



THE PLACE

Essequibo, Guyana's largest and South America's 4th longest River, is perhaps the most unfrequented of its kind. This remote and pristine corner of the eastern Amazon basin is home to a myriad of fresh water fish species, no lesser than the Arapaima.

THE JOURNEY

The journey begins at 06.00 hrs from Georgetown, Guyana's Capital City, heading south through the rugged Lethem/Brazil trail using specially modified and fitted 4*4 Land Rovers. The first destination- Kurupukari, located approximately 204 miles (327 Km) from Georgetown, is also the north eastern boundary of the Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve, one million acres (371, 000 hectares) of Guyana's Rainforest, preserved for scientific research, ecotourism, and sustainable tropical forest management.

Having arrived at Kurupukari, Essequibo River, a short trek or boat ride would take you to Adventure Guianas Sirropa Jungle Lodge, located at the confluence of the Essequibo and Siropo Rivers.

THE CAMPS

Except for a couple of permanent nearby lodges, equipped with basic amenities, our camps are rugged and run by local guides. We constantly move our camps, set on the banks of this delightful river under the tree canopy, surrounded by pristine jungle full of wildlife. Guests will sleep in hammocks and all food, cold drinks and daily laundry are included in our services.

WILD LIFE

With an endless diversity of flora and fauna around every corner, this river is a professional and amateur photographer's dream. Otters, Peccaries, Tapirs, Agoutis, Monkeys and many other mammals can be seen, with the elusive Jaguar sometimes along the river banks, feasting on River Turtles.

Birds of every shape, color and size can be seen everywhere throughout these watersheds and many species of Parrots are heard all day long fighting over space and territory. Toucans call to each other from the treetops like yapping puppies and Herons, Egrets, Kingfishers, Terns and Ospreys frequent the river banks in search of fish.

THE SPECIES

Arapaima-Arapaima Gigas

Also known as the Paiche or the Pirarucu, the Arapaima is an air-breathing fish that plies the Rainforest Rivers of South America's Amazon Basin and nearby lakes and swamps. The world's largest freshwater fish, these giants can reach 9 feet (2.75 meters) long and weigh up to 440 pounds (200 kilograms). They have a wide, scaly, gray body and a tapered head.

Though Arapaimas can stay underwater for 10 to 20 minutes, they tend to remain near the water's surface, where they hunt and emerge often to breathe with a distinctive coughing noise. They survive mainly on fish

but are known to occasionally grab birds close to the water's surface. The Amazon's seasonal floods have become part of the Arapaima's reproductive cycle. During low-water months (February to April) Arapaimas construct bottom nests and females lay eggs. Young begin to hatch as rising water levels provide them with flood conditions in which to flourish. Adult males play an unusual reproductive role by incubating tens of thousands of eggs in their mouths, guarding them aggressively and moving them when necessary.

Unlike other parts of the world, Arapaima's population in Guyana is healthy, due largely to a local belief or "taboo" that the Arapaima represents an "Oma", Macushi (a local tribe that inhabits this area) word for "demon" or "evil spirit", and anyone who consumes its' meat would become ill. It is also referred to, as the "Mother" of all fish species.

On lures, stocky, hard-fighting Yellow Butterfly Peacock Bass to over 15lbs and Himara/Wolf Fish to over 40lbs

Slash-and-grab Payara/Vampire Fish, acrobatic Pike-like Arrawana to over 18lbs, sinister Black Piranhas over 8lbs and the Silver Drum Pescada/Corvina to over 12 lbs. Nut and fruit eating Pacu can be caught on soft baits, fruit, nuts and even weeds.

On cutbait, the incredible strong Tiger Cats to over 30 lbs and the 'chicken of the river' Jandia Cats to over 20lbs

Express Red Tails to over 100 lbs

| The Incredible Line Stripping Jau Cats to over 100 lbs

The King of all Cats, the Giant Freshwater Shark/Lau Lau close to 300lbs!

Six days fishing on the Essequibo River, Guyana

Day 1: Leave home, International flight from Home Country, arriving CBJ International Airport - Guyana, (international flight not included), pick up and transfer to Georgetown. Overnight at hotel in Georgetown.

Day 2: Depart Georgetown 06.00am via vehicle, short stop for lunch, arrive Kurupukari, Essequibo River 2.00pm, transfer by boat to fishing camp; Overnight (hammocks)

Days 3-8: Six (6) full days fishing; Overnight in Outdoor Camp (hammocks)

Day 9: Depart Camp 07.00am by boat and onwards by vehicle, stop for lunch, arrive Georgetown evening and overnight hotel.

Day 10: Transfer to CBJ International Airport for onward flight home.

COST USD\$ 1,800. Per person (Minimum Two (2) persons). For Extended Trips, each additional day of fishing costs approximately USD 200. Per person-this could be negotiated based on the group size and duration

* Above costs include all transfers on arrival and when leaving, overnight at hotel in Georgetown, transport to river, all food and beverages (excluding hard liquor) while in camp and while fishing, daily laundry and 6+ days guided fishing, based on double occupancy.

** Not included are any meals and drinks while in Georgetown, any tips, hard liquor, lures, jigs, tackle etc.

Terms and conditions of payments: 50% as deposit on reservation, 50% due 30 days before arrival in Georgetown.

TACKLE TALK:

SUGGESTED KIT AND GEAR

Suggested Rods and Reels:

- ✓ 1 x Heavy 6'6"–7'6" bait casting or spinning rod matched with a bait casting or spinning reel with capacity of min. 150m of 65-80lb braid. This heavier outfit is needed for the larger Cats and Arapaima.
- ✓ 2 x Medium-Heavy 6'6"–7'6" bait casting or spinning rods with bait casting or spinning reels with capacity of min. 120m of 30-50lb braid. These slightly lighter outfits will handle casting and using smaller surface lures like Spooks and subsurface lures like minnow baits and jerk baits.
- ✓ 1 x Medium or Medium/Light 6'6"–7'6" spinning rod matched spinning reel with capacity for min.120m of 30lb braid. This much lighter outfit will give your arms and wrists a rest from ripping bigger baits and will allow you to easily use jigs and smaller minnow baits.
- ✓ Always bring spare line

For Fly Fishermen –

- ✓ 8-10Wt fly rods matched with fly reels with good, smooth drag systems, loaded with a tropical, fast-sinking 300 grain, a tropical intermediate and a tropical floating fly lines with at least 100m of 30lb backing.
- ✓ 1.5m x 30-50lb straight nylon can be used for leaders (Peacocks, Payara and Bicuda are NOT leader shy). We advise a good pair of stripping gloves unless you want another lifeline burnt into your palm. A heavier outfit is needed if aiming for Arapaima on fly!!
- ✓ Rapala X-Rap Walk 13
- ✓ Rapala Skitter Pop SSP12
- ✓ Storm Chug Bug Madflash CBM11
- ✓ Yo-Zuri Mag Popper 13cm

SUGGESTED LURES:

Top water:

- ✓ These type of lures can garnish the most explosive strikes and undoubtedly the best lures for Peacocks on the surface are small Prop baits, Stick baits/Spooks and Poppers.
- ✓ 5-6 x Medium-sized Prop baits like the 4.25" single and double propeller Caribe Pavon Props, 4.5" Highroller Riprollers and Rapala Skitter Props are ripped across the surface in a steady short cadence, 'rip, pause, rip, pause', all the way back to the boat
- ✓ 6-8 x Spooks and other medium cigar-shaped stick baits are used with a walk-the-dog, side to side, swishing action that 'sways' the lure like a snake across the water. This is a more subtle, quieter lure used when Peacocks tend to be less aggressive, or simply to garnish an explosive strike. Excellent lures on mirror-glass smooth water.

- ✓ 5-6 x Poppers can also work well and if used properly, they catch a good number of big fish. They should spit and gurgle and spray water in front, rather than 'bloop' or 'pop' and the best we have found is the Skitter Pop or the Saltwater Chug Bug skimmed along the surface with a cadence as in the prop baits.

Shallow diving lures:

- ✓ Shallow lures are mostly used when the top water bite is off or slow, or you just simply want to catch fish. While top waters are good 'search and find' lures and the angler gets a full-on experience with an explosive surface strike from fish like Peacock Bass and Himara, it is safe to say that sub-surface lures will always catch you more fish and more fish species.
- ✓ 10-20 x Minnow baits and crank baits will always work well in most situations and our choices are shallow running 4-6" Rapala X Raps, X Rap Sub Walk, Rattle Traps, Cotton Cordell Redfins and Yozuri Tobimaru and Crystal minnows. If a fish misses a top water strike, cast a minnow bait behind the swirl as a follow-up lure and you should hook up instantly.

Deep diving lures:

- ✓ Deeper diving lures will get down to where Payara/Vampire Fish and bottom-hugging Traiarão/Himara lurk in wait for passing baitfish. Take a while to troll a likely looking area or deep hole to pick up a few fish.
- ✓ 3-5 x Deep minnow baits with our choice being Deep running X Raps and CD 14's and 18's.
- ✓ 10-20 x Buck tail jigs. The #1 lure for catching Peacock Bass of all sizes (or most sport fish anywhere in the world) is undoubtedly the 1/2oz 6-7"
- ✓ Buck tail jig with extended tail. They can be tied up in so many productive colour combinations. They are cast and stripped back to the boat.

Flies:

- ✓ Yellow Peacock Bass, Payara/Vampire Fish, Himara/Wolf Fish, Bicuda and Silver Drum Pescada/Corvina will all take flies, but the Peacocks and Payara are the main species we seek here. Peacocks stack up around rock islands, structure and trees and will readily strike at any fly in their 'zone'.
- ✓ Payara and Bicuda will migrate up and down the river hunting for baitfish and are often caught in the rapids and in eddies below cascades and falls. Both species are incredibly acrobatic and will always put on a real show.
- ✓ Amazon fly patterns, in general, are either tied in big 6-8" long-profile streamer flies with lots of flash, with and without weighted eyes or popper-type surface flies. Flies will attract and catch many more fish than other lures as they stay in the strike zone for longer. Usually a fast strip is used on streamer flies and a series of gentle, constant 'spits' for the surface flies. Don't waste too much time on too elaborate fly patterns as
- ✓ Piranhas will eat plenty!! Go simple!
- ✓ *Always use a short leader with flies. Many fish here are real toothy critters!
- ✓ Sampo Solid Ring Ball-Bearing Swivels – Nickel at Cabela's

CATFISH AND ARAPAIMA RIGS:



- ✓ If thinking of getting into some of the bigger boys here, then you might want to 'butch up' your gear to a more substantial rig.
- ✓ An XH Cat rod with either a baitrunner reel or large capacity baitcaster loaded with 100lb braid will serve you well.
- ✓ Simple rigs with a heavy lure baitcasting set-up with a 2oz egg sinker, 1 ½ ft of stiff wire leader (against the Piranhas!) attached to a strong swivel at one end and a 8/0 – 12/0 circle hook on the other is all that is needed. The hook is baited with fish cutbait and lobbed out into a deep hole. You do not need to strike when using circle hook rigs as the Cat will hook itself when running with the bait, with a 100% hook up rate in the corner of the mouth. Just raise the rod slowly, not striking, for a good hook set!

CLOTHES

- ✓ We recommend clients follow the list of items below to keep to the weight restrictions. The list is really simple. Laundry is done daily, so only one or two changes of clothes are needed at camp.
- ✓ Clothes for the jungle are shorts or long pants, a shirt and a hat!! One change of clothes can be used for travelling.
 - For travelling - 1 x pair lightweight shoes, socks, underwear, light jacket, 1 x light shirt and long cargo pants with pockets for documents, money, passport etc.
 - For fishing - 1 x wide brimmed hat or fishing cap (with neck cape), 2 x lightweight tropical shorts or long tropical pants (zip-off's are a good idea and can also be used as travel pants), 2 x tropical long or short-sleeved shirts (can also be used as travel shirt), 1 x pair of either CROCS, sandals or similar boat shoes, 1 x lightweight rain suit/jacket and 2 x pairs of polarised sunglasses.

OTHER RECOMMENDED GEAR

- it gets hot out there in the full sun, often over 90°C, so come well protected with good-quality sun-block with at least 50-75 SPF. Lip cream is essential.
- in some areas, we fish there can be mosquito activity, so bring an insect repellent (jungle formula with D.E.E.T), to keep them at bay. No-see-ums can appear on overcast days so spray ankles and elbows!. While some insects can be irritating while fishing during the day, the majority will not bite but harmlessly buzz around or land on skin or clothes.

- Bring any personal medications and allow for headaches, stomach upsets, fevers, infections, allergies etc. A medical kit is at camp at all times.
- Personal toiletries, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving gear etc. A small amount of talcum powder is a valuable asset in the jungle for those sweaty areas!
- Reading book/magazine, pen and paper for notes.
- Small torch and spare batteries.
- Lightweight digital camera.
- Satellite phone can be rented quite cheaply in your home country for anyone wanting to keep 'in touch' with family or the office while away, although there will be one for clients to use in camp at a cost of \$10 per minute. Calls and messages can be received at no extra charge – the number and how-to-message details will be provided before trip commences.
- Multi-tool.
- Boga Grip or other fish handling device.