



GUYANA
OFFICE FOR INVESTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA

Tourism

Investment Portfolio





Hon. Oneidge Walrond, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Guyana - World's Leading Eco-tourism Destination

Sector Highlights

Statistics

- 4th Largest Export Sector - Tourism is the 4th largest export earner sector in Guyana. .
- GDP - The total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP is estimated to be 2.3% (2021).
- Earnings - Guyana has earned approximately \$64.1 billion (2022) based on the average expenditure per visitor per type at US\$1,060.
- Job Creation - Travel and Tourism contribute 15,700 indirect jobs in Guyana (2021) - WTTC Economic Impact Report (2022)
- Visitors - Guyana visitor arrivals were 288,322 in 2022 (82.1% over 2021).
- Contribution - Tourism contributes to Guyana's Low Carbon Agenda and all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.





International Awards

- The World's #1 Best of Ecotourism (March 2019)
- 1st Place for the "Guyana - Welcome back to Nature" Video at the Golden City Gate Awards (March 2019)
- The #1 Best in Sustainable Tourism at the LATA Achievement Awards (June 2019)
- The #1 Best in Destination Stewardship at the CTO's Sustainable Tourism Awards Programme (August 2019)
- #2 Best of Americas at the Sustainable Destination Awards (March 2020)
- Commendable Status at the World Responsible Tourism Awards (COVID-19 focused) (November 2020)
- 1st Star/Place "Stay Safe" Destination Video at the International "Golden City Gate" Award at ITB NOW (March 2021)
- Rewa Eco-lodge was listed as part of the top 100 Destination Sustainability Stories (October 2021)
- Rewa Eco-lodge secured 2nd Place in Communities and Culture - 2022 Green Destination Story Awards (March 2022)
- Iwokrama River Lodge was listed as part of the top 100 Destination Sustainability Stories (December 2022)
- Five (5) Eco Lodges received accreditation from the Green Destinations (GSTC) - Good Travel Seal+ Certification Program, which will last for a two-year period (2022 - 2024)



Notable Media Mentions & Accolades

One thing remains sure, through the marketing efforts of the GTA and other tourism stakeholders, Destination Guyana will continue to be recognised, even on the international playing field. Of the most significant recognitions, the following must be noted:

- National Geographic's "Explorer: The Last Tepui"
- Research and Adventure in Guyana- Bruce Means Reflects - Elius Books <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/bruce-means-hunting-frogs-islands-sky>
- Alex Honnold + Mark Synnott Make First Ascent In Guyana For Nat Geo - Climber News <https://www.climbernews.com/alex-honnold-mark-synnott-the-last-tepui/>
- Guyana – Preservation of Natural and Built Cultural Heritage in Rewa Through the Community Led and Owned Tourism Framework - Green Destinations <https://greendestinations.org/guyana-preservation-of-natural-and-built-cultural-heritage-in-rewa-through-the-community-led-and-owned-tourism-framework/>
- Indigenous Guyanese Tap Tourism to Save Their Huge Fish - Destination Stewardship Report – Spring 2022 (Volume 2, Issue 4) <https://www.gstcouncil.org/indigenous-guyanese-tap-tourism-to-save-their-huge-fish/>
- 21 Unique Tourist Attractions You Can't Miss in Guyana - Worldly Adventurer <https://worldlyadventurer.com/guyana-tourist-attractions/>
- 15 Awesome Things to Do in Guyana: The Ultimate Guide - Johnny Melon <https://www.jonnymelon.com/things-to-do-in-guyana/>
- Top Travel Destinations and Trends for 2023 - Metro https://metro.co.uk/2022/12/19/the-top-travel-destinations-to-visit-in-2023-from-jordan-to-albania-17951714/?fbclid=IwAR3wco8JdetCNbgIKcmWHlrQwPv_eyJUfPyWHO2FtWZx6qidHawMYIUelq9M
- The 16 Latin American Bucketlist Trips for 2023 by Wanderlust! <http://bit.ly/3ioNkVs>
- The 12 Best Places to Visit in 2023 - Essence <https://www.essence.com/lifestyle/travel/the-12-best-places-to-travel-in-2023/>
- Best of the world: 35 destinations for 2023 and beyond - National Geographic <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/travel/2022/10/best-of-the-world-35-destinations-for-2023-and-beyond?fbclid=IwAR2uvez4yccW-5mkv5PTmqcYgqXzokhTt0eBi8Bhm3w4RM6O-tCpdyFwTX0>

Overall Strategy

With nature, adventure and culture-based activities, Guyana embodies a significantly diverse tourism product offering. The investment potential is high, and through the Government of Guyana's renewed Low Carbon Development Strategy, our vision to become a leading tourism destination will be realised. The Government of Guyana will implement measures to:

- Promote nature, adventure and ecotourism, both locally and internationally
- Increase in world-class hotels; estimated need of 2000 additional rooms by 2025
- Special incentives for new hotels and businesses
- Establish several world-class eco-retreats
- Employment opportunities and income
- Strengthen and grow the workforce
- Establishment of Hospitality Training Institute





- **New airlift (British Airways)** added in 2023, bringing approximately 33,488 more seats per year.
- Between 2022-2025, **8 new hotels will be completed, which would provide 991 rooms in Guyana's Room Stock.**
- **15 new tourism products** are to be developed in 2023 to diversify our tourism experience further. More indigenous community tourism enterprises will be established. Communities in the South Rupununi, Region One circuit, Region 10 circuit, Essequibo Circuit, and the Berbice Circuit will be supported. A total of 18 communities will receive support. In 2021 and 2022, 7 and 17 products were developed respectively.
- **Twinning of Tourism Product** with Barbados
- **Over 3000 persons** in the tourism sector will be trained in 2023. In 2023, 2089 persons were trained.
- **Tourism and Business Facilitation Centre** established in Lethem
- Establishment of a **Guyana Online Tourism Training Academy**
- Modernisation of trade operations through the development of the **Electronic Single Window initiative** to enhance the ease of doing business
- **300 million** for the **Small Business Development Fund**
- Industrial Estates to be established in Regions 2 & 10



Why Invest?

- Guyana's pristine forest, dozens of waterfalls, stunning sun-kissed savannahs, majestic mountains, breathtaking biodiversity and unique, authentic cultural, adventure and indigenous experiences make it the PERFECT destination for a lodge.
- Open foreign investment regime (incentives offered).
- A growing and expanding tourism industry.
- A wealth of tourism investment opportunities.
- Priority government support for tourism investment.
- Expanding international aviation capacity.
- Strategic location;-Guyana is part of South America and the Caribbean.
- Off the beaten path destination.
- A country practising sustainable tourism, given its low-carbon development strategy model.
- Affordable labour.
- A secure and stable environment to do business.
- Language (English-Speaking).





Investment Projects

Potential Locations for Investment

- Region 2&3 -Beaches, resorts, falls, lakes, historical sites
- Soesdyke-Linden - Region 10 - Riverfront investment ideal
- The Rupununi - Region 9 - Gateway to the Savannahs

Existing attractions and activities

- Kaieteur National Park
- Rafting
- Boating
- Tennis
- Horseback riding
- Hiking
- Kayaking

World Class Eco-Lodges or Resorts

- To be developed in the interior and coastal regions

Niche Market Products

- Investments in the infrastructure, facilities and services to support market segments such as.
- Bird watching
- Adventure tourism
- Yachting
- Deep-sea or river fishing

Hospitality services

- Development of world-class hotels
- Restaurants
- Eco-Retreats



Development of business services

- Convention services
- Catering
- VIP Transportation
- Communications

Eco-Retreat Amenities

- Nature trail
- Animal Reserve
- Bird Trailing
- Water Park
- Agri-Tourism and Culinary Fusion
- Entertainment
- Natural Wellness Spa
- Gift shop/Indigenous/Artesian boutique

Transportation Services

- Expansion of scheduled and chartered air services
- Expansion of boat and car rental services

Craft Industry

- Expansion of craft production

Development Project

- Development of International Drag Racing

Incentives | Favourable tax concessions.

Tax Holidays

- Exemption from Corporation Tax and Individual Income Tax on registered businesses and companies with respect to income from the new economic activity of a developmental and risk-bearing venture must create new employment in any administrative region.

Land Availability

- Vast land is available for eco-retreats and pristine non-touched lands for agro-tourism.

Tax Exemption for NEW hotels/guest houses/Inns

- Tax exemption for NEW hotels/guesthouses/Inns in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 should not have less than fifteen (15) guest rooms, and tax exemption for NEW hotels/ guesthouses/inns in Regions 1, 7, 8, 9, & 10 should not have less than eight (8) guest rooms.
- Full custom duty and VAT exemptions on the value of the investment in building materials, fittings, equipment furnishing and appliances for equipping the entity, equipment for the use in sports.
- Total excise tax exemption on the value of each motor vehicle.
- Full excise tax exemption on new cap pickups below 2000 cc, whilst for new double cab pickups between 2000 and 3000 cc, the excise tax will be calculated at 75%.



Expansion of hotels/guesthouses and inns for Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 & 10

The current complement of guest rooms must be increased by 3 rooms. For other regions, no less than 5 rooms and tax exemptions for expanding lodges and resorts in all regions.

- Full customs duty and VAT exemptions on 50% of the value of the investment on building materials, fittings, equipment furnishing and appliances for extended part of the entity.



- New lodges or resorts in Regions 1, 7, 8, 9, & 10 should have no less than eight (8) rooms. Regions 2, 3, 5 & 6 should have no less than fifteen (15) rooms, and those in Region 4 should have no less than thirty (30) rooms.
- Full customs duty and VAT exemptions on the value of the investment in building materials, fittings, equipment furnishing and appliances.

Tax exemption Tour operator

- Full customs duty, VAT and excise tax exemptions on 50% of the value of the investment in camping equipment, floating crafts, non-motorized collapsible mobile lodging with basic amenities and each motor vehicle.
- Total excise exemption on 50% of the value of each motor vehicle.

Tax exemptions for expansion/re-tooling of operation of tour operators.

- Full customs duty, VAT and excise tax exemptions on 25% of the value of the investment on camping equipment, floating crafts, non-motorized collapsible mobile lodging with basic amenities and each motor vehicle.
- Full duty, excise tax and VAT exemption on 25% of the value of each motor vehicle.



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