

UP OR DOWN THE MARONI RIVER 4 days & 3 nights



Guyane Evasion

Degrad des Cannes – 97354 Remire Montjoly (French Guiana)

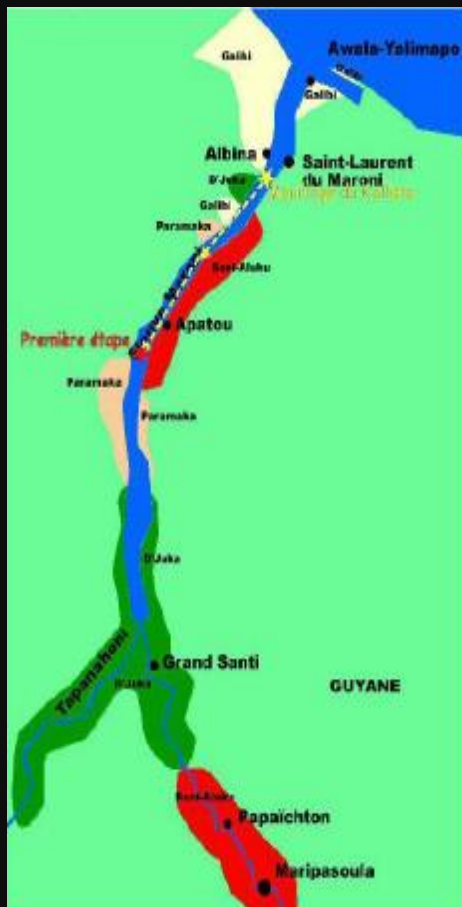
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GENERAL INFORMATION



About the Maroni River:

Along some 320 miles, this Amazonian river is the royal way to discover fluvial Guiana. Creating the border with Surinam, it provides a lifeline of exchanges for riverside populations such as Wayana Indians and Bushinengues. Sometimes as broad as a lake, it also meanders through a labyrinth of rocks, river falls and rapids known as "sauts". Just like a long natural road, it connects a wide variety of human types, landscapes and existential rhythms—all preserved in harmony with the water and vegetation.

The Maroni River can be motored upstream on pirogue (dugout canoe) from Camp Dany Campou (located right near Apatou) and all the way up to Maripasoula. Numerous stops will allow you to keep in permanent touch with the local population. It can also be motored in the opposite direction, from Maripasoula down to Apatou. Both trips lasting 4 days are performed using locally built motorized pirogues fully adapted to river navigation.

Our trusty pirogues are safely piloted by teams of Djukas or Boni Indians—all of them with expert knowledge of the river as "motorists" (motor pilots) or "bossmen" (watchmen at the prow).

Motoring upstream or downstream will take you to the same sites and villages. However, those listed on schedule may change as the river's water-level variations and/or unforeseeable circumstances sometimes force us to adapt. Again depending on water-levels, navigation may vary from 5 to 6 hours a day—but always with a fair number of stops for rest, village tours and forest treks.

Upstream trip—from Apatou to Maripasoula.

Downstream trip—from Maripasoula to Apatou.

Scheduled stops are the same in both directions.

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TRIP SCHEDULE (UPSTREAM)



DAY 1

Morning road-trip to Apatou.

A minivan will pick you up from Cayenne or Kourou and take you to Apatou (1-hour drive from St Laurent).

Departure at 1.00pm from Apatou—your pirogue will motor upstream until the evening stop.

Overall: 4 days and 3 nights on full board (hammocks supplied for the night).

DAY 2

Breakfast at the village.

Further navigation up to the village of Gakaka. Village tour.

Upstream again to reach Providence.

Guided forest walk lasting ca. 1h 45mins (incl. return) to discover Amazonian plants and fauna.

Next stop: Gakaba. Picnic lunch and visit to a pirogue-building workshop.

Our last stop in the evening is the Djuka village of Bellikampoe where you'll have dinner and spend the night in hammocks.

Toilets are available but no showers.

DAY 3

Breakfast at the village.

Further navigation up to a gold panning site. Site tour.

Upstream again to another Djuka village. Lunch and free time for swimming.

Trips to Stoeley Island, then Grand Santi.

Back on pirogue, branching into the Lawa River until you get back into the upper reaches of the Maroni.

A white-sand beach will be available for more swimming.

Evening stop at the Amerindian village of Léssédédé. Village tour.

Dinner and night at the village (no toilets or showers).

DAY 4

Breakfast at the village.

Further navigation up to the Abbati Cotika nature reserve. Free time for swimming.

Upstream again to reach the villages of Loka, then Papaichton. Lunch en route.

Late afternoon arrival in Maripasoula. Transfer to the airport; then you'll fly back to Cayenne (1-hour flight)

7.00 pm – Arrival at Cayenne airport. Our minivan takes you back to your starting point.

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What you need for your trip:

Waterproof carrier bag or "touk" (airtight plastic barrel) – sun hat or cap – sunglasses – shorts – T-shirts - swimming trunks/swimsuit – tracksuit – large towel – toiletry bag – flashlight – pocket knife – mosquito repellent – sneakers – plastic sandals – waterproof jacket – pharmacy kit – sweater against the evening cool – rucksack.

Important:

- Do not carry more than 10kg (ca. 22lb) of baggage (regulations allow for 5kg in cabin and 5kg in the hold)
- Bring along your passport and some cash for personal expenses (e.g. purchases from local craftsmen)
- Our chauffeur will call you on the eve of departure to confirm time and place for picking you up
- Village accommodation is provided in "carbets" (traditional lodges on piles) with hammocks supplied
- Some villages do not provide toilets or showers (you'll have to use the river)
- We do not insure cameras
- Pirogue teams all include a motor pilot, a "bossman" (watchman at the prow) and a guide
- Vaccination against malaria is strongly recommended. Please contact your GP for adequate information.
- As we aim to preserve local natural and human environments, the max. number of participants is limited to 14 for a single pirogue
- This trip is intended for individuals in good general health but does not require any particular physical aptitude
- A dynamic and participative outlook is required to enjoy this adventure
- Local river waters are not polluted and swimming does not entail any health risks
- No children under 7 are allowed
- Depending on site conditions, trip schedules or the order of items may be changed by your guide
- An extension of your stay in Maripasoula can be arranged (price quotation on request)

Upstream trips on the Maroni River can only be scheduled on specific dates (please contact us).

Nighttime sleeping in villages always takes place in hammocks but some villages do not provide toilets or showers.

Meals (for information purposes only):

Meals served during your trip are prepared by your guide based on local fresh food; these may include papaya salad, Kalawang (mango salad), pork Colombo, smoked chicken or fish, cabbage and chadek (local grapefruit) salad, legs of lamb cooked over an open log fire, yams, plantain bananas and other fresh fruit—not to mention plantation rum and Ti' Punch!

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PRICES

STANDARD TRIP FOR 4 DAYS AND 3 NIGHTS	PER PERSON
Price per adult for 4 days & 3 nights with full board	€598.00
Price per child under 12 for 4 days & 3 nights with full board	€418.00

Services included:

- One-way flight (Cayenne-to-Maripasoula or Maripasoula-to-Cayenne)
- Minivan shuttle from Cayenne to Apatou (upstream) or from Cayenne to Cayenne airport (downstream)
- 4 days of pirogue travel
- Full board meals (incl. beverages)
- 3 nights in hammocks (supplied)

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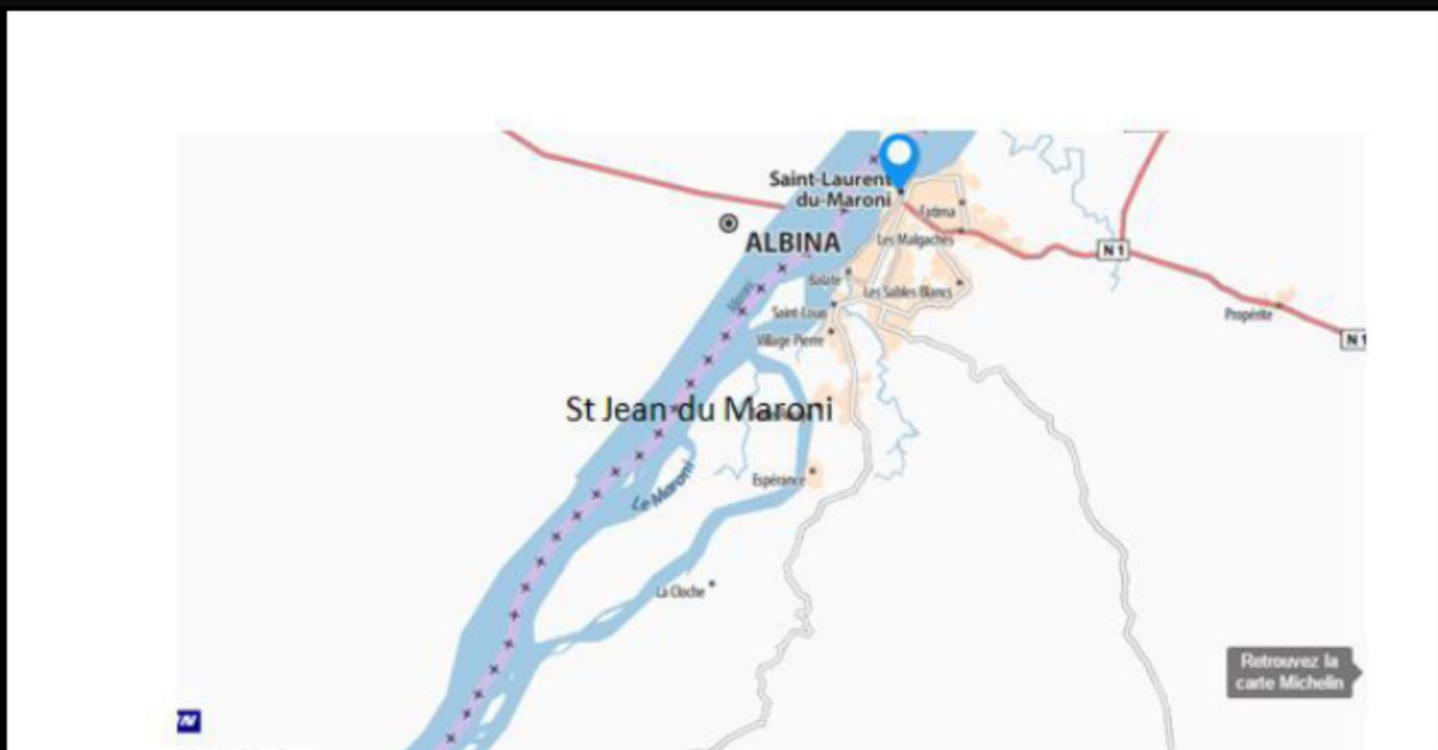
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LOCATION MAP

A three-hour drive from Cayenne is required to reach St-Laurent-du-Maroni.



On leaving Cayenne, take the direction of Kourou/Sinnamary/St-Laurent-du-Maroni.

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