



Ron Allicock  
**BIRDING TOURS**  
SURAMA VILLAGE - REGION 9, GUYANA

Specializing in bird and wildlife tours and nature expeditions  
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Ron Allicock, a Guyanese Makushi Amerindian, was born in a small indigenous community called Surama Village located in the North Rupununi region of central Guyana. As a boy, Ron followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps as a true conservationist. He referred to his elders as 'bare footed doctors' because they had few academic qualifications but had mastered the practical knowledge of how to live in harmony with nature.



Ron's father taught him how to hunt, fish and farm in order to feed a family. From an early age, Ron's passion was making his own bow and arrows and weaving all sort of handicrafts. Indeed, survival of the fittest was the game of the day.

Ron completed his academic studies at the Surama Primary School where he was known as a scholar, team leader, and a pioneer for environmental education. Shortly after graduation, Ron became a research assistant for Dr. Robert S. Ridgely and Dr. Graham Watkins from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Working in the Iwokrama forest where he had grown up, Ron gained invaluable hands-on training while mist netting birds, collecting scientific specimens and identifying birds by sight and vocalization. Ron soon found himself working with other research teams investigating the abundant biodiversity of Guyana's pristine rain forests.



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In 2000, Ron joined the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development as a Forest Ranger where he managed community outreach programs for sixteen North Rupununi indigenous communities. He worked closely with village Junior Wildlife Clubs, established to teach youth from a young age about the importance of wildlife conservation. During this time Iwokrama began to receive tour groups and Ron began to guide tours for visitors from Guyana and overseas. His reputation as a master bird watcher grew quickly.

Ron became a freelance tour guide in 2009 and later he founded his own birdwatching tour company along with his wife Marissa. Ron has led dozens of birdwatching and wildlife interest groups across the country. He and his team design customized and specialized tour itineraries to accommodate birding expeditions in some of the most remote areas of Guyana.

Ron is a graduate of the International Intern Program at Massachusetts Audubon Society's Joppa Flats Education Center, and a member of the American Birding Association's Birder's Exchange Program. Ron has also represented Guyana at the British Bird Watching Fair (BirdFair) in Rutland, UK.

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