



GUYANA
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GUYANA BIRDING

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Birding Tourism Operators and UK Media In Guyana for Product Familiarization Trip



GEORGETOWN—Seven guides from international birding tourism operators and two representatives from UK birding media are in Guyana from November 17–26 on a product familiarization tour (called a FAM trip by the industry). This is the second of three FAM trips that bring international tour operators and media to Guyana to sample and evaluate the country’s birding experience as a part of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) – United States Agency for International Development (USAID) / Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) birding tourism program.

The current FAM trip is hosting some of the world’s top birding companies, including: Wings; Tropical Birding; The Travelling Naturalist; Birding Ecotours; Toucan Birding Tours; Eagle Eye Tours; and EcoVentures Nature Tours. The countries being represented by the tour operators include Canada, the United States, Ecuador, South Africa, and England. Collectively, the guides on the FAM trip have decades of birding and guiding experience around the world, with a particular focus on the Neotropical bird species found in the Caribbean and Central and South America.



The UK media being represented include *Birdwatch* magazine and *Neotropical Birding*. *Birdwatch* magazine has a circulation of 15,000 copies per month and is one of the UK’s top publications for keen birders around the world. *Neotropical Birding* is the magazine published by the Neotropical Bird Club, a charitable organization in the UK with worldwide members that focus on conservation issues connected to Neotropical bird watching.

The participants of this FAM trip will see a wide section of Guyana’s birding offerings, including stops in Georgetown, Shanklands Rainforest Resort, Baganara, Arrowpoint Nature Resort, Kaieteur Falls, Surama Village, Iwokrama, Wowetta Village, Rock View Lodge, and Karanambu Ranch.

While on the trip, the participants will be learning about Guyana’s birds from local guides representing each individual location. Justin de Freitas, of the North Rupununi Conservation Society and Dadanawa Ranch, will also be joining the group throughout the trip to act as an accompanying guide.

To gain the support from tour operators it is important to give them opportunities to experience Guyana firsthand. Focusing on the group tour market is beneficial because it will allow Guyana to develop better and more cost competitive birding programs and create demand for local bird guides and other birding and general tourism related services and products within Guyana.

The FAM tour programs would not be possible if local tourism suppliers were not pledging their full support. For the this program, GTA-GTIS is grateful for the generous donations of accommodations and in-kind and reduced cost services from BWIA, Trans Guyana Airways, Cara Lodge, Grand Coastal Inn, Baganara, Shanklands, Arrowpoint, Surama, Iwokrama, Rock View Lodge, Karanambu, Community and Tourism Services (CATS), and Wilderness Explorers.

The Birding Tourism Program is receiving support from GTIS, a joint project of the Government of Guyana and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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