FRENCH GUIANA EXTENSION 1

Saturday

We make an early start to comfortably pace ourselves through the journey. The first leg of our travels takes us eastbound along Suriname's coastal road, a throughway that is intermittently getting a much-needed facelift, to Albina border station. Formalities here rarely take more than a few minutes, and soon we find ourselves in Piaka canoe crossing the Maroni River headed for French Guiana or "Guyane" as it is frequently (and confusingly) called locally.

Arrival at St. Laurent du Maroni is relatively uncomplicated, and our French guide will be on hand to help us navigate the usual customs and immigration formalities. French Guyana is a Department of France, so technically you have entered the EU upon landing here. And, evidence of this connection to the "1st world" is immediately evident: every car seems to be a late-model Mercedes, Volkswagen or Peugeot, the roads are in near perfect condition, espresso coffee is on tap nearly everywhere, and the Euro is the currency of choice.

Afternoon city tour of Saint Laurent Du Maroni and Camp de la Transportation where we will make a brief visit to the well-preserved Transportation Center. The facility once served as the transit point for slaves and indentured servants imported from overseas and destined for plantations throughout South America and the Caribbean. A hard-to-miss curiosity just offshore is the British steamer Edith Cavel shipwreck, so overgrown with trees and shrubs that it could be mistaken for a natural island. It partially sank in bad weather in 1924. A relaxed 2 and 1/2 hours further east by road gets us to Kourou.

Our day concludes at the Hotel des Roches, resting on a tiny finger of sand jutting into the Kourou River where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. The tower adjacent to the hotel, Dreyfus Tower, was a communication link to the îles du Salut: its rocky perch serves as a perfect place to relax during sunset. Overnight at Hotel des Roches. B

Sunday

What is commonly referred to as "Devils Island" is really a triangle of three islands - îles du Salut, or the Salvation Islands - seven miles off the coast of Kourou. After a breakfast buffet at the hotel, we set sail aboard a fine motorized catamaran towards our first stop, Île Saint-Joseph. The islands played a central role in French history as far back as 1792 when they were first employed as a transit point, first for explorers, then slaves and later for political prisoners.
Île Saint-Joseph is the southernmost island and is home to the most striking incarceration facilities that made up this notorious penal colony. Île Royale is the site of the oldest buildings on the islands, featuring an old church, administration buildings, officers' quarters, and today, a good restaurant and lodging facilities. Ironically, the actual Île du Diable (Devil's Island) is inaccessible to visitors due to dangerous shoreline conditions. This is the island where the prison's best-known occupant, Alfred Dreyfus, was famously secluded.

Your tour begins on Île St. Joseph which can be easily circumnavigated on foot in less than 2 hours. The prison buildings here are quite well preserved, and you can meander at will through the cell blocks, dormitory buildings, and other structures while taking photographs or simply soaking in the powerful ambience. The countless scenes of nature slowly but relentlessly reclaiming the land here are really quite remarkable... you'll lose count of how many tree roots you see growing out of one cell door and curving around to enter an adjacent cell. If your walking tour wraps up early, there are plenty of shady trees under which you can catch a cool breeze, or you can dip your toe in one of the shallow tidepools on the north side of the island. Return to Kourou by Catamaran and transfer in bus to hotel. Overnight at Hotel des Roches.

Monday
Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Kourou to the Center Spatiale Guyanaise (Guyana Space Center) for a tour. Launch schedules are a closely-held secret so our schedule today may be amended on short notice. The usual tour includes a motorcoach tour which criss-crosses the center's mammoth facility, including stops at various assembly buildings and control centers. The entire tour is offered in French, but your guide will supply translations as often as possible. After tour transfer by vehicle for the Suriname border via St. Laurent de Maroni and cross by small boat. Transfer to Paramaribo. Overnight at Eco Resort Inn.

Tuesday
Transfer by hotel shuttle bus to the airport for departing Caribbean Airways flight.

RATES 2016

Rack Rate:
US$ 2,594.00 per person, minimum 2 persons
US$ 2,244.00 per person, minimum 3 persons
US$ 1,873.00 per person, minimum 4 persons

Single Supplement: US$ 305.00
Rate Includes:
- airport transfer
- double or twin accommodation
- meals as indicated
- local guides
- activities as described
- all road transfers

Not Included:
- international flights
- visa’s
- departure tax
- items of a personal nature
- alcoholic drinks

FRENCH GUIANA EXTENSION 2

Saturday  We make an early start to comfortably pace ourselves through the journey. The first leg of our travels takes us eastbound along Suriname's coastal road, a throughway that is intermittently getting a much-needed facelift, to Albina border station. Formalities here rarely take more than a few minutes, and soon we find ourselves in Piaka canoe crossing the Maroni River headed for French Guiana or "Guyane" as it is frequently (and confusingly) called locally.

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Afternoon city tour of Saint Laurent Du Maroni and Camp de la Transportation where we will make a brief visit to the well-preserved Transportation Center. The facility once served as the transit point for slaves and indentured servants imported from overseas and destined for plantations throughout South America and the Caribbean. A hard-to-miss curiosity just offshore is the British steamer Edith Cavel shipwreck, so overgrown with trees and shrubs that it could be mistaken for a natural island. It partially sank
in bad weather in 1924. Transfer to Cayenne. Overnight at Hotel Amazonia. B

**Sunday**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Cacao (H’mong village in the jungle, 60km from Cayenne), visit the market, the village and plantations. After tour transfer back to the hotel. Overnight at Hotel Amazonia. B

**Monday**

This morning we will do a city tour of Cayenne, which is the administrative and commercial center of French Guiana. At the same time, it is a typical creole town with about 50,000 inhabitants, half of the entire population of the country. The Fort Cépérou, the Place Léopold Heder, the hotel of the Jésuites, the Place de Grenoble, the Place des Palmistes, the colonial hospital, the Franconie Museum, the town hall and the city center are the gems of Cayenne. We will also visit the traditional market, full of exotic odors, as well as an opportunity for shopping.

After tour transfer to Kourou to the Center Spatiale Guyanaise (Guyana Space Center) for a tour. Launch schedules are a closely-held secret so our schedule today may be amended on short notice. The usual tour includes a motorcoach tour which criss-crosses the center's mammoth facility, including stops at various assembly buildings and control centers. The entire tour is offered in French, but your guide will supply translations as often as possible.

Our day concludes at the Hotel des Roches, resting on a tiny finger of sand jutting into the Kourou river where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. The tower adjacent to the hotel, Dreyfus Tower, was a communication link to the Îles du Salut: its rocky perch serves as a perfect place to relax during sunset. Overnight at Hotel des Roches. B

**Tuesday**

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quarters, and today, a good restaurant and lodging facilities. Ironically, the actual Île du Diable (Devil's Island) is inaccessible to visitors due to dangerous shoreline conditions. This is the island where the prison's best-known occupant, Alfred Dreyfus, was famously secluded.

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Wednesday  After breakfast transfer by vehicle for the Suriname border via St. Laurent de Maroni and cross by small boat. Transfer to Paramaribo. Overnight at Eco Resort Inn. B

Thursday  Transfer by hotel shuttle bus to the airport for departing Caribbean Airways flight. B

RATES 2016

Rack Rate:  
US$ 4,063.00 per person, minimum 2 persons  
US$ 3,478.00 per person, minimum 3 persons  
US$ 2,895.00 per person, minimum 4 persons

Single Supplement: US$489.00

Rate Includes:
- airport transfer
- double or twin accommodation
- meals as indicated
- local guides
- activities as described
- all road transfers

Not Included:
- international flights
- visa’s
- departure tax
- items of a personal nature
- alcoholic drinks