

French Amazonia & biodiversity

Located at the biogeographical crossroads of the Guiana Shield and the Amazon Basin, French Guiana harbours an exceptional terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Its forest is one of the last 15 tropical forests still relatively intact. 1 hectare of Guianan forest is home to more than 1,200 species of trees, which is more than the total number of tree species found in continental Europe.

Rivers, amazing!

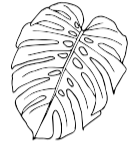
They are the natural thoroughfares of French Guiana. Rivers and other waterways will amaze you as much by their diversity - nothing is less alike a river than another river - as by the beautiful moments of sharing and conviviality that you will experience, by the splendour of these free roads where traffic is not as dense as in metropolitan France: with 3.3 inhabitants per square kilometer and 80% of the population living on the coast, you can imagine what it looks like in the forest... Travelling there in good company is all but normal. Well-being is there.

Fauna, emblematic animals

740 species of birds, 188 species of mammals, 1/3 of the planet's insects... to name but a few... and new species are constantly being discovered in French Guiana! Do not expect to see them easily, Amazonia is not a wildlife park: apart from monkeys and birds, some frogs, ... animals are randomly seen, but most of the emblematic species can be admired at the zoo of Guiana: howler monkey, squirrel monkey, jaguar, sloth, red ibis, macaw, toucan, great anteater, tapir, giant tortoise, caiman...

Nature reserves & ecotourism

Representing various natural environments, they give access to the best of the biodiversity in French Guiana. 3 species of marine turtles can be seen laying eggs, including the impressive leatherback turtle that can weigh up to 900 kg, at the Amana nature reserve, at the Montjoly salt flats and on the beaches of Cayenne Island. Viewing of a multitude of marine birds in front of the islands of Grand Connétable nature reserve or birds and caimans in Kaw Roura nature reserve.



Amana Nature Reserve

Awala-Yalimapo - 260 km from Cayenne
Located between the mouths of the Maroni and Mana rivers, Hattes beach is the most important leatherback turtles nesting site in the world. The turtles measure 1.70 m, and weigh 450 kg on average, have no scales, but are covered in dark blue leather.
Nesting season: April through July
Baby turtles hatching season: July through September. Nesting takes place at night most often, at high tide. The fully protected site is accessible to all.



Beaches of the Cayenne peninsula

They are frequented day and night... Leatherback turtles also lay their eggs on the beaches of Cayenne (Montabo, Bourda) and Rémire-Montjoly (Sainte-Rita, route des plages).

Kaw-Roura Nature Reserve

60 km from Cayenne
These marshes are heaven for one of the last populations of black caimans in South America (protected species). The diversity of wetlands makes the

site an important breeding location for many waterbirds.

Trésor Regional Nature Reserve

18 km from Roura towards Kaw
Nestled against the side of Kaw mountain which culminates at 270 meters, this reserve combines a mosaic of environments and environmental education: discover dry land forest and small wet savannahs, with a specific fauna, along a 1.7 km botanical trail, the 1.4 km carbon path, to be walked alone or accompanied by animators.



Îlet la Mère & îlets Dupont

Off Cayenne
Discover remains of colonial dwellings and penal colony buried in the vegetation. Birds, mammals (agoutis, squirrel monkeys...), marine fauna can be viewed from the rocks. A 3.5 km hiking trail allows you to walk around the islet or along its ridge.
Îlets Dupont, a site rich in biodiversity and only 500 meters from the shore, accessible by kayak. Ideal for viewing the Guiana dolphin in season.



WELCOME



Nature, Science & Culture

Yesterday you were taking a walk in this forest, this wood, this city park that you are used to... and the few species of trees present spoke to you: beech, umbrella pine, oak, plane tree... you recognize them so easily!

A thousand unknown species now parade before your amazed eyes. After flying over the Atlantic Ocean you discover French Guiana. From your window, a river as wide as a mainland river meanders and winds its way through the trees, while a line of foam festoons the golden beaches of Cayenne and Rémire-Montjoly. The most amazing thing is that when you land, you are still in Europe...and in South America! ... in this French region with Amazonia colours that is French Guiana.

A fascinating region, where you will see, in a dull rumble, a rocket loaded with precious satellites shining towards space. You will slide on the smooth and serene mirror, stillness of rivers and streams, interspersed with jumps. You will live with the different peoples of French Guiana, these cultures that they enjoy sharing, on this mixed land. You will vibrate to the rhythm of one of the warmest carnivals in the world.

Nature, Science and Culture are all part of a trip to French Guiana! hospitality as a bonus.



Our contacts



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French Guiana

French Amazonia

The guide



Carnet de Voyage



From Paris on Air France and Air Caraïbes.
To the French West Indies by Air France and Sky High.
To the interior of French Guiana via Guyane Express Fly.

Valid identity card or passport for French and EU nationals.

Yellow fever vaccination certificate required.

French (official).
French Guianese Creole (spoken everywhere).

Euro.

Time offset (to metropolitan France):
- 5 hours in summer.
- 4 hours in winter.

Equatorial, tempered by trade winds.
Dry season: March, then from mid-July to December.
Alternating sunshine and tropical showers in January and February. Heavy rains between April and June.

June 10 (abolition of slavery).
Shrove-tide (during February or early March).

International automatic network.

French region meeting European standards.

All categories from guesthouses to furnished tourist accommodation, farmhouses.
Plus international class hotels (Accor, The Originals, Logis de France).

Light cotton or linen clothing, swimsuits, sunglasses and protective cream for excursions, flexible walking shoes.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP!

GETAWAY IDEAS

Guided tours

City of Cayenne, of St-Laurent du Maroni.
Guiana Space Center.
Remains of the penal colony on the Îles du Salut,
in St-Laurent du Maroni.
Cacao village on a market day.
Village of Awala-Yalimapo.

View wildlife (birds, mammals, reptiles, etc.)

Kaw marshes.
Yiyi marshes in Sinnamary.
Cayenne and Rémire beaches
Montjoly, of Awala - Yalimapo in season.
Guiana Zoo.
River mouths.
Îlets Dupont.
Forest...

Walking & hiking trails, naturalist hiking

In Cayenne and its region.
In Cacao.
In Kourou.
In St-Laurent du Maroni
In Saül.
In Saint-Georges de l'Oyapock.
In Maripasoula.

Excursions by canoe on the river - stays in the forest (cabets and lodges)

Maroni (from 1/2 day to 5 days)
Oyapock (from 1 to 5 days)
Approuague (from 2 days)
Kourou (from 1 to 3 days)
La Comté (1 to 3 days)

Kayak excursions

Montsinéry (1 day).
At sea off Cayenne (1 day).
Crique Gabriel / Savane Lac Pali (1 day).
Maroni (1 day).

Mountain biking, electric bike rides

In Maripasoula (1 to 2 days).
In Roura (1 day).

Sport fishing

At Îles du Salut.
At Sinnamary.
At the Grand Connétable flats.

Horseback riding

In Macouria
In Kourou.
In Matoury
In Roura.

Cultural and sporting events

The Carnival (parades in Kourou and Cayenne).
The Rambutan Festival and the Hmong New Year in Cacao.
The indigenous peoples festival.
The Paddle Masters in Kourou.
The Biennale of Marronnage in Matoury.
The craft market in Maripasoula.
Sanpula night at Awala Yalimapo.

Learn about traditional know-how, discover and taste local products

In Maripasoula.
In Kourou.
In Saint-Laurent du Maroni.
In Cacao.
In Matoury.
In Macouria.

Play or learn to play golf

In Kourou.

Fly over the forest, the seaside

In Mana.
In Rémire-Montjoly.



Culture

With several millennia of history and a wide variety of landscapes, French Guiana offers many opportunities to discover the valuable contributions of the peoples who have succeeded each other on the territory. At every street corner, at every river bend, French Guiana expresses its history, reveals a heritage, just like its abundant and multiple biodiversity. Overview of landscapes, material heritage, knowledge and know-how, which you will enjoy during a trip here:

Régina, the precious ecomuseum

On the banks of the majestic Approuague River, the municipal ecomuseum of Approuague-Kaw harbours a permanent exhibition in a Creole-style house built around 1900. It presents the heritage of the colonial dwellings of the lowlands, the daily life of the inhabitants, the commercial activities in the period of gold, rosewood and balata. Adjacent to the house, there is a large hangar where machinery used in the production of lumber is kept intact.

Cayenne, a show of heritage

In the heart of the city, a remarkable heritage site, several exceptional historical buildings delimit the famous Place des Palmistes and offer a summary of Guianese architectural heritage.

The Bar des Palmistes, a hotel-restaurant that has been welcoming Guianese and tourists for a century, is one of the most perfect examples of Creole architecture, characterized by the use of wood and brick, an ornamentation of ironwork and sheet metal work that testify to the financial well-being of its owners.

The Franconie building, which belonged to a family of merchants, houses a museum and a library, the two oldest cultural institutions in French Guiana. Labeled «Maisons des Illustres» and «Musée de France», the territorial museum, heir to the colonial exhibitions collections, exhibits and preserves collections of natural history, ethnography, local history and graphic arts in a spirit of cabinet of curiosities.

The entrance pavilion of the former Jean-Martial hospital, overlooking the seafront, recently renovated, presents a set of carnival collections, representative of the street carnival and masked balls, visible all year round.

History of the first peoples of French Guiana

Through the engraved rocks and the polishers on the sea coast or along the rivers, from Oyapock to Maroni, the Amerindian heritage is inscribed in a very visible way in the stone. Among the sites accessible to the public testifying to an ancient Amerindian occupation are the engraved rocks of

Carapa in downtown Kourou, classified as Historic Monuments. Preceded by a permanent exhibition on Amerindian cultures and French Guianese rock art sites, the savannah rock benches, covered with more than 180 anthropomorphic figures, stand the test of time near the seat of the highest technology.



Papaïchton, capital of the Aluku country

The commune of Papaïchton, on the banks of the Maroni River, has an exceptional architectural heritage, linked to the occupation of this part of French Guiana by the Maroon slaves, who fled the plantations of Suriname, and their descendants.

The villages of Loka and Bonville, in particular, are endowed with traditional Aluku houses, which are now rare, characterized by their small size, inverted V-shaped roofs, and often decorated on their facades with Tembe sculptures and paintings. They bear witness to a community way of life and form the ancient heart of villages where ancestral ceremonies and rituals are still practised. With their recent restoration it has become more than ever before exciting to discover these villages imbued with spirituality and the famous places of marronnage that have fostered the emergence of a unique culture.



Yum – good food & dolce vita

There is no lack of good recipes, fresh products to enhance them, or good places to taste them. We eat well in French Guiana, a mixed cuisine, dishes specific to different ethnic groups, or a more classic international cuisine. There is something for everyone! Stews of meats, vegetables, fish and wild shrimp, which are abundant in French Guianese waters, are a simple luxury here, and oh so delicious! Sherbets, popular desserts with multiple exotic flavours, coconut, peanut, comou, maracudja, soursop... are at the source of sweets that you will not fail to taste at the terrace of many ice cream parlours and cake shops of Cayenne.

Cultural and sporting events

The year is full of events. Here too, there is something for everyone and it may be wise to plan your trip around a festival. Sport is particularly well represented with the Marathon de l'Espace (running), the Trail de Saul (hiking), the Tour Cycliste de Guyane (cycling), the Masters of the Paddle, the Kali'na Games... Many cultural, musical and gastronomic events take place throughout the months of the year. For example, the rambutan festival in Cacao (April), the Indigenous Peoples Festival (August), the days of tastes and flavours (April), the carnival and touloulous (January and February)...



Tourist Map of FRENCH GUIANA



Science: Guiana Space Center

Science and technology fan, nature enthusiast, budding astronaut, etc. All curious people are welcome at the Guiana Space Centre (CSG). The launch base for Ariane 6 Vega and Vega-C rockets, the CSG is also a tourist site. The only spaceport for Europe, it is also the only launch base in the world to make its backstage accessible free of charge while launches are being prepared.



Vibrate with the rocket: freely accessible observation sites allow visitors to see a launch with the naked eye and to follow the final stages of the launch on a giant screen, live from the control room. This show can be enjoyed from the beach at Kourou, in the centre of Cayenne or on the banks of the Sinnamary river.

Go behind the scenes: touring the CSG facilities allows visitors to set foot on the launch pads and to enter into the heart of the control centers. The visits last for 3 hours and run from Monday through Saturday, while the launchers and satellites are being prepared for their next mission.

Visit the savannahs: It's not only rockets that take off from the CSG... there are also a lot of birds! Spread over 600 km², of which only 5% is occupied by buildings, the CSG is home to a rich and varied biodiversity. To discover it, visits are offered in the heart of the savannahs every month with a guide from the National Forestry Office. Another way to discover Europe's Spaceport.

Guyaspace Expérience: immersive! Guyaspace Expérience is all about active exploration, using a variety of tools including multimedia, interactive screens, models of launchers and satellites, objects to handle and audio and video testimonials

In this brand new space, you will discover the history of the GSC and space in French Guiana, the activities and successes of the European space industry, and what goes on behind the scenes at a launch base.

DO YOU KNOW THESE FAMOUS GUIANESE? *



Gaston MONNERVILLE
President of the French Senate from 1958 to 1968.

Lucie DÉCOSSE
Three-time world champion judoka.



Félix EBOUÉ
Companion of the Liberation, the international airport of Cayenne bears his name.

Alicia AYLIES
Miss France 2017.



Christiane TAUBIRA
Minister of Justice in the French Government from 2012 to 2016.

Jahyanai KING
Author, composer and producer.



Bernard LAMA
Winner of the 1998 Football World Cup.

Edouard MONTOUTE
Actor, comedian and film director.



* non-exhaustive list

