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COURTYARD Marrioll When you fly through these pages you will realize once again the amazing diversity this region has to offer. Suriname is once more explored before you in ways which reveal its true beauty while uncovering its many travel secrets.



EDITOR & PUBLISHER **SYLVIE DUTOIT** 

The little country of 500 000, has surprises in store ranging from the coastal towns to the jungle villages that are tucked away in its amazonian belly. Discover what Houttuyn brings while bringing together luxury and nature in a way that is so unique to Suriname. Test drive a brandnew crossover vehicle through plantation hideaways, across hilly roads back and forth between both sides of the Suriname river. Speaking of Suriname River, Anaula is beautifully explored in this edition in order to top of your taste for the jungle. Continue your magazine quest while picking up the latest info and facts from Suriname, and a bit of Guyana and the Dominican Republic making sure you're up to speed for your next trip to the region. While reading and traveling you will be able to see for yourself how much is yet to be discovered in terms of the latest travel fashions and recommendations. This magazine endeavours to show you each and every time the facts of life of this wonderful country Suriname and the region it calls home. We hope you enjoy this fourth edition, and allow it to be an inspiration to your travels of today and the future.



Silver-Beaked Tanagers (Ramphocelus carbo) are known as conspicuous widespread birds. Their habitat range from Peru, Venezuela, Brazil until the Guyana's (British-Guyana, Suriname and French-Guyana).

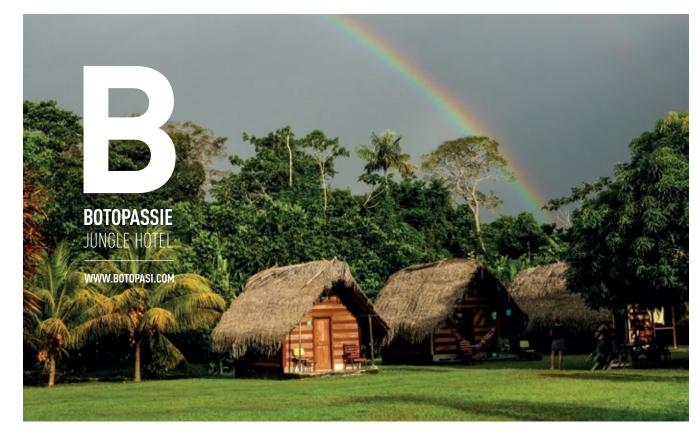
As they are common widespread passerine birds they are certified as least concerned bird species. Silver-Beaked Tanagers feel at any level at home, from undergrowth forest edges to open civilized areas.

They like to forage in noisy small flocks (10 – 20 the least) of their own kind, but they are not shy to also join mixed flocks on their journey in search of food. They have a wide variety in taste too: insects, seeds, berries, rice, bread and fruit (banana, papaya, melon, mango ... just to name a few).

The male Silver-Beaked Tanager has a remarkable darl red appearance whenever the sun is shining right on his feathers. He is also recognizable by the visible white lowe mandible (juveniles sport a grey/dark silver lower mandible) earning him the name Silver-beaked tanager.







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TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHER - HOUTTUYN LUXE RESORT

Houttuyn Wellness River Resort, a resort for enthusiasts of nature, water, luxury and comfort. The resort is beautifully located on the confluence of the Suriname River and the Para River, at a 15 minutes' drive from Paramaribo. The design of the resort is completely integrated into its unique location and setting. This new and exciting development features a wellness club, an exciting boutique hotel, conference facilities, villas and lots for private and corporate ownership.

# THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BECOME PART OF HOUTTUYN WELLNESS RIVER RESORT

# VILLAS AND LOTS

The villas are an integral part of the resort where in the owners enjoy the benefits of all on-site amenities and facilities, including the wellness club. The architects have designed four attractive models and a smaller vacation villa with plenty of opportunities to give the villa a personal touch. The villas are suitable for permanent stay, great for vacationing and offer an attractive investment opportunity. The resorts rental management program provides villa owners flexibility, convenience and an interesting return on investment.

# WELLNESS CLUB

The wellness club offers a unique mix of traditional Maroon and international wellness treatments. Enjoy a perfect day of relaxation during a complete wellness program or just a couple hours of relaxing at one of the riverside pools.

# HOTEL

The exclusive hotel cabanas are situated along the two rivers and in the tropical garden. The Water Villas, Land Suites and Deluxe Cabana's are beautifully designed for two to four guests. All cabanas are comfortably furnished and equipped with all the luxuries of a boutique hotel room.

# TIMESHARE PROGRAM

The timeshare program offers the opportunity to enjoy your own hotel cabana with the luxury of the resort and its facilities for one or more weeks per year, for the next ten years. Explore your benefits, including 30-40 % off the regular hotel prices, full access to all resort facilities and flexibility in choosing alternative dates.

**Houttuyn Wellness River resort,** We invite you to explore the possibilities to become part of this beautiful resort and look forward to welcoming you! www.houttuyn.com



TEXT - ALAN TIJSELING
PHOTOGRAPHER - KEN PARDI

# **OLD AND HAPPY**

As a travel journalist you get to see unexpected things in unexpected places. Places that Popular Places loves to fill you in about. For example, we went to Anaula, a beautiful resort deep in the Surinamese interior.

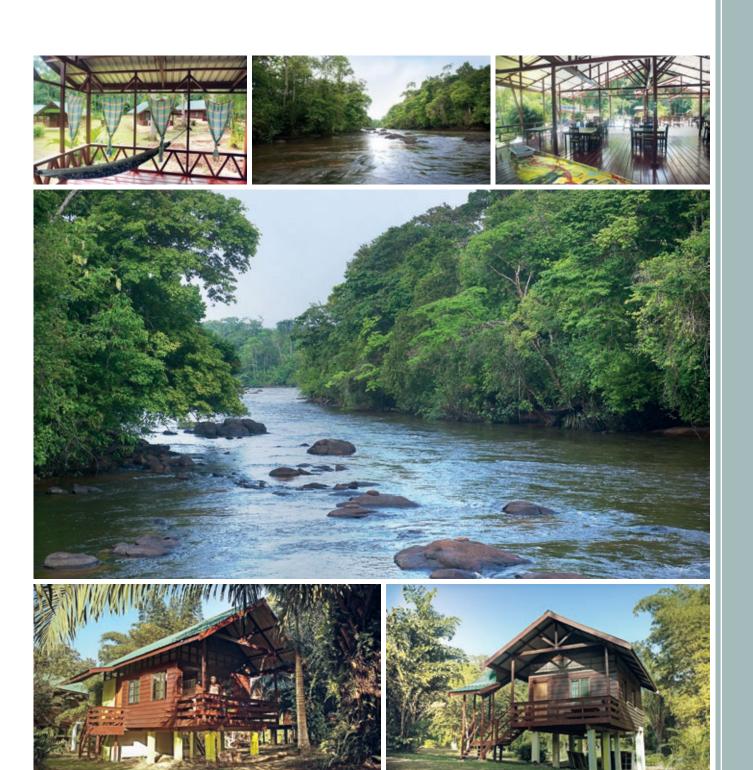
Of course we are aware that tour operators and lodge-holders always try to present their best side to our adventures and are we always in the working mode. However, every now and then during those adventures we get a little sneak view of how real life could be and how it, for some people, really is. Let's call them Mr. and Mrs. Monroe.





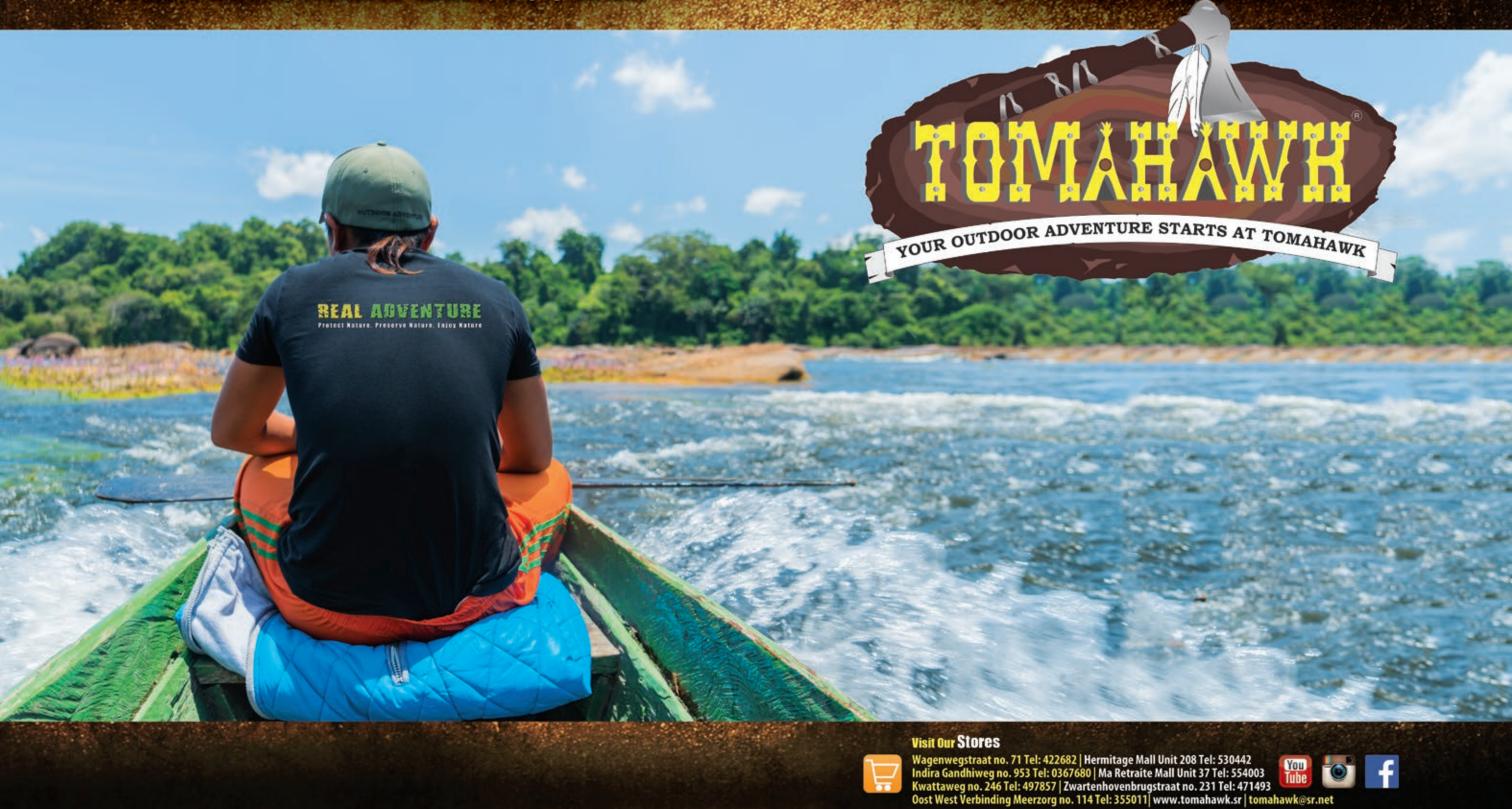
Well into their seventies and still deeply in love. They had their disappointments in life for sure, but managed to struggle thru them and learned most of all that they can always lean on each other. How do I know? Just by looking at them. She brings him his plate when they start dinner, he cleans the table and puts back the chairs afterwards. She nurses him and he mutters a little about it, but would probably be lost when she didn't. He's not allowed to drink, it's better for his health, but he takes oblique a little whisky. She pretends she doesn't notice it. Last night I sat behind them during an alligator spotting trip. While the large canoe floated over the water I watched them holding hands. No matter what your age is, when your means of transportation is a boat and you are in the dark on a river in the middle of the Amazon jungle surrounded by caymans and piranhas it makes sense to hold hands. When the flashlight of the boatman caught two red dots in its beam we all held our gasp. Caymans in sight! Mrs. Monroe let out a little scream and Mr. Monroe put his arm around her shoulders and pulled her close to him. Just as excited and maybe even scared as she was, but not showing it. Not even for one split second. I guess that is the secret of growing old happily together. Rising up the occasion when it's needed. Stepping up to the plate when it is really time to step up to the plate. Every time! Later on Mr. and Mrs. Monroe agreed to a little interview in which they could not find words enough to describe Anaula Nature Resort. They recommend it for everyone, senior or junior, inside and out Suriname. Anaula is definitely one of the more luxurious lodges on the Upper Suriname river. Cabanas are available for 2-6 persons, it's always safe and clean to swim in the pool and the restaurant provides excellent meals three times a day. All included in the price that varies depending on the season and the length of your stay.

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# LOST ON THE ROAD!

TEXT - ROSITA LEEFLANG & ALAN TIJSELING
PHOTOGRAPHER - KEN PARDI

With a brand new Isuzu MU-X a couple of days to the very comfortable resort Bergendal, seemed like a very good idea to the journalists Rosita Leeflang and Alan Tijseling! Only problem is that both are way over just a bit stubborn and how ever Leeflang is a very capable driver, Tijselings navigating skills are not his biggest plus.

While Leeflang and photographer Ken Pardi are listening enthusiastic to Cas Wijers, Fernandes Automotives sales representative who made up this, at first thought, brilliant idea, is Tijseling getting second thoughts. The Isuzu MU-X looks splendid, shiny grey on secure wheels, leather interior, cruise control, a smashing audio installation, a just as powerful as economic diesel engine and a list of options that is way too long to recall here. But no GPS and Tripmaster! Of course this makes sense, stuff like that is only build in for semi-professional rally cars. Navigating will

be done old skool with maps and a compass. In the meantime they said goodbye to Wijers and are on their way. Tijseling is facing his challenges and notices how the volume of the radio goes up and down with out anyone touching it. Leeflang is having some fun with discovering all cute buttons on the steering wheel. "Guys put down the windows while we are still in the city, people need to see us in this car!" Tijseling decides to take the lead. "Rosita take a left here!" With a stunning look on her face she watches him. "That will take us to Bar Zuid, we have to go the other way..." The start of their first, but most certainly not last discussion. "Woman listen, if we do this on every street corner we are getting nowhere. You do the driving, I lead the way. Besides I first need a cup of coffee to draw our road on the map." Leeflang responds quietly, too quietly; "Honey there are cupholders all over this place in this car, but it is fine with me. Go draw your route, I will be quiet!" Very much to her credit it has to be said that she manages to keep her mouth shut for over nine hours. The trip from Paramaribo to Bergendal normally takes less then two hours. Tijseling has been capable to pick wrong turns for over 450 kilometers, which still left them with enough diesel to drive back to the city the next day. His miscoordinating behaviour lead them to Marienburg in Commewijne, the picturesque little square in Domburg, a Labour Day Party in Onverwacht (after all it was July 1st), some sightseeing at Blaka Watra where they crossed the Surinam River for the second time, however Paramaribo and Bergendal are located on the same shore, an interesting visit to the Afobaka dam and leads to a surprised look on his face when Anani Beach seems not to be the resort Bergendal while it should be on his map. It is at this point where Rosita realizes enough is enough and takes over control. Ten minutes later they are safe and well at Bergendal. "Honey, Ken and I are gonna take a refreshing dip in the nice pool of this resort and start to enjoy the exceptional culinary kitchen of Bergendal, while you take a bucket of water and wash the car. It is about time you do something useful today!"

Of course you can drive directly to your destination, but who takes the time and effort to take some detours has a great experience of sightseeing Suriname!













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TEXT - ALAN TIJSELING
PHOTOGRAPHER - FABIAN VAS

Nieuw Nickerie is the capital of the so called 'rice' district Nickerie, a district which got its nickname because most of Suriname's rice production is concentrated in this western part of the country.

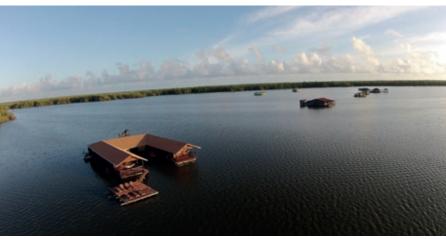
The district borders the Atlantic Ocean to the north, the district of Coronie to the east, the district of Sipaliwini to the south and Guyana to the west. Nickerie has a population of ca 37.000 and an area of 5,353 km². De Zeedijk, the centre of the city and nature reservate Bigi Pan make Nickerie an interesting place to visit. And of course it is the place where you cross the border to Guyana. There is a ferry that sails between Molson Creek in Guyana and the district of Nickerie. Nickerie's population includes East Indian, Javanese, Afro-Surinamese, Chinese, and Portuguese people. Bananas and rice are the main crops grown here. Travelling through Suriname can be a pleasant and joyful experience. No matter if you go by (rental) car, take one of the many busses-on-demand (SRD 90 pp w) or even fly by plane. Cycling is not recommended, though the distance might be a challenge to some, the conditions on the 'Oost-West verbinding' (the road that runs east- west along the coast and goes bij several names, are far from bikers friendly). By car it will take you approximately 2.5 hours to reach Nieuw Nickerie from Paramaribo.













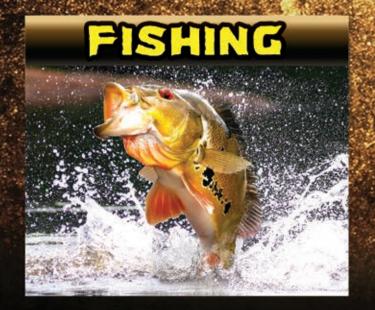
# NIEUW NICKERIE

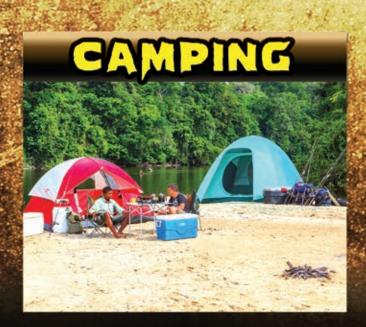
Nieuw Nickerie is well known for "De Zeedijk" a large dike that protects the town against the Atlantic Ocean. In earlier days a much smaller town, named Nieuw Rotterdam, was located more up to the north but it got washed away by the ocean. The Nickerians moved, named their new city Nieuw Nickerie and build a large dike to prevent the disaster from happening again. De Zeedijk is home to beautiful sunsets, a pleasant continue breeze and if you are lucky enough to see a full moon rise above the Atlantic Ocean it is one of the things in your life you will never forget. At weekends the people of Nieuw Nickerie gather on De Zeedijk to hang out and every Eastern the whole dike is packed for the traditional motor races. An excellent place to enjoy the breeze and the sunset is Lounge Café Zeedijk which offers a large variety of drinks and food and a big terrace on the second floor that overviews the Atlantic.

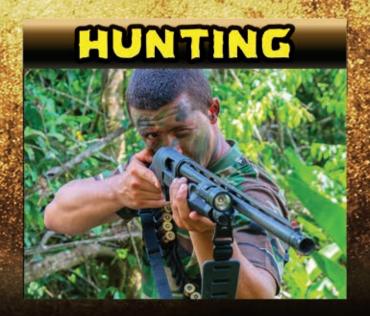
Other places to visit in Nieuw Nickerie are the legendary discotheque Zeppelin, restaurant De Palm and bar De Tropen (the restaurant and bar of Residence Inn Hotel, which is with 38 rooms also the largest hotel in town) and the Central Market. During the day a vivid place where everybody goes for getting their fresh fish and vegetables and in the weekend nights the local hang out place where people gather to chat and drink beer or something stronger from big coolers in the back of their pick-up trucks. Most of Nieuw Nickerie social life is found at De Zeedijk and around Brassaplein, which literally translated means Hug Square. Here are the most important buildings as the Police station, Post office and the historical building in which the districts commissioner holds office. If you like to visit Guyana you can take the ferry from South Drain which leaves every morning at 10am to Springlands, Guyana. However you do need to have a multiple entry visa to travel back to Suriname. At the Corantijn beach little boats do the so called back track route. Visa and passports not needed and there for very attractive and very illegal. Bigi Pan Nature Reserve, located close to the town is a large stretch of open water where you're able to find many different bird species. In Bigi Pan you'll spot the famous Scarlet Ibis with its beautiful red color, the pink flamingo, the white heron (Sabaku) and multiple types of raptor birds. Pretty original is the stay over in Bigi Pan, small cottages located above the surface of the water. Both from Paramaribo and Nieuw Nickerie there are several tour operators that offer day, or multiple-day, trips to Bigi Pan. Most trips include mangrove boat rides, bird and alligator spotting and a mud bath. The latter is a bit of a messy experience but very relaxing for your skin and mind! For most people a two day trip is enough to discover the charms of Bigi Pan. Birdwatchers would probably like to stay longer. You can ask the local tour operators for the various arrangements they are providing for visting Nieuw Nickerie and Bigi Pan.

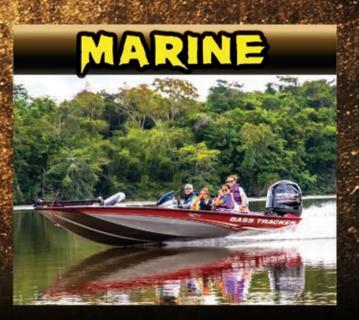
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# Khazana Restaurant

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# Matutu, Residence inn

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# Pannekoek en Poffertjes

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# Park Avenue

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# **Tout Tout Petit**

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B0J0

TEXT - POPULAR PLACES
PHOTOGRAPHER - HEARTFILLED SWEETS

After the arrival of Spanish, English, French and Dutch colonists, slaves from Africa, and Indonesian and British Indian contract workers, various unique and exotic dishes from traditional kitchens were united. Just like clothes, the culinary world also knows trends.

# SURINAME ROYAL CAKE

During the last years the Surinamese food market was conquered by cupcakes, tiramisu and birthday cakes in all forms and colours. Despite of this growth, when it comes to a real party we still reach out to the delicacy of which we know for sure everyone will love: de Bojo. It should be juicy and velvety, not too sweet and it should have a good crispy crust with just a little dash of salt. With or without cinnamon, with or without raisins, delicate with only coconut milk or not so delicate with grated coconut, all varieties are equally enjoyable. Bojo is a classic Surinamese dessert.

The basic ingredient of Bojo is cassava. This root is originally from South America and has been used here for centuries as the primary food source by the original inhabitants of the continent.

Cassava is now embraced by all communities in Suriname. The descendants of runaway slaves use it to bake cassava bread which they could have learned from the natives. The descendants of Indonesian contractors enrich our kitchen with "teloh": fried cassava chips served with spicy fish called "trie" and a spicy peanut sauce as a topping. The descendants of free slaves who settled in the city use it to make the "her'heri" from different kind of root vegetables, like cassava, sweet potatoes, green and ripe bananas, served with a salted fish and a boiled egg. Besides these main courses, the sweet cassava is also used to prepare delicious pastries such as the lapez (cassava cake steamed in banana leaves) and of course the Bojo, oven-baked cassava cake. Nowadays each of these dishes are classic Surinam dishes: everyone eats them and everyone makes them, regardless of your background.

One can find a range of cassava cakes in other neighbouring countries, with each region adding its own spices. It takes a little getting used to for a person from Suriname to unsuspectingly bite into a Guyanese or Trinidadian cassava cake (where it's called "poon). In the English-speaking Caribbean region the cassava cake is also seasoned with black pepper, nutmeg, cloves and ginger in addition to sugar. But all varieties of the cake mix the grated cassava with coconut milk, just like the Surinamese Bojo. Many will stay awake for a slice of this delicious cake.

Luckily, it has become easier to get a hold of this dessert. Nowadays it can be found in well-stocked stores. In 2013 Heartfilled Sweets introduced different flavors of Bojo in Suriname. The traditional recipe of granny Syl is the foundation of the company founded by Pricella and Ernesto Kemble. Like all classic recipes, the Bojo can also be the basis for creative cake outings. And the Kembles have proven to master that. Besides the traditional Bojo, Heartfilled Sweets is best known for its taste and texture experiments. As a result of these experiments they have created the "White Almond Bojo," the "Hazelnut Bojo" and "Chocolate Chip Bojo" for lovers of crunchy desserts. The "Pineapple Bojo" and "Sweet Cherry Bojo" were designed for people who desire a velvety desert with a fruity flavour. And for people who prefer an extra "kick" the Kembles have created the "Brown Rum Raisin Bojo" and the "Piña colada Bojo".

**B0J0** 



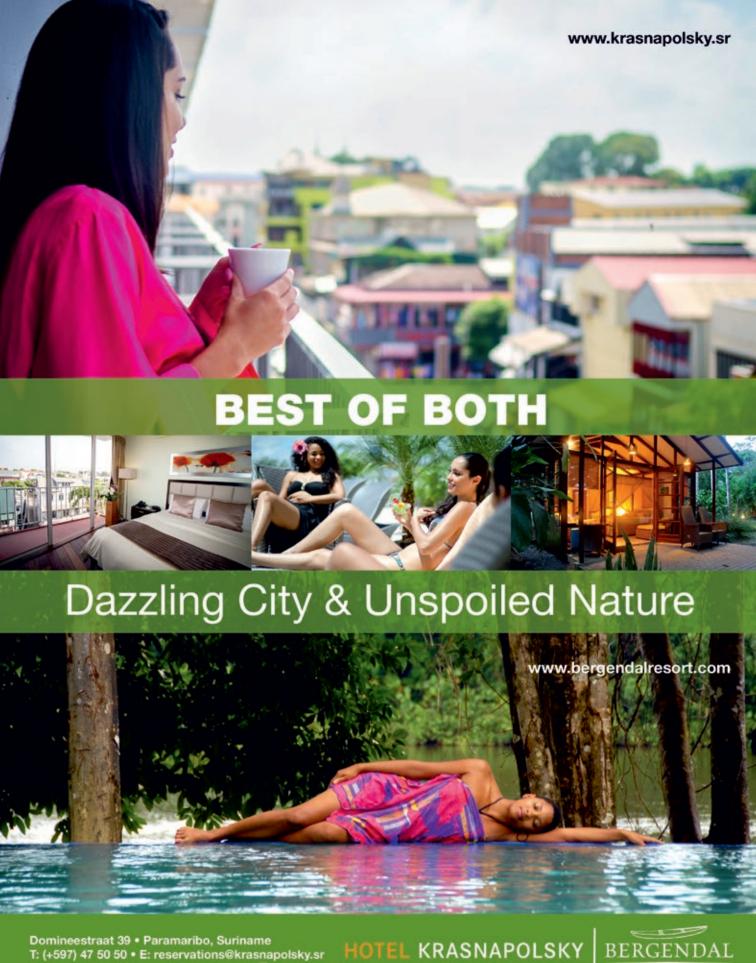




# **'EASY SELF BAKE BOJO'**

If you want to welcome your quests with the delicious smell of freshly baked Bojo it used to mean laborious cassava peeling and grating the coconuts for coconut milk. Nowadays you can find grated cassava and coconut in most supermarkets in Suriname. However, if that is too much trouble then Heartfilled Sweets has the solution for this. The two Heartfilled Sweets entrepreneurs continued to push their limits because of the high demand for the different varieties of these Bojos and created their own "easy self-bake Bojo". Now you do not have to be a Pastry Chef and you can welcome the delicious smell into your own home. The only issue that remains to be resolved: who gets the crust?







# **SPECIAL THANKS TO**



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TEXT - ALAN TIJSELING

PHOTOGRAPHER - OETSI TOURS & GIRENDRA PERSAUD

Visiting Guyana has never been more easy. GUM air provides a safe and comfortable roundtrip by plane. Flying from Paramaribo (Zorg en Hoop airport) to Georgetown (Ogle Airport) takes about two hours and gives you a great view on Suriname as well as Guyana. The difference? Well, you see it for yourself!

# GO ON AN ADVENTURE TO GUYANA WITH OETSI TOURS AND GUM AIR

Guyana, officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, is Suriname's neighbor on the west. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, Brazil to the south and southwest, Suriname to the east and Venezuela to the west. With 215,000 square kilometres, Guyana is the third-smallest country on mainland South America after Uruguay and Suriname. The region known as "Guiana" (which includes Guyana, Suriname –also known as Dutch Guyana- and French Guyana) comprised the large shield landmass north of the Amazon River and east of the Orinoco River known as the "Land of many waters". Originally inhabited by several indigenous groups, Guyana was settled by the Dutch before coming under British control in the late 18th century. It was governed as the plantation economy of British Guiana until independence in 1966, and officially became a republic within the British Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. The legacy of British rule is reflected in the country's diverse population and the national sport Cricket. Guyana also has the distinction of being the only South American nation in which English is the official language.

# GUYANA

The majority of the population, however, speak Guyanese Creole, an English-based creole language with slight Dutch, Arawakan and Caribbean influences. In addition to being part of the Anglophone Caribbean, Guyana is one of the few Caribbean countries that is not an island in the West Indies. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), of which Guyana is a member, is headquartered in Guyana's capital and largest city, Georgetown. In 2008, the country joined the Union of South American Nations as a founding member.

Georgetown is a vivid city which is known for its British colonial architecture, including tall, painted-timber St. George's Anglican Cathedral. There is a dispute between Guyana and Suriame which capital has the biggest Cathedral. Let's compromise on Paramaribo having the tallest and Georgetown having the largest Cathedral. A large clock marks the facade of Stabroek Market, a popular source of local goods.











The Stabroek Market is a large cast-iron colonial structure that looks like a statue and is located next to the Demerara River. Another landmark is the City Hall, a beautiful wooden structure from the colonial era. Guyana also houses two of the world's longest floating bridges, Demerara Harbour Bridge (4) and Berbice Bridge (6). The interior of Guyana is pretty similar to Suriname except for the Kaieteur Waterfall. World's largest single drop waterfall by volume is a must see once you visit Guyana. Oetsie Tours, a well-known tour operator in Suriname provides excellent tailor made visits to Guyana as well by plane as by bus. Check them for a trip on your own demands!

Oetsie Tours, Parijsstraat 40, Suriname T. +597 44 14 88 - info@oetsitours.com - www.oetsitours.com



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# SANTO DOMINGO

Santo Domingo is the capital and largest city of the Dominican Republic and also the largest city in the Caribbean. The city has almost 3 million inhabitants. Founded by Columbus in 1496 as the first European settlement in the Americas. The Colonial Zone is known for its beautiful churches, cathedrals and fortresses. Santo Domingo is the financial, political, commercial and industrial center of the Dominican Republic, with the country's most important industries being located within the city.









# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



# **PUERTO PLATA**

San Felipe de Puerto Plata, simply referred to as Puerto Plata, is a small city located in the northern part of the country. The city serves as one of the most important trading ports in the country. Puerto Plata is famous for its resorts such as; Playa Dorada and Costa Dorada containing more than 100.000 hotel beds. The beach is surrounded by beautiful hills, with the Pico Isabel de Torres as its highest top with 793 meters and a tramway that gets you to the top will give you a stunning view over the area. Surely worth a visit is the fortress "Fortaleza San Felipe".





# **BARAHONA & PEDERNALES**

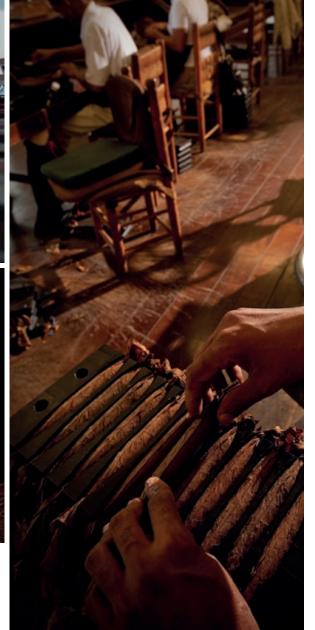
The Barahona & Pedernales region is the secret paradise of the Dominican Republic. Though, the beaches of Barahona & Perdernales are known for its rough waves and therefore swimmers need to be careful. The beaches are popular for surfing and locals love to go to the beaches here in the weekends, giving the area the advantage of not yet being spoilt by mass tourism. Spent a view days here enjoying the astonishing green nature and hills overlooking the azure blue ocean.

# **MONTECRISTI**

Montecristi is located at the northwestern tip of the Dominican Republic and known for its rough shores looking over the Atlantic Ocean. The town was an important trading point until the 19th century. There is not a lot of tourism in this town, but Cayo Cabrita and El Morro are beautiful beaches where you can enjoy the tranquility away from mass tourism. The sea around the cliffs is a 'diver's paradise' with several shipwrecks that date back to the colonial period.









# **SANTIAGO**

Santiago de los Caballeros, also called Santiago is located in the northern part of the Dominican Republic and is the second biggest city of the Dominican Republic counting 560 thousand inhabitants. Santiago is the intellectual, educational and cultural center of the country and has a charming atmosphere. Due to its location in the fertile Cibao Valley it has a robust agricultural sector and is a leading exporter of rum, textiles, and cigars.













One of the most special and amazing countries to visit in South-America is Peru. When preparing for a trip to Peru, it can be hard to choose your itinerary, since Peru has so much to offer! There are coastline and mountains, lakes and sand dunes, modern cities and ancient Inca sites. The people are friendly and colourful and the food is delicious, you'll never taste a better ceviche than at Lima's Malecón. Of course you can't miss the ancient Inca site Machu Picchu and the city of Cuzco, it can get crowded, but is still really amazing and magical. There is a lot more to be seen, to be discovered and to be experienced in Peru, the land of hidden treasures.



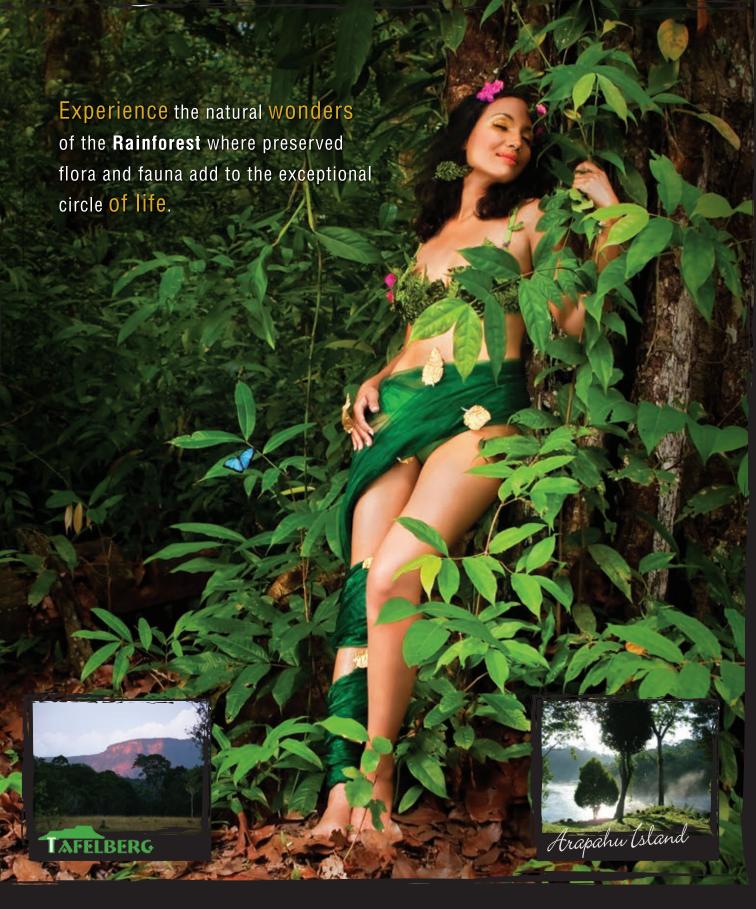
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