

WHV – Jodensavanne Archaeological Volunteer Project

Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery, Suriname

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2023)

16 - 27 September 2024

THE SITE - Located on high ground on the densely forested banks of the Suriname River, the Jodensavanne Archaeological Site in northern Suriname is a serial property that illustrates early Jewish colonization attempts in the New World. The Jodensavanne Settlement, founded in the 1680s, includes the ruins of what is believed to be the earliest synagogue of architectural significance in the Americas, along with cemeteries, boat landing areas, and a military post. The Cassipora Creek Cemetery is the remnant of an older settlement founded in the 1650s. Located amidst Indigenous territory, the settlements were inhabited, owned, and governed by Jews who lived there together with free and enslaved persons of African and Indigenous descent. The settlements had the most extensive arrangement of privileges and immunities known in the early modern Jewish world.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at youth developing new skills by performing basic preservation and conservation techniques at the former 17th century Jewish settlement Jodensavanne and the Cassipora Creek Cemetery, a context in which different cultures and ethnic groups came into contact, collided and connected with each other resulting in tangible and intangible interchanges.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will engage and learn new skills towards protecting archaeological heritage of Jodensavanne participating in surface collection and excavating an archaeological feature at the Village Plaza. They will stimulate the creation of a network with the local Indigenous community at Redi Doti, and will Support the Foundation's effort in gaining more insight information about the former Jewish settlement at Jodensavanne.

PARTNERS - Anton the Kom University; Suriname Built Heritage Foundation; Village council of Redi Doti; Jodensavanne River Resort.

Jodensavanne Foundation

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