SITA

SURINAME INVESTMENT & TRADE AGENCY

2026

INVEST IN SURINAME

Tourism

TOURISM INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Growing visitor demand, world-class natural assets, and emerging tourism concession opportunities are creating investment potential across hospitality, visitor infrastructure, and tourism experiences

WHAT DOES SURINAME OFFER INVESTORS?

Suriname combines one of the world's most intact rainforest ecosystems with UNESCO heritage assets, living Indigenous and Maroon cultures, and growing tourism demand.

Emerging tourism reforms, workforce development initiatives, and tourism concession opportunities support investment across accommodation, visitor infrastructure, and destination experiences.



Suriname
Gateway to nature and cultural tourism in South America

Diverse tourism assets and development clusters

3
UNESCO World Heritage sites

15
Nature Reserves

93%
Forest cover, the highest rate globally

5 priority clusters
Identified for development

Growing tourism demand

+ 22%
Growth in visitor exports between 2020 – 2024

9%
CAGR forecast for visitor exports (2024–2035)

US$41.5 million
International visitor spending in 2024

US$51.4 million
Domestic visitor spending in 2024

Connectivity and market access

2.2 million
Passengers travelled through Suriname (2020–2025)

27%
Average annual passenger growth between 2020-2025

9 international destinations
Served from JA Pengel International Airport

Government support and workforce development

National Tourism Roadmap
with 27 strategic interventions supporting tourism product development

Tourism concession programme
for private investment in accommodation and visitor infrastructure

SHTTC workforce development institute
aligned with hospitality operations, tourism services, culinary arts, and management

SURINAME'S DIVERSE OFFERING

Suriname combines one of the world's most intact rainforest ecosystems with unique cultural diversity, creating opportunities across nature, heritage, and experiential tourism

SIGNATURE TOURISM EXPERIENCES

Heritage tourism	Nature and wildlife tourism	Adventure tourism	Cultural tourism
UNESCO heritage, colonial architecture, and historic plantation landscapes showcase Suriname's rich cultural legacy	Pristine rainforest ecosystems support birdwatching, wildlife encounters, conservation tourism, and ecotourism experiences	River expeditions, sport fishing, hiking, and remote rainforest exploration create unique adventure tourism opportunities	Living Maroon and Indigenous traditions offer authentic cultural experiences rooted in centuries of heritage and community life

WORLDCLASS NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

Internationally recognised heritage

3
UNESCO World Heritage sites

291 listed monuments
In the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo

1.6 million hectares
Central Suriname Nature Reserve

17th-century Jewish settlement
Jodensavanne Archaeological Site

Natural assets

15
Nature Reserves

93%
Forest cover, the highest rate globally

700+ bird species
Including harpy eagles, scarlet macaws, and rheas

World-class trophy fish
Including peacock bass and Piraiba Catfish in Suriname's rivers

Leatherback sea turtle nesting sites

Cultural assets

Unique multicultural society
Combining Indigenous, African, Hindustani, Javanese, Chinese, Dutch and Jewish influences

Living Maroon and Indigenous cultures
With centuries of unbroken tradition in the rainforest interior

Historic plantation estates
along the Commewijne River

TOURISM OPPORTUNITY CORRIDORS

Suriname's tourism opportunities span heritage, nature, community-based, and conservation clusters, with investment potential across accommodation, visitor infrastructure, and experiential tourism

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CLUSTERS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

10 Districts
Across the country

4 Multiple-Use Management Areas
With tourism development potential

5 priority clusters
Identified for development

TOURISM CLUSTERS

Heritage Tourism

Investment opportunities

- Boutique hotels
- Heritage restoration
- Waterfront development
- Cultural attractions

Key locations

- Paramaribo
- Commewijne

Nature and conservation tourism

Investment opportunities

- Eco-lodges
- Research tourism
- Wildlife tourism
- Protected-area concessions

Key locations

- Central Suriname Nature Reserve
- Raleighvallen
- Tafelberg

Community based tourism

Investment opportunities

- Community lodges
- River tourism
- Cultural experiences
- Adventure tourism

Key locations

- Upper Suriname River
- Saramacca
- Marowijne
- Awarradam

Adventure tourism

Investment opportunities

- Sport fishing lodges
- Expedition tourism
- River expeditions
- Trekking operations

Key locations

- Kabalebo
- Paloemeu
- Sipaliwini



1. **Nieuw-Nickerie and Bigi Pan Corridor**
   Coastal wetlands, migratory birdlife, sport fishing, and ecotourism linked to the Guyana border gateway
2. **Paramaribo Historic Centre**
   UNESCO heritage city, colonial architecture, multicultural attractions, and waterfront experiences
3. **Commewijne plantation belt**
   Historic plantation estates, river landscapes, cycling routes, birdwatching, and cultural tourism experiences
4. **Albina-Moengo Corridor**
   Cross-border tourism, Maroon culture, creative industries, river experiences, and nature tourism
5. **Brokopondo Reservoir area**
   Flooded rainforest landscapes, sport fishing, nature-based recreation, eco-lodges, and adventure tourism

TOURISM GROWTH IS CREATING NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Tourism revenue, visitor spending, and accommodation demand continue to grow as Suriname develops its nature, heritage, and cultural tourism offer

GROWING TOURISM DEMAND AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Tourism is emerging as a key growth sector in Suriname, supported by increasing visitor spending, growing international demand, and strong natural and cultural assets.

Continued growth in tourism exports and visitor expenditure is creating opportunities for investment across accommodation, attractions, and tourism infrastructure.

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

US$40 million
Direct contribution to GDP in 2024

US$97.4 million
Total contribution to GDP in 2024

US$41.5 million
International visitor spending in 2024

US$51.4 million
Domestic visitor spending in 2024

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR EXPORTS GROWTH (US$ millions)

20%
Average annual growth between 2020 and 2024



TOURISM DEMAND IS BEING DRIVEN BY INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS AND OUTPACING SUPPLY



- Tourism demand is growing faster than accommodation and tourism infrastructure supply, creating opportunities for new investment
- international-standard luxury eco-lodge capacity in the interior remains very limited
- Premium tourism infrastructure remains limited across key tourism clusters, including Bigi Pan, Raleighvallen, and the Brokopondo region
- International tour operators have indicated willingness to increase visitor volumes subject to additional accommodation capacity
- Tourism concession zones and investment opportunities are being developed to unlock eco-lodge, heritage hospitality, and nature tourism projects

CONNECTIVITY AND MARKET ACCESS

Suriname's tourism market is anchored by strong Dutch diaspora demand while offering opportunities to diversify into regional and international visitor markets

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND MARKET ACCESS

2,2 million passengers
Travelled through Suriname between 2020-2025

519,000 passengers
Travelled through Suriname in 2025

27%
Average annual passenger growth between 2020-2025

9 international destinations
Served from JA Pengel International Airport

6 international and domestic airlines
Providing access to European, North American and Latin American markets

Amsterdam and Panama gateways
Connecting access to European, North American and Latin American markets

Johan Adolf Pengel
International Airport provides direct connectivity to Europe, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, supporting both tourism and business travel



Countries	Airports	Distance
Netherlands	AMS	9:00 hours
Aruba	AUA	2:45 hours
Curaçao	CUR	2:45 hours
Trinidad	POS	1:35 hour
Panama	PTY	4:00 hours
Santo Domingo	SDQ	3:30 hours
Guyana	GEO & OGL	1:00 hour
Brazil	BEL	2:00 hours

A DIVERSIFIED INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL VISITOR BASE

International arrivals by country



Most international visitors can enter Suriname without obtaining a visa in advance

Supported by an online entry fee system

A streamlined online Entry Fee and e-Visa platform

simplifies entry procedures for international visitors

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

Tourism development is supported by national strategies, workforce development initiatives, and investment reforms designed to strengthen Suriname's position as a leading tourism destination

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR TOURISM INVESTMENT

Recent reforms and institutional developments are creating a stronger enabling environment for tourism investment
The National Tourism Roadmap, Vision 2030, and the establishment of the Suriname Tourism Authority provide a framework for destination development, workforce strengthening, and future tourism concession opportunities

National tourism roadmap

5 goals and 27 strategic interventions supporting tourism product development and destination competitiveness

Vision 2030

Leading nature and cultural tourism destination targeting growth areas across Latin America

Suriname tourism authority

Tourism Authority Act adopted in 2023, with the Authority becoming operational in 2026

Tourism concession programme

- Protected-area tourism concessions
- Eco-lodge development opportunities
- Heritage property redevelopment
- Visitor infrastructure projects
- Community-based tourism partnerships

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY READINESS

Suriname Hospitality and Tourism Training Centre (SHTTC)

SHTTC suppors workforce development for the tourism sector through industry-focused training programmes aligned with hotel operations, visitor services, culinary arts and key managerial skills

Industry partnerships

Collaborating to strengthen training standards and industry readiness

Training programs aligned with:

Hospitality Operations, Tourism Services, Culinary and Food Production, Management and Entrepreneurship

Expanding workforce:

Training output increased from 181 certified trainees in 2016 to 300-400 currently

5,200:

Employed in total for travel and tourism activities in 2024

US$2.1 million:

Travel and tourism's direct contribution to employment in 2024

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Growing tourism demand, underdeveloped accommodation supply, and emerging concession opportunities are creating investment potential across hospitality, visitor experiences, and infrastructure

ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY



Luxury eco-lodges & rainforest retreats

Develop internationally branded eco-lodges and premium accommodation in the interior, leveraging growing demand for nature-based tourism and the absence of international-standard luxury eco-lodges



Heritage hotels & boutique hospitality

Redevelop historic colonial buildings and plantation estates in Paramaribo and Commewijne into boutique hotels, heritage accommodation, and destination-led hospitality experiences



Sport fishing & adventure lodges

Establish premium fishing lodges and adventure resorts in the Brokopondo Reservoir and western Suriname, capitalising on world-class peacock bass fishing and growing adventure tourism demand

TOURISM EXPERIENCES AND ATTRACTIONS



Cultural & heritage attractions

Develop museums, interpretation centres, cultural venues, culinary tourism experiences, and heritage attractions that strengthen Paramaribo and Commewijne's visitor offer



Nature & wildlife tourism experiences

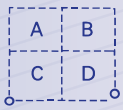
Expand birdwatching, conservation tourism, turtle nesting experiences, research tourism, and wildlife-based visitor attractions linked to Suriname's protected areas



Community-based tourism enterprises

Develop Indigenous and Maroon tourism ventures including cultural journeys, river expeditions, traditional craft experiences, and community-owned accommodation

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONCESSIONS



Protected-area tourism concessions

Develop visitor facilities, guided experiences, and tourism services through emerging tourism concession opportunities within protected areas and conservation landscapes



Visitor infrastructure & destination services

Invest in visitor centres, marinas, trails, wayfinding systems, tourism transport, and supporting infrastructure across priority tourism corridors



Regional gateway & tourism corridor development

Support destination development in Albina-Moengo, Nieuw-Nickerie, Bigi Pan, and Brokopondo through tourism services and supporting infrastructure investments

How can we help you?

SITA is dedicated to providing free, structured support services for international investors looking to establish operations in Suriname's target industries

Why work with SITA?

1. **One stop entry point for foreign investors:**
   SITA acts as the national trade and investment promotion agency and serves to help investors navigate bureaucratic, regulatory and administrative procedures required to establish in Suriname

2. **Tailored investor facilitation support:**
   SITA helps investors identify business opportunities, understand regulatory frameworks, and connect with relevant government ministries and local partners

3. **Incentive access and support:**
   Suriname offers several incentives for foreign investors and offers dedicated support to navigate the application process

4. **Sector expertise:**
   Dedicated sector expertise across priority sectors offering information and facilitation tailored to direct sector opportunities

5. **Aftercare and partnership development:**
   SITA supports expansion, organises investment promotion events, and liase with international firms, helping build partnerships on the investment and supply-chain side

Ready to invest in Suriname? Get in touch!

Contact SITA to discuss your requirements and facilitate your investment project

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