

The last Vaquero (cowboy)

Relive the days of old as a Cowboy (or girl) in beautiful Guyana!!! Times are changing for the Vaquero's (cowboys) of the Savannas' and they need your help! Due to government policies they are no longer to sell their cattle outside of the Savannas' leaving them with no income and now they are on the brink of abandoning their centuries old lifestyle.

The Last Vaquero

***Did you ever dream** to live the life of a cowboy? This is your chance! Go back in to time in remote and beautiful Guyana and help to sustain the way of their centuries old lifestyle by rebuilding the ranches and help them set up basic eco-tourism facilities.*

2 weeks
CA\$ 1700
exl. Flights



Location: Guyana (Amazon)
Language: English
Continent: South America
Type: community
Duration: 2 weeks
Room & Board: Included



This is why:

- Venture in to the amazing savannas of South America and help out on a local remote cattle ranch
- Sleep in hammocks in and wake up to serenade of awaking wildlife
- Volunteer with local Vaquero's (cowboys) to work on sustainable eco-tourism and protect their way of life
- Live on a rustic ranch & help real cowboys
- Taste the freshest beef you'll ever eat
- Visit the famous Rupununi festival; wild bulls, bucking broncos and buckets of beer! (included)



General Facts:

Key Start Dates	23 rd April, 2011 (other start dates available on request)
Duration	2 weeks
Average Work hours	8 hours per day,
Accommodation	Included
Housing Type	If staying overnight in Georgetown/Lethem (maximum 1 night); shared rooms, while on the ranch; your own private hammock!
Meals	During your stay in Georgetown Meals are not included (maximum 1 day), while in at the ranch food will be included.
Group size	2 weeks: 10 volunteers, 1 coordinator
Internet Access	Only in Georgetown (maximum 1 night)
Who are we looking for?	Adventurer's individuals who have an interest in the outdoors and who do not mind to get wet and dirty while working for a good cause.

Package inclusions:

Inclusions:	Details
Placement	The last Vaquero
Rupununi Rodeo	Visit a the famous rodeo/cowboy festival
Accommodation	If staying overnight in Georgetown/Lethem (maximum 1 night); shared rooms, while on the ranch; your own private hammock!
Meals	During your stay in Georgetown Meals are not included (maximum 1 day), while in at the ranch food will be included.
Volunteer station pick up & drop off	An employee of the project will pick you up from the airport in Georgetown and will bring you to your accommodation. At the end of your stay you will be brought to the airport.
Transfers	From Georgetown you will be transfer to the volunteer project first by bus followed by a in a 4 X 4 or boat depending on the road conditions. You will return back to the airport the same way.
Ongoing service	If there are any problems with your volunteer project both INTERNeX and your host organization are always there to help.
24/7 Emergency contact/helpline	If there are any problems during you stay in Guyana you can reach us 24/7 and our in country coordinator to assist you.

Package Price:

14 days: 1700 CA\$

What's not included?

Flights, Insurance

The volunteer experience

This great experience will take you to the golden Savannas' of Guyana a magnificent place where Vaquero's with its horses and cattle have lived in co-existence with the local wildlife for many centuries. It was here once even Frank James (Jesse James older brother) use to gallop through the vast planes.

However times are changing for the Vaquero's (cowboys) of the Savannas' and they need your help! Due to government policies they are no longer to sell their cattle outside of the Savannas' leaving them with barely any income and now they are on the brink of abounding their centuries old lifestyle.

Your help is needed to set up eco-tourism facilities for visitors so that the ranchers can make a living to sustain their ranch. Starting May 2011 the ranch will host an annual camp for school children (funded by the US Peace Corps). However as the ranch is in need of renovation as well as many facilities are missing a lot of work needs to get done. The main project for our volunteer will be building a Barracon (a longhouse building where the children/visitors will receive their meals and briefings) and a horse coral that have to be completed by May 2011 before the school kids arrive.

During the volunteer experience while on the ranch and in the savannas' you will sleep in hammocks and share this great experience with local ranchers. We concentrate on things that work, not that look fancy. This is the real stuff! Are you ready for and adventure learn about exotic cultures and spot a variety of different wildlife while helping to preserve the way of the cowboy.

Task & Duties

The project starting April 11th will involve you to sustain the rancher's way of life as they struggle in their existence since the government of Guyana does no longer allow them to sell their cattle's meat along the coast while the Brazilian government does not allow the import of meat form Guyana. Only being able to sell their meat in the small town of Lethem near the Brazilian border in the west most ranchers struggle to keep their ranches going which have been in their family's possession for hundreds of years.

The main project for our volunteer will be building a Barracon (a longhouse building where the children/visitors will receive their meals and briefings) and a horse coral that have to be completed by May 2011 before the school kids arrive. The ranch currently has about 20 horses, all of whom are fed and bathed daily. Unfortunately the horse get real excited at feed time and the area around the ranch house is a bit of a mad house at feeding time. The ranch wants to build an old style, split wood coral to keep the horses in during feed time / when being saddled/ bathed after a ride and so on. The coral would also provide individual feed troughs for each horse – which will cut down on the fight for food a lot!

As a bonus and included in the costs the volunteers will be visiting the Rupununi Rodeo a great and awesome old school rodeo/cowboy festival.

While volunteering and working together with the ranchers you have an opportunity to learn more about their amazing culture and way of life. During your stay you will have lot's opportunities to view wildlife and you will get to learn some great ranching techniques dating from hundreds of years ago.

Guyana

With only 750,000 inhabitants and slightly smaller than the United Kingdom, Guyana is one of the most uninhabited countries in the world.

Guyana is on the north-east coast of South America bordered by Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south, Suriname to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the north. Though geographically part of South America, Guyana has a very Caribbean attitude and is closely tied to this region through communication, economic and sport links and is the headquarters of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Guyana is the only English-speaking nation in South America. The region was believed to have been settled around 900 AD by Warrau Indians. Sir Walter Raleigh's voyage in search of the gold of El Dorado and subsequent book in 1595 on the riches of Guyana did much to stimulate interest in the region by Europeans. Over the next few centuries Britain, France and Holland controlled Guyana at different times. The last colonial power was Britain. Guyana attained independence on 26 May 1966 and became a Republic on 23 Feb 1970.

Guyana is a little smaller than Britain, with some 80 per cent of land covered in virginal tropical rainforest. According to Conservation International, this region of the Amazon is home to the largest outstanding and undisturbed rainforest in the world. There are only four such areas remaining on the planet, the others being Papua New Guinea, the Congo and the Central Amazon basin. The other main natural vegetation is savannah grassland, split into two distinct areas; one in the south west of the country, the second in the north east. The main population areas are along the coast, with some 90 per cent of the 750,000 population living there. This harks back to colonial days when the coastal port facilities were widely used for the transportation of goods. The difficulty of movement within the country also had a major impact on this statistic. Guyana is known as the land of many waters, it is criss-crossed with waterways and hundreds of waterfalls. The mouth of the Essequibo river is as wide as the English Channel and Kaieteur Falls is the longest single drop waterfall in the world at 741 feet.

The main population mass is located in the capital city of Georgetown, situated on the Demerara River, where the renowned sugar is made. This is the centre of commerce, government and administration within the country. A few, but important, inland towns and a plethora of Amerindian villages are scattered in the hinterland. The jungle is amazing. There is some logging and mineral mining as in most other rainforest areas, but fortunately Guyana's jungle and savannas' for now have mostly been preserved. This means a vast area, almost untouched by modern man has been left to develop naturally. There is an abundance of wildlife and you probably have as good, if not a better chance of seeing this here than in almost any other rainforest region of the world.

