



The Association
for Tropical
Biology and
Conservation

ACCESS SURINAME TRAVEL
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RALEIGHVALLEN CENTRAL SURINAME NATURE RESERVE

3 day tour

Pre-conference tour: June 5th till June 7th 2008

Post-conference tour: June 14th till June 16th 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

Roundtrip by airplane (the green line on the map).

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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. After arrival we explore the lodge and the direct surroundings. We make a forest hike on Foengoe Island.

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



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. In the afternoon we fly back to Paramaribo.

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

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