / 227-5632 Fax: 231-5005	rainforesttours@networksgy.com	www.rftours.com
Roirama Airways Inc.	225-9648	ral@roraimaairways.com	www.roraimaairways.com
Rupununi Trails	N/A	defreitasduane@yahoo.com	www.dadanawaranch.com
Shell Beach Adventures	225-4483 or 4484	info@sbadventures.com	www.sbadventures.com
Splashmins Tours	223-7301-3 / 624-9266 Fax: 225-6052	info@splashmins.com	www.splashmins.com
Suriname Overland Tours	231-3868/616-9523 Fax: 229-6421	phillipg2000@yahoo.com	N/A
Torong Guyana Co. Ltd.	226-5298 / 225-0876	toronggy@networksgy.com	www.kaieteurpark.gov.gy/torong.htm
Tours 'R'Us	621-7556	info@toursrusgy.com	www.toursrusgy.com
Tropical Trek	231-5933 / 641-9641 / 615-2775	tropicaltrektours@gmail.com	www.tropicaltrel.tk
Whitewater Adventure Tours	226-5225	jadrahaman@hotmail.com	N/A
Wilderness Explorers	227-7698. Fax: 226-2085	teri@wilderness-explorers.com	www.wilderness-explorers.com
Wonderland Tours	225-3122, 225-9795	gtalisha@yahoo.com	www.wonderlandtoursgy.com

Princess Casino formally opens



Guyana's only casino was formally opened on March 19, 2010 at the Princess Hotel in Providence. The Casino which was built last year has 300 slot machines and 11 gaming tables and is only opened to visitors who have overseas passports. The Casino will feature games such as 'Enchanted Unicorn'; 'Little Green Men'; 'Double Diamond Door'; 'Prince the Frog'; 'Double Wild Cherry'; 'Catch a Wave'; 'Wild Russia'; 'Jackpot Safari'; and 'Ghost Hunter'. Mr. Oguz Tayanc, Director of Operations at the Princess Hotel, stated that the casino is open at the right time when the ICC Twenty/20 cricket is being hosted in Guyana and that throughout the year there will be other big events taking place in Guyana that will bring visitors. Mr. Tayanc also stated that they are looking at ways to

have casino players around the world come here and participate in the type of games that Princess Casino is offering. The opening was attended by H.E. Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Hon. Samuel Hinds, Ministers of Government, Parliamentarians, the Diplomatic and Business Community, who were given a red-carpet welcome and entertained by Russian Dancers.

LTDA seeks partnership with Sebrae

The Linden Tourism Development Association (LTDA) intends to collaborate with visiting Brazilian investors from the Sebrae group to better promote Linden as a viable tourist attraction hot spot and investment area. Wilfred Simmons, senior vice president of LTDA said he recognize that there are needs for more development of tourism in Linden and underscores some area that has potential such as touring of bauxite mines, eco-tourism, touring the old alumina plant which is now a landmark for Linden, tour to Rockstone a popular sport fishing hot spot, tours down the Demerara River, and to see the wildlife that are found in Region 10. Simmons noted that the Sebrae group visit to Guyana recently was successful and stated that there are tremendous benefits that Guyana can gain from this visit especially in the area of developing tourism in Guyana.

Guyana is truly a bird watchers paradise



A group comprising birding and natural history tour operators, journalists and photographers from the United States, United Kingdom and South America recently concluded a birding familiarization tour in Guyana which was deemed successful. The visiting group was happy at the sightings of so many birds and was lucky to visit some of Guyana's top birding hotspots, including Iwokrama, Surama, Rewa, Lethem and Kaieteur. The FAM trip was made possible by the Guyana Tourism Authority/USAID partnership and was successful. At a debriefing session held at Cara Lodge Hotel, the group related that they were lucky to see more than 370 species of birds and apart from birding interested which they were

primarily here for, they also see other tourism opportunities in Guyana. One of the participants, Pelin Karaca, who represented a recognized vacation planning agency - Holbrook Travel, noted that "Bird watching is a niche market and Guyana has so much more to offer...the people are great...". Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Mr. Indranauth Haralsingh, expressed his pleasure to be associated with this FAM and stated that familiarization trips are an integral part to develop Guyana's tourism products and at the moment there are about 40 international tour operators who are offering birding tours to Guyana and is hoping that with future FAM tours that list will also grow.

Wildlife Festival 2010

The 9th Annual Wildlife Festival was hosted from 27th -29th March, 2010 by Iwokrama and Conservation International with support from WWF Guianas and the Environmental Protection Agency. The event was held in Annai, Region 9 and more than 230 youth from 15 communities participated in three days of activities featuring costumes, banners, art and poetry. The Wildlife Festival is a celebration of the environment and its culture and is held every year. At this year event there were several sporting activities, cotton spinning, archery, cassava grating, and basket weaving and arts competition.

Rupununi Rodeo 2010



The 71st Rupununi Rodeo was held at the Triple 'R' Ground in Lethem from April 2-4, 2010. This year Rodeo was the biggest of such event held in the Rupununi. The Rupununi Rodeo is an ideal adventure trip that offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Rupununi Savannahs and the Kanuku Mountains while en-route overland to Lethem. At this year event, several activities had take place including the Miss Rupununi Rodeo pageant in which seven contestants were vying to become Miss Rupununi, there were also beauties displaying cowgirl wear on stage, saddle and

bareback bronco, wild bull riding, horseback riding and spear roping.

Bartica Regatta 2010



The Annual Bartica Easter Regatta 2010 activities were held from 3rd- 5th April, 2010 in Bartica. Some activities that took place at this year Easter Regatta include the Miss Bartica Regatta 2010 Pageant in which nine delegates contested to be crowned Miss Bartica, a motorcade around Bartica, the Regatta Kick Off Football Tournament held at the Bartica Community Centre Ground, the Bartica Road Race, the Bartica River Swim, a Street Concert which feature popular Barbadian Artiste Peter Ram and the powerboat race held at the Beach front. The turnout for these events was unexpected and it is estimated that more than eight thousand persons attended the Bartica Regatta 2010. The Bartica Regatta Committee was very satisfied at the turn out and stated that there were many first time visitors to Bartica as well as those who fitted this event into their yearly calendar of activities.

Annual Kite Flying Competition at No.63 Beach

Thousands of Guyanese flocked the No. 63 Beach on Easter Monday to celebrate Easter despite heavy showers. Easter in Guyana is a national holiday and is celebrated by all Guyanese. Children in particular look forward to celebrate Easter since they compete with each other to make the best kite to rise during their Easter holiday. The Ministry of Tourism and Guyana Tourism Authority joined the action at No. 63 Beach by hosting their Annual Kite Flying Competition, in which Navin Totaram (winner with most unusual kite), Parmanand Mathur (winner with largest kite) and Davanan Kooblall (winner with smallest kite) was awarded a free trip to Kaieteur. Other competitors in the

competition also receive prizes of DVD's while kites were given to children who visited the Tourism Hospitality Booth on the Beach.

New Villa and Courtyard opened in Lethem



Adventure Guianas Tour opened its new Villa and Courtyard in Lethem over the Easter weekend which will offer tourist and guests the opportunity to relax in a serene atmosphere whenever they are in Lethem. The new Villa and Courtyard is an additional investment by the Adventure Guianas Tour Company in addition to its Guest House in Lethem. According to Mr. Roopnarain, Director of Adventure Guianas Tour Company, the opening of the Takutu Bridge last year is facilitating more tourists in and out of Lethem and because of this increase, his company decided to expand their operations by investing in this type of facility for visitors.

Presentation on Community Based Tourism done by the GTA

The Director of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Mr. Indranauth Haralsingh did a fifteen (15) minutes presentation on GTA and how the communities can utilize our experience, skills and knowledge to generate business and improve their tourism product offerings at a Community Based Tourism Seminar held at Cara Lodge. The Director highlighted the role of the Authority and ways in which the GTA can help in making Community Based Tourism better. Mr. Haralsingh, during his presentation reminded participants about the importance of community based tourism and how the livelihoods of those communities can be improved if priority is given to develop CBT. This exchange programme was sponsored by the VSO Office in Guyana in collaboration with North Rupununi District Development Board

International PR

Over the past four months, Guyana continued to attract attention through the International media (printed and non – print). Guyana with its fight against climate change and its Low Carbon Development Strategy has placed this tiny relatively unknown country on the World Map. Recently Guyana’s Head of State, H.E. Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo was awarded for being a Champion of the Earth with his many initiatives on climate change and his role in drafting Guyana’s LCDS, the President was one of the recipients among others around the world.

Online articles that mention Guyana.

1. Forty places to change your world - The National Newspaper (1st January, 2010)
<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100102/TRAVEL/701019880/0/lifelisttemplate>
2. BBC - Earth News - The Giant Amazon Arapaima Fish Is 'Under Threat' By Matt Walker (4th January, 2010)
http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_8428000/8428949.stm
3. Guyana - plenty of rewards but what about the risks - TheNational Newspaper – (7th Jan, 2010)
<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100109/TRAVEL/701089882/1530>
4. Avatar on Earth - Conde Nast Traveller Magazine (March 2010 Issue)
<http://www.concierge.com/cntraveler/articles/502351>
5. Guyana revisited - The NationalNewspaper (12th March, 2010)
<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100313/TRAVEL/100319959/1258/general2>

“One sign that Guyana is relatively safe for tourists is that established foreign tour operators are willing to do business there, such as the British-run Explore Tours (www.explore.co.uk), which offers a 13-day wildlife trip.”

International Travel Magazine 2010 featured Guyana.

Guyana – Roaring falls, roaming jaguar, remarkable birdlife – welcome to some of the world’s finest wildlife-watching was how the April/ May Issue of the *Wanderlust* described Guyana.

Do you know that there are Eco Wonders in Guyana?

- **Mount Roraima** – Over 1700 million years old, the most famous Tepui (flat-topped mountain) in the World.
- **Kaieteur Falls** – Discovered by Barrington Brown in 1870, this fall has a sheer drop of 741 ft and a total height of 822 ft (it is five times the size of Niagara Falls in Canada)
- **Shell Beach** – A 90 miles long beach of sea shells, which is the nesting ground for four species of marine turtles (green turtle, leatherback, olive ridley and hawksbill).
- **Orinduik Falls** – one of the most beautiful locations in Guyana located on the Ireng River, this fall cascades over terraces of solid jasper rocks.
- **Iwokrama** – occupying 1 million acres of forest, home of the Macushi tribes, it is the largest protected area in Guyana with tremendous biodiversity.
- **Kanuku Mountains** – one of the few remaining pristine Amazon habitats, the mountain range is divided by the Rupununi River and known for its high diversity of birds and animal species with approximately 80% of known mammal species being recorded.

Statistics

2010

Visitor arrivals figure for March showed a 13.6% increased when compared to March 2009 while in April 2010 there is a 7% increased when compared to April 2009. This Increase represents a total year to date increase of 7.1 %.

There were many visitors to Guyana for the ICC World Twenty/20 Cricket. This trend will continue because there are some major activities planned for 2010 – such as International Motor Racing, Guyana Summer Events, Karate, Body Building Championship among some other events planned.

Main Markets Performance

USA - Visitor Arrivals from the United States market increased marginally by 0.7% in April with a total of seven thousand nine hundred and ninety three (7,993) visitors compared to seven thousand nine hundred and thirty four (7,934) who came in April 2009.

CANADA- In April 2010, the Canadian market also increased by 9%. Total visitors from Canada for April 2010, were recorded as two thousand four hundred and forty three (2,443) visitors compared to two thousand four hundred and forty one (2,241) in April 2009.

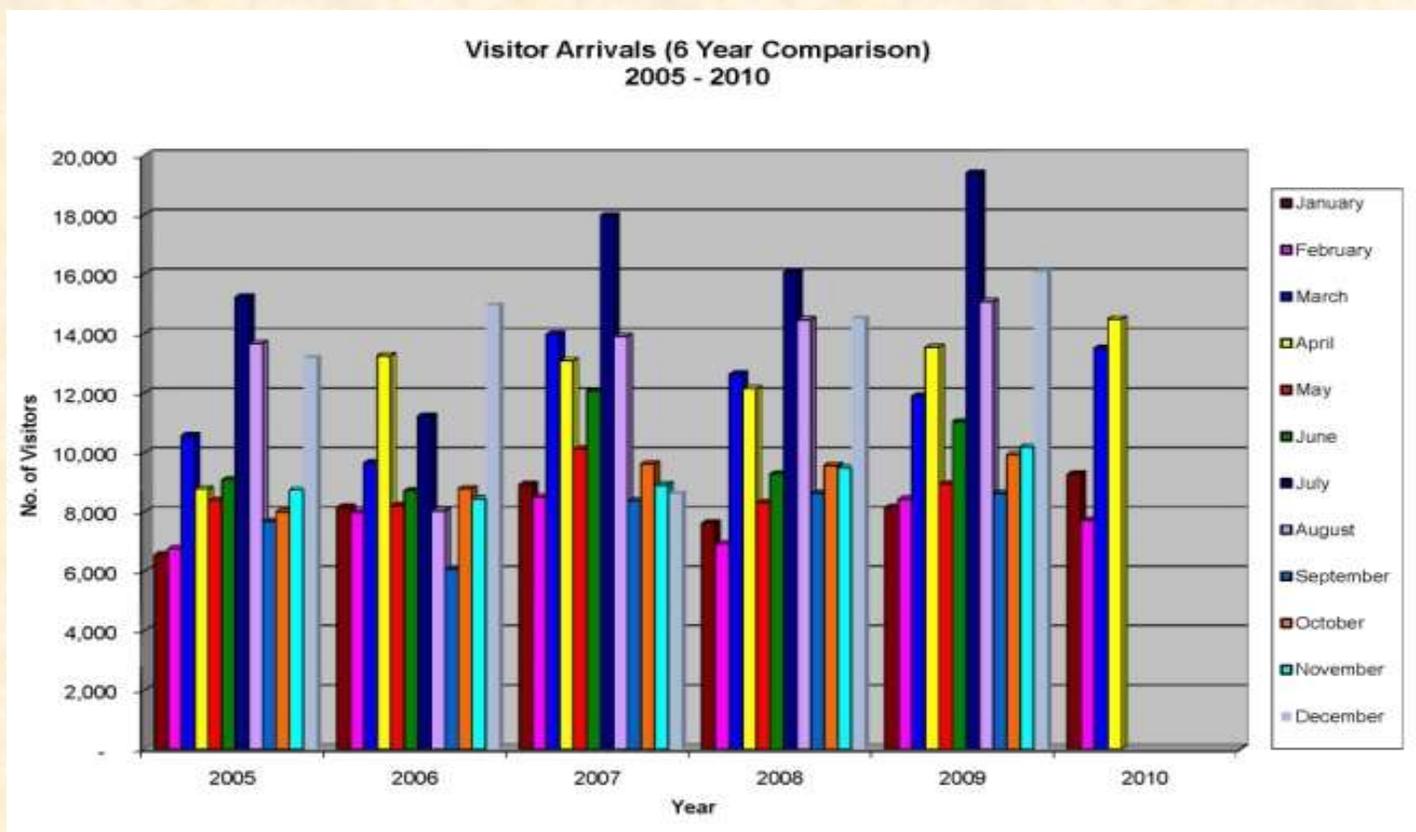
EUROPE- The European market increased significantly by 25.6% in April 2010. The market provided a total of eight hundred and fifty five (855) visitors compared to the six hundred and eighty one (681) visitors which was recorded in April 2009.

CARIBBEAN - Visitors to Guyana from the Caribbean region recorded an increase of 11.4% in April 2010 with a total of two thousand and six hundred and forty (2,640) visitors, compared to two thousand three hundred and sixty nine (2,369) in April 2009.

South & Central America- The South and Central Americas market increased by 33.5% in April 2010 with a total of two hundred and eleven (211) visitors compared to one hundred and fifty eight (158) in April 2009.

The market shares of visitors for the year-to-date period, January to April are as follows:

USA 52.7%; CAR 19.5%, CAN 17.7%; EUR 6.5%; SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAS 1.7% and OTHER COUNTRIES 1.9%.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
June	Motor Racing	South Dakota Circuit – Timehri	Guyana Motor Racing Association T: 592 231 5457
July	Horse Racing	Norman Singh Memorial Turf Club, WCB	Guyana Horse Racing Authority T: 592 225 5153
July 23-26	Berbice Expo	Canjie Community Ground - Berbice	Central Corentyne Chamber of Commerce T: 592 337 4778
July 31	Wakenaam Night	Wakenaam Community Centre - Wakenaam Island, Essequibo River	Mr. Mustak Mohamed T: 592 684 8328

What's coming up next in the Industry

The Ministry of Tourism and Guyana Tourism Authority is planning to represent Guyana at some major travel and trade shows and conferences that will be held internationally. Some of these shows are:

1. Caribbean Week in New York from the 6th to 12th of June.
2. Guyana Independence Festival in Toronto from 19th – 20th June. This event targets the 25,000 Guyanese in the Canadian market which accounts for 15% market share of visitor arrivals. This festival has earned the distinction of being the largest annual gathering of Guyanese outside of Guyana.
3. Surifair – Suriname Tourism Fair, This event targets the Surinamese and Guyanese Diaspora markets but also opens door to the Dutch market through direct airlift from the Netherlands.
4. The World Travel Market (WTM) which is the second largest travel and trade fair in the world (8th -11th November)

The Ministry and GTA will also participate locally by attending local expos and town weeks in Guyana such as:

1. Berbice Expo from 23rd – 26th July
2. Wakenaam Night on 29th July
3. Madhia Expo from 14th -15th August
4. GuyExpo in September
5. Rupununi Expo from 28th -29th November
6. New Amsterdam Town Day in December.

The Authority is already planning for Tourism Awareness Month which will be celebrated in November, 2010 and is in the process of putting together its calendar of events for Tourism Awareness Month.

Educational

Where do tourists to Guyana come from?

Tourist visit Guyana from all over the world. They come mainly from the North American, South American, European and Caribbean Countries.

Why people travel to Guyana?

People mainly travel to Guyana for business, visiting family and friends, sports, wildlife viewing, bird watching, research, education, to view our attractions, events and recreation.

What type of tourists do Guyana receive?

We receive three types of tourists: domestic tourist (people travelling locally), regional tourist (Caribbean region) and international tourist.

What are some major attractions in Guyana?

Guyana has six main eco wonders; Kaieteur Falls, Orinduik Falls, Shell Beach, Kanuku Mountains, Iwokrama and Mount Roraima. Our land mass is covered with almost 80% of intact pristine rainforest with over 800 bird species, 200 fish species, 6000 plant species and is regarded as 'the land of the giants'. The Rupununi Savannahs is the most attractive location in Guyana with its rich biodiversity, indigenous lifestyle, scenic beauty, rivers, mountains and waterfalls.

Where do most of the tourists to Guyana visit?

Most tourists usually go the Rupununi Savannahs, Kaieteur Falls, Historic Georgetown, the Essequibo River, Orinduik and other major towns.

What is our main tourism product?

Guyana main tourism product is nature and adventure tourism.

What activities can tourist do when in Guyana?

Tourist can enjoy bird watching, sport fishing, canoeing, trekking, soft adventure activities, sports, enjoy nightlife, wildlife viewing, experience community tourism, heritage tours, shopping, dining and agro tourism.