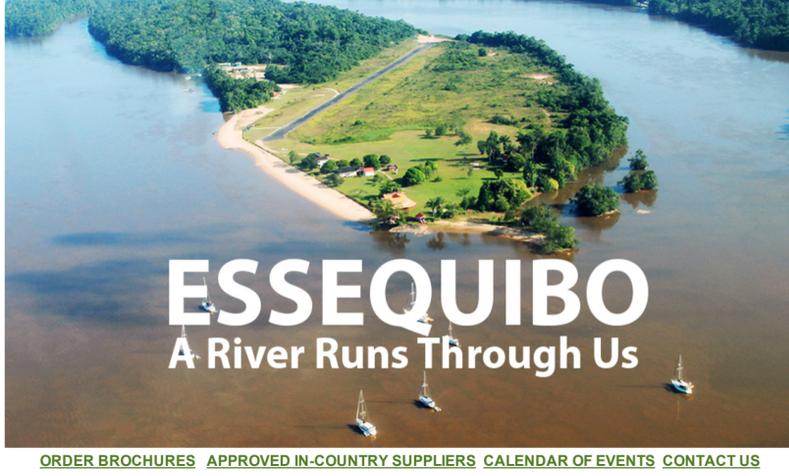




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Dear Colleague,

The Essequibo (Ess-see-qui-bow) River is one of Guyana's national treasures. It runs the length of the entire country, beginning on the southern border with Brazil, and flowing all the way north to where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Caribbean. Like so much of [Guyana](#), the Essequibo is brimming with a mind-boggling array of mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles.

Though not nearly so overwhelming, there's also a bit of evidence of human history on the river. Two centuries-old Dutch forts speak to the strategic importance of the Essequibo during colonial times. The river has an estimated 365 islands, a handful of which are home to river resorts and other accommodation, as well as resident wildlife.

There is definitely adventure to be found on the Essequibo, the longest river in South America's only English-speaking country.

Warmly,

**Jane Behrend**

Lead Representative, North America



## PERSON OF THE MONTH MALCOLM RHODIUS

"I am a child of the Essequibo," says Malcolm Rhodius. And today, the 23-year-old native of Bartica is able to share the river of his youth—where he learned to swim and catch fish—with travellers to Guyana. Malcolm is a tour guide with [Evergreen Adventures](#). He's worked there for two years while he continues to study tourism at the University of Guyana. He truly loves his work: "I love interacting with people," he says. "Being able to share what Guyana has to offer—the warmth, the people, the wildlife—is really a gift to me."

## FEATURED ITINERARY

### River & Resort Adventure

This 3-day tour is brimming with activities and adventure along the Essequibo River. Your journey will take you to centuries-old forts and waterfalls. You'll spend two nights at the Baganara Island Resort, where you can be as active, or relaxed as you please. Of course, you'll encounter a vast array of Essequibo wildlife, all before boarding a small plane to finish your trip at Guyana's iconic Kaieteur Falls.



[See Full Itinerary](#)

## A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US



The Essequibo is the longest river in Guyana. It begins on the southern border with Brazil, then meanders its way north over 600 miles to meet the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, it provides infinite opportunity for adventure.

Most Essequibo journeys begin at the small but busy town of Bartica. Situated about 50 miles south of Georgetown, where the Mazaruni and Cuyuni Rivers feed into the Essequibo, Bartica provides the ideal jumping off point. Bartica is an indigenous word meaning "Red Earth," a reference to the abundance of red clay in the area. Bartica, which is in the process of becoming a model Green Town, provides a good feel for what life is like in Guyana's hinterland communities.

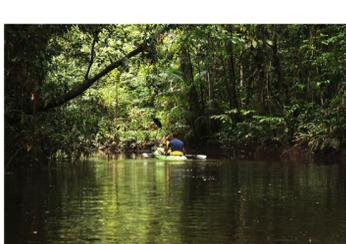
Jumping into a river boat, and heading north, you'll soon come upon the ruins of Fort Kyk-Over-Al. Built in 1616 by the Dutch (translation: "See Over All"), the fort represented a strategic defensive position on the river, and thus became the focus of many a battle between the Dutch, English and French. Nearby, on Fort Island, you will come across Fort Zeelandia Built in 1744, Fort Zeelandia has withstood the ravages of time better than Kyk-Over-Al with many of its structures still intact. This is definitely a highlight.



If it's islands you want, the Essequibo has about 365 - one for every day of the year, the largest of which is Hogg Island (23 square miles) with a population of 250 and located near the river's mouth. Baganara Island is home to the Baganara Island Resort, a comfortable and relaxing getaway from the always-on world. And every evening, hundreds of parrots flock to Parrot Island, where they roost, dine and create a chorus of incessant chattering.

If you're looking for more adventure, simply look upstream where there are a variety of other river resorts along the river's path. These offer numerous adventures waiting to be had - hikes and treks, canoeing, sustainable sport fishing, and much more...

Of course, the banks of the Essequibo teem with a diversity of wildlife found only in a pristine rainforest. Herons, hawks, kingfishers, egrets and cormorants swoop along the shores, searching for one of the river's 300 species of fish. Giant river otters dash in and out of the water, and while you may not see any jaguars, rest assured if they are present, they see you.



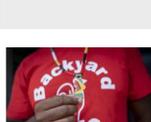
The Essequibo River is Guyana's grandest, and one that is ripe for rewarding exploration.

## VIDEO OF THE MONTH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

This short video provides a first-hand look at the striking contrast between life on the Essequibo River, and the hustle bustle of Georgetown. It's well worth a look.



## GUYANA IN THE NEWS



**The Crowded Planet gives us [14 Reasons Why Guyana is South America's Best Secret](#)**

"Guyana is unique in South America (and in the world!) for many reasons – and it's truly one of the world's best offbeat travel destinations."



**Bloomberg Businessweek says that [Guyana is demonstrating that preservation can be profitable](#)**

"With the help of international donors, Guyana, a country of fewer than 750,000 people, is pioneering an approach to protecting the trees that cover more than four-fifths of its surface."



**The Daily Mail (UK) suggests you can unplug by staying at a [Remote Jungle Eco-Lodge in the Guyana rainforest](#)**

"Talk about off the beaten track. If you want to stay at the Rewa Eco-Lodge in Guyana you'll need to go to considerable trouble. The only way of reaching it is to take a chartered plane from the Guyanese capital of Georgetown to Annai, two hours away, then travel by boat for a couple of hours along the Rewa River."

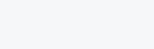


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