

Country Introduction



Nestled on South America's northern coast, Suriname proudly stands as the most forested nation in the world, with over 90% of its territory covered by pristine forests, abundant wildlife, and remarkable biodiversity. As part of the Guiana Shield—a vital ecological region bordering the Amazon—Suriname's forests play a critical global role in climate regulation and carbon sequestration, serving as a lifeline for both its people and the planet.

These unspoiled ecosystems harbor an extraordinary array of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to Suriname. By protecting these natural treasures, Suriname enhances global ecological resilience, safeguards species vital for maintaining balance in the natural world, combats climate change, and generates carbon credits to drive sustainable economic development. Embracing its role as guardian of these invaluable resources, Suriname is committed to ensuring their benefits endure for generations to come.

Beyond its natural heritage, Suriname is a vibrant cultural mosaic. Indigenous, African, Indian, Javanese, European, and Chinese influences converge to create a rich tapestry of traditions and a shared dedication to environmental stewardship.

As Suriname takes its place on the global stage, it invites the world to discover a land where nature thrives, cultures unite, and a sustainable future is cultivated for all.

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COMMONS-A PAVILION

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**Where Nature Thrives
and Cultures Unite.**

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Exhibition Concept

Our People, Our Cultural Heritage

Where Traditions Thrive and Cultures Unite

Suriname's ethnic heritage is a vibrant tapestry woven from centuries of history and diverse cultural influences. The Indigenous people, the original stewards of the land, form the foundation of this mosaic, with their profound knowledge of nature and sustainable living practices.

The arrival of Africans during the colonial era brought resilience and a rich cultural legacy. Many descendants, known as Maroons, established autonomous communities deep in the rainforest, preserving unique traditions, languages, and spiritual practices. Others, known as Creoles, became integral to Suriname's diverse society, blending African heritage with European influences to create vibrant cultural expressions in language, music, cuisine, and art.

In the 19th century, waves of immigrants arrived, further enriching Suriname's cultural landscape. Hindustanis from India brought vibrant festivals, cuisine, and spirituality, while Javanese workers introduced intricate art, dance, and culinary traditions. Chinese immigrants contributed entrepreneurial spirit and distinct cultural customs. Additionally, the Dutch left their mark on the nation's language, architecture, and governance.

Together, these communities form a harmonious blend of traditions.



Suriname's Rainforest: A Biodiversity Haven

Suriname's rainforest is home to incredible wildlife including species on the endangered, protected or vulnerable list such as the jaguars, giant river otters, harpy eagles, and nesting leatherback sea turtles. Suriname's biodiversity is crucial for maintaining ecosystem balance and combating climate change. Efforts like protected reserves and eco-tourism help ensure these species and their habitats are preserved for future generations.

As a carbon-negative nation, Suriname plays a vital role in global climate stability, protecting ecosystems that absorb CO2 and produce oxygen. In addition, its rainforests also hold secrets for future medicinal discoveries, while Indigenous and Maroon communities safeguard its natural heritage.



A Culinary Journey through Suriname

Suriname's culinary tapestry is a vibrant fusion of flavors, seamlessly weaving together the rich traditions of Indigenous peoples with influences from African, Indian, Javanese, Chinese, European, and Maroon communities. This harmonious blend creates a one-of-a-kind gastronomic adventure, where every dish is a celebration of cultural diversity and heritage.

Savor the bold spices of Indian curries, the sweet and savory delights of Javanese saoto-soup and nasi-goreng, the hearty flavors of Creole pom and pepperpot, the earthy richness of Peprewatra, a Indigenous spicy fish soup, the Chinese-inspired stir-fries and dim sum. Whether you are dining in a local eatery, a traditional village, or a vibrant market, Suriname's cuisine is a celebration of harmony and adaptation where every bite tells a story.



Suriname Leads the Way: Pioneering Carbon Credit Sales under the Paris Agreement

Suriname, as one of the few carbon-negative countries, is set to become the first nation to sell carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's "Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes" (ITMOs). These credits are based on the baseline carbon stock stored in Suriname's rainforests, as registered with the United Nations. Any increase in this carbon stock generates emission reductions, equivalent to carbon credits. In 2021, Suriname registered an emission reduction of 4.8 million metric tons of CO2 under the U.N. REDD+ program, resulting in an equal number of ITMO credits.

Highlighting the importance for economic and environmental policies, these credits are central to Suriname's climate finance strategy. The credits can help Suriname achieve its Paris Agreement goals, and may also be sold to companies aiming to offset their carbon emissions.

Discover Suriname: A Journey of Culture, Cuisine, and Nature

Step into Suriname, a captivating destination where the vibrant threads of culture, cuisine, and nature weave together into an unforgettable tapestry, a melting pot of cultures, where Dutch colonial history meets Indigenous, African, and Asian influences. Once in Suriname, immerse yourself in the charm of Paramaribo, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unique wooden architecture and colorful markets. For food enthusiasts, Suriname offers a culinary adventure like no other, savoring dishes that blend flavors from across the globe, uniquely reimaged in Suriname. For nature lovers, immerse yourself in Suriname's unparalleled biodiversity with its expansive rainforests, home to exotic wildlife, including jaguars, giant river otters, sloths, and over 700 bird species.

Whether it is navigating winding waterways, uncovering hidden rapids, or soaking in the serenity of the Amazon basin, Suriname is ready to inspire your soul on a journey like no other!

