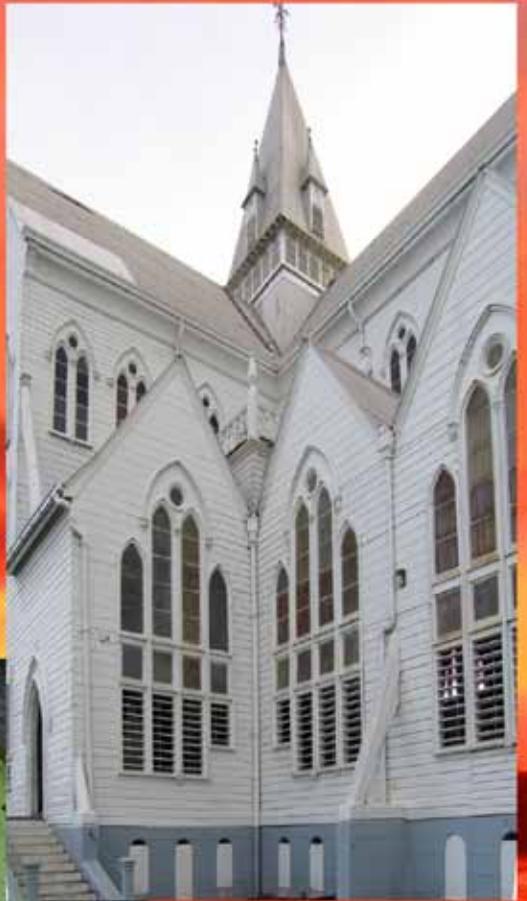




jaguar kitten

# CRUISING GUIDE TO GUYANA



Highest and oldest building in the world Georgetown,



Mother of all lily pads



Porknockers, Mariana Niehaus



## Guyana at a glance

### Regulations

See *Customs* in *Cruising information* and *Regulations* in *Anchorage in Guyana*.

You must proceed to a port of clearance (Bartica). Do not explore any other rivers (for example the Waini river on the border with Venezuela) without permission.

### Public Holidays

January 1 ~ New Year's day  
 February 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Mashramani Celebrations / Republic Day  
 March ~ Phagwah Celebrations  
 Good Friday to Easter Monday. Easter is April 8, 2007; March 23, 2008 and April 12, 2009, April 4, 210. For dates later than 2010 check links on [doyleguides.com](http://doyleguides.com).  
 May 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Labour Day  
 May 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Arrival Day  
 May- Youman-Nabi  
 May 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Independence Day  
 July- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in July ~ Caricom Day  
 August 1<sup>st</sup> Monday ~ Emancipation Day/ Folk Festival  
 September  
 October/ November- Diwali  
 December 25 ~ Christmas Day  
 December 26 ~ Boxing Day  
 December 31 ~ Old Year's Day

### Currency

The Guyana dollar is a floating currency about US\$1 ~ G\$200, check [www.doyleguides.com](http://www.doyleguides.com) for a currency converter link. Major credits cards and traveller's cheques are generally accepted at many resorts, hotels, gift shops, restaurants and tour operators.

### Telephones

Buying a cell phone (pre-paid cards), or local Sim chip is probably the best solution for making calls. Local Sims are about G\$5000 from GT&T Cellink Plus.

From the USA you dial 1+592+seven digit number. For the code to call out dial

assistance (092) and ask.

### Electricity

Electricity in Guyana is 110 or 220 volts, 50 or 60 cycles.

### Transport

Bartica, the main town in the area we are encouraging yachts to visit, is 40 miles up the Essequibo River.

The main way to get to Georgetown is by ferry to Parika (about \$10 US pp) and then a taxi to Georgetown (\$20-25US)., or minibus (about \$1 US). Ferries also go upriver to other settlements, and the rides can be interesting as you sometimes go through rapids. Local buses cost \$1-1.50. If you want to return to Bartica on the same day, be at the Parika Stelling by 1530 hours, as the last water taxi back to Bartica departs Parika at 1600 sharp!

If you are arriving or leaving by plane, fares are fixed and listed at the airport, you should only use official airport taxis who have a badge. Fares between the airport and Georgetown are \$17-20 US.

Buses are the main local form of transport, and very inexpensive, taxis for short runs are also very reasonable.

Travelling to areas out of central Georgetown, prices will tend to vary. It is important to come to an agreement on the cost of the taxi before entering. To the interior, travel arrangements may be made with local busing service, trucks, jeeps, chartered planes and speedboats. A guide is advisable for longer distance travel to the interior.

Rented cars are also available. Drive on the left.

Departure tax is G\$4000, only Guyana dollars accepted.

Guyana has the good Cheddi Jaga international airport (IATA: GEO) with connection to major destinations including: Trinidad (1hour), Miami (4.5 hours), Toronto (6 hours), London (8 hours)

## About this guide

When I sailed the Atlantic in 1969, my first stop was French Guiana. From here I sailed up to Guyana, a place then, as today almost unvisited by yachts. I was warmly welcomed and royally entertained; it was a visit I never forgot. So when, towards the end of 05, Don Stollmeyer and I were invited to visit Guyana with a view to getting it in my cruising guides. I was delighted to accept.

Yachting tourism in Guyana is still in its infancy. It will appeal to those adventurous souls who wish to visit somewhere really off the beaten track. You won't be the first to



Mariana Niehaus

cautiously and keep in mind that this is the just second edition of this book with few users ~ you are helping test it. We have done our best to get it right, but can make no guarantees. Unlike my other guides, this is mainly the work of others.

Simon Wall researched the original cruising information. He went up down the Essequibo four times taking depths and plotting positions.

Peter Ward provided much of the updates for this edition, and his partner Mariana provided many photos.

Most other Photos are courtesy the Guyana Tourist Authority, who also provided mot of the general information. Some came from Paul Stephenson from Cara resorts and a few of the mundane ones are mine.

Joyce Davis is amajor contributors to updating this edition, and and Kit Nascimento also hgelped. If you venture up the river you will surely meet them.

Before you set out, go to my web site: [www.doyleguides.com](http://www.doyleguides.com) to see if there are any updates or advisories, and let us know of things we need to change.



Essiquibo, Mariana Niehaus

come here; since this guide came out a few daring cruisers have trickled in, with about a dozen visiting in 2011. I am happy to say several stayed a long time and found it an incredible experience.

You may well see Mood Indigo at anchor, owned by Joyce Davis, an American jazz and blues and musician who arrived on a crusing boat and built a lovely residence on the edge of the river. Also, Kit Nascimento, a local businessman and politician who also has a mini resort and restaurant on the river, and has been instrumental in helping visiting yachts.

Unlike the Caribbean, this will be a real adventure. You need to take more care than you do on the well trodden routes, navigate



Essiquibo catfish, Mariana Niehaus

# PLANNING AND CRUISING



Bartica Stelling, Mariana Niehaus

## *Introduction*

---

**G**uyana is a spectacular country, 83,000 square miles of rain forest, savannah and coastline, with less than a million inhabitants. There are so many rivers that the name Guyana is derived from the Amerindian word meaning Land of Many Waters. The area of the Guianas, bounded by the rivers of the Orinoco, Amazon, Rio Negro and the Atlantic Ocean, is believed to have been settled before 900 AD by Warrau Indians, and later by the Arawak and Kalinargo tribes. However, there is no evidence from these times of a very advanced civilization. Sir Walter Raleigh's voyage in 1595 and his subsequent book on the riches of Guyana did much to stimulate interest in the area. The French, the English and the Dutch laid claim to the region in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and it was settled in separate areas by the three nations ~ the Dutch colonies being located in what is now Guyana. From 1781 onwards, Brit-

ish influence became increasingly evident, but and in 1814 the colonies of Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice were finally ceded to Britain, and in 1831 the three colonies merged to become British Guiana (later Guyana).

The Policy & Combined Courts, the legislative and executive bodies created by the Dutch, remained in operation under British rule for another century. The territory attained its independence on May 26, 1966 and became a Republic in 1970.

Guyana is the only English-speaking country in the South American Amazon Rain Forest. A few people also speak Creole.

Many Amerindians remain in settlements throughout the territory and apart from them, the population is fairly evenly divided between those of African and those of East Indian origin, with a smattering of Dutch, English and Chinese.





The Amerindian themselves have several culturally rich settlements, which you can visit to observe their way of life. Many of them are cowboys and put on a magnificent rodeo once a year.

Georgetown and many of the agriculturally rich coastal lands lie below the level of the sea at high tide. They are protected by miles of earthworks built to keep the sea out. A system of canals and lock gates are used to drain the land, These are opened at low tide and closed against the incoming one.

Ecotourism in Guyana is unsurpassed with magnificent waterfalls and wildlife, and anyone visiting here should spend some time in the interior. Accommodations in interior attractions is adequate but sometimes basic.

The area designated for yachting is about 40 miles up the mighty Essequibo River. At this point the water is fresh and clean, and good for swimming, though not very clear as there is always an organic reddish color from the forest.

Guyana is one place you should stick to bottled water. Neither the tap nor the river water is recommended for drinking, though if you collect rain you are unlikely to go short.

In this region are a couple of little resorts you can use as a base, and main settlement is a small mining town called Bartica.

There is plenty to explore right from here, and when you want to go further into the interior, arrangements are easily made.

It should be appreciated that at the moment there are no yachting facilities, and the only form of tourism is low-key ecotourism.

If you visit, you will still be one of the pioneer yachts to do so, just as I was some 40 years ago. The government is keen to attract yachting facilities but this will take time to happen.

The advantage of this is that, unlike the Eastern Caribbean to the north, where you will be one in thousands, you will be unusual here. People will be happy to get to know you, and you will have the satisfaction of feeling like a true explorer.

If you would like a local contact, email Kit Nascimento at: [kitnasc@gol.net.gy](mailto:kitnasc@gol.net.gy).





## Cruising Information

### Shots

Before you visit Guyana you should be immunized for yellow fever. While malaria is not a problem in the cruising area outlined, if you intend to spend time in the rain forest it might be advisable to bring some anti malarial drugs, then check with the tourist office to see if you need them in the areas you plan to visit.

### Weather

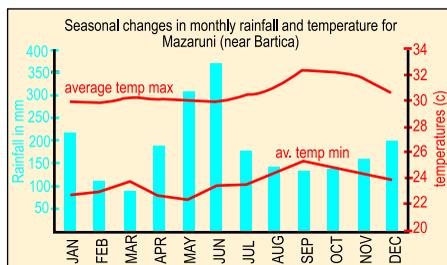
Guyana is hot and steamy with a dramatic rainy season of "spaghetti rain" for days on end, where nothing quite gets dry. But in the dry seasons the climate is pleasant; warm and humid, with the humidity being somewhat offset by the breeze. On the river you can always cool off by jumping over the side. The river is surrounded by dense rainforest and sometimes in the afternoon you can almost feel the greenery transpire.

Guyana is an area free of hurricanes or storms offshore and usually has moderate to light trade winds (4-16 knots, 2-8 mps); there is little in the weather to worry the navigator at sea.

In the area around Bartica, which we cover in this guide, the daytime average temperature is 30.7°C and the nighttime 23.7°C. The main seasonal variation is rainfall, and the northward movement of the inter tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), which brings heavy rains from mid April to the end of July. During the southwards migration of the ITCZ is a lesser wet season usually from mid November to late January.

Unless you are a rain freak, or want to visit the waterfalls at their rowdiest, you will probably like it better during the drier times. If you are crossing the Atlantic, late October through November is not a bad time to visit, and if you get late it is only the small wet season. If you are coming down from the Caribbean come any time during the summer dry season, much of which coincides with the Caribbean hurricane season.

Bartica's weather (the cruising area) is also affected by local convection, which can bring sudden heavy showers along with gusty winds, very occasionally up to 38 knots, 20 mps. When wind is against the tide this



produces short steep seas that are of danger to someone navigating by open boat. It can even make yacht navigation impossible due to reduced visibility. You can always anchor till it passes.

Hazards of the river, apart from shoals, include floating logs and debris, most of which can be avoided with a good lookout.

The Essequibo is tidal (8 to 10 feet tidal

range) with the outflow of the river affecting the tidal stream. At spring tides the flood is 1.8 knots, and the ebb 3.3 knots, at neaps the flood is 1 knot and the ebb two knots. Up by Bartica the tidal affect is less and the average discharge 0.8-1.4 knots.

You will need to know what the tide is doing. It is best to get tidal tables, but if not, observations works well. We give a link to a tide calculator on [www.doyleguides.com](http://www.doyleguides.com).

Check the local radio stations for weather on 98.1 FM and 560AM, or check [www.guyanaclimate.org](http://www.guyanaclimate.org).

### Customs and Immigration

Check our *regulations* section in *Anchorages in Guyana*.

### Visas

All visitors need a passport. That is sufficient for all citizens of commonwealth countries, the USA, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and Spain,. Others need a visa and should contact a Guyana Consulate.

### Pets

Contact the office of tourism in advance to find out what you need to do.

### Firearms

If you have firearms on board you must declare them and the Customs officers may hold them for you until your departure

### Fishing

Non-commercial trolling and handlining for fish, for your own consumption are OK.

### Anchoring regulations

Use your common sense and stay out of busy channels. Apart from the shipping channels there are no restricted areas. Our anchorages are all outside these.

### Local Etiquette

Guyana is informal, but off the boat and away from beach resorts, women should stick to long sleeves, men should wear long pants in the evening. If you wear a bikini to town you will not only attract undue attention, you will be giving us all a bad name.

Early visitors to a country have excel-

lent opportunities to meet locals. We, as a community, will also be judged by how each of us behaves and unfortunately, as the worst do, so shall all be judged. So please be honest, courteous and obey all local laws.

### Medical

In Bartica if you need a doctor, visit Dr. Lucius Williams, or Dr Sagala: 455-2299 / 652-1212 / 653-3241 Bartica has a government hospital on First Avenue; (592) 455-3084. Government hospitals are free but basic. In general you will be happier visiting one of the private establishment in Georgetown.

St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, 130-132 Parade Street, (592) 227-2072/5, [sjmh@solutions2000.net](mailto:sjmh@solutions2000.net).

Medical Arts Center, 265 Thomas Street, (592) 225-7402

Georgetown Medical Center, 258-259, Thomas and Middle Streets, (592) 226-7210-9, [gmcinc@neteyorsgy.com](mailto:gmcinc@neteyorsgy.com)

Dentists; Dr. S. Bera, Carmaichael Street, (592) 226-0194

Dr. Jennifer Bulkan, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, (592) 225-5068

Dr. Teodora Madekurozwa, 343 Middle Street, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, (592) 226-6301

### Dangers

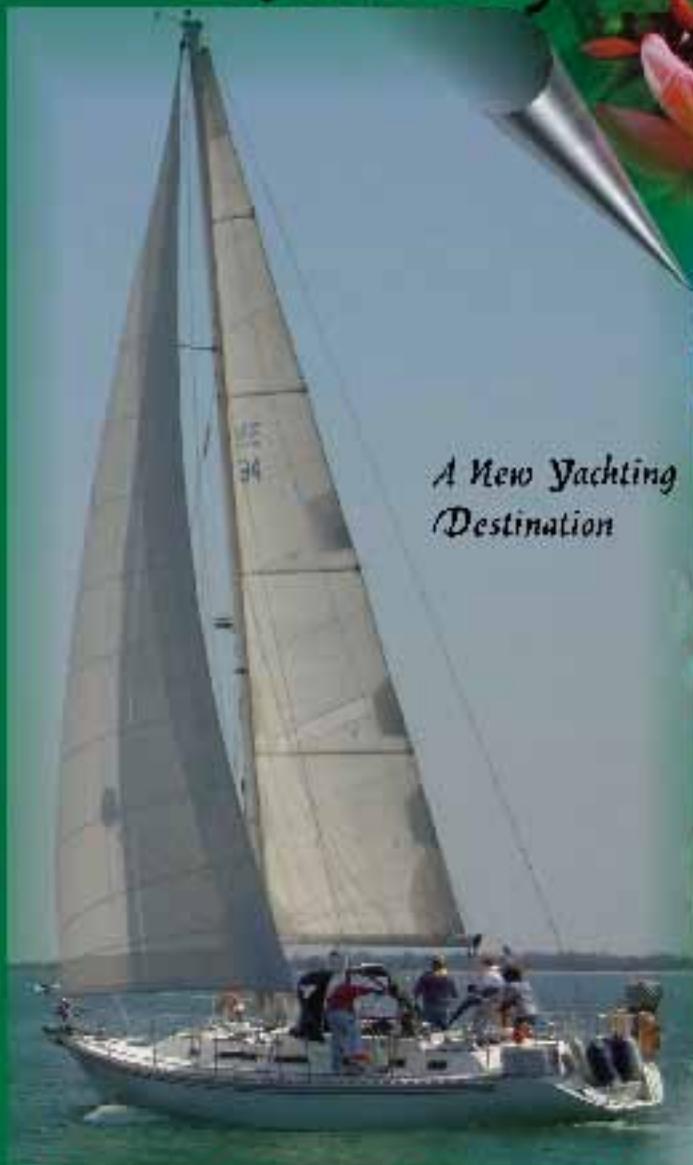
When swimming, watch out for currents, if swimming from the boat keep a line attached.

Electric eels are apparently common near rocky areas, and sting rays gather on shallow beaches till early morning. Watch where you put your feet! Sandflies are active at dawn and dusk. There are surprisingly few mosquitoes or biting bugs on the river, but in case you hit a bad spot, it is probably smart to have a way of screening your boat at night.

If you are traveling into the interior, ask your guides about dangers you are likely to meet.

Guyana does not seem to have any really special security problems at this time, especially around Bartica, but it is worth checking with people as to the current status and what it is advisable and inadvisable to do.

# Guyana Naturally



*A New Yachting  
Destination*

**Guyana Tourism Authority**

[www.guyana-tourism.com](http://www.guyana-tourism.com)

National Exhibition Centre, Sophia

Tel: 592-223-6351 Fax: 592-231-6672



# EXPLORING GUYANA

Guyana is a big country ~ 83,000 square miles of mainly wild nature. Eighty percent of this is dense and lush tropical rain forest bisected by many rivers, which are often the gateway into the interior. It has a haunting and wondrous beauty on a giant scale that seems to grip people when they really get to know it. I have often got



the feeling from those who have spent years in Guyana, that nowhere else would ever quite match up. In part it is because this big land mass supports a relatively small population (less than a million). There is a small ecotourist industry, but few enough people visit that you will still feel especially privileged when you find yourself there.

Apart from rainforest, extensive savannah lands are found in the Rupununi grassland savannahs that occupy Guyana's western border with Brazil; a smaller savannah area lies along the banks of the Berbice River. The coastal areas of beach

and dense mangrove forests are a third major habitat. As you would expect in such a large continental environment the wild life is magnificent; jaguars, eagles, giant otters, anteaters, sloths, along with an imaginably large variety of birds.

The ecotourist industry is just defined enough to guide you in the right direction and there are quite a few lodges that cater to visitors, none of them very big, and most fairly basic. Exploring Guyana's interior should be a priority, and is an excellent reason to visit. So good in fact, that should you not make it by boat, it is worth considering flying down, an easy hop by plane from Trinidad. Here are a few highlights;

## Kaieteur Falls

These magnificent waterfalls are 741ft tall, making them the highest sheer drop in the world, and they certainly offer the most photogenic waterfall views that can be taken from the ground. The first European to discover these falls (which had been long known by the Amerindians) was Geologist Barrington Browne in 1890. Legend has it that they were named after an old Patamonas Chief, Kaie who sacrificed himself to the Great Spirit Makanaima, by paddling his canoe over the falls to bring peace to his tribe. Falls in Patamona is translated to "Teur" hence the name Kaieteur.

The Kaieteur National Park established in 1929, is home to rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, including Cock of the Rock, the White Collared and Scissor Tailed Swifts, which nest behind the falls. Giant Tank Bromeliads are found here, inside of which the endangered and very rare golden frog lives. The Park is 242 square miles, with great hiking opportunities.

While Kaieteur Falls are Guyana's most dramatic, there also many other falls along the many rivers.

*Kaieteur Falls  
and scarlet macaw,  
Mariana Niehaus  
photos*





### IWOKRAMA International Centre

This center was established in 1996, set aside to be used as a demonstration area for sustainable development in ecotourism projects, forest protection and preservation and community empowerment projects. Four large endangered species found in the IWOKRAMA Forest are the Black Caiman (*Melanosuchus Niger*), the Arapaima (*Arapaima Gigas*), the Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) and the Giant River Turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*). A Canopy Walkway opened in 2003 and is located a few miles away from the field station. The canopy walk is a series of suspension bridges and decks of up to 30 meters in height. It



gives visitors a new view on the forest and allows wildlife to be relatively free from human intrusion.

### Shell Beach

Shell beach is located in the Northwest region of Guyana and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Mangrove forest between the mouths of the Pomeroon and the Waini Rivers. The beach is a 100-mile long stretch along Guyana's coastline. It is the only beach in Guyana where four of the world's eight species of marine turtles



come to nest and they are the leatherback, the Green, the Hawksbill, and the Olive Ridley. Nesting season is March to April. There are two main areas along the stretch of the Beach where settlements have developed; these are Almond and Gwennie beaches. The Beach is home to quite an array of other faunal species, including the Scarlet Ibis, jaguars, Squirrel monkeys, tapirs and red deer.

A number of lodges and accommodations are available in Guyana's various habitats. Two of these are near Bartica and we will consider them in our detailed look at this area. Others are ranged around the rainforest and into the savannah lands. Some of the main ones include: Rockview Lodge, Karanambu Ranch, Mapari Wilderness Camp, Dadawana Ranch and Emerald Tower.

Guyana is more than wild nature ~ there is life as it is lived now, which will certainly be very different from wherever you come from. Guyana has a lovely old, mainly wooden capital, Georgetown,

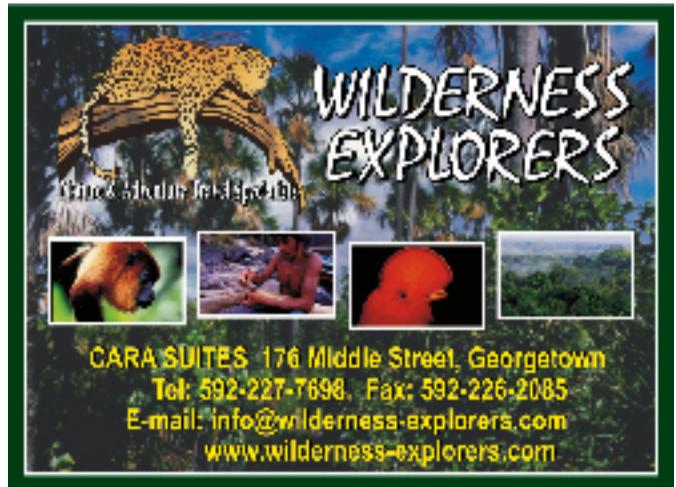
with its characteristic architecture, and you can visit Amerindian settlements as well as several historical sites.

### Forts

These forts are remnants of the period when Guyana was ruled by the Dutch. Kyk Over Al, which meant “See over all”, was originally built of wood and later replaced by a brick structure which also served as an administrative office. Fort Kyk Over Al was built on an island at a junction where the three rivers meet; the Essequibo, Mazaruni and Cuyuni during the 1600s since it provided them with a commanding view of the three rivers.

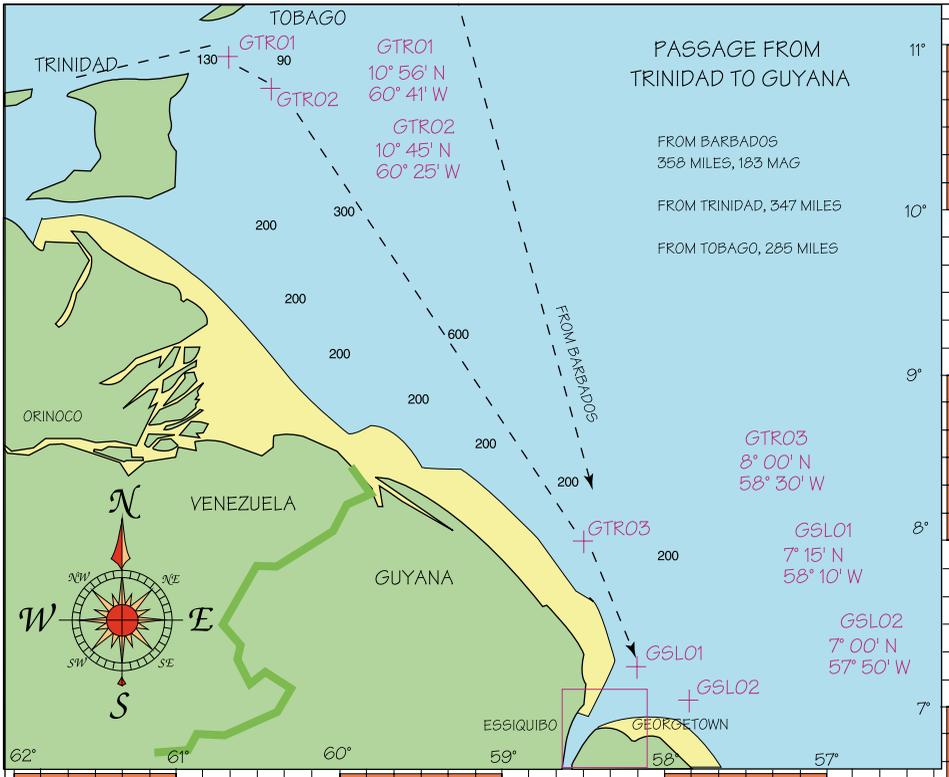
Fort Zeelandia or Fort Island was constructed to protect the Dutch West Indian traders from their rivals; the English and the French, who frequented the eastern coast in search of the spoils of war as well as

a stronghold to protect themselves against rebellious slaves. It is located 16km from the mouth of the Essequibo River. On the island, there are a few structures remaining, remnants of its rich historical past, still intact. Fort Island is an outpost for the Coastguard, and a midshipman and petty officers are always on watch. Good to know if you need help on the river



**WILDERNESS EXPLORERS**  
CARA SUITES 176 Middle Street, Georgetown  
Tel: 592-227-7698, Fax: 592-226-2085  
E-mail: [info@wilderness-explorers.com](mailto:info@wilderness-explorers.com)  
[www.wilderness-explorers.com](http://www.wilderness-explorers.com)





## *Sailing to Guyana*

The current flows northwest from Guyana to the Caribbean at up to two knots. This is the primary consideration when planning your cruise.

If you are crossing the Atlantic, the easiest way to visit Guyana is after your crossing and before you head up to the Caribbean. This has a lot of advantages, you can go visit the Cap Verde Islands (2300 miles), and if you plot your route south of the hurricane belt you can leave in early October, well ahead of the rush, and giving you time to visit Guyana in a relatively dry period.

In the old days engineless sailing, schooners regularly plied between Barbados and Guyana, so you may well be able to do this under sail, though the southbound route will be slower because of the northerly current. I would guess that they would have headed well east of Guyana if they could, then altered course when they were close to the right latitude.

From Trinidad the wind angle is much worse and you are likely to have to motor-sail. Most flotillas took about 5 days motor-sailing from Scotland Bay. We give the route taken by these flotillas, though clearly you would break the journey nicely by visiting Tobago and setting out from there.

You can get lucky when the wind is north of east. It has been done in two-and-half-days, and taken as long as five days. The sail back is very easy.

A chart of the East Coast of Trinidad is required so you can avoid Emerald Shoals and Darien Rock, both about longitude  $60^{\circ}38'W$ , or 20 miles east of Trinidad. Darien Rock is about  $10^{\circ}31'N$ , Emerald Shoals about  $10^{\circ}45'N$ . Trinidad's east coast also has many gas/oil rigs.

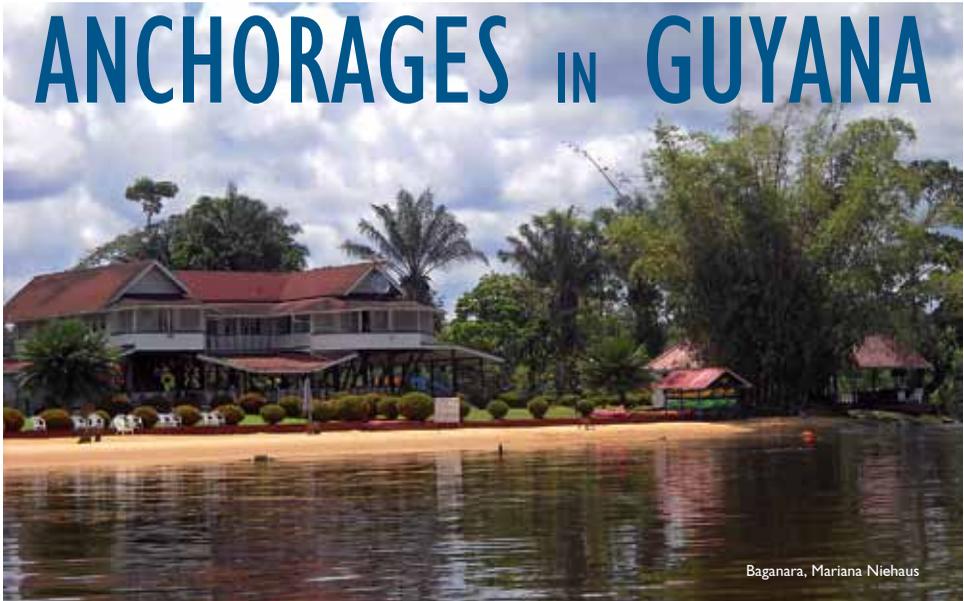
The first step is to power up the coast to GTR01 ( $10^{\circ}56' 60^{\circ}41'W$ ). Then head to GTR02 ( $10^{\circ}45' 60^{\circ}25'W$ ), about  $125^{\circ}T$ . From here you fall off to  $144^{\circ}T$  to GTR03, ( $8^{\circ}00' 58^{\circ}30'W$ ). Mud flats, 17 feet deep,

start about 18 NM offshore. Keep offshore to avoid unmarked piles, sunken pontoons and other obstructions till you come to GSL01 (7°15' 58°10'W).

Those coming from the east or south

should pass by a waypoint further south, like GSL02 (7°00' 57°50'W) before heading to GUES01.

We deal with the route from here on in our next section *Anchorage in Guyana*.



Baganara, Mariana Niehaus

Navigation and information By Simon Wall in 2006,  
Updated by Peter Ward and and Joyce Davis 2011,  
contributed to by Kit Nascimento, edited by Chris Doyle

## Introduction

The area designated for yachting is about 40 miles up the Essequibo River. It is centered around the small but thriving town of Bartica, which stands at the junction of the Essequibo and the Mazaruni rivers.

This is an attractive area with two small river resorts in operation and at least two others that are currently closed. In addition several Guyanese have built holiday homes on the river banks.

You will still be an adventurer here. In 2011, only about a dozen yachts visited. As Roy and Wendy, on S/Y Zingara wrote on Noonsite:”

“Guyana proved to be everything it promised. Once we entered the River Mouth we immediately felt like adventurers, on uncharted waters. The very unique lifestyle of Guyana unfolded with every mile of the 40

miles we did to reach Bartica, and we were continually amazed at the new experiences we encountered during our 3 months there.”

There is no big problem to heading up the river, the channel is deep enough that small freighters visit Bartica. However, there are no buoys, lights, markers, or lighthouses, You are on your own.

The Caribbean coastline is so low (below sea level for much of the region around Georgetown-Parika) that you wonder where the land has gone! The seawalls only become apparent when you are in spitting distance.

There are dozens of what they call “piles”, which are long thick poles sunk into the seabed, between which are strung semi-permanent fishnets. These piles can be as far as ten to 15 miles offshore, and are un-marked, unlit and hard to see in darkness.

It is essential to stand off at least 20

## Tidal Time Differences

I have used Parika, Essequibo as the standard port. If you are using Tide tables based in Georgetown then Parika is +0020 (MHW) and +0103 (MLW). Tidal time differences from Parika:

place	(MHW)	(MLW)
GUES02*	-0034	-0110
Parika	0000	0000
Fort Island	+0015	+0042
Stampa Island	+0105	+0152
Bartica	+0207	+0255

\*Our waypoint, also Bluejacket Beacon

miles if you arrive in darkness. The Atlantic is so shallow out there, you can anchor in anything but heavy seas. Try and time your arrival to pick up an early morning rising tide going in past Parika at the entrance to the Essequibo, and aim for an overnight at Roed-en-Rust, a few miles past Parika, before picking up the next rising tide for the up-river run.

You will see the pilings dotted around as you approach Parika, and also many small fishing smacks with outboard engines. Shrimping trawlers are well lit and easy to see with their outrigger booms and nets, but the small smacks often put out several hundred metres of net with only a little flag marking the end.

The water at the mouth of the river is muddy and not overly attractive, though the scenery is interesting. As you approach Bartica this changes and the water becomes clearer and cleaner and pleasant for swimming, though it always has reddish color from the surrounding rainforest.

In addition to our sketch charts you should have: Essequibo River to Mamarikuru Island (BA 2782) and Mamarikuru Island to Bartica (BA 2783). For arrival, it would be good to have Approaches to Demerara and Essequibo Rivers (BA527).

The Essequibo is very much affected by the tides, you can expect a 10 foot difference between low and high tide at springs. [www.doyleguides.com](http://www.doyleguides.com), navigation advisories page, gives a link to Xtide prediction software, where you can download the tidal predictions at Parika towards the mouth of

the Essequibo for a year.

The bar at the mouth of the river is nine to ten foot deep and can shift. So it pays to enter on a rising tide. The same is true as you go up the river.

### Water Supply

You will be in the rainforest, so there will be some rain. If you have a rain collection system on your boat you should not want for water. Otherwise use bottled water for drinking.

There is no point in taking on water in Guyana as you would not want to drink it and you can just as well use river water. Take the water from up river beyond Bartica where it is cleanest. Before putting it in your tanks run it through a 25-micron filter. You need to come equipped to do this (A cheap house "string filter" might also work). Once in the tank treat it with 2 drops of chlorine to a gallon of water and leave it for ten minutes before using.

This water will be fine for all purposes other than drinking. At a push you could probably drink it after adding the chlorine, but better to drink bottled water or collected rain water.

A desalination plant will work wonders with the river water, which it will convert much easier than saltwater.

### Regulations

Clearance for yachts is in Bartica. See Bartica for details

You can let the coastguard know you have reached Guyana and are on your way

up the river. Call Commander Porter (592) 600-6510. They keep a post on the river at Fort island.

You will find officials very friendly. They open 0800 - 1630. Immigration, on the main street next to the police station will check you in for three months and happily extend this later. Customs are across from the police station on the avenue, the fee to clear in is G\$2,500 or about \$12.50 USD. Same to clear out.

### **Navigational hazards**

Seine nets of up to ¼ mile in length may be encountered in the mouth of the Essequibo. These Seine nets are usually marked by a flag on a pole or a small fishing boat at one end. The floats are small and can only be seen from a short distance away. Smaller Seine nets may be encountered anywhere in the river.

A large numbers of fishing piles will be also be encountered; they are easily visible and are located on the edges of the Channels. Occasional debris floats down the river, although I have not had any major problems with this, a sharp look out should be kept.

This is not a suitable area for night navigation.

### **Navigational Marks**

With the exception of Rattlesnake Rock Beacon, none is in place.

### **Anchoring**

It is possible to anchor pretty much anywhere in the river, the holding is excellent in sand or mud. Due to the current, a stern anchor is recommended to prevent swinging.

### **Navigation**

GPS waypoints are the easiest way to navigate the river. The waypoints used in this section were originally supplied by the Sailing Yacht "Wild Orchid" in 2005. They were amended by Simon Wall on *Avalon St. Maarten* in 2006 who also took the soundings. Extra waypoints between Bartica and Hurakabra were added by Peter Ward in 2011.

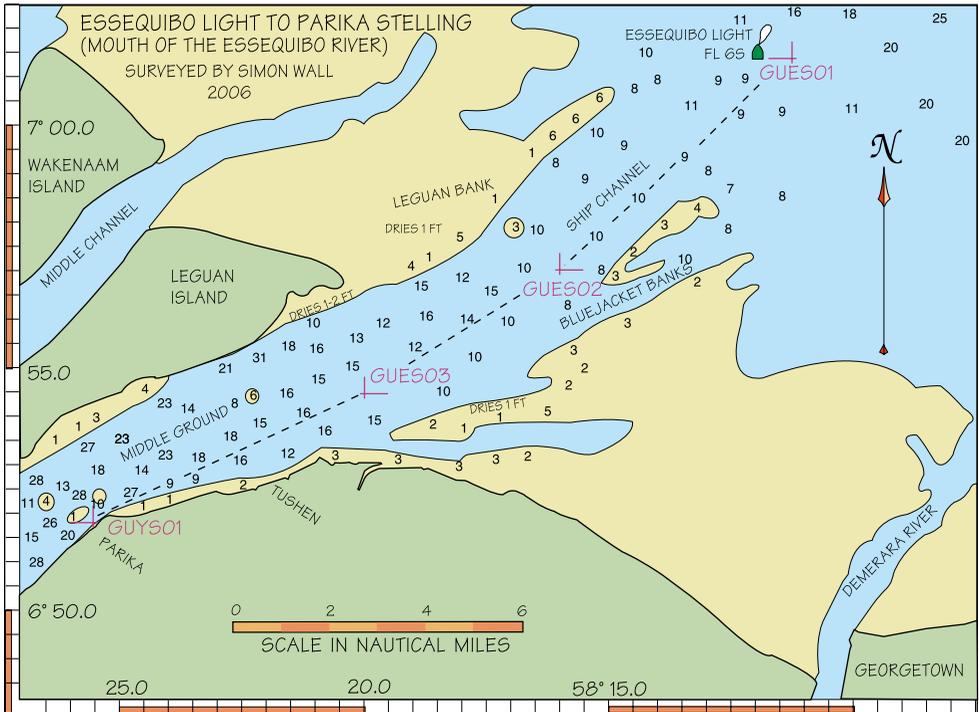
The waypoints are opposite the sketch charts on the following pages. They can also be downloaded from [www.doyleguides.com](http://www.doyleguides.com), and

[www.guyana-tourism.com/yachting.html](http://www.guyana-tourism.com/yachting.html). Keep in mind that the GPS is not perfect and neither are we. So the navigator should use these with caution and his eyes wide open.

The perfect time to arrive at the outer waypoint GUES01 is on a rising tide in during daylight hours, the earlier the better, so you have plenty of daylight and an incoming tide to take you the 21 miles to a good anchorage off Roeden Rust Marina. At a push you can anchor anywhere off the Guyana coast in 20 - 40 feet of water. It will be mighty rolly, but the sea conditions are nearly always moderate.

GUES01 is half mile south of the outer Essequibo Pile (Fl 6 S). From here head for GUES02. This keeps you in the ship channel between Bluejacket and Leguan banks.

The water, which is only about 9 feet over the bar, deepens as you head for GUES03. From GUES3 you head into the river at GUY01. GUY01 is Parika Stelling, the main landing at the head of the river. This is a busy settlement, with a big market and good bus links to the Georgetown, the capital. You want to be fairly close to the shore here to avoid shoals further out in the river. You now follow long the shore (about 50-100 meters from the bank) past GUE02 to GUE03. Close to GUY03 you come to Roeden Rust Marina.



## ROEDEN RUST MARINA

I suggest you anchor off Roeden Rust Marina for the night before heading up river. Anchor off quite far (around 300 metres) to avoid the shallows and fast taxi and ferry services. Strictly speaking you should not put ashore here as you are still not checked in, but if you have to, nobody seems to mind. You will get a warm welcome from Cleo da Silva, the owner who will help where possible, but don't expect to find diesel, ice, spares or expertise on hand.

There is not much here, but it is on an hourly bus route to Parika, where you will find shops, a market, and restaurants. A Taxi could be arranged with a phone call from the Marina

### Going upriver

The trip up river should be timed to arrive at Bartica at high water, (note the tidal time difference at Bartica). I have found that leaving Roeden Rust at low water works well.

Go in good light and use your eyes as well as the waypoints while navigating.

From Roeden Rust you will be heading for Fort Island, which you will leave on your starboard side. There is dock on Fort Island and some ruins. You can anchor off the dock for a visit.

## FORT ISLAND

Fort Island is the original capital of British Guiana. First Court of Policy (Parliament) building now serves as school house and church. Ruins of the Fort are still intact and reasonably maintained. You can land by dingy and walk around Island which has a small population. Ask the local school teacher to arrange a guided tour. Apart from making arrangements with your guide, no fees are involved.

### Continuing upriver

From Fort Island you edge over close to the south end of Baboon island to avoid the shoals farther offshore. You continue along the east side of the river staying about a hundred yards off. This should avoid the shoals close to shore and those further out.

Waypoints from Wild Orchid 2005, with updates and changes by Simon Wall 2006

Magnetic variation taken as 14° west

The courses going downriver are naturally one line out from those going upriver

Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GSL01 7° 15.00' N 58° 10.00' W	202	350	Outer WPT to start lining up for the entrance to the Essequibo River (13.6 NM to GUE01)
GSL02 7° 00.00' N 57° 50.00' W	291	111	Alternate outer WPT for southern approach (14 NM to GUE01)
GUES01 7° 01.40' N 58° 11.40' W	238	22	½ mile south of Essequibo Pile (Fl.6s). The 'final approach' waypoint for the river (6.3 NM to GUE02)
GUES02 6° 57.00' N 58° 16.00' W	252	58	In Ship Channel between Bluejackets & Leguan Banks (4.7 NM to GUE03)
GUES03 6° 54.50' N 58° 20.00' W	258	72	In Ship Channel west of Middle Ground (6.0 NM to GUY01)
GUYS01 6° 51.90' N 58° 25.50' W	249	78	Parika Stelling (Stelling = 'port' or 'harbour') (0.7 NM to GUYS02)



Hurakabra



Waypoints from Wild Orchid 2005, with updates and changes by Simon Wall 2006  
continued, GUY01 repeated

Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GUYS01 6° 51.90' N 58° 25.50' W	244 (249)	78	Parika Stelling (Stelling = 'port' or 'harbour'). (0.7 NM to GUYS02.)
GUYS02 6° 51.45' N 58° 26.13' W	241	68	Two Brothers wharf. (2.1 NM to GUYS03.)
GUYS03 6° 50.00' N 58° 27.70' W	235	61	Follow narrow deep channel along the east shore of the river, 50 -100 metres offshore. (3.5 NM to GUYS04.)
GUYS04 6° 47.35' N 58° 30.02' W	233	55	Keep North end of Fort Island close to the west, (50-100 metres). (1.9 NM to GUYS05.)

On your starboard beam are the Lau Lau Islands. There is an anchorage here where we show on our chart. Be careful of the shoal that extends south of the western island. The Lau Lau islands are heavily forested, swampy and not very suitable for exploration, but it makes a convenient overnight stopping place on the way up or down the river.

From GUY08 to GUY09 you are following the east side of the river. From here to GUY10 you come out more to the center of the river so you can pass on the west side of Stampa Island, leaving it to port. There is a fair anchorage just south of Stampa island.

## STAMPA ISLAND

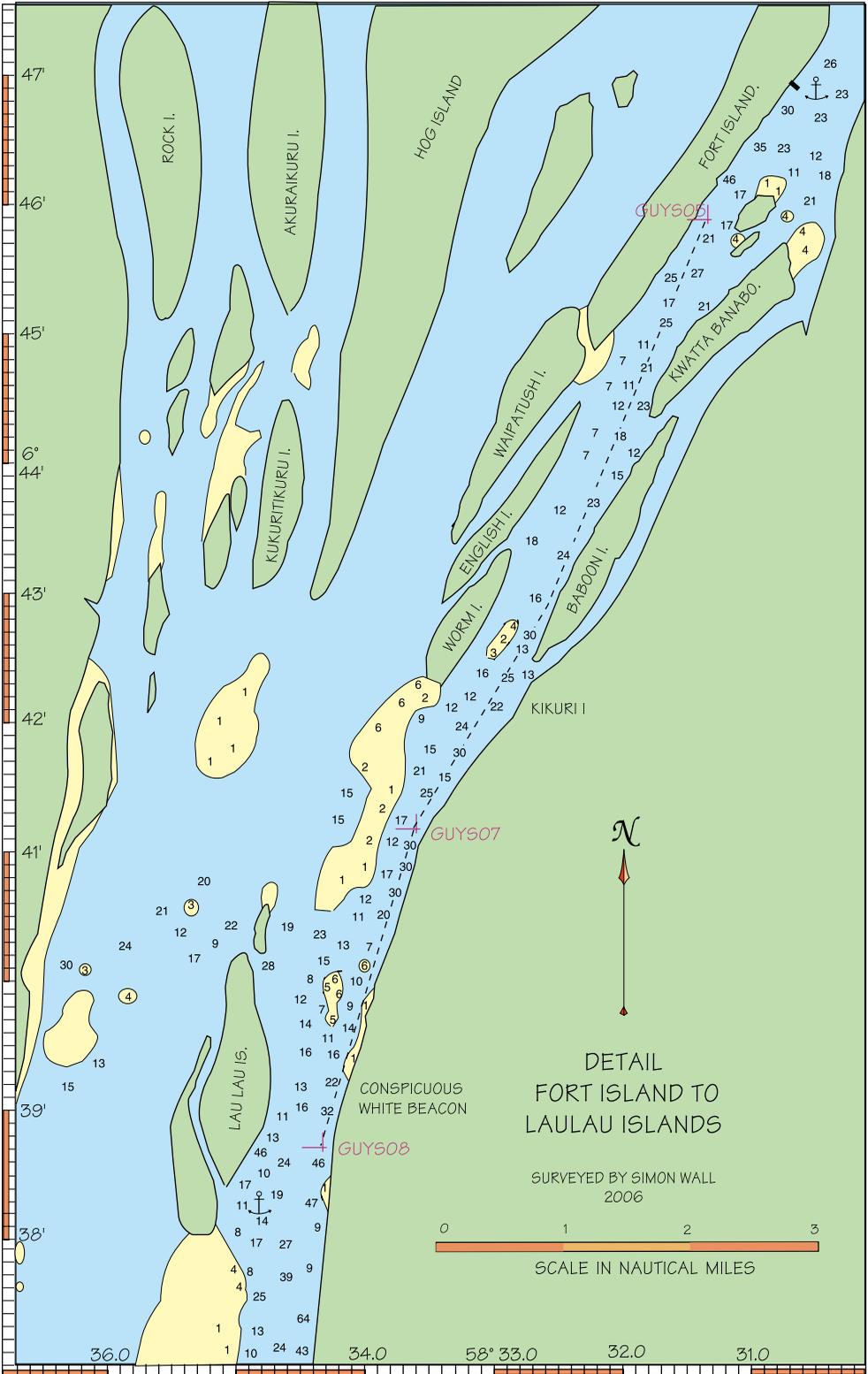
Stampa Island used to have small sawmill and houses. Now it is deserted and overgrown with a collapsing dock. You could land by dinghy, but there is little to see. A Good beach with private home is on the east bank opposite the Island and readily accessible by dingy.

### Continuing upriver

Stay on the track between waypoints GUYS10 and 11 to avoid the Stampa and Pigeon Island shoals as well as those close

to shore. You now follow the curve of the river till you get to Shanklands Resort at GUYS14. You need to take care in the vicinity of Sail Rock and the Shanklands shore.

This is a cross river junction ~ up river to Bartica or across river to Hurakabra River Resort. There are huge submerged rocks on the Shanklands-Hurakabra approach so take care. Or you may prefer the Bartica-sawmill-Hurakabra approach given later.



Waypoints from Wild Orchid 2005, with updates and changes by Simon Wall 2006  
continued

Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GUYS05 6° 45.85' N 58° 31.26' W	217	54	Pass between Fort Island and smaller islands to the east. (3.1 NM to GUYS06.)
GUYS06 6° 43.00' N 58° 32.40' W	222	37	Stay between islands, close to coast at the south end of Baboon Island (50-100 metres). (2.8 NM to GUYS07.)
GUYS07 6° 40.50' N 58° 33.75' W	211	42	Close to eastern shore again for deep water and avoid shallows further out. (1.9 NM to GUYS07.)
GUYS08 6° 38.70' N 58° 34.30' W	200	31	Continue to follow the eastern shore line about 100 metres off. (2.5 NM to GUYS09.)

## SHANKLANDS RESORT

Shanklands resort is currently closed. Anchorage here is possible.

## HURAKABRA RIVER RESORT

Hurakabra River Resort is otherwise known as Kit and Gem's place. Kit Nascimento has worked for years to attract yachts to Guyana, and led some flotillas from Trinidad to here, and been actively involved in the production of this book.

Kit is a former Government Minister and Public Relations Consultant, he and his wife Gem have their resort just a short distance from Bartica. It is right on the edge of the river with a good dinghy dock, and has a bar and snack bar as well as a barbecue for larger parties. Overnight accommodation is available in a Guest Villa and Cottage; there is already an excellent floating dinghy dock. Kit and Gem also rent a rustic 2-bedroom cabin on a private beach just 5 minutes down

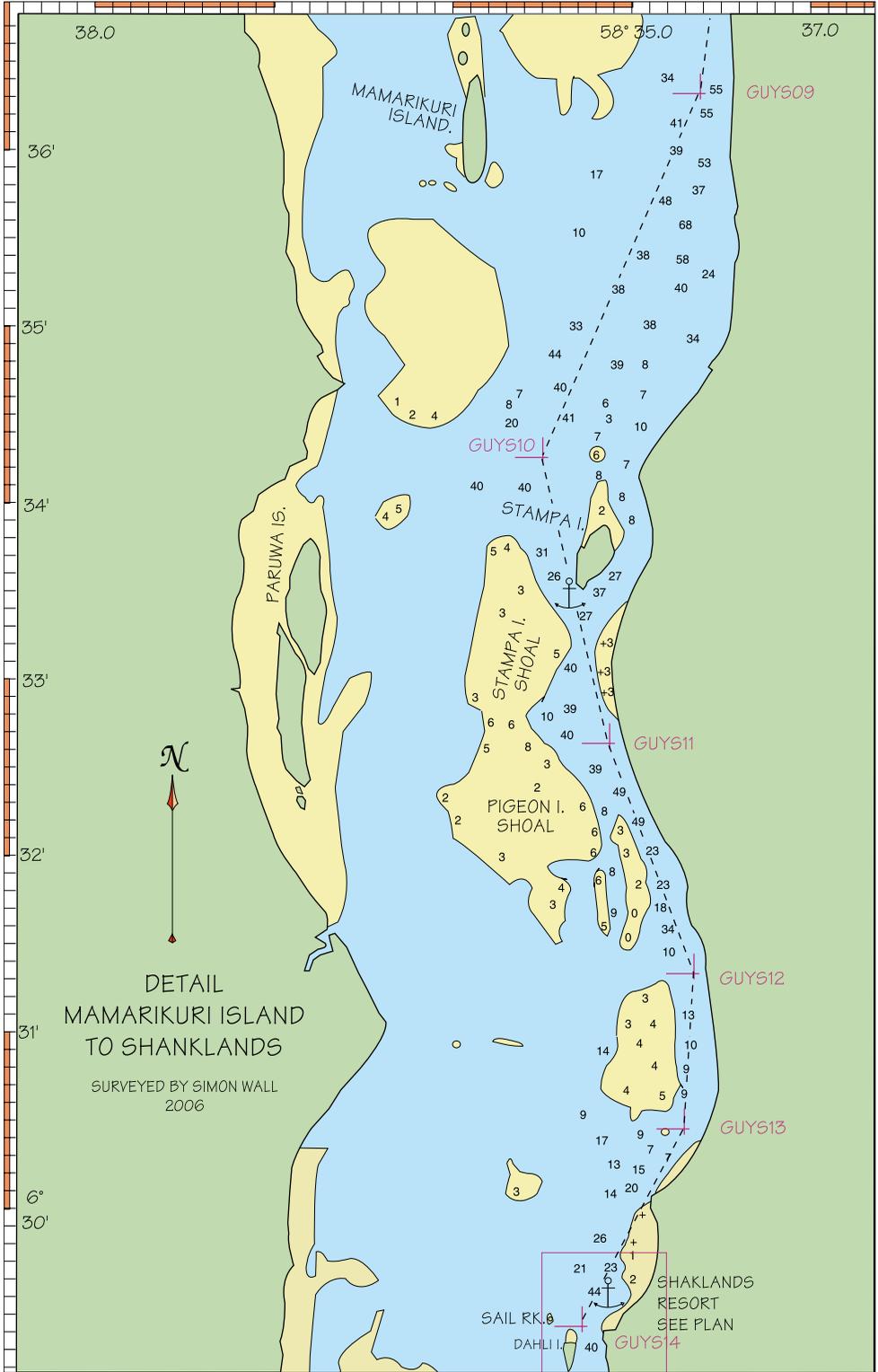
river with its own anchorage.

For \$6 a night they offer garbage disposal, Use of the beach facilities such as beach chairs, hammocks, toilets, showers kayaking, peddle boat, swimming, using grounds for walks, any indoor/outdoor game- badminton/table tennis/volley ball/fresbee/billiards, a supply of rainwater, use of library/maps, use of telephone to make limited local land line calls and one hour on the internet facilities-1 hour. They also offer laundry, water taxi to Bartica, and courier. For \$100US they will send a guide down river to pilot you up.

They are very knowledgeable about the area, and arrange all kinds of tours and have been extremely helpful to visiting yachts.

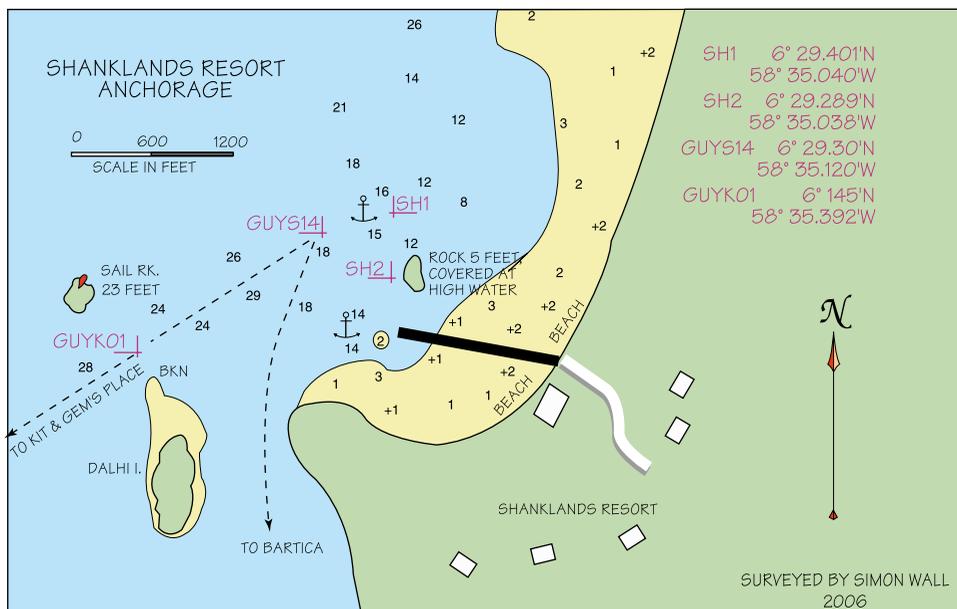
### Navigation

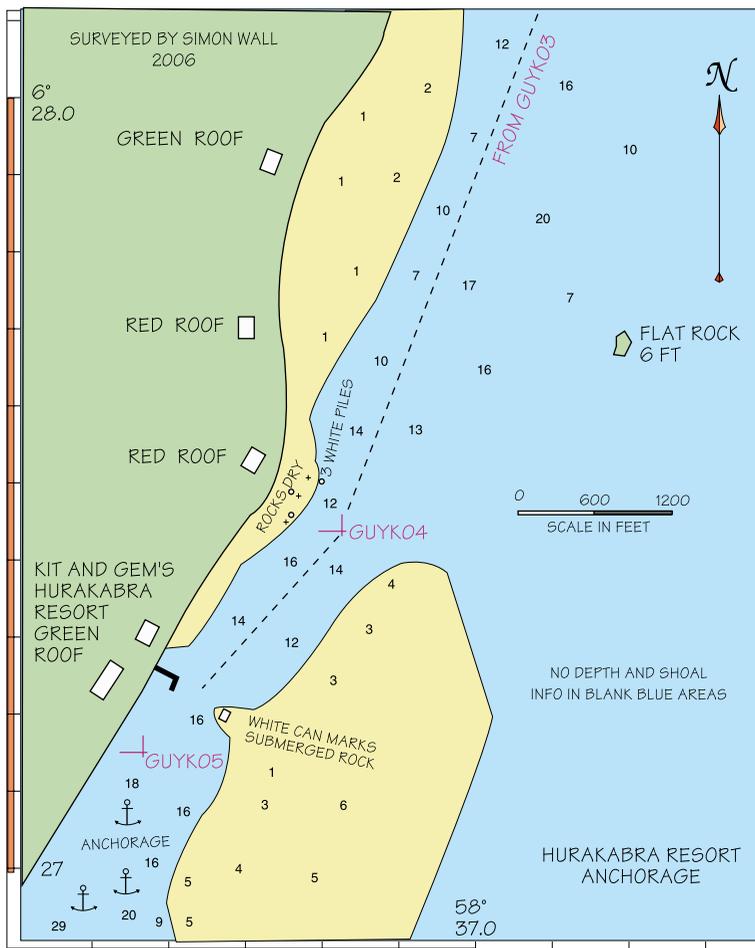
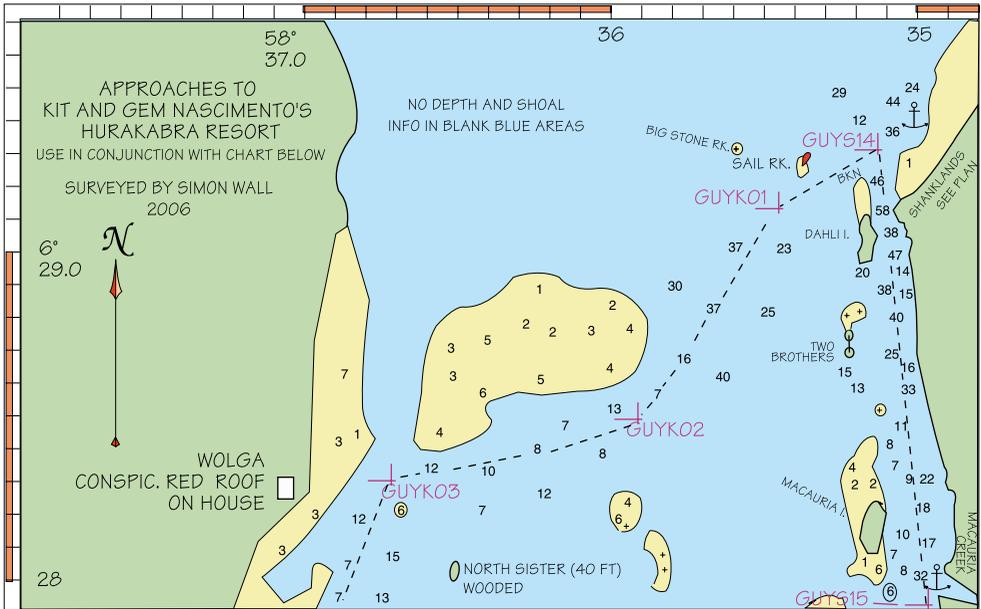
The approach to Hurakabra starts at the Shanklands anchorage at waypoint GUYS14. Head midway between Sail Rock and the visible beacon off the north end of Dahli Island till you get to GUK02. From GUK02 you are heading towards the conspicuous red roofed house at Wolga till you get to GUK03. Between GUK02 and GUK03 there is a large sandbank to the north. From GUK03 head for GUK04 and



Waypoints from Wild Orchid 2005, with updates and changes by Simon Wall 2006  
continued

Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GUYS09 6° 36.25' N 58° 34.65' W	216	20	Midway between No. 19 channel mark and the eastern shore at Lanaballi. (2.2 NM to GUYS10.)
GUYS10 6° 34.20' N 58° 35.50' W	179	36	¼ way across the river from east bank to clear shallows; No. 21 buoy off to the west. (1.7 NM to GUYS11.)
GUYS11 6° 32.59' N 58° 35.05' W	175	359	Close to eastern shore, northern end of deep water channel. (1.5 NM to GUYS12.)
GUYS12 6° 31.22' N 58° 34.57' W	195	355	Close to eastern shore in deep water channel, beware shallows to the west. (0.8 NM to GUYS13.)
GUYS13 6° 30.42' N 58° 34.58' W	223	15	Close to eastern shore at south end of deep water channel, beware shallows to the west. (1.1 NM to GUYS14.)
GUYS14 6° 29.37' N 58° 35.12' W	192	43	Midway between east shore and Sail Rock Fl Q.R. Use caution from here to GUYS 15. You have now reached Shanklands Resort. (1.5 NM to GUYS15.)





From Shanklands to Hurakabra. This is deep enough at low water, but passes close to dangerous rocks. See also waypoints from Bartica to Hurakabra, opposite Bartica chart, which is high tide only but over mud.

**GUK01**  
 6° 29.145' N  
 58° 35.392' W

**GUK02**  
 6° 28.470' N  
 58° 35.920' W

**GUK03**  
 6° 28.229' N  
 58° 36.730' W

**GUK04**  
 6° 27.423' N  
 58° 37.158' W

**GUYK05**  
 6° 27.131' N  
 58° 37.454' W

Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GUY14 6° 29.37' N 58° 35.12' W	188	43	Midway between east shore and Sail Rock Fl Q.R. Use caution from here to GUY15. The channel is narrow and requires eyeball navigation. It is not a straight line. (1.5 NM to GUY15.)
GUY15 6° 27.90' N 58° 35.08' W	214	12	½ mile south of Makauria Island & between Makauria Creek and Green buoy to west. (1.3 NM to GUY16.)
Onto Bartica on the next page.			

keep approximately a hundred feet off 3 white poles.

From GUYK04 head approximately 50 feet off the end of Kitt's dock, between the dock and the small white can marking a submerged rock. (We call this GUK05).

The anchorage area extends over 0.25 of a mile southwest from GUYK06. Stay between 50 and 150 feet from shore; there are shoals to the east.

### Upriver to Bartica

To continue upriver you return to waypoint GUY14 by Shanklands.

The run from GUY14 to 15 is not a straight line you will have to eyeball your way past the various shoals north of Dahli Island and off Shanklands resort. On your left is Two Brothers Island. Eddie Grant the musician, has turned this into a fancy river home. On the eastern bank in this area is the defence force marine outpost.

Macuria Creek by waypoint GUY15 is deep and you can anchor here to explore. You follow the river bank down to GUY16, and then swing out to the center of the river to GUY17. Here you will be heading down to GUY18. Calf Island will be on your starboard hand, and take care in the Rattlesnake passage between Rattlesnake rock and other rocks and shoals to your east.

From here it is a straight shot down to Bartica at GUY19.

## BARTICA

Bartica, a small mining town sits at the confluence of the Essequibo and Mazaruni Rivers. It has a population of about 15,000, and sits in Region 7 of Guyana's 10 administrative regions.

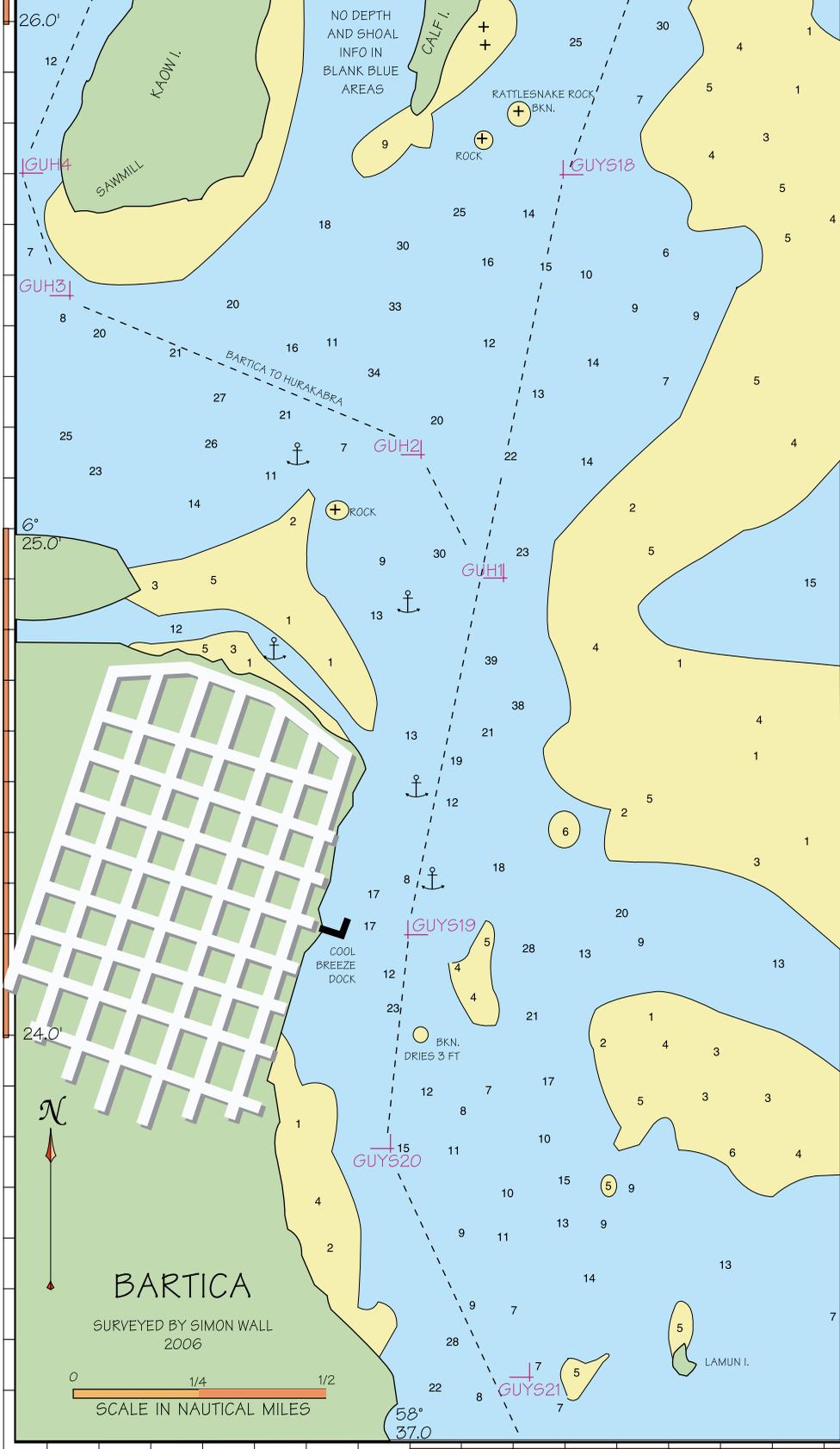
"Bartica" is an Amerindian word meaning "Red Earth" which aptly describes the soil of the area and many other upriver regions. It started as an Anglican Missionary Settlement in 1842, and later came to be the gathering place for "Porknockers", people who work in the bush mining gold and diamonds. Porknockers celebrate Porknockers Day in August, join in if you are here. The region is primarily known for its mining operations and mountain ranges like Mount Roraima ...2,810 meters high, standing at the point where Guyana, Brazil, and Venezuela meet.

Most of Bartica's points of interest are within walking distance of each other. The area is well served with taxies and mini buses. These taxies and buses compete with trucks, dray carts, bikes, cows, horses, and many smiling villagers. As Joyce Davis says: "A visit to Bartica is worth the while; if nothing more than exchanging a few words with the beautiful people who welcome the exchange."

Avenues run parallel to the Essequibo River, with First Avenue being the closest to the water's edge. Streets run parallel to the Mazaruni River, also starting from the water's edge.



Waypoints from Wild Orchid 2005, with updates and changes by Simon Wall 2006 continued			
Name Location	Course Upriver °Mag	Course Downriver °Mag	Remarks
GUYS14 6° 29.37' N 58° 35.12' W	192	43	Midway between east shore and Sail Rock FI Q.R. Use caution from here to GUYS 15. The channel is narrow and requires eyeball navigation. It is not a straight line. (1.5 NM to GUYS15.)
GUYS15 6° 27.90' N 58° 35.08' W	214	12	½ mile south of Makauria Island & between Makauria Creek and Green buoy to west. (1.3 NM to GUYS16.)
GUYS16 6° 26.66' N 58° 35.50' W	264	34	Sandy cliffs on nearby eastern shore, church to the south, shallows to the west (1.1 NM to GUYS17.)
GUYS17 6° 26.30' N 58° 36.50' W	212	84	At south west end of Rattlesnake Passage, mid-way between east shore & islands. (0.6 NM to GUYS18.)
GUYS18 6° 25.70' N 58° 36.70' W	205	32	Close to No. 31 buoy and Rattlesnake Rock, north of junction of Essequibo & Mazaruni. (1.7 NM to GUYS19.)
GUYS19 6° 24.07' N 58° 37.00' W	201	26	Off Bartica. Fuel available at two docks with piles, need fender board; 1-7 metres depth. (0.2 NM to GUYS20.)
GUYS20 6° 23.78' N 58° 37.03' W	168	21	South of Bartica. Lines you up to to GUY22. This waypoint was originally wrong and so taken from the chart. Use with caution. (0.6 to next)
GUYS21 6° 23.25' N 58° 36.75' W	195	348	Midway between Lamun Island and the western shore. (0.5 NM to GUYS22.)
GUYS22 6° 22.73' N 58° 36.75' W	177	15	About 50 metres north of a rock with 2-3 trees. (2.67 NM to GUYS23.)
GUYS23 6° 20.20' N 58° 35.92'	130	357	Across the river from the Baganara Resort. (0.2 NM to GUYS24.)
GUYS24 6° 20.10' N 58° 35.70' W	at anchor	310	Good anchorage in 5-7 metres off the resort. Do not anchor off the end of the runway



26.0'  
12  
7

NO DEPTH  
AND SHOAL  
INFO IN  
BLANK BLUE  
AREAS

KAOW I.  
SAMMILL

CALF I.

RATTLESNAKE ROCK  
BKN.

ROCK

IGUH4

GUY518

GUH3

BARTICA TO HURAKABRA

GUH2

6°  
25.0'

ROCK

GUH1

COOL  
BREEZE  
DOCK

GUY519

BKN.  
DRIES 3 FT

GUY520

N

BARTICA

SURVEYED BY SIMON WALL  
2006

0 1/4 1/2  
SCALE IN NAUTICAL MILES

58°  
37.0'

GUY521

LAMUN I.

Waypoints from Bartica to Hurakabra Lodge. Peter Ward waypoints

Name Location	Course Downriver °Mag	Course Upriver °Mag	Remarks
GUH1 6° 24.91'N 58° 36.81'W	341		This route is for high water only, when it should give you a minimum of 7.5 feet of water. But take it easy, especially the first time. GUH1 is your starting point about half a mile downriver from Bartica. 0.28 NM to GUH2
GUH2 6° 25.14'N 58° 36.97'W	306	161	This waypoint takes you south and west so you clear the shoals south of Bartica 0.92 NM to GUH3
GUH3 6° 25 46'N 58° 37 84'W	34	126	Opposite the sawmill on Kaow I. It is shoal a long way out from the sawmill. Do not go any closer than this. 0.25 NM to GUH4
GUH4 6° 25 70'N 58° 37 76'W	38	214	Kaow Island. You will follow the island south to GUH5, about 100 meters off. 0.64 NM to GUH5
GUH5 6° 26 28'N 58° 37 52'W	339	218	From this point off Kaow Island, you cut over towards west bank of the river at GUH6. 0.42 NM.
GUH6 6° 26 62'N 58° 37 77'W	47	159	This is close to Joyce's House - a fancy house on the river with a shingle roof and maybe a yacht. 0.6 NM to GUYK05
GUYK05 6° 27.131' N 58° 37.454' W		227	From here to Hurakabra it is deep. Anchor slightly upstream of Hurakabra; do not go far beyond the northern limit of the property as there are some rocks past there. You will see some optional mooring buoys

### Navigation

When approaching Bartica, you will see on your starboard side a large shed-like building with wharf and probably some small freighters or a ferry. This is the stelling (ferry terminal). Do not anchor anywhere near this as ships need turning space and it is very busy with water taxis. Proceed farther up, past the power station (diesel smoke and noise apparent) and up to the municipal market, a very big building with green roof and small wharf. Anchor at least 200 meters offshore in this area, allowing plenty of space for the huge ore barges to pass in the channel between you and the market. There are some rocks about 400 meters out and forward of

the market position. Watch for them at low tide and mark them well. Anchor in good holding in around six metres.

When going ashore, look to the right of the power station for Kool Breezes, a riverside bar and taxi terminal. Cruisers are welcome to tie their dinghies up at the small floating pontoon to the left of the bar; try to get around the back or side of the pontoon to avoid wash from passing traffic or inconsiderate parkers.

If you do not have a dinghy engine, rowing to and from your yacht is going to be an exercise (in more ways than one). The current is strong, and you have to work your way against the current close inshore

getting well upcurrent of your destination before cutting across. If you get into trouble, wave and shout — a taxi or workboat is sure to come to your rescue. It's that or head for the shore again. Anchor about 600 feet of the government dock (Stelling) this will keep you clear of river traffic.

The Cool Breeze Bar is happy to let you tie your dinghy to their dock, or Langley's Boat House will let you pull your dinghy close up to his boat house.

When overnighing at Bartica, make sure you are well-lit at night. The ore barges come through day and night and cannot stop or turn easily. Be seen, be safe!

### Regulations

Customs and Immigration are both open 0800-1630. Clear immigration at the police station on First Avenue upon arrival (open Monday to Friday). When you are done there, Customs is 40 metres away around the corner. No charge at Immigration, a small charge (G\$2500, US\$12.50) at Customs per yacht. Immigration will normally stamp you in for three-months when you check in at Bartica. (This can be extended)

When checking out, first go to Immigration (police station in Bartica) who will stamp your passports out and then accompany you to Customs, where you will be required to pay a checking out fee of G\$2,500 per yacht (US\$12.50).

When visiting officials, dress in long trousers, shoes and shirt for men and non-threatening dress for women (no spaghetti straps, boob tubes, halter-necks or shorts allowed inside the official buildings). Ensure that you have your usual boat documents and previous port clearance with you. You will find they are cryuier friendly and welcoming.

### Communication

You cawn buy mobile phones and sims at the entrance to the Mall. Sims are Digicel and GTT. For Digicel go to First Avenue, directly across from the entrance to Kool Breezes.

You can only receive on board wifi when anchored off the Baganara Resort, and only when they are switched on. (In Georgetown most hotels have free wifi.)

E-Networks, Cable and Wireless and Wimax should be available by the time you get to Bartica.

Bartica has several internet shops. I & D Cyber Cafe is owned by Inti Gobin, who also does computer repairs The Brazilian one on the corner of First Avenue and Sixth Street, is professionally run, and costs about US \$1.00 for 15 minutes.

The post office is around the corner from the police station on Third Street and about ten metres from the Bartica Stelling.

### Services

Diesel and petrol are available in Bartica at Texaco and petrol (only) at Guyoil; the-filling stations are adjacent to each other on First Avenue, and conveniently situated on the water's edge. There is also a refuelling jetty, only accessible by dinghy unless you have a zero draft, in front of the Bartica beach, which is situated at the confluence of the Mazaruni and Essequibo rivers.

A couple of places will get your cooking gas cylinders filled. European and some types of US bottles seem to be okay, but South African and Brazilian types cannot be refilled. It is best to come with all your cylinders completely full. Dino and Jewel Enterprise is run by Dino, an avid cricket fan, who also arranges gas refills. Ryan's General Store, the hardware store on First Avenue also deal with LPG/propane cooking gas refills. All refilling is done in Georgetown, and it takes several days before your bottles are returned.

For Perkins engine parts or Yamaha outboard parts and batteries, contact M.F. Yassin, at 28 First Avenue. You can also ask about repairs.

Balram and Sons on First Street charges and conditions batteries.

Rajesh's Upholstery shop on Fourth Street (across from Inty's Internet Cafe) is the place to go for new cushion covers, dinghy covers, awnings or whatever.

Hardware and general dealer stores in sell stuff like hoses, sandpaper and varnish. M.I Yassin, 20, First Street is a good one and sells Stanley Tools.

There are no haul-out facilities for yachts in the country.

If your computer needs fixing it may best to take to Georgetown to Trevor Meredith at Computers & Controls, 62 Hadfield Street, Georgetown, 623-8510.

### Shopping

Bartica has a good local market as well as supermarkets and hardware stores.

Scotia Bank, open weekdays 0800-1400 is situated on Second Avenue (round the corner from the flea-market alley on Fifth Street) and you will find a 24/7/365 ATM here that accepts Visa, Master, Maestro and Cirrus, where you can withdraw up to G\$30,000 (US\$145) per transaction. If you wish to draw larger amounts, you can do so at one of the tellers inside. Branches are available in Parika and Georgetown.

Citizens Bank, open weekdays 0800-1130 and 1300-1600 is on First Avenue.

You will need some cash as debit/credit cards only work in a few shops and hotels in Georgetown.

Bartica has an excellent local market with an extensive selection of fresh vegetables and groceries. The steamer from Parika, arrives at the stelling (dock), every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday by 3pm with fresh produce. M & J Supermarket on Main Street has many American, English and Canadian products. Pinkie, the owner brings in her fresh plucked chickens daily; but you have to go early, they go fast.

When you are tired of fish and chicken, try Freddie's Meat Market on First Avenue or Rasul Meat and Produce Store on the corner of Third Street and Third Avenue for an excellent selection of fresh tenderloin beef, minced beef, and more.

Jardines and Ryan and Rubin are both on Main Street next to the Market. They mostly do bulk provisioning for the interior. Take a walk through, you never know what you may find. Fresh produce is also available.

Atkinson's Trading, 92 First Avenue (accessible by road or beach) is owned by Tracey, William and John Atkinson and they sell Brazilian Goods and Groceries and are known for their Brazilian Calabresa Sausage, Marata Coffee, farm eggs, moz-



zarella cheese, and popcorn you pop the old fashion way.

Knights Pharmacy on Third Avenue will take care of your prescriptions and Sherry in the Arcade off Main Street has OTC things.

For case price for beer, rum and vodka, coke, and Pinehill Orange Juice, check Banks D'agular's Industries & Holdings next to Citizens bank on First Avenue

### Restaurants

Bartica has Bars and restaurants, night clubs, and travel agents.

Restaurants include Rosemary on Second Avenue, which serves good Creole food, buffet style.

Upper Level on Main Street offers home cooking, chicken & chips, or fish & chip with local vegetables.

Weifung on Main Street has a good selection of Chinese cuisine and is a popular place to have a beer.

Chip Chip on Sixth Avenue is run by Brazilians and offers typical Brazilian skewered barbecue with a selection of pork, chicken, and beef along with a big salad.

When you want your hair done visit Faders on First Avenue.

If you need somewhere to stay try the Platinum Hotel on Main Street, riverside. They have hot and cold showers, cable TV, and air conditioned rooms.

### Ashore

Bartica, each year comes alive during the Easter weekend when fun-loving Guyanese come from all over Guyana, to



participate in the Bartica Regatta. At this event one can enjoy a series of entertainments, and holiday related activities. The highlight is the speed boat race.

Karrau Village is an Amerindian Village, at the entrance into the interior by road. You can talk to the beloved "Big Roy", and he can make arrangements for you to go into the interior on a Bedford truck, visit the camps, and maybe see some dredge mining. The Mountain Resort Bar; is a recreational spot for playing pool, watching soaps or sports, and having a chat with the villagers, and miners going into the interior. A daily Buffet breakfast, and lunch is served, under the direction of Roy's daughter Peal.

Goshen, and Agatash Amerindian Villages also welcome cruisers.

Along the Essequibo River in the Bartica area, you will find expatriates of America, Germany, and England who have fallen in love with the Essequibo, settled, and built lovely river homes

Balkarran and Selene of "D" Factor Interior Guest House (592) 455 2544, (592) 455-0061 does some great tours with his Delta Speedboat Service, He really knows the river with its waterfalls and rapids, and he offers guided boat tours, fishing, and overnight camping. His tours are very popular with repeat clients from England, Canada, and the American Embassy gives him reference.

You can also get on the river ferries to go upriver to visit other settlements.

Bartica is at the confluence of the Essequibo and Mazaruni Rivers. The Mazaruni river is also navigable and has interesting anchorages at Buck Island and Kyk Over Al Island. You will need the Admiralty chart to explore these.

Cruisers Roy and Wendy say on Moon-site: "Some nights must also be spent at Grass Islands, where hundreds of Parrots go every night to roost, a sight you will be unlikely to see anywhere else in the World, not to mention the sounds... Tracey and James have a Bar close by if you are in need of a cool beer or something to eat." The Grass Islands are east of Bartica close to the east river bank.

See transport in Guyana at a glance for

getting to Georgetown. Should you wish to overnight, Joyce recommends the Sleepin International at 24 Brickdam, Stabroek Georgetown, (592)227-3446, a home-away-from-home for many visitors.

While in Georgetown you can enjoy the sites of colonial architecture, and amazing wooded building structures. Visit the Castellani House. The building was completed in 1882, subsequently it became the residence of the late Prime Minister, Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham. In 1992 it was converted into Guyana's first National Art Gallery. For those special food items of butter, sour cream, bacon, Leg of Lamb, purple onions, and many more gourmet treats. Nigel's Supermarket on Robb & Light Street. Bonny's Supermarket on Church Street, and Survival Supermarket in Newton, or Campbellville. You can top-up your DVD's, and CD's at Giftland, a great Department Store on Water Street.

## BAGANARA ISLAND RESORT

Follow our waypoints up to Baganara. Be careful around waypoint 22. You are just north of a rock with trees, but you are also about 100 yards west off Simons Rock, which is dangerous and submerged at high water. Being above the river confluence the water is at its cleanest and calmest.

Anchor off Baganara anywhere except in line with the airstrip. The anchorage is fabulous, with great views and good holding. One pleasant place to be about 80 to 100 metres off shore, slightly past the huge bamboo grove, giving some privacy to both boat and lodge. This is well within range of the wifi transmitter, which is sometimes on.

Baganara is a beautifully landscaped island resort. It is very pretty with a huge room that is open to the river and garden. This contains the bar, restaurant, and lounge. It is a touch more formal than Hurakabra.

They have a well stocked bar, snacks are available at anytime and facilities include: Beach, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Pool, Kayaking, and other water sports. The staff are wonderfully helpful and welcoming and



they are keen to develop yachting.

Their main visitors are the ecotourists and locals who come for weekends. If you want some time ashore they have pleasant rooms. They can also arrange tours.

Baganara also has an airstrip, so this can be your gateway back to the Georgetown or on into the interior. They provide excellent security. Apart from Kit's place, this is the only other place I would leave my boat unattended for extended periods of time.

You can ask them to have Evergreen Travel, or longtime staffer Lincoln, arrange trip to Kaieteur Falls.

## FROM BARTICA TO HURAKABRA

Peter Ward did the waypoints from Bartica to Hurakabra. There is one bank between Kaow Island and Joyce's house that is only about 4 foot deep at low tide, so you should only attempt this towards high tide, preferably a little before high tide, so you have a bit to play with.

Joyce Davis, a jazz and blues musician,

lives in a house on the river bank. Her sloop, Mood Indigo, is often anchored off the house. It is pretty much where we have the waypoint GUH6, a little upriver from Hurakabra. Not too many new faces come up the river, so Joyce is often delighted to meet people on yachts who are adventurous enough to make it up the river. If you have a phone you could give her a call and sound her out (592) 680-2152 If you don't have a phone you could try dropping by. When you want to visit, just anchor anywhere close by and go ashore, watching out for the little monsters, Duke and Ella — cute little dogs with an attitude until they get to know you.

When you get to Hurakabra, anchor slightly upstream of it; do not go far beyond the northern limit of the property as there are some rocks past there. They do have moorings for rent or you can anchor close by with good holding.

# DIRECTORY SECTION

## GUYANA DIRECTORY - SERVICES

### GUYANA EMERGENCY, OFFICIAL

**Customs Bartica,**  
(592) 455-3205

**Immigration Bartica,**  
(592) 455-2222

**Customs Boathouse,**  
Georgetown: (592)  
225-4848/ 225-  
9062

**Harbour Master's  
Office:** (592) 226-  
9083; 226-7842;  
227-2407

**Police, Parika:** (592)  
260-4480

**Police, Bartica:** (592)  
455-2222

**Knights Pharmacy:**  
(592) 455-3060

### COMMUNICATIONS

**I & D Cyber Cafe and  
PC Repairs,** (592)  
455-2586 see also  
Hurakabra Resort

### GENERAL YACHT SERVICES

**Balram & Sons Va-  
riety Store,** (592)  
455-2958 also pro-  
vides battery charg-  
ing, re-aciding,  
air & vulcanizing  
services, Balram  
Willford

**Roeden Rust Marina,**  
(592) 624-9139/  
617-2430/ 663-  
2607, Cleo Da  
Silva

**Dino & Jewel  
Enterprise,**  
(592) 455-2937  
Propane

**Hurakabra Resort**  
(Kit and Gem  
Nascimento), See  
Tours  
Mooring, internet,  
bar, restaurant, din-  
ghy dock, rooms.

### TECHNICAL YACHT SERVICES

**Deven and Mohabir,**  
(592) 455-2783/  
2742, shoe repairs,  
sail repairs, joinery,  
leather craft.

**Mohamed Ayube  
Khan** (Bull),  
(592) 455-2761,  
mechanic & boat  
service

**Orin Williams,** (592)  
455-2408/ 613-  
2193, mechanic

**Engine and Out-  
board Parts: M.F.  
Yassin,** (592)  
455-2793

### GUYANA TOURS

**Evergreen Tours  
& Baganara  
Resort,** (592) 455-  
2934/614-1478/  
624-2693/ 226-  
0605, evergreen.  
adventures@  
webworksgy.com

**Hurakabra Resort**  
(Kit and Gem  
Nascimento), (592)  
226-0240/ 225-  
3557/ 624-8694,  
640-4497 or 455-  
3200,  
kitnasc@ gol.net.  
gy, gems@gol.net.  
gy, gemmadhoo@  
gmail.com, bar and  
restarant, tours -  
Kaieteur & Orinduik  
Falls, Esseuibo &  
Demerara River.

**Wilderness Ex-  
plorers,** (592)  
227-7698, info@  
wilderness-explor-  
ers .com

### TRANSPORT

**Delta Chartered  
Speed Boat  
Service,** 455-2544/  
0061/ 621-0469

### BARTICA PROVISIONING

**Atkinson's Trading,**  
(592) 455-0180

**Banks DIH Ltd.** (592)  
455-2319  
wholesale drinks

**Freddie's Meat  
Market,** (592) 455-  
2579 623-4101

**Rasul Meat and Pro-  
duce Store,** (592)  
664-0245

### BARTICA SHOPPING

**Bank of Nova Scotia,**  
(592) 455-2618

**Citizens Bank,** (592)  
455-3014

**Chan Kamachan,**  
(592) 455-2759,  
gold & Silver Jewel-  
ler, Bartica

**Takur Persaud &  
Sons,** (592) 455-  
2497, hardware  
material propane &  
welding gas, etc

**General Hardware,;  
M. I. Yassin** (592)  
455-2329

### BARTICA HOTELS RESTAURANTS

**B D. Balkarran,  
Guest House,**  
(592) 455-2544/  
0061/ 621-0469

**New Modern Hotel,**  
Restaurant &  
Nightclub, (592)  
455-2301/0052

**Platinum Inn Res-  
taurant,** (592)  
455-0081

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Guyana Tourism  
Authority** (Indira  
Anandjit) at (592)  
231-6627/ 223-  
6351/2. Email:  
ianandjit@guyana-  
tourism.com

**Merlyn Nathan,**  
Regional Adminis-  
trator, Region Craft  
Department, (592)  
455-2209

**Balkarran and Sele,**  
Guest House 'D'  
Factor & Interior  
tours, (592) 455-  
0061