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# Vacation as a matter of SURVIVAL

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Dear Colleague,

In all candor, jungle survival is not my cup of tea. It is, however, the reason scores of people visit Guyana every year. It is to those hearty souls—and their jungle-savvy guides—we dedicate this newsletter. Read on to learn how they will spend two weeks in Guyana's vast tropical jungle wilderness, fending for themselves in an environment that has not been sanitized or homogenized, but truly is nature in the raw at its best. Guyana is one of the few places left on Earth today where such an adventure is even possible.

In other news, [Guyana](#) was just named the 'Best in Sustainable Tourism' destination at the 9th annual LATA Achievement Awards in London. We are extremely proud and excited to receive another prominent award from our peers and invite you to #discoverguyana and experience what all the fuss is about.

Warmly,

Jane Behrend  
Lead Representative, North America

## Upcoming Webinars

- Guyana, Nature's Beating Heart | [Register Here](#)
- Wildlife of Guyana | [Register Here](#)
- Jungle Survival Course in Guyana | [Register Here](#)



## PERSON OF THE MONTH LIONEL JAMES

If you don't know what you're doing, the jungle can be an unforgiving place. Fortunately, Lionel James knows exactly what he's doing. The 51-year-old jungle adventure guide was born, raised and still resides in the village of Surama (population 304). In addition to leading survival tours, Lionel frequently ventures into the nearby jungle to fish and hunt. Oh, and he makes his own bows and arrows. There was, however, one time when Lionel left the jungle. In 2017, he was featured on the BBC reality show, "The Life Swap Adventure," where he traded places with a London-based civil servant. While Lionel appreciated the big city—especially its technological conveniences—he's more than

happy to be back home in Surama.

## FEATURED ITINERARY

### Guyana Jungle Survival

The Bushmasters Jungle Survival course takes you to the jungles of Amazonia, 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*. In some of the most pristine and untouched primary jungle in the world, you will learn how to survive from just what is around you and then your skills will be put to the test! This is not a typical itinerary, because this is not a typical trip. So get ready!



[See Full Itinerary](#)

## VACATION AS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL



### It's not for everyone.

Many people come to Guyana to stay in eco-lodges operated by members of an indigenous community and learn their way of life—it's not for them.

A lot of folks enjoy taking a small boat down the Rupununi or Essequibo Rivers, cataloguing a wide variety of birds and wildlife. It's not for them, either.

No, jungle survival in Guyana is for those that want to push themselves to their mental and physical limits in one of the planet's most beautiful, biodiverse—and perilous—environments.

Bushmasters has been offering jungle survival trips in Guyana since 2005. "We deliver hard adventure," says the company's founder Ian Craddock. "Physically hard and mentally hard."



If you take a jungle survival trip in Guyana, you can expect two weeks of sleeping in hammocks, carrying everything you need on your back, hunting down your dinner and cooking it on a fire you started without matches. Seriously, it's not for everyone, but for those of you who hear the calling, you will have the adventure of a lifetime.



Every Bushmasters jungle survival trip is led by Ian & local guides, who are intimately familiar with the ways of the jungle.

Craddock reports his guests range from age 12 to 72. They come from all walks of life—from surgeons to brick layers. They are united by a desire to disconnect from the modern world and get a closer connection with nature. "They are looking for extremes," Craddock says, "and the jungle is as extreme as it gets."

Jungle survival trips in Guyana are not for everyone, but if hard adventure is what you're looking for, look no further.

## VIDEO OF THE MONTH SURVIVAL COURSE

This short video from Bushmasters will give you a good idea of what it's like to take their two-week Jungle Survival Course. Just kidding. An experience like that would be impossible to capture on film, but it's still worth a look



## GUYANA IN THE NEWS



### Breaking Travel News (UK) offers a story on how [Guyana continues to grow as a destination of choice for travelers](#)

"For the first time, Guyana has seen a significant increase in some of its core source markets such as the US (8.28 per cent increase), Europe (11.82 per cent increase) and other Caribbean nations (28 per cent increase)."



### Guyana wins the 'Best in Sustainable Tourism' at LATA Achievement Awards

"The Guyana Tourism Authority was awarded for its comprehensive approach to sustainable tourism and for launching a community-led framework and toolkit aimed at helping indigenous communities to access the benefits of tourism."



### The Thrillist says that Guyana is [South America's Best-Kept Secret](#)

"Forget about the well-trod tourist trail through Costa Rica, Peru, and Brazil -- Guyana's untouched interior offers the ultimate nature fix. Guyana may be the least visited corner of South America...the country simply does not fit the usual backpacker circuit."



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