

RUPUNUNI VENTURE

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Maximum Participants: 10

This Rupununi Venture will take you to the remote southern savannahs of Guyana, to enter the real world of endless savannah, crystal clear rivers, ranches with amazing horse rides, roundups, branding and the high energy action of the corral.

The setting for this adventure is the plains of Amazonia which are sat upon some of the oldest geological formations in the World. This is where Sir Walter Raleigh searched for El Dorado, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dreamt up the stories of "The Lost World." It is a much forgotten corner of the World, full of myth and legend.

Across the expanse of the savannah plains in Guyana there are a number of cattle ranches, dating back hundreds of years. Dadanawa Ranch was one of the largest cattle ranches in the world at 11,000 square miles (3.3 million acres). The stories and legends of ranch life go back generations, including tales of when Frank James (Jesse James' brother) rode in the savannahs of Guyana. Today these ranches work in very much the same manner as they did hundreds of years ago. The cowboys, or vaqueros as they are known locally, all come from the local indigenous people, primarily the Wapishana tribe of Amerindians. Here all the cowboys are Indians!

This is the setting for two + weeks of adventure, traveling the savannahs on ATV in 4x4, learning the skills of the vaquero on a ranch, before paddling kayaks back to the border town of Lethem for the annual vaquero Rodeo over the Easter weekend.



You'll live camped out in the savannah whilst traveling on the ATV, 4x4 or kayak and for a few days in the ranch house at Saddle Mountain. The ranch has basic facilities. You'll sleep in hammocks, water comes from the crystal clear creeks.

Over Easter you stay in a small hotel in Lethem, but all day and most of the night is spent at the rodeo ground watching the bull riding, bareback bronco or barrel race with a cold beer. If you're up for it, you can even give one of the events a go!



Leaving the ranch behind we head back to Georgetown by light aircraft. Those who chose to can take an optional trip to Kaieteur Falls. You will spend two hours on the ground at Kaieteur, exploring the falls from different viewpoints, including right up close with your toes in the water. You may also get chance to see the rare Cock of the Rock bird and the tiny, golden frogs, which live in the giant bromeliads near the falls. Each little frog is 160 times more potent than cocaine, so no kissing allowed!



A trip to Kaieteur is truly amazing and a must do in Guyana.



The map below shows Guyana and its location in South America



RUPUNUNI VENTURE

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Day	Event	Remarks
Sun	Your first day in Guyana, where we all meet up and get ready for the adventure ahead.	Accommodation is in a Georgetown hotel in shared en-suite rooms. No meals are provided in Georgetown, giving you the freedom to explore.
Mon	We fly by light aircraft to the border town of Lethem. In the afternoon we are introduced to the vehicles you will have to drive and maintain. Honda ATV and Toyota 4x4. The best, off road vehicles for the savannah and your best friend for the next several days! You will maintain, drive and live from these vehicles for the next five days.	Accommodation is in a Lethem hotel in shared en-suite rooms. No meals are provided in town, giving you the freedom to explore.
Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat	We start on the first day, getting a feel for the vehicles. Each day three of you will lead the way and trail find on the ATV, with the remainder following up in two Toyotas. Each day the ATV team will find us a camp site near a creek where we sling in hammock and spend the night. Through the day we cross the savannah, on dust trails, on no trails, through Amerindian villages, ranches and the occasional lone homestead scattered around the savannah of the Southern Rupununi. We may even occasionally stumble on a cold beer to cool us down!	Throughout we camp in hammocks and eat camp style rations that we bring with us.
Sun Mon Tue	Today we reach the stunning setting of Saddle Mtn Ranch. Over the next few days we get to live the life of a vaquero on a real cattle ranch. Horse riding Cattle roundup Lassoing cattle Branding	Accommodation is in shared rooms, all meals taken at the ranch

	<p>Bullwhips</p> <p>The ranch and savannah is an amazing place. Riding the range is stunning, if not rounding up cattle you often see giant anteater which can be 5/6 feet long. The creeks are crystal clear and the vistas seem to go on forever.</p>	
Wed Thur	<p>From Saddle Mtn we head to the border with Brazil and the Takatu River, where we inflate our kayaks and start the three day paddle to Lethem. Paddling is a great way to get quality time on these stunning rivers, steering through the rapids, portaging the rocks and camping out on the sandbars.</p>	<p>Throughout we camp in hammocks and eat camp style rations that we bring with us.</p>
Fri	<p>We arrive in Lethem and settle into the Takatu hotel to get ready for Rodeo. The night before Rodeo party is not to be missed.</p>	<p>Accommodation is in a Lethem hotel in shared en-suite rooms. No meals are provided in town, giving you the freedom to explore.</p>
Sat Sun	<p>Rodeo!</p> <p>This is an annual event in Lethem and words can do it little justice. It is old school Rodeo events from bull riding to bareback bronco to steer roping to barrel race. These are the true Vaqueros of the Rupununi ranches who often ride barefoot -the bulls too!</p> <p>It is the main event of the year for the local people, many of whom will be there! There is always a cold beer and roast meat on a stick to be found and a mix of western, local, Brazilian and Caribbean music to test the ears!</p> <p>You spend the night at a local hotel though often the rodeo party just keeps going through the nights. You can even give some of the events a go if you fancy. There who reckon themselves a nifty horse rider can maybe give the barrel race a go (a client won it one year!), or if you are more of fall off in style kinda person maybe the bull riding? You will certainly fall off in some manner!</p>	<p>Accommodation is in a Lethem hotel in shared en-suite rooms. No meals are provided in town, giving you the freedom to explore.</p>
Mon	<p>Today we bid farewell to Lethem and fly back to Georgetown, arriving in the late afternoon.</p>	<p>Accommodation is in a Georgetown hotel in shared en-suite rooms. No meals are provided in town, giving you the freedom to explore.</p>
Tue	<p>You are free to depart at any time today.</p>	