

## **MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 12**

On April 19, 2025, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., my family, which includes my mom, dad, sister Sherelle and myself, were taken on a tour of the Nariva Swamp by Mr. Bruce, our tour guide. The purpose of the trip was to observe the wildlife and plants within the Nariva Swamp. This report details exactly what took place during the trip.

Upon arrival at the designated meeting point, we met our tour guide. Mr. Bruce provided instructions regarding safety and swamp navigation. At approximately 9:30 a.m., our group boarded a small, flat-bottomed boat. The boat proceeded through narrow waterways bordered by mangrove trees. The guide identified various types of mangroves and explained the purpose of the trees in the swamp.

During the boat tour, several animals were observed. Approximately ten scarlet ibises were seen perched in trees along the water's edge. Three caimans were observed on riverbanks, one of which entered the water as the boat approached. Multiple species of birds, including herons and egrets, were sighted flying overhead and wading in shallow areas. Howler monkeys were heard, and one group was observed in the trees at a distance.

The boat stopped at various points, allowing for closer observation of specific areas. At one stop, the guide pointed out mudskippers on the exposed mudflats. The vegetation consisted mainly of mangroves, palms, and other swamp-adapted plants.

The boat tour concluded at approximately 12:30 p.m. Following the boat tour, our small group returned to the starting point. No incidents or deviations from the planned itinerary occurred. The tour provided direct observation of the Nariva Swamp ecosystem.

