



The Association
for Tropical
Biology and
Conservation

ACCESS SURINAME TRAVEL
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RALEIGHVALLEN CENTRAL SURINAME NATURE RESERVE

4 day tour

Pre-conference tour: June 4th till June 7th 2008

Post-conference tour: June 14th till June 17th 2008

The area

The Central Suriname Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2000, comprises 1.6 million ha of primary tropical forest of west-central Suriname. It protects the upper watershed of the Coppename River and the headwaters of the Lucie, Oost, Zuid, Saramacca, and Gran Rio rivers and covers a range of topography and ecosystems of notable conservation value due to its pristine state. Its montane and lowland forests contain a high diversity of plant life with more than 5,000 vascular plant species collected to date. The Reserve's animals are typical of the region and include the jaguar, giant armadillo, giant river otter, tapir, sloth's, eight species of primates and 400 bird species.

Raleighvalle is situated in the northern part of the Nature Reserve, at the first rapids in the Coppename River, the Raleigh Falls. The rapids are populated by many plants and animals. The most striking plant family is the Podostemaceae. The biggest, the so-called kumarunjanjan (*Mourera fluviatilis*), is the food of the kumaru (*Myleus rhomboidalis*) during the dry season. At the beginning of the dry season they flower abundantly.

Internationally Raleighvalle is renowned under bird watchers as the bird paradise of South America. In this area you find some very special species like the scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*), the cock of the rock (*Rupicola rupicola*), and the harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*).

Transportation

In order to let you truly experience the area you are going to visit, you travel overland to



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Raleighvallen by bus and boat (the red line on the map). The bustrip (4-6 hours) over a jungle road takes you to the maroon village Witagron. From there you continue your journey to Raleighvallen by dugout canoe with outboard motor (2-3 hours). This way you experience the unspoilt nature first hand. On the way out you have a beautiful 50 minutes flight to Paramaribo with a good view from above on the rainforest below. (the green line on the map).

Accommodation

The Lolopasi lodge is situated south of Foengoe Island. There are 3 rooms with 4 beds and one room with a double bed with mosquito nets, a kitchen and a veranda. Douches and toilets are communal and outside next to the houses.

Facilities:

There is no electricity and the lighting is done with oil lamps.



Meals

All meals, snacks, fruit, lemonade, coffee and tea are included. Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks are for sale in limited amounts.

Excursion program*

Day 1: Departure 8.00 hour from Paramaribo. Bus and boat trip to Raleighvallen. After arrival we explore the lodge and the direct surroundings



Day 2: 08.30 a.m. After an early breakfast we depart for a hike to the Voltzberg, a 250 meter high inselberg with its unique flora. After 3 hours we arrive at the granite plateaus from where in far distance we can see the Voltzberg rise above the forest. The last part of the route is an intensive climb to the top of the Voltzberg where you can have a 360 degrees look over the endless Amazon tropical rainforest. In the afternoon we visit the mating site of the cock of the rock



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Day 3: This day we visit the Moedervallen for a pleasant stay in the gigantic rapid. During the 40 minutes walk to this rapid there will be chance to see the black spider monkey.

Day 4: Free morning. Before we fly back in the early afternoon to Paramaribo we have a forest hike on Foengoe Island.

* Because of weather conditions the tour program can be changed.



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