



All photos by Guyanese Marco Basir

# The Scenic Lake Capoey of Guyana

By Dmitri Allicock

About five miles inland from the Atlantic, along the Essequibo Coast, stretches a cordon of fresh water lakes formed by creeks which spreads over the coastal savannahs. The quiet and scenic Lake Capoey is one of several lakes including [Mainstay](#) and Hot and Cold that captures some the splendor of Guyana's lush tropical greenery.

Lake Capoey is located near the villages of Affiance and Taymouth Manor, in Region Two {[Pomeroon-Supenaam](#)} and can be access from [Anna Regina](#) or [Suddie](#). The tranquil Lake is believed to have been found centuries ago and settled by Arawaks who still maintain a small presence in the nearby communities. There are more than 380 residents who are in involved in farming and the timber industry.



Lake Capoey is not without a remote British colonial history. The left bank of the Essequibo River, for thirty miles before it reaches the Atlantic Ocean was at one time called a garden of fertility. No fewer than forty two estates or plantations were located on its shores before the 1833 Emancipation Act changed history.

It was called Aroabisce Coast but was commonly known as Capoey from a creek of that name in the center of the district. Lake Capoey and the other lakes were situated aback of the estates, surrounded by low sandy hills. A racecourse was laid out near the Capoey Lake, where the planters rode their ponies and mules in friendly manner.

Along the brown sandy shore of the Lake Capoey the great Ité Palms (*Mauritiaflexuosa*) grows in clumps forming small colonies on the sandy elevations which slope gently down to the water whose ripples are fanned by the steady eastern breeze of the Atlantic.

Some areas along the shore of the lake are lined with the common swamp grass, water lilies mocco-mocco and pimpler palms. Aquatic lilies with their large leaves creates a gently resting spot for frogs and dragon flies, food for various water fowls and a good habitat for spawning fishes.

Away from the shore, splendid groups of Manicole, Kokerite Palms, various ferns, orchids and climbing plants meets the eye. Perched on some high dead branch a majestic Falcon may startle the air with its shrill cry. The piercing sound of the noisy and conspicuous large fly catcher, the black bill- yellow breast Kiskadee, leads the chorus of a million birds.





Darting innumerable [iridescent](#)- nectarivore [Hummingbirds](#), thirty seven species recorded in Guyana, with their unique ability to fly backwards, seeks out flowers in bloom.

The seasonal indigenous Awarra {Astrocaryum}, Corio {Akuyuro Astrocaryum}, Kokerite abounds and renders bunches of tasty fruits which overspread the ground, affording great food for the Accourie, Labba and wild life of Guyana.

The Lake is not set up for tourism as yet like the resort at Lake Mainstay but would make a prime location for ecotourism. Lake Capoey can be accessed from Georgetown via [Parika](#) , speed boat to Supenaam, from Supenaam, a car or minibus, straight to the lake or to Suddie or Anna Regina where transportation can be arranged.

The breathtaking lake Capoey with its biological diversity and natural beauty would be an irresistible temptation for both ecotourism and adventure seekers alike when developed. Guyana's immense pristine rainforest and wild life blended with rich indigenous cultural heritage offers both understanding and fulfillment for the curious.