



BRAZIL

ULTIMATE BRAZIL



- DURATION:** 13 days / 12 nights
- SEASON:** May through December
- DEPARTURES:** Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants
- TRIP RATING:** Easy Tour, Grade (I) - This activity-oriented, hotel and resort-based trip offers a superb natural history and cultural overview of some of the most spectacular national parks, nature reserves and intriguing cities in Brazil. It features guided excursions of 2-5 hours duration by vehicle or boat, plus short hikes at elevations below 3,000'.
- 2012 DATES :** On request for a minimum of 4 travelers any week during the season

INTRODUCTION:

South America's largest nation is a delightful, often-overlooked destination for nature and cultural tourism. Encompassing climatic zones ranging from tropical to temperate, the country's diverse ecosystems include some of the earth's most inspiring wildlands—the Amazon, spectacular Iguazu Falls, the Atlantic rainforest and mile-upon-mile of gorgeous beaches. Like its landscapes, Brazil's cultures are equally varied, running the gamut from cosmopolitan and chic to rural and indigenous. Influences from European, African, and Indian populations are manifested in the unique traditions found in different regions. Combining excursions into some of the country's finest parks and reserves with tours of colorful, historic cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Salvador da Bahia, this exciting *soft adventure* provides an exceptional introduction to Brazil.

We begin our journey with a tour of Rio de Janeiro, one of the most vibrant and beautiful cities in the world. Our visits include Copacabana Beach, a cable car ride on *Pão de Açúcar*, a hike through Tijuca National Park and Corcovado Mountain, where the famous statue of Christ watches over the city. After touring Rio we fly to Salvador da Bahia on the northeastern coast, we learn about the African and colonial traditions while enjoying some of the most pristine beaches in the country. On a visit to the Sapiranga Ecological Reserve we can take a dip in the river Pojuca or the waterfalls in the middle of a dense rainforest. Next, we visit the Praia do Forte Tivoli EcoResort, which provides opportunities for various activities, or just relaxation and a spa treatment. We conclude our journey of discovery in the tropical forests surrounding one of South America's most spectacular natural wonders, Foz do Iguazu. These astounding waterfalls consist of 275 tiered cascades, and are wider than Victoria Falls and higher than Niagara. After witnessing the power of this natural wonder we fly to São Paulo and connect home.

Brazil: Ultimate Brazil

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (SUN): USA/RIO DE JANEIRO

We depart the USA on an overnight flight to **Rio de Janeiro**.

DAY 02 (MON): RIO DE JANEIRO

We are met upon arrival in **Rio**, considered by *National Geographic Traveler* as one of the 50 places of a lifetime. Transfer to the Rio Atlantica Hotel on the lovely Copacabana beach. Lunch is on your own. In the afternoon, meet your local guide for a tour of *cidade maravilhosa*, or marvelous city, founded by the Portuguese in 1567. We begin with a drive along the beach to the Urca quarter to board a cable car for a spectacular ride up *Pão de Açúcar*, or Sugar Loaf Hill. Rio's best known landmark, stands 1,300' above Guanabara Bay offering a superb view of the entire city. Next, we head to the *Centro*, to visit some important historical downtown sites. Stops include the Metropolitan cathedral, the Imperial Palace and a walk on old Rio streets. This evening, enjoy a local style restaurant and a samba show completing our welcome to South America's most vibrant city. (D)

DAY 03 (TUE): RIO DE JANEIRO

After a leisurely breakfast, we enjoy a driving tour and nature hike in **Tijuca National Park**, home to 46 square miles of tropical jungles, all that is left of the forest once surrounding Rio de Janeiro. The contrast between the urban center of Copacabana and the park, less than 30 minutes away, with its exuberant green forest, lofty peaks, waterfalls and creeks, has to be experienced to be believed. Birdlife is abundant, as are iguanas and monkeys. Within the park we ascend **Corcovado Mountain**, where the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooks the city. Lunch is at a local *Churrascaria* restaurant before returning to the Rio Atlantica to enjoy an afternoon on Rio's renowned beaches or some personal sightseeing. Dinner is on your own to try Rio's great variety of restaurants. (B,L)

DAY 04 (WED): RIO DE JANEIRO/PETROPOLIS

Morning scenic drive to historic Petrópolis for a day visit. Here we find a mountain retreat with European influence located in Serra dos Órgãos, 1.5 hours from Rio de Janeiro. The Imperial Museum served as the summer residence of the imperial family during the 19th century. Various historical pieces such as the crown of Emperor Don Pedro II, historical documents, imperial jewelry and priceless pieces of art belonging to the imperial family, can be viewed. We also visit the Crystal Palace, built in France in a cast iron pre-molded structure at the request of Conde D'Eu and Princess Isabel. Today it is used for concerts and theatrical presentations. Another stop is the São Pedro de Alcântara Cathedral, a French neo-gothic building dating back to 1884. A walk along boulevards and through plazas brings us to the house of Santos Dumont, former residence of a well-known Brazilian inventor. After a local style lunch, return to Rio and the familiar Rio Atlantica Hotel for the evening. (B,L)

DAY 05 (THU): RIO DE JANEIRO/SALVADOR DA BAHIA

We catch a morning flight to **Salvador da Bahia**. Reception and transfer to the Pestana Bahia Hotel. Bahia is Brazil's most historic state. The principal city, **Salvador da Bahia**, is the oldest in the country and served as the colonial capital from 1549 to 1763. A center of the sugar economy, the city sustained the country's prosperity until the 18th-century. Bahia retains strong links to its African heritage, creating a unique and vibrant culture. Later this afternoon, explore the nearby modern suburb of Barra at the mouth of the Todos os Santos Bay with its remarkable forts and lighthouse. We walk by the waterfront by the Santo Antonio fort, considered the first fortress built in Brazil, it shelters the small Nautical museum, which contains maps and navigation equipment of old Portuguese and Spanish ships and findings of the ship Galeao Sacramento that sunk in the entrance of the bay centuries ago. (B)

DAY 06 (FRI): SALVADOR DA BAHIA

Following breakfast we venture out into the upper and lower districts of this colorful city, considered the country's soul and birthplace of Brazilian culture. Walk among splendid 16th & 17th century homes and churches such as the Cathedral and San Francisco displaying some of the finest baroque religious artwork in South America. We visit one of the city's museums, either the Costa Pinto Museum (fine collection of colonial furniture, antique jewelry, clusters of gold and silver amulets given to female slaves) or the Sacred Art Museum (considered the finest museum of its kind in Brazil with a vast collection from the 17th and 18th centuries). At the Modelo Market we may catch a demonstration of *capoeira*, the martial art developed by African slaves as a form of combat and later transformed into a type of dance and folklore tradition. After seeing the Lacerda elevator, we explore parts of the city not often seen by travelers; artists' studios, including a ceramist, weaver, and painter working in the native style. To try the regional cuisine of African influence with a variety of dishes, lunch is included in a local restaurant in old town. Return to the comforts of the Pestana Bahia Hotel for the evening. (B,L)

Brazil: Ultimate Brazil

DAY 07 (SAT): CACHOEIRA/SALVADOR DA BAHIA

We venture inland today, driving to the colonial jewel, Cachoeira, a community of about 30,000, situated on the Paraguassu River. Renowned as the center of the Candomblé orthodoxy, the Afro-Brazilian religion of the northeast, Cachoeira's beautiful 18th century architecture is unmarred by the presence of modern structures and is home to many traditional artists. Our route takes us through the oldest farmlands in Brazil, a region of vast sugar-cane and tobacco plantations. We stop first at the small town of Santo Amaro to see its bustling market and learn insights into the lifestyle of rural Brazil. We continue our drive westwards through rolling hills to Cachoeira, the jewel of the Bahian hinterland. On a walking tour of the old town we see colonial houses and browse in some local wood carvers shops. We also encounter the Sisterhood of Boa Morte, a sorority with roots to the time of slavery. A country style lunch is served at the hilltop Fazenda Santa Cruz of the Souza family, a pleasant property overlooking the valley. Later, we visit the Danemann Cultural Center where first-class cigars are expertly rolled. Settle in for the night back at the Pestana Bahia Hotel. Driving distance: 150 miles or about 4.5 hours round-trip. (B,L)

DAY 08 (SUN): SALVADOR DA BAHIA/PRAIA DO FORTE

After an early breakfast, we take the Coconut Highway north, through small villages and deserted beaches to Praia do Forte. Along the way we visit the Sapiranga Reserve, an ecological reserve in the dense Atlantic rainforest. Here we may take a dip in the river Pojuca or the waterfalls, in the midst of an incredible variety of tropical flora and fauna. Next, we stop at the ruins (slowly being restored) of an imposing castle overlooking the sea, the Castelo do Garcia d'Avila - built in 1552, the first great Portuguese edifice in the country. After lunch, we have time to visit the Tamara Aquarium, a national sea turtle preservation project and one of Brazil's most successful ecological programs. The visitors center provides a unique up-close view of these majestic animals and other sea life. We also explore the village and its local craft shops or walk on the beautiful beach before checking in to the Praia do Forte Tivoli EcoResort. Dinner is included at the resort tonight. **Driving distance:** 60 miles or about 1.5 hours. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (MON): ECORESORT/PRAIA DO FORTE

Today is at leisure to enjoy the resort's exclusive facilities and beaches. Choose from a variety of optional ecotourism, recreational and social activities such as; canoeing, nature hiking, birding, fishing, snorkeling, windsurfing, yoga or local dance lessons, tennis, soccer, beach volleyball or even an exciting zip line tour in the nearby nature reserve. You may prefer to indulge in a luxurious massage or other therapeutic treatments at the onsite Thalasso Spa. Lunch and dinner are included at the resort restaurants to try the finest local and international cuisine offering new flavors, aromas and colors for the palette. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 (TUE): SALVADOR DA BAHIA/IGUAÇU FALLS

Transfer to the airport early this morning for a flight to Foz do Iguaçu with an stop in Rio or São Paulo. Arrive in the afternoon, reception and private transfer to the Orient-Express' Das Cataratas Hotel, a lovely Portuguese-colonial building set among tropical vegetation, adjacent to the famous falls as it's the only hotel located inside the National park do Iguaçu. After a short orientation, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure to stroll along the nearby walkways, photograph the falls at sunset time or enjoy the outdoor pool at the hotel. Dinner is included tonight at the hotel's Itaipu restaurant serving a blend of Brazilian and international cuisine. (B,D)

DAY 11 (WED): FOZ DO IGUAÇU/ARGENTINA SIDE

Iguaçu means "great water" in the Guarani Indian language, and with an average of 62,000 cubic feet/second of water rushing over its 275 tiered cascades, these world renowned falls are truly spectacular! Spanning more than 1.8 miles and with a drop of more than 260', Iguaçu Falls are wider than Victoria and 1.5 times higher than Niagara. Following breakfast, we cross the Brotherhood Bridge into **Argentina** to enjoy the best, close-up views of the falls. We walk along the lower canyon trail and take a boat across to San Martin Island with its distinct rainforest microclimate, abounding in epiphytes and birds. From here, we view the San Martin, Adam & Eve, and Three Musketeers falls. After lunch and a stop at the Park's Visitor Center, we hike along the upper falls trail before ending our visit at the impressive *Garganta del Diablo*, or Devil's Throat. Later, we visit Puerto Iguazu, Argentina and its historical museum administered by an amateur archaeologist who recently discovered the ruins of the Guarani Indian Republic, dating to 1610. We return across the river to **Foz do Iguaçu**, Brazil and the comfortable Das Cataratas Hotel. (B,L)

DAY 12 (THU): FOZ DO IGUAÇU/SAO PAULO

Rising early, we head out with our guide to explore the Brazilian side of the falls located in the largest reserve of non-Amazonian tropical forest in South America. Impressive views abound of the various cascades. Photographers will have a field day as the morning light allows wonderful opportunities for impressive images. Check-out of the hotel by early afternoon (luggage storage available). Later in the afternoon, transfer to the airport, fly to **São Paulo** and connect

Brazil: Ultimate Brazil

to your international overnight flight to the USA.

(B)

DAY 13 (FRI): USA

Arrive in the USA this morning and make onward connections home (or begin an optional extension to other destinations in Brazil or South America).

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, the day-by-day activities are subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control including group requirements, weather, road/trail/lake and river conditions as well as flight delays, cancellations or schedule changes. Wildlife and bird viewing will be carefully pursued, but spotting specific species or certain numbers of species cannot be guaranteed. This trip is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and up. Hiking distances and altitudes are approximate and times indicated are NET (not including lunch or rest breaks, exploring the area, photographs, etc).

2012 LAND COST: \$5,795 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)
\$5,345 p.p.d. (7-12 participants)
\$1,425 Single Supplement

p.p.d.= per person based on double occupancy

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Private bus and boat transportation where applicable.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- **Accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels and resorts** as listed (or at similar hotels and resorts), on a shared basis with private bath. Double beds for couples (primarily queen or king-size) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed (hotels have limited double bed rooms).
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels. Due to the limited number of rooms at some hotels, there is a maximum of 2 singles allowed per group. If you require single accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation.
- All **guided tours** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides (includes applicable entrance fees). Tours and activities at Tivoli EcoResort are provided with other hotel guests.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Brazil (Airpass available)
- Visa for entry to Brazil (approx. \$160 per person)
- Ten (10) meals at about \$25-30 each
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparation such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, and additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing a plan to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance helps to cover unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, a personal injury/illness to you, family member or your traveling companion could cause interruption or changes to your itinerary, missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or need for medical attention on the trip or evacuation which is why coverage is important. We recommend the *Worldwide Trip Protector (WTP)* plan offered by Travel Insured International (TII). **Kids 17 and under are free with related adult on the WTP plan.** Information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies can be purchased securely online at: www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you should purchase the WTP policy within 21 days of your deposit in order to be reimbursed for non-refundable costs if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip

Brazil: Ultimate Brazil

(some restrictions apply). Please call our office or visit our website for more information.

WEATHER: The weather conditions are as varied as the habitats we visit, ranging from cooler weather in the Petrópolis area (highs in the upper 60's) to the hot, humid conditions of the tropical forests around Foz do Iguaçu (highs in the upper 80's and low's in the 70's). August through November are pleasant months to visit the falls. For this trip, you should bring layered clothing that will accommodate a variety of temperatures ranging from 40°F at night to 95°F during the day at the hottest locations. June-September is typically the Brazilian dry season along the coast, while December-February is more humid with occasional showers.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** airfare from US gateways (JFK, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta) to Rio and returning from Sao Paulo is about \$900-\$1,200 per person (not including flights within Brazil). **In-country flights** (Rio-Salvador, Salvador-Iguassu, Iguassu-Sao Paulo) are estimated at \$400-700 per person with a Brazil Airpass in conjunction with your international ticket. Airlines offering non-stop service to Brazil include United/Continental, American, Delta & TAM Brazilian. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation Form along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card). The form and deposit can be completed securely online at www.southwindadventures.com by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. If you prefer, you can print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. You can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

Due to Brazil's popularity, we recommend making reservations at least 4 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure packet.

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 90 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the 2012 Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click [Book a Trip](#)>2012 Terms & Conditions).

12ubr:Version.Oct11