



The Rock View Lodge

VISITORS' GUIDE

to one of the most beautiful natural places on Earth

North Rupununi Wetlands, Annai – Guyana





Rock View as a hub to the beautiful Rupununi

Acknowledgements

We could not have published this guide book on Rock View and the history of its early years without the encouragement and support of Advertising and Marketing Services of Guyana and St. Lucia for the initial layout, Forbras publishing of Boa Vista, Brazil for having added to the concept, and finally, our special friend and past guest here at Rock View, Ali Alsloom of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, for his generosity and kindness in refining what you now have before you as being a testimonial to the achievements of Rock View.

I would like to express a special thanks to such pioneering spirits in establishing eco-tourism in the Rupununi by mentioning such icons as Diane Mc-Turk of Karanambu and Sydney and Theo Allicock of Surama, who in their different ways have supported us at Rock View and our many partners in tourism for Guyana now being recognized as a unique eco-tourism destination.

Finally, I would like to thank my own family for having supported me with their great patience, sacrifice and understanding to the making of a dream really come true!

Rock View founder
Colin Edwards



Our niece Miriam, enjoying the swimming pool.

What is so special about Rock View?

Rock View is one of the most relaxing and comfortable places to stay in the North Rupununi. It has the most unique blend of people, culture, cuisine, art, agriculture and tour activities, and its commitment to excellence is reflected in the very high quality of its hospitality services and its well-maintained premises. It is run by a family that itself is a blend of Amerindian, Brazilian, British and Basque. It stands as a proud example of Guyana's brand of tourism at its best, with its blend of heritage, local knowledge, social connections and personalities.

A daily delight is the stream of schoolchildren, on foot or on bicycles, who have right of way through Rock View on their way to the Annai Primary School at one end and the Annai Secondary School and Youth Learning Center of the Bina Hill Institute at the other.

Neatly dressed in their uniforms with golden ribbons, wearing slippers, socks and shoes or going barefoot and picking up mangoes along the way, they salute you as they pass with polite good mornings, friendly smiles, giggles and chatter.



Rock View supporter Vanda Radzik.



Patch, the favourite resident dog.

This is one of the subtle but important trademarks of the Rock View brand of tourism: its intrinsic link with community life and its partnership with growing the tourism business in the wider Rupununi in a way that is respectful of the local people, their aspirations and relationships.

Nearly everyone you see at Rock View has an amazing talent and life story, over and above their role as part of the Rock View staff family. There is the story of the Brascche family, the original owners of Rock Point Ranch, which has now become Rock View. There is Uncle Dennis, who pioneered the Panorama Nature Trail hike on the Mountain of the Sacred Table. There is Castro the Capatache, who looks every bit the part, with his hat and lasso as he sits astride his horse and rides through Rock View on his daily cattle round-up. But then there is the fact that Castro, from Rupertee Village next door to Rock View, is also one of the most talented practitioners of Makushi culture and knowledge-holders of the heritage; he and his troupe are among the best performers of traditional dances and songs. Added to which, Castro is also an excellent leather-craftsman, making all his own leather tack and tools of the trade.

New additions to Rock View staff are Maria from Karasabai Village in the distant South Pakaraimas, who is extraordinarily talented in tra-



"Tree House under the Mango Trees," by British artist Shirley Felts.

ditional basketry and can process the straw from the ite palm herself, making traditional as well as contemporary items from these natural fibres, including the attractive straw mats used on the dining tables. Her husband Roeland, originally from Arawak stock from far-away St. Cuthbert's Village, is a very talented sculptor and uses the local woods. His work and that of other local sculptors is on display and for sale at the Rock View Craft Shop in the charming benab nestled between the two guest houses.

There is a distinct aesthetic within the Rock View compound that consists of a very clever and artful use of natural, local materials and a rock motif that connects the infrastructure very naturally to the actual geology and landscape of the Annai

area. There is a pleasing coherence and connectedness everywhere. It is as if Rock View has emerged from the very earthworks of Annai, with its terracotta tones of clays and rocks and the blended browns and greys of the handmade woodwork and roofing shingles that complete the rustic splendour of Rock View. Locally made clay bricks, all produced in the neighbouring village of Kwatamang, are used for walls, verandas and even as terrazzo-style floor tiles. A unique feature is the agate-embedded walls of many of the buildings, which are embedded with beautiful one-of-a-kind agates and jaspers and best showcased on the guest room verandas. The only imported materials are the roof tiles from Boa Vista in neighbouring Brazil, which were produced by a family-run business there.

The combination of natural materials and works by local artisans reflects the partnership that has created the Rock View Eco Lodge and its environs. The Rock View buildings are all designed by the founder, Colin Edwards, and constructed by

local experts such as Narus Edwards and Ivor Daniels from neighbouring villages, many of them trained by Colin in the art of finishing and precision.

The "tree-house" lounge and patio-style dining area are a relatively new addition to Rock View and are a microcosm of its unique design and construction. The location is between the two ancient and towering mango trees, that stand as stately sentinels in the gardens, and under which al fresco meals were enjoyed on the magnificent hardwood trestle tables as a much-loved RockView speciality – until the mango-laden trees began vigorously shedding their fruit on the guests dining below, and it was considered prudent to sling a roof between the two mango trees! The roof is itself a work of art – superbly made with handmade shingles that have weathered beautifully – as only shingles can. Hanging from it are the swirls of "monkey ladders" from the rainforest and twigs on which perch an array of carefully carved and hand-painted birds, replicas of



Founder Colin Edwards with his office team.



A giant anteater, an example of the area's wildlife.

the local savannah and forest species that were produced by local sculptors. The tree-house lounge is also decorated with calabash bowls of dried forest fruits, seeds and pods, and with part of the Rock View Art Collection, one of the best private art collections in Guyana.

Nowhere else in the North Rupununi can you find such a treasure trove of the arts, boasting some of the best pieces by renowned Guyanese, Brazilian and even a few internationally established artists that share space with some of the best work of local artists and artisans. The collection includes a 1970s Philip Moore original watercolour, several paintings by George Simon, Philbert Gajadhar and Marjorie Broodhagen, as well as watercolours by Morag Williams and Anil Roberts. It also includes works by the eminent British-based watercolourist, Shirley Felts, who painted the Iwokrama Rainforest. Then there are the three marvelous wooden sculptures of Mahatma Gandhi, the Pork-knocker (a traditional, small-scale gold min-

er) and the Harpy Eagle by Bartram, as well as works by Winslow Craig.

These share space with intricate hand embroidery, akin to miniature tapestries, made by the Makushi women of the villages through a project transferred from the Red Thread Guyana group, which was developed and introduced by Vanda Radzik and inspired by the work of Valerie Cox of South Rupununi, whose own work is proudly displayed in Rock View.

The landmark rock that gives Rock View its name and provenance has been beautifully enhanced to bring out its loveliness and its accessibility as a perfect place for meditation, for experiencing sunrise and moonrise over the savannahs and for stargazing at night. The Mandela-like clay-brick design subtly engrained into the natural rock platform at the lookout point is an added touch of thoughtfulness and delight.

The Rock Pool is just that – a natural pool carved from the bedrock of the Rock View premises with local almond shade trees and a wonder-



The lodge and gardens of Rock View.

ful array of cashew trees, including a sublime reef of mangroves that surround the area and a small separate water-lily pool nestled within the arms of the main swimming pool. The structure and surrounding landscape make the Rock Pool uniquely attractive and give the place a sort of natural, spa-like feature. The Rock Pool is outfitted with all the modern pool accoutrements, such as a pump and chlorine, to ensure health and safety, but these are suitably well blended into the poolscape.

Nowhere else in the area is there a garden so beautifully and thoughtfully landscaped and so well cared

for. This garden is built from the bare savannah earth over the years, with a variety of the beloved flowering shrubs, fruit and shade trees that have become signatures of the tropical countries of our region: the flamboyant, samaan, mango, malacca, local almond and bougainvillea, to name but a few of these transplants. Mixed with these are local bromeliads, palms and forest orchids. Gardening enthusiasts who visit Rock View will be in a plant paradise.

And then, for the literary and history buff, there is the library. The collection of books stems from Colin's own omnivorous reading ap-



Guests having a meal at the Mango Tree Dining Room.



A bird's eye view of Rock View Lodge. Photo by Pete Oxford.

petite to which was recently added his parents' library, shipped over from the South of France when they came to live out their final years at Rock View. It is an eclectic collection – old editions of Bates, Wallace, Waterton, Schomburgk, who travelled and explored Guyana and the Rupununi in the 18th and 19th centuries, along with the finest Victorian and modern fiction and poetry. Naturally, there is an impressive section of books by scientists on the flora and fauna and ecology of the Rupununi.

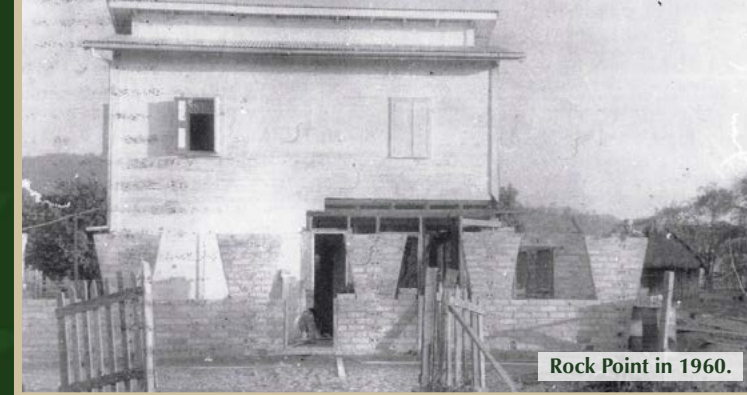
Rock View has also, over the past two decades, been the venue of many historic events that stand as milestones in the history of lo-

cal community development. The North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB), the umbrella organisation of the local leaders of the 16 communities of the North Rupununi, was founded and unofficially declared one memorable moonlit night at a gathering of leaders under the Rock View mango trees.

And in February 2000, hosted Prince Charles, who met with the indigenous leaders of the North Rupununi and Iwokrama. They introduced him to the untouched rainforest environment, after which he became the patron of the Iwokrama Rainforest Program for Research and Development.



Heliconia flowers in Rock View's garden.



Rock Point in 1960.

The history of Rock View: The early years

The old ranch of Rock Point was purchased by Colin Edwards in 1992 from the Fredericks family, who had been rearing cattle here since 1969. The old ranch house dated back to the early 1950s when a couple of coastlanders started the construction of this unusual building with the intention of setting up a guest house to offer accommodation to the ranchers who were involved in the Rupununi Cattle Trail drives.

This epic journey entailed cattle being driven by vacqueiros in herds of hundreds from the world's largest cattle ranch at Dadanawa in south Rupununi to the coast of Guyana, some 400 miles distant, to the village of Surama, where the footmen would then continue the long journey through a narrow corridor in the rainforest and across the great rivers in pontoons until the surviving cattle reached the coast to recover and fatten up again before going on to the consumer. These men from the coast were then succeeded by Vivian Brasche, who came to Annai

as a policeman stationed at the police station and later settled down with Dina, daughter of Nathan of the Pombaru Ranch by Mountain Point.

It is interesting therefore to note that the present-day partnership known as "The Ranches of the Rupununi" involving the ranches of Dadanawa, managed by Duane and Sandy deFreitas, Karanambu, managed and owned by Dianne McTurk and her family, and Rock View, stem from a long-standing historical relationship. Though Dadanawa is no longer what it used to be back in its heyday when cattle were plentiful and there was always a ready market for beef along the coast, through



Leon Brasche

the stewardship of Duane and Sandy, with the encouragement of Di-
anne as a director of Dadanawa, a
new role through nature-based and
community tourism has been found
for this historical ranch that was es-
tablished by the legendary Scot, Mr.
H.C.P. Melville and his Wapishana
Family.

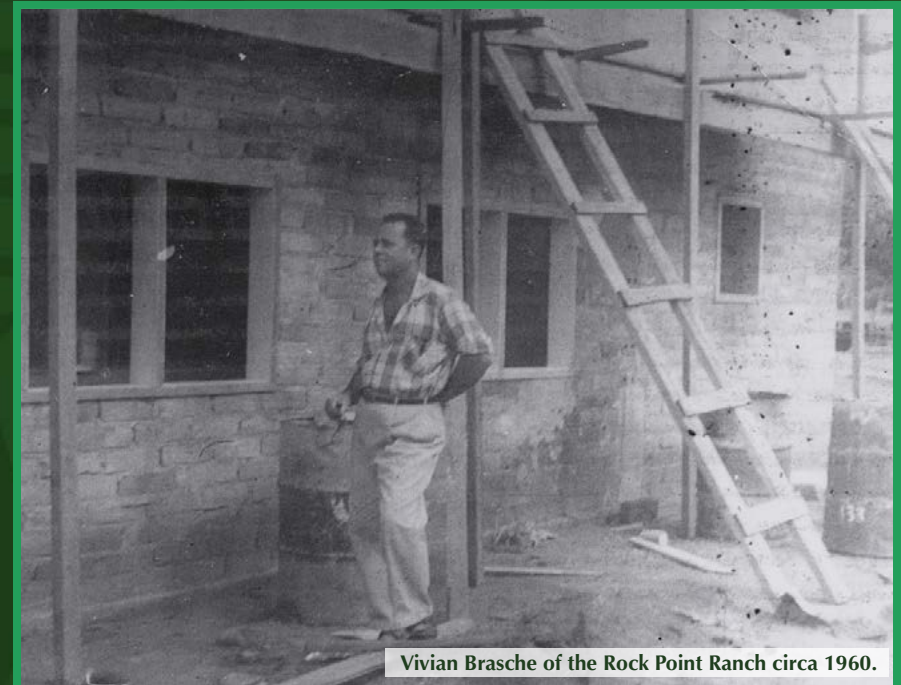
This current partnership, which
is so vital to the very success of our
work, is in fact following along the
famous old cattle trail from Dadana-
wa in the south across the savan-
nahs to Annai and Rock View and
on to the Iwokrama International
Rainforest Programme for research
and development at Kurupukari.

It was at the village of Surama
where the cattle were once hand-
ed over to begin their long journey
through the rainforest trail, and
the Amerindian village now suc-
cessfully operates its own commu-
nity-based tourism business. The
Allicock family, which played a vital
role in the leadership of the Surama
community, came to Kurupukari
through the efforts of the Rupununi
Development Company with the
cattle trail. It is here on the banks of
the Essequibo River at Kurupukari
that the headquarters of the district
commissioner of the Rupununi once



Richard Brasche

used to be. For those who may have
been lucky enough to have met
with "Uncle Fred" or his late brother
"Uncle Theo," they will have been in
a position to have heard from them
many a tale from their lives: build-
ing the pontoons for the cattle trail;
crossing the cattle over the rapids
of the Essequibo River; and later on
earning their living as balata bleed-
ers, trappers and pork knockers. In
fact, Uncle Fred, popularly known as
the "Indigenous Man," is the person
who, as the first station manager at
the Iwokrama Centre, established
the base camp at the Iwokrama Riv-
er Lodge as it is today. Now better
known for his commitment to envi-
ronmental and ecological issues, his
vision and work is being continued
by his son Sydney, who is currently
a trustee of Iwokrama and is rec-
ognized widely as one of Guyana's
leading Amerindians.



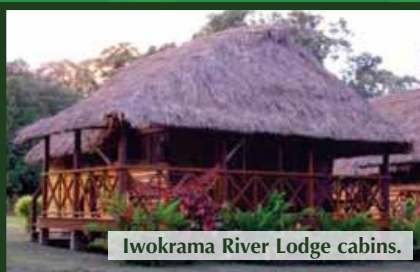
Vivian Brasche of the Rock Point Ranch circa 1960.



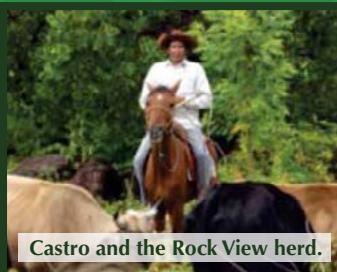
Cogo Scipio



Uncle Dennis Franscipio



Iwokrama River Lodge cabins.



Castro and the Rock View herd.

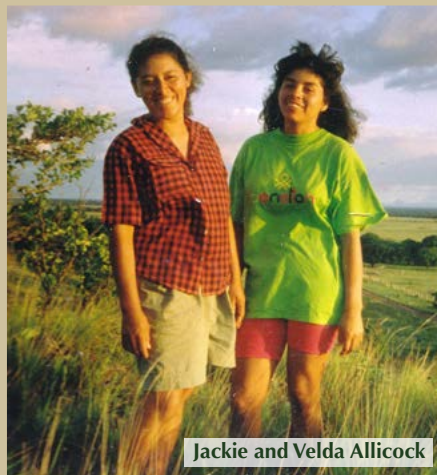
Photo gallery - First moments



The Annai Village District Council in 1992.



President Cheddie Jagan



Jackie and Velda Allcock



Dr. Swaminathan and Audrey



H.R.H. Prince Charles with Colin and Minister Vibert de Souza.

Photo gallery - The family of Vivien Brasche



Dina Brasche having a meal with her children.



Vivien Brasche presenting a trophy at the Annai Rodeo.



Dina Brasche by a coconut tree in the yard.



Dina Brasche in the Ranch House living room.



The Brasche sons return from a fishing trip with their catch.

Photo gallery - The history of Annai



Robert Schomburgk's Annai Carib Village.



The Three Hills of Rupertee.

Photo gallery - The history of Annai



Jorge, baby Vitor, Colin and Velda



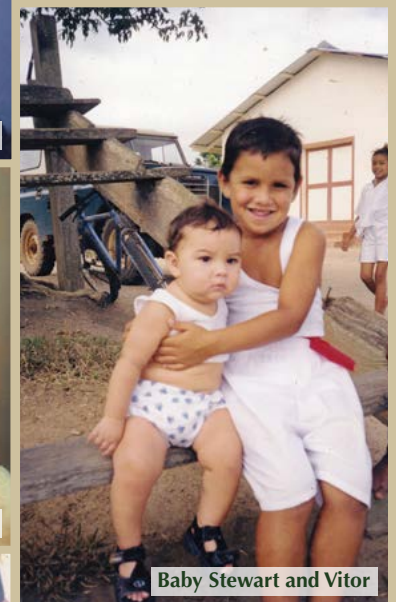
Baby Zorba



Velda Allicock



Lara and Ayesha the Bridesmaids



Baby Stewart and Vitor

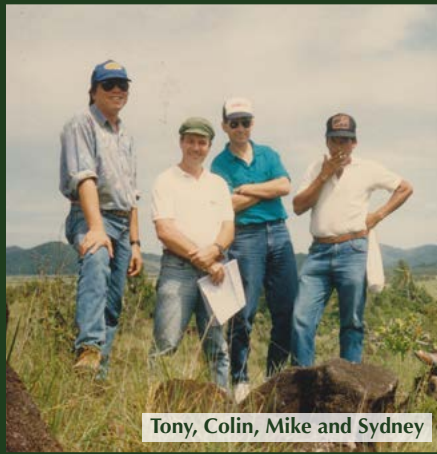


Zorba, Lara, Ayesha, Jorge, Stewart, Vitor and Janio

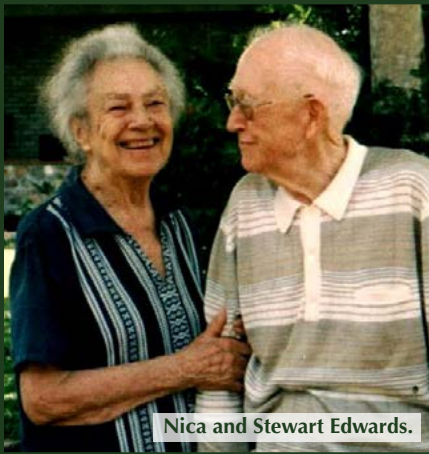


Vitor, Colin, Zorba and Velda

Those who made the dream become a reality



Tony, Colin, Mike and Sydney



Nica and Stewart Edwards.



Colin Edwards



Dennis Franscriptio



Jorge Edwards



Mike Correia



Tony Amres



"Missing"

Poem by Sydney Allicock, vacqueiro, Touchau
and now the visionary to his people

The evening was late and lonely,
But the sun was in all its glory
I sat spellbound on the hills of Rupertee,
Admiring the natural Rupununi beauty
Around me the rolling green and yellow savannah Land,
To the East of me the majestic Makarapan
Away into the distant South the mighty blue Kanuku
And beautified by the sunset the well known Pakaraimas too
As I sat soliloquizing
It dawned on me that something was missing

As I gazed away into the Rupununi evening
I focused my mind on some good reasoning
Visible for miles was the dusty old trail and crisscrossing of tracks
The few ranch houses and empty corrals seem now to be only shacks
No vacqueiroes on the great plain doing their normal chores,

Of riding, lassoing or singing out their regular yehoes!
 All that was moving were donkeys fighting,
 So sickening!
 Something was missing,
 Physically missing.

While staring over this vast vacqueiro range,
 The idea of missing cattle seemed so strange
 Can you imagine that cattle were missing!
 The famous Rupununi cattle herds slowly diminishing
 I remembered the good old days from Dadanawa to Takama
 Chasing thousands of cattle over this famous savannah
 Now there are only occasional carcasses bleached by the weather
 Here and there on the great plain might be a lonely tired rider
 Oh Rupununians! Gone are the cattle days,
 No more bellowing, horse riding, lassoing nor happy old ways.

The twilight, missing cattle and hideous braying saddened the evening.
 The distant hooting of owls and moaning wind against hills left me grieving
 I wondered, could it be politics and development
 Or was it rustling and poor management?
 The cattle were gone, perhaps over the border,
 And here is where we can go, and no further.
 Over hills, through valleys or on the plains,
 Through night, sunshine or in the rains,
 Here I'll roam and here I'll remain,
 Determined to rear cattle once again!



Sydney and Colin in 1992 planning for the future of Rock View



The Parishara dance in Annai.

The Makushi culture of our Amerindian people

It is generally accepted that the Amerindians of the Americas originated from Mongolia having crossed the Bering Strait at some remote time in the past. It is possible that this main migration may have been accompanied by some other separate migration across from the Pacific Ocean, but this would have been a less important contributing factor to the Amerindians in their different cultures throughout the Americas.

From the Eskimos in the extreme North to the Amerindians of Patagonia, the early settlers adapted well to the very diverse habitats where they finally settled. Notably the most organized cultures were the Aztecs and Mayas of Mexico and Central America and the Incas of the Andes mountains. These

civilizations were most affected by the discovery of the New World by the Spaniards and the Portuguese. However, the forest and savannah people were able to retain their culture until recently in a way that has enabled anthropologists to document the ability of these people to coexist with their environment and develop and cultivate useful plants to such a degree that many have become important agricultural crops as staples in all four corners of the world.





A young Makushi girl.

This is one of the great lessons that we can learn from here in the North Rupununi Savannahs. In an age of diminishing natural resources, the forest and savannah people of Guyana are almost totally self-sufficient with their resourcefulness to coexist with the varying demands on life around them. The challenge is now making itself felt with an ever-increasing need to adapt to new lifestyles that are emerging due to an ever-shrinking world as a result of cultural diversity and information technology and the ease with which people move around in a way never before possible. Ever since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been an enormous concern by those in the so-called civilized world to learn and show greater respect for life forms around them. We all have a part to

play, be it through the mission of the International Iwokrama Rainforest Programme close by, as well as through the creation of greater understanding and awareness by visitors coming to Rock View and their interactions with our people.

Annai is situated in the North Rupununi Savannahs, the heartland of the Makushi people and one of the two savannah nations of the nine major Amerindian people of Guyana. The others are the coastland Waraus and Caribs, the Patamonas and Akawaio across the Pakaraima Mountains, and the Wai Wais in the Amazon forest south of Guyana. The Makushi are to the north of the Kanuku mountain range and the Wapishana to the south. As with all Amerindians, the Makushi and the Wapishana are dependent on the forest for their farmlands and as such have two homes, the main one being on the savannah with a further farm home in the forest.



Pamela Nash

The Makushi were famous in the past for the potency of the curare poison, which they learnt to make from a variety of different plants and ingredients that together gave the special quality to paralyze the central nervous system and therefore kill prey without affecting the meat for human consumption. As with all Amerindian people, the Makushi used to travel and barter their product in exchange for other essential items such as pottery, basket work and other items which each Amerindian nation specialized in. They became excellent farmers, their staple being based on cassava and its many products and by-products. The farming is of a shifting cultivation type which is ideally suited to the relatively poor soils. A farm may last initially for three years, is left for a period of five years for the secondary growth to be felled again, and farmed for a further two years. The land would then be allowed to rest and return to primary forest after 40 years.

Subsistence farming is supplemented by hunting and fishing, which abound. This fragile depen-



A Makushi girl with a puppy.

dency on the environment and the surrounding habitat requires secure land rights to the traditional lands that they are accustomed to. It is this basic issue that at the moment is of most concern to the people at a time when there is an ever-increasing demand by others for more land and natural resources. The people of the North Rupununi Savannahs are very pleased to show how they are dependent on the land and how it is possible to manage sustainably these resources for the benefit of all. Together with the Iwokrama International Rainforest Programme, it is hoped that ecotourism through educational awareness will address



Dugout canoes by the landing on the Rupununi River.



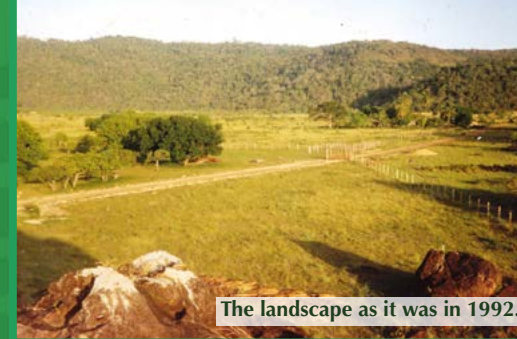
Veronica roasting cashew nuts.

and sensitize decision-makers in the four corners of the globe in such a way that the lives of generations to come will be guaranteed.

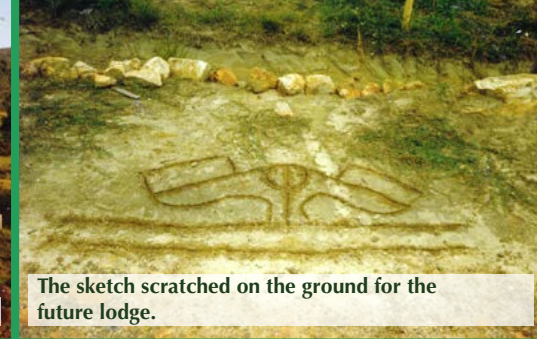
The Amerindian people of Guyana organise themselves in a way that should be the envy of many. The council is elected every two years, with a Captain or Touchau (the term used in the south of Guyana), and this council decides on all issues within the community. The authority of the council is total and is only subject to national law on issues such as security and law and order. It is expected that the Amerindian Act will address such issues as subsurface mineral rights. Visitors to Rock View entering Amerindian lands are expected to respect the rules and regulations of these councils, and it is advisable for visitors always to be accompanied by an authorized member of the community or member of the Rock View staff.

Ecotourism as an activity in Amer-

indian areas is something of a novelty to the culture. However, both Rock View and Iwokrama have established nature tourism activities both inside and outside the traditional lands of the Makushi in a way that has proven to be welcomed by the people. At first, the main obstacle was that it was difficult for the people here to understand why tourists should travel so far and at such expense to share in their lives and experiences which they themselves have always taken for granted. It has also taken awhile for the people to organize themselves into groups to handle tourists, create their own infrastructure in the way of boats, guesthouses and trails, be trained as guides and manage their own affairs. The village council of Surama has achieved the latter and will be seen as a great example of community-based tourism and what is possible as an income-generating activity, which is compatible with the lifestyle and culture of the people.



The landscape as it was in 1992.



The sketch scratched on the ground for the future lodge.

Developing the gardens, farming and ranching

The year 1969 was marked by the Rupununi Uprising, which resulted in Vivian Brasche deciding to sell the Rock Point Ranch against his will and his moving across to Brazil.

On our acquiring the property in 1992, there was very little left of the thriving ranch of before. In its heyday, there were 800 head of cattle and a store that serviced the community when the De Havilland DC 3 used to fetch carcasses of beef and supply Georgetown. This has meant that we have had a lot of work to do in restoring the fences, taking water to the paddocks, planting back pasture in the paddocks and generally building up the fertility of the soil.

In so doing, it has enabled us to restore the old ranch into the Rock View Lodge to bring hospitality into a growing leisure industry that now embraces both tourism and ranching into the new focus on agro-tourism. This has given us the great advantage of creating a novel product that is appropriate to the culture and environment of an indigenous community in a wetland habitat.

Visiting an Amerindian farmstead that caters for all the needs of an extended family is an experience in itself for those accustomed to monoculture and a city existence where all can be purchased on the shelves of a supermarket.



2002: After 10 years of landscaping.



Young cashew fruit.



Tropical white grapes.



The Red Buck banana.



The organic vegetable garden at Rock View.



The Rock View Ranch endeavours to produce as much homegrown produce for consumption by visitors. This ensures fresh and healthy food at all times and simplifies the sourcing of inputs into the business as well as promoting what can be done with good husbandry techniques under what may seem an inhospitable climate with poor soil type and rain distribution.

All 20 acres of the leased land receive water distributed from the well, thus allowing the livestock to drink water from self-replenishing water troughs and to water the five acres of orchard and gardens from stand pipes at strategic points. As a result, a variety of fresh fruits are available at most times of the year as well as flowering and foliage plants for the home. Being a working ranch, our vaqueiros can explain to visitors and share with them their

daily activities besides going horse riding and taking or bringing the cattle back from the open pasture that the grasslands of the savannah provide. We are now planning on having our own dairy for the production of fresh cow's milk, cream, yogurt or "coalhada," as we call it, and farm cheeses. The cattle we have are of Holstein extraction, crossed with the hardy longhorns of the Rupununi.

Another project that we shall be embarking upon very soon will be a fish farm that will allow us to pursue integrated farming methods by using the water from the ponds onto our existing drip irrigation vegetable garden that provides fresh produce to our kitchen. We shall be rearing the Amazonian Tambaqui, which is appropriate to the environment and will allow guests to fish for their meals.

Organic farming and produce

Rock View has been involved in restoring the old ranch of the 1960s into a thriving farm with an orchard and vegetable garden that supplies the needs of the guests through good wholesome food that represents the culinary touches of Brazil, the Rupununi, Guyana and the Caribbean.

Not only do we produce our own fresh produce for the kitchen, but we also preserve the fruits and offer fresh fruit juices at all meals. Our breakfast includes such delicacies as pepperpot, tapioca beiju or pancakes made from the starch of the

cassava, granola cereals reinforced with our own cashews, peanuts and dried fruits, and jams and jellies from the 50-odd different fruit trees in the orchard.

Fresh beef is prepared into choice cuts from which barbecue, stir fry and steaks are served to guests, as well as the traditional cowboy or vaqueiro food such as passoca and tasso. Local fisherman catch fresh lukanani and tiger fish, later to have our own homegrown tambaqui added to fish dishes prepared as tuma pot or with coconut milk and coentro herbs from the garden.



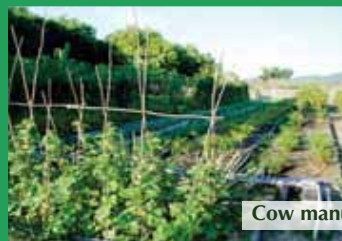
Wardell with Chestnut.



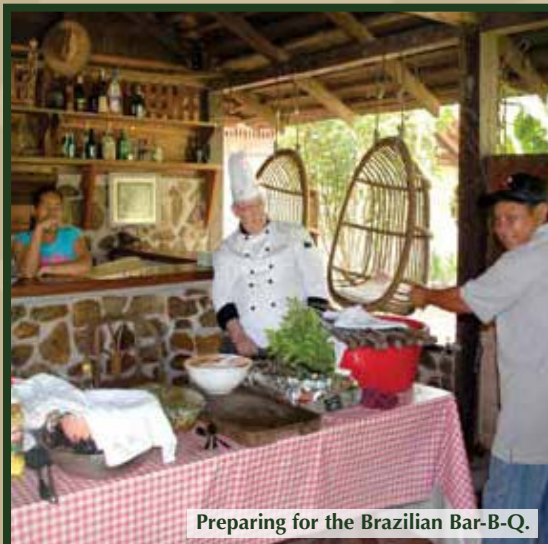
Castro with a guest.



Cucumber, pepper, shallotte, okra, bora bean, lettuce and pakchoi.



Cow manure and the ashes from the bonfire to enrich the soil.



Preparing for the Brazilian Bar-B-Q.



Ralph Graham



The Rock View Cooler.



Catering Trainer Ralph Graham who says People eat first with their Eyes.

The bird life of the North Rupununi



Jabiru stork

"The river boat trip was an outstanding experience. Super birding in the forest. We'll be back!" – Brian and Dee Keating (Civilised Adventures of Calgary Zoo)

Rock View has become a favourite location for bird watchers from North America and Europe. Exciting bird lists have been prepared for the villages of Annai and Surama as well as for the Canopy Walkway, the Iwokrama River Lodge and the Iwokrama Rainforest Reserve. Visitors can see for themselves how the distribution of birds varies from savannah to mountain, river and rainforest. Enthusiasts will be able to have the

thrill of being able to add to these lists for future visitors and bird lovers.

More recently, the Moura road has shown great promise due to its interesting range of habitats. Our bird lists will give you the opportunity to differentiate the birds of Annai (savannah, mountains and river), Surama (savannah, mountains, river and rainforest) and the Iwokrama rainforest, also known as the International Iwokrama Rainforest Centre for Research and Development, with mountains, rivers and mainly rainforest. These lists are available but never complete, with a new species being added from time to time.



Vermilion flycatcher



Tropical screech owl



Nacunda nighthawk

The flowering trees and plants at Rock View

The gardens of Rock View have been developed over the years by building up the fertility of the soil, composting and using cow manure from the corral where the cattle stay overnight. This has also helped to build up the humus that was lacking in the natural sandy loam soil of the savannahs, which are devoid of

any real clay content. Through also creating a healthy earthworm population, we have been able to introduce many fruit trees and flowering plants, creating a habitat all of its own that encourages and attracts many bird species to become residents of the lodge.



Iguana



Giant anteater



River turtles

The Wildlife of the North Rupununi

No.	English Name	Biological Name	Description
1.	Giant anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	savannah and forest
2.	Southern anteater	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>	forest areas, diurnal
3.	Pygmy anteater	<i>Cyclopes didactylus</i>	forest areas, nocturnal
4.	Pale-throat three-toed sloth	<i>Bradypus tridactylus</i>	forest areas, diurnal
5.	Southern two-toed sloth	<i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	forest areas, nocturnal
6.	Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	forest, mainly nocturnal
7.	Long-nosed armadillo	<i>Dasypus kappleri</i>	lowland forest, nocturnal
8.	Golden-handed tamarin	<i>Saguinus midas</i>	arboreal, diurnal
9.	Guianan saki monkey	<i>Pithecia pithecia</i>	arboreal, diurnal
10.	Brown bearded saki	<i>Chiropotes satanus</i>	arboreal, diurnal
11.	Red howler monkey	<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>	arboreal, diurnal
12.	Black spider monkey	<i>Ateles paniscus</i>	arboreal, diurnal
13.	Squirrel monkey	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	arboreal, river bank
14.	Brown capuchin	<i>Cebus paella</i>	arboreal, diurnal
15.	Wedge-cap capuchin	<i>Cebus olivaceus</i>	arboreal, diurnal
16.	South American coati	<i>Nasua nasua</i>	arboreal, diurnal
17.	Kinkajou	<i>Potos flavus</i>	arboreal, nocturnal
18.	Tayra	<i>Eira barbara</i>	arboreal, diurnal
19.	Southern river otter	<i>Lutra logicaudis</i>	semi-aquatic
20.	Giant otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>	semi-aquatic
21.	Ocelot	<i>Felis pardalis</i>	terrestrial
22.	Margay	<i>Felis weidii</i>	arboreal, nocturnal
23.	Jaguarundi	<i>Felis yagouaroundi</i>	terrestrial
24.	Puma	<i>Felis concolor</i>	terrestrial
25.	Jaguar	<i>PPanthera onca</i>	terrestrial
26.	Collared peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	rainforest, diurnal
27.	White-lipped peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>	terrestrial, diurnal



Red-footed tortoises



Rattlesnake



Young iguana

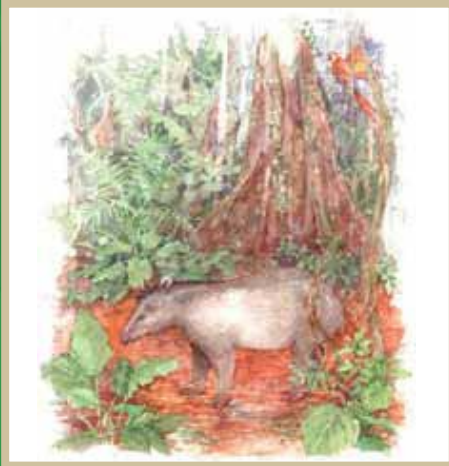
28. White-tailed deer
29. Guianan squirrel
30. Brazillian porcupine
31. Black-tail dwarf porcupine
32. Red acouchy
33. Red-rumped agouti
34. White-faced tree rat
35. Red-nosed tree rat
36. Spiny tree rat
37. Matamata turtle
38. Side-necked turtle
39. Twist-necked turtle
40. Scorpion mud turtle

Odocoileus virginianus
Sciurus aestuans
Coedou prehensilis
Coendou melanurus

savannah
 arboreal, diurnal
 arboreal, diurnal
 lowland rainforest

Myoprocta acouchy
Dasyprocta agouti
Echimys chrysurs
Echimys armatus
Mesomys hispidus
Chelus fimbriatus
Podocnemis vogli
Platemys platycephala
Kinosternon scorpioides

terrestrial, diurnal
 terrestrial, diurnal
 arboreal, nocturnal
 arboreal, nocturnal
 arboreal, nocturnal
 oxbow lakes
 small rivers, ponds
 pools, streams
 rivers, ponds



Jaguar and Tommy the Tapir by Shirley Felts



Activities and enjoying your stay at Rock View

Visitors on arrival are made welcome to their rooms and introduced to the lodge and its many amenities. This is then followed by guests being given an orientation tour around the grounds of the property, which covers some five acres of orchards and beautifully landscaped gardens, including organically grown vegetables. The gardens have evolved over the past 20 years, from the

sparse grassland of the savannahs to the improvement of the fertility, care and introduction of plants and trees that now provide shade, flowers and fruits for the enjoyment of both wildlife and visitors alike. The bird list for the garden now consists of more than 300 species that have now made their new home at Rock View, giving much pleasure to bird lovers.



The buff necked ibis.



The lined woodpecker.





North to the mountains.

Hiking activities are offered that involve guided walks both on the savannah and the foothills of the nearby Pakaraima Mountains. The Panorama Nature Trail was developed by Rock View with the great support of Capatache Uncle Dennis Franscipio, firstly as a conservation project in keeping with the ideals of the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme for Research and Development, but then as a favourite for visitors to enjoy and have interpreted to them the names of the trees and diverse wildlife that can be seen.

The forested mountainside trail has all the useful aids for visitors of all ages to use and to enjoy great views over the savannahs towards the mighty Kanuku mountain range some 80 kilometres away to the south. It was later learnt from a visiting archaeologist, together with the local shaman, that the mountainside itself held a very spiritual significance to the Makushi people, having in the past been a place for the healing of the sick and the preparation of the

most potent form of curare used by hunters to smear onto the tips of their arrowheads and blow-darts.



Uncle Dennis



Visitors on the Panorama Nature Trail.



South towards the Savannas.



Creativity and the arts

The peace and tranquility of the Rupununi savannahs are best seen at Rock View, which could become the most conducive environment for creativity and the pursuit of the arts in all its many forms. The gardens and the bird life create an ideal setting to listen to good music, read your favourite books, write and paint away to your heart's delight the scenes of nature, the landscape and the simple but honest basics of life itself.



Rivers, landscape, the ranch house library and craftwork.



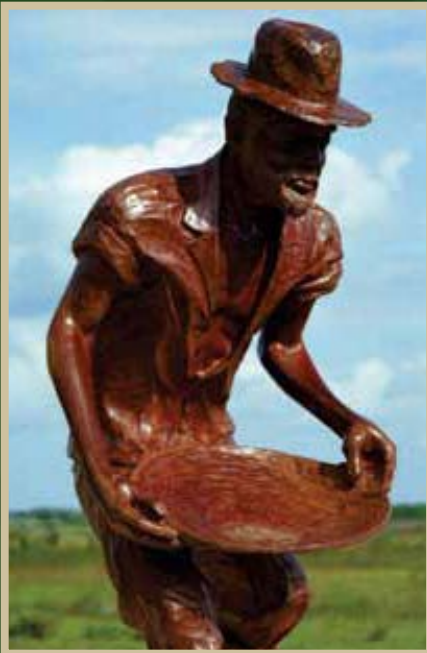
Sculptures by Agenor of Bahia - Brazil in wood and soapstone.



The Pakaraimas from the Mountain of the Sacred Table.



Sculptures in mahogany by Lumumba and Bartrum of Guyana.



Tribute to Shirley Felts and her fine watercolours



Shirley Felts and her paintings of the rainforest.



Painting of the Burro-Burro river in Surama.

Recommendations for your visit

Before travelling to Guyana

- Consult your family doctor on recommended medication and vaccines before leaving for a tropical environment.
- Pack light cotton clothing that can dry easily as well as insect repellent and sunblock.
- Bring with you only essentials for your holiday due to weight restrictions on the domestic airlines.

While staying at Rock View with young children

- Always request that one of our trained guides accompany you to an Amerindian community
- Show respect to the people who you will meet and to their culture.
- It is recommended that you always ask permission before taking photographs.

When walking along a trail

- Always advise management when you wish to go for a walk as we have our trained guides to accompany you.
- Be careful by looking on the ground where you are walking.

When walking through the rainforest

- Always be accompanied by a trained guide who knows the trail well.
- Always be careful where you walk and where you place your hands.

What to do with your valuables during your stay

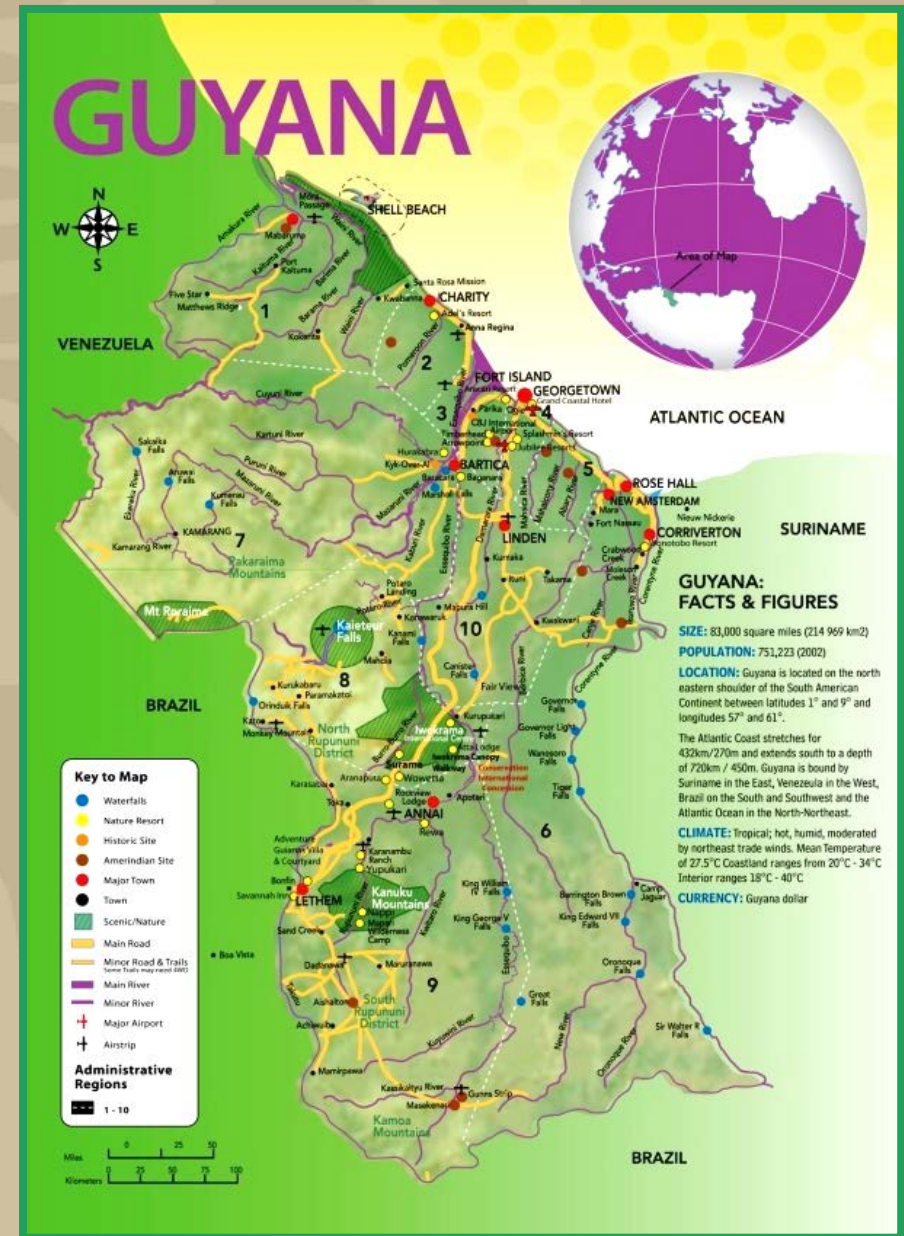
- As Rock View is part of the community, its members are encouraged to be involved in all our activities and to pass through the grounds of the lodge. We therefore recommend that you address any concerns about valuables with management upon arrival.

How to show appreciation for your stay

- Let us know how we could have made your stay even better by completing the questionnaire provided.
- Write your comments in the visitors' book for others to see.
- If you wish to leave any monetary contribution for our having made your stay enjoyable, then management will be happy to accept this and distribute your kind offer equitably amongst all the staff who made this possible.

Where to find Rock View

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana.





**The Rock View Lodge
North Rupununi Wetlands,
Annai – Guyana,
South America**



The sun rises, the sun sets, the sun gives life
To the beautiful Rupununi savannas and its people

