

DISTINCTIVE
AMERICAS

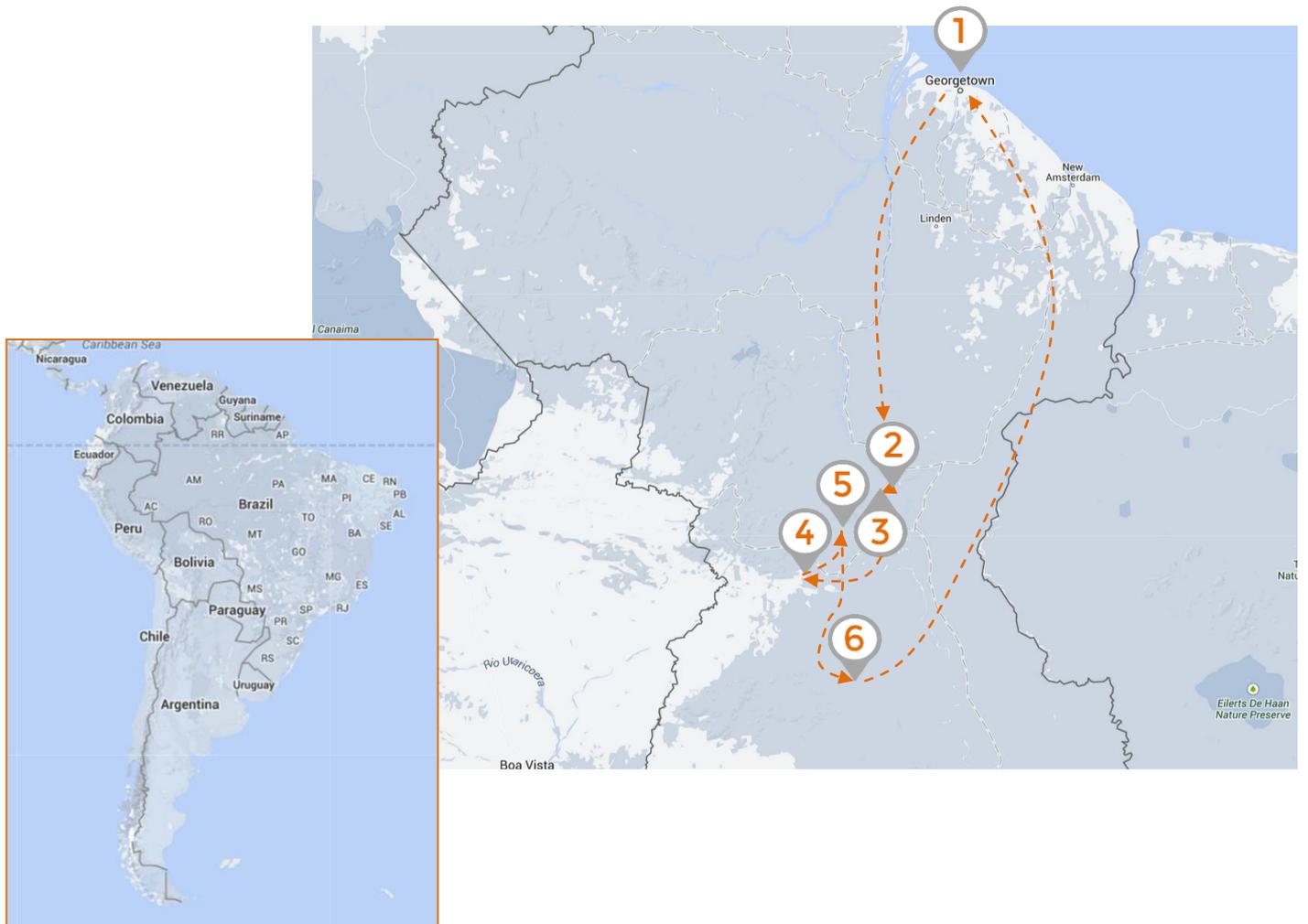


Classic Guyana

16-days / 15-nights

Itinerary Summary

No.	Date	Location	Details	Meals	Hotel	Nts
1	Day 01	GEORGETOWN	Arrive in Georgetown	-	Cara Lodge	2
	Day 02		Flying excursion to Kaieteur Falls	B		
2	Day 03	IWOKRAMA	Excursion and transfer to the Iwokrama Rainforest	BLD	Iwokrama River Lodge	2
	Day 04		Activities from the Lodge	BLD		
	Day 05		Activities en-route to your next Lodge	BLD	Atta Rainforest Lodge	2
	Day 06		Day at leisure	BLD		
3	Day 07	SURAMA	Activities en-route to your next Lodge	BLD	Surama Eco-Lodge	2
	Day 08		Activities from the Lodge	BLD		
4	Day 09	ANNAI	Activities en-route to your next Lodge	BLD	Rock View Lodge	2
	Day 10		Activities from the Lodge	BLD		
5	Day 11	KARANAMBU	Activities en-route to your next Lodge	BLD	Karanambu Lodge	2
	Day 12		Day at leisure	BLD		
6	Day 13	YUPUKARI	Activities en-route to your next Lodge	BLD	Caiman House	1
1	Day 14	GEORGETOWN	Morning at leisure then transfer to Georgetown	B	Cara Lodge	1
	Day 15	DEPART	Meet the return flights to the UK	B	-	
	Day 16	HEATHROW	Arrive back in the UK		-	



Detailed Itinerary



Day 01 DEPART - GEORGETOWN

Depart Heathrow flying with Caribbean Airlines.



BW903 Economy Dep: Gatwick 11:50
BW483 Economy Dep: Port of Spain 20:35

Arr: Port of Spain 17:50
Arr: Georgetown 21:45

Private transfer on arrival to your hotel.

Cara Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 2-nights

Cara Lodge was built in the 1840s and originally consisted of two houses. As the home of the first Lord Mayor of Georgetown, over the years, it has hosted many dignitaries including Edward VII who stayed at the house in 1923 and planted the sapodilla tree in the front garden to mark the occasion. In recent years the home has become a unique hotel offering tradition and nostalgia whilst offering the comfort and services of a modern hotel. All the rooms reflect the traditional building style of Guyana.



Day 02 GEORGETOWN



Flying excursion to Kaieteur Falls

After breakfast at your hotel meet a transfer to the in-town airport at Ogle Aerodrome for a schedule flight over the Demerara and Essequibo Rivers and hundreds of miles of unbroken tropical rainforest to land at Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall. At 228 meters, Kaieteur is nearly five times the height of Niagara Falls. Here you may see White-chinned and White-tipped Swifts swirling over the gorge, and the astonishingly colourful Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock.



Day 03 GEORGETOWN - ANNAI - IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST



Shared excursion and transfer to the Iwokrama Rainforest

After an early rise, the day starts with a transfer to Ogle Airstrip for a flight across the rainforest to Annai. After a breakfast stop at the Rock View Lodge you will then be transferred by 4x4 vehicle or 4x4 Bedford Truck (converted with forward facing seats and canopy) to Iwokrama River Lodge.

The Iwokrama Rainforest is a vast wilderness of one million acres. This protected area was established in 1996 as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. The Iwokrama Forest is in the heart of one of four last untouched tropical forests of the world - The Guiana Shield of North-Eastern South America. Iwokrama was established as a living laboratory for tropical forest management because the unsustainable utilisation of these forests will result in the extinction of half the world's plant and animal species and unknown changes to global climate. This is a protected area with a difference - the full involvement of people. Iwokrama is exceptional among conservation organisations because it joins with local people in every aspect of its work. From research to business, Iwokrama ensures local economic and social benefits from forest use and conservation. The Forest is in the homeland of the Makushi people, who have lived here and used the forest for thousands of years.

You will have an afternoon free to explore the trails around the river lodge with an Iwokrama Ranger. Iwokrama is home to many bird species.

Shared evening nocturnal animal & bird watching excursion

After dark, you'll set out on the river, in hopes of finding one or another of its four species of caiman, and listen for nightbirds such as Spectacled Owl, White-winged Potoo, Rufous Potoo, Long-tailed Potoo, Zigzag Heron or Blackish Nightjar. You will most certainly snakes including Cox boa, tree frogs and if lucky maybe some mammals. Maybe even a puma or capybara.

Iwokrama River Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full board basis for 2-nights

Located in the Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve, Iwokrama River Lodge offers 8 rooms all with a balcony, a dining area, an outdoor seating area and a view of the river. At Iwokrama River Lodge you will find a bar, a snack bar and a restaurant serving regional delicacies. Other facilities offered at the property include a shared lounge, a tour desk and on-site shops.



Day 04 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST



Making an early start you will embark on the Essequibo and circumnavigate Indian House Island giving you the chance to hear the stunning dawn chorus on the river. Returning to the River Lodge for breakfast.

After breakfast, you will leave the river lodge for the journey to Turtle Mountain, and an exhilarating climb up the mountain to its summit at 935ft (approx. 360m). It takes 1 3/4hrs to walk up the mountain. The breathtaking views over the forest canopy when you get to the top are more than worth the effort, and there is the chance of seeing Green Aracari, White Bellbird or a fly-by of one of five types of Eagles. This trail is also a great location for seeing Black Spider Monkey and Red Howler Monkey and if we are very lucky even a Jaguar. This pristine forest offers huge buttress trees and the endemic Greenheart trees. Return to the River Lodge for lunch.

As the afternoon cools you set out on a boat trip to visit Kurupukari Falls to see the Amerindian petroglyphs (dependent on the water level). Continue by boat for a refreshing drink at Michelle Island overlooking the rapids (clients to pay for own drinks). Return to the lodge for dinner and another overnight stay.



Day 05 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST



At dawn take a wildlife walk with an Iwokrama Ranger close to the River Lodge. After breakfast you will be transferred by 4 x 4 along the trail that is one of the best places to see the elusive Jaguar. The Iwokrama forest is rapidly gaining an international reputation for its healthy jaguar populations that seem not to be troubled by the appearance of curious humans. No promises, but many have been lucky! Along the road, you will see a myriad of bird species that frequent the forest edge, including Crimson and Purple-necked Fruit-crow & Crimson Topaz. This road is the only north – south access in Guyana and links the country to Brazil. Even so traffic is only very occasional and wildlife is often seen along the road, such as Agouti, Tayra, Puma, Tapir and Black Curassow.



Day 05 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST ...



The journey concludes at the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway where you can bird watch from the vantage of 30 Metres up in the canopy. Painted Parakeet, Rufous-throated Sapphire, Guianan Puffbird, Green Aracari, Waved Woodpecker, Pygmy Antwren, Guianan Streaked-Antwren, Dusky Purpleletuft, Purple-breasted Cotinga, Guianan Toucanet, Pompadour Cotinga, Buff-cheeked Greenlet, Caica Parrots, and a host of crown specialists may come within our view. From this tree top vantage you can sometimes see Red Howler Monkeys and Black Spider Monkeys. The trails also have an interpretative walk with the trees named and you can learn about their varied uses in the Macushi culture. Deer and agouti are also regular visitors to the lodge. As dark falls on the Canopy Walkway, we will hope to see the White-winged Potoo. Continue on to you lodge

Atta Rainforest Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

The Atta Rainforest Lodge is situated approximately 500 metres from the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway. The lodge grounds are completely surrounded by tropical rainforest which offers a complete immersion in the rainforest experience. The main building is open sided with views across the gardens to the towering forest on all sides. This building houses the bar, dining area and kitchen.





Day 06 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST

Day at leisure.



Although the forest around Atta Lodge is excellent for birds, the major attraction here is a 154 metre long canopy walkway which is only 750m from the lodge. The walkway has four platforms, the highest of which is over 30 metres above the ground, and these will allow you to get great looks at a range of canopy species. Amongst the likely highlights are Painted, Brown-throated and Golden-winged Parakeets. Another area where we will want to spend some time is the clearing around the lodge, as this is one of the best places to see another of Guyana’s “must see” birds, the Crimson Fruitcrow.



Day 07 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST



Welcome the dawn chorus from the canopy walkway. Short-tailed Nighthawks settle in for the day, and Swifts take to the sky. After breakfast travel by 4x4 vehicle or 4x4 Bedford Truck to a trail in the Iwokrama Forest to hopefully see the amazingly brilliant Guianian Cock-of-the-rock. This trail is through interesting forest and along the way the guides will demonstrate the use of some of the plants that grow there. Continue your trip onto the Amerindian village of Surama.

The village of Surama is situated in a small savannah, deep in the rainforest and surrounded by forest clad hills. It was here that Charles Waterton passed through in 1812 in search of the secrets of the useful Wourali poison known as Curare. Waterton was so stunned by this spot that he wrote in his memoirs “The finest park that England boasts falls short of this delightful scene”. Surama’s inhabitants are mainly from the Macushi tribe and still observe many of the traditional practices of their forebears.



Day 07 IWOKRAMA RAINFOREST – SURAMA ...

On your arrival, you will receive a warm welcome from the local people and will be shown to your basic accommodation. Your guide will take you on a tour of the village. Visit the local school, medical centre and church along with some of the village houses. As the afternoon cools a local guide will escort you for a short walk on trails to observe the forest and bird life. See the forest through the eyes of your indigenous guide and learn about the medicinal plants and their uses in the Amerindian culture. Tonight enjoy an educational walk to observe wildlife and experience the mystique of the forest after dark.

Surama Eco-Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

Accommodation at Surama Eco-Lodge is simple, basic, clean, and comfortable. Set at the western edge of the main village, Surama Eco-Lodge is perched atop a meadow facing a thick forest wall, creating a perfect opportunity to view birds, monkeys, and even the occasional jaguar. The majestic Pakaraima Mountains, often shrouded in mist, rise above the canopy and strike a brilliant contrast against the pure forest air. Other than the full-time lodge manager, the staff of their lodge is comprised of village residents who spend part of their week tending to the lodge and the hospitality needs of visitors. You will be treated like a guest in their home, enjoying food prepared by local villagers and getting to know the ways of their world

The four octagonal guest benabs (cottages) built in the traditional grass-roof Makushi style. These four benabs surround the main community benab. Each benab can sleep up to three adults .



Day 08 SURAMA



Rise before dawn for a walk across the savannah and then the exhilarating climb up Surama Mountain in the cool morning air. This is the best time to observe bird life along the trail. Breakfast will be served at a lookout point which affords incredible views across the village and savannah to the Pakaraima Mountains. Return to village for lunch and then take a three mile walk across the savannah and through the rainforest to the Burro Burro River. Your guides will then paddle you on the Burro Burro River for opportunities to observe Giant River Otters, Tapir, Tira, Spider Monkeys and many more species. Return to village for sunset.



Day 09 SURAMA - ANNAI

After breakfast depart Surama by 4x4 vehicle or 4x4 Bedford Truck for Rock View Lodge at Annai. The road travels through the savannah and the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains with excellent opportunity for savannah birding. Jabiru Stork are often seen along this stretch of road. Eventually reach the Rupununi and Annai, its northernmost community. The Rupununi Savannah is to Guyana what the Gran Sabana is to Venezuela, an extensive area of grassland with termite mounds and scattered or riparian woodland. It differs in that much of it is devoted to cattle rearing, though the large ranches are not very productive. Indeed, one can travel for hours without seeing a domestic animal of any sort. Needless to say, the birdlife here is markedly different from that of the rainforest.

Rock View Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

Nestled between the Amerindian villages of Annai and Rupertee where the Pakaraima foothills meet the tropical rainforest, Rock View Lodge offers comfortable lodging, outdoor and cultural activities, authentic Amerindian hospitality, and access to everything that central Guyana has to offer. The Lodge offers 8 private guest rooms there is a restaurant serving home-cooked food and numerous activities are able to be booked through the lodge.



Day 10 ANNAI



At dawn take a hike in the foothills of the Pakaraima Mountains on the Panorama Trail where you might see Cinereous Mourner, Finsch's Euphonia, Reddish Hermit, Rufous-bellied Antwren, Green-tailed and Yellow-billed Jacamar. The views across the savannah and villages as the sun rises are spectacular. Today you can visit a nearby Amerindian village. Enjoy an explanation and demonstration of traditional cashew nut roasting. Finish the day with drinks around the pool.



Day 11 ANNAI - KARANAMBU



After breakfast transfer by 4x4 vehicle along the road through the savannah to Ginep Landing. Jabiru Stork and Toco Toucan are often seen along this stretch of road, as are Red Howler and Spider Monkey. From Ginep Landing we take a boat trip on the Rupununi River to Karanambu Lodge. Depending on the river level, this trip offers an excellent opportunity to look for Giant Otters as there are several family groups which live along this stretch of the Rupununi River. The journey ends at Karanambu Lodge, the home of Diane McTurk, widely known for her work in rehabilitating orphaned, giant river otters. Diane and her otters have appeared on National Geographic & The Really Wild Show (BBC). Late in the afternoon you will travel by boat to look for wild Giant River Otters and as dusk falls to the ponds to see the giant Victoria Regis waterlily, bloom at dusk. On the return trip we will spotlight for Black Caiman and birds and creatures of the night.

Karanambu Lodge



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 2-nights

The Karanambu Lodge is an eco-tourist, made up of approximately 110-square miles of savannah, marshy ponds, riparian forest, and a 30-mile stretch of the Rupununi River. The Lodge provides guests with the opportunity to experience the wildlife of Karanambu. And is also the home of Diane McTurk, conservationist and world-renowned expert on giant otters. Diane's legendary hospitality is extended to every guest, even when Diane is not at home.

With a bird list of over 600 species, Karanambu is a birdwatcher's paradise. The Lodge also provides excellent viewing opportunities of giant river otters, giant black caiman and giant anteaters. The evening ritual of watching the giant water lily, *Victoria amazonica*, open is a memorable experience.

Accommodations consist of six traditional clay brick and thatched cabins. Each private cabin can accommodate two people, your home away from home includes, a berandah with hammock, private shower and flushing toilet, complimentary turn down and laundry daily, drinking water along with other basic amenities provided, 24 hour Electricity is 100% SOLAR, (there is also a back up generator in the event it is ever needed).



Day 12 KARANAMBU

Day at leisure.



This morning why not explore the area surrounding the lodge. If you are interested in birdwatching you can explore woodland patches or gallery forest along the river where we'll hope to find such species as Spotted Puffbird, Striped Woodcreeper, Pale-bellied Tyrant-Manakin, Golden-spangled Piculet, Bearded Tachuri and Capuchinbird. A feature bird for the area is Agami Heron.



Day 13 KARANAMBU - YUPUKARI



This morning travel out onto the savannah of search a Giant Anteater. After breakfast explore the Rupununi River in search of wild Giant River Otters, Black Caiman, Arapaima and bird watching along the way whilst being transferred by boat to the Amerindian village of Yupukari and Caiman House.

Caiman House is the hub of several development projects. Visitors may have the opportunity to meet local craftspeople, including the furniture builders at Yupukari Crafters, a nonprofit venture to create village jobs and generate income to sustain educational development.

Tonight enjoy a foray on the Rupununi River from Caiman House Field Station. As a guest you have the unique opportunity to support and participate in an ongoing field study of the Black Caiman (*melanosuchus niger*), the largest member of the alligator family and an endangered species. You will observe the capture from a separate boat, but will be offered the opportunity to assist in data collection. Caiman are weighed, measured, sexed and tagged before being released back into the river. The research has already discovered interesting information on caimans' nests that was previously unknown.



Day 13 KARANAMBU – YUPUKARI ...



During periods of high water it is difficult to capture Caiman so you will have another chance to enter the nocturnal world of the Rupununi River and associated gallery forests which offer an experience, and world of wildlife entirely different than those viewed on a day trip. Skilled guides will expertly escort you to meet elusive denizens of darkness by outboard powered boats, while interpreting the sights, and sounds of Guyana after dark. Just after darkness settles on the River many creatures emerge such as black caiman (to over 12 feet), spectacled caiman, tree boas, iguanas, frogs, and many fish species(i.e arrawana, piranha). Sleeping birds (kingfishers, small perching birds) nightjars, potoos, Boat-billed Herons and other aquatic birds, bats, (harmless) spiders, insects, moths, and more can be closely approached in way not possible during the hours of light. Less likely, but not rare inclusions for night viewing include possums, tree dwelling rodents, capybara and sleeping monkeys (esp. squirrel monkeys) amongst other mammals.

Caiman House



1 x Standard Room on a Full Board basis for 1-night

Accommodation is in a specially built guest lodge building that features five separate bedrooms with private bath. Rooms are spacious and tastefully minimalist, in keeping with the local environment, while offering all the basic amenities of 24-hour electricity, running hot and cold water, and one of the fastest internet connections you'll find in the Rupununi. Meals are home-cooked and served family-style in the adjacent dining benab... stories and adventures are shared at a communal table with hearty, locally-sourced foods enjoyed by guests, lodge staff, guides, members of the community, and the Caiman Project research staff.



Day 14 YUPUKARI - GEORGETOWN

Morning at leisure.

Perhaps visit the village, to learn about their way of life, or go birdwatching in search of the many good savannah, gallery forest and river-edge birds found in the Caiman House area including Pinnated Bittern, Green-tailed Jacamar, Black-chinned Antbird and Capuchinbird.



Day 14 YUPUKARI – GEORGETOWN ...

After breakfast take a flight back to Georgetown.



TBA Economy Dep: Yupukari TBA Arr: Georgetown TBA



Afternoon city tour of Georgetown

Georgetown is the chief port, capital and largest city of Guyana. It is situated on the right Bank of the Demerara River Estuary. It was chosen as a site for a fort to guard the early Dutch settlements of the Demerara River. The city of Georgetown was designed largely by the Dutch and is laid out in a rectangular pattern with wide tree lined avenues and irrigation canals that criss cross the city.

During your visit to Georgetown there are a number of interesting sights that should not be missed. The most famous being St. George’s Cathedral. The Cathedral is one of the world’s tallest free standing wooden buildings and was consecrated on 1892.



Cara Lodge
1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 1-night



Day 15 DEPART

Transfer to the airport for your return flights to the UK with Caribbean Airlines.



BW903	Economy	Dep: Georgetown 14:40	Arr: Port of Spain 15:50
BW483	Economy	Dep: Port of Spain 19:40	Arr: Gatwick 09:00 (Day 16)



Day 16 UK

Arrive back in the UK.



Holiday Cost

from £4,895.00 per person

20% deposit is required to secure this booking

Suggested Itinerary

- This is just a suggested itinerary which we can amend to fit your exact requirements.

Includes

- International flights as listed.
- All pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Hotel accommodation as listed.
- Transfers as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- Meals as listed.
- Excursions as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).

Excludes

- Local departure taxes where applicable.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Any future currency surcharges.
- Any future airline fare, tax or fuel surcharges.*

**In the event of airfare /tax increases you will have the option to pay for your airfare in advance to avoid these increases.*

Please Note

- The cost of this itinerary is based on 2 passengers sharing one room.
- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Air fares, taxes, schedules and routings are subject to change until ticket issue.

Booking Conditions

- Usually a deposit of 20% is required to secure a booking.
- The final balance would be due 10 weeks prior to departure.
- You can review our full booking conditions at: www.distinctiveamericas.com

Financial & Consumer Protection

- When you book with Distinctive World Travel you are safe in the knowledge that we are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority and hold an Air Tour Operators Licence (ATOL 9027).

www.caa.co.uk/ATOL9027

- We are a member of AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators) which represents the UK's 140 top specialist tour operators and prides itself on providing the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on: Choice, Quality and Service.

www.aito.co.uk

For more information or to discuss this quote please contact us on:

t: 01242 890 555

e: sales@distinctiveamericas.com

www.distinctiveamericas.com