

15D14N Brazil & Argentina Program

*Sao Paulo, Amazonas, Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls,
Buenos Aires & El Calafate*



Itinerary: Sao Paulo (1n), Manaus (1n), Amazonas (2n), Rio de Janeiro (3n), Iguazu Falls (1n), Buenos Aires (3n), El Calafate (3n)

Day 1: SAO PAULO

Arrival to Sao Paulo International Airport and transfer to the hotel

Overnight at the selected hotel in Sao Paulo, with breakfast included.

Day 2: SAO PAULO / MANAUS (B, L)

Breakfast at the Hotel

We will visit Sao Paulo City. The city of Sao Paulo is the most important financial center in South America and has the most modern tertiary sector in Brazil. Its industrial park is responsible for around 10% of the national production and its commerce - a huge number if you consider that Brazil ranks among the 10 biggest Industry Nations.

The development boom at the end of the 19th century quickly transformed the landscape of the city, giving rise to new buildings and monuments that made it a grand metropolis. It is maybe not the most beautiful city but it can be very fascinating if you can "see behind the curtains".

Our tour is fascinating and educational. You will get to know the enchantments of this big metropolis and its major tourist attractions. You will be picked up at your hotel and returned at the end of the tour.

Main sightseeing points: Paulista Avenue, Roses House, Financial Trade, MASP - São Paulo Arts Museum, Trianon Park, Historical centre*, Liberdade - an oriental district, Portugal House, 23 de Maio avenue, Flags Monument, Ibirapuera Park*, Obelisk, Juscelino Kubitschek Avenue, Morumbi, Volpi Park, Maria Luiza Oscar Americano Foundation, Bandeirantes Palace (State Government Headquarters), Albert Einstein Hospital, Morumbi Stadium, Morumbi Chapel, Panambi Project, SP Market Shopping, Morumbi Shopping, Nações Unidas Avenue, D&D Shopping, World Trade Center, Circus School, Cidade Jardim avenue, Faria Lima new avenue, Casa Brasileira museum, Iguatemi Shopping, Rebouças avenue, Rebouças Convention Centre, Clinics hospital, INCOR - Heart Institute.



At proper time, transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you to Manaus. Arrival to Manaus and transfer to the hotel.

Embedded in the Amazon Forest, Manaus is a city with almost 1.5 million inhabitants and it is the capital of Amazonas, the largest Brazilian state. The city impresses with its natural beauty, ecological parks and a series of green areas that seem endless. It is a land of contrasts, blending exuberant nature with a high-tech industrial centre and the remains of a glorious past, during the peak of the international rubber trade.

Manaus congregates unequal wonders in one place like no other city. Imagine cruising two different rivers at the same time and you will have an idea of what is the "Meeting of the Waters" of Negro and Solimões rivers, the first with its dark water and the second with its muddy water, going side by side without mixing themselves for 18km; visit the

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largest Botanical Garden in the world, in 100km² ecological reserve; observe countless constructions registering different architectural styles, as the magnificent Amazonas Theatre; go to the rivers beaches when the water level is low; shop Indians art and facts and savor Amazon cuisine at Branco and Silva Centre for Arts and Crafts, or technological goods at Manaus Free Zone. Experience this and much more Manaus has to offer, surrounded by the largest forest in the world.

Transfer MAO Airport to hotel

The guide will receive you with a name board and will give all the necessary information

Overnight at the selected hotel in Manaus, breakfast included.

Day 3: MANAUS (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the Hotel



Amazon Rainforest The term rainforest describes forests that grow in constant humid conditions. They can occur wherever the annual rainfall is above 2,000 millimeters (80 inches), even if it is spread throughout the year. The rather high temperatures favor plant development - i.e., above 20 degrees Celsius. The main characteristic of this humid, dense forest is the fact that the plants congregate in groups, which are organized in a distinctive manner within the ecosystem.

The Amazon Rainforest contains the largest area of tropical forest in the world. It covers 6 million square kilometers in 9 different countries (around 60% in Brazil). At the heart of this region lies the huge Amazon River, the second longest watercourse of the world. The Amazon holds more than 20% of the planet's fresh water, has at least 1,000 tributaries. The Rio Negro is its largest tributary. The Amazon Rainforest actually includes four major vegetation types: Terra Firma Forest (upland forest) - located on higher grounds with no direct influence from rivers Várzea Forest (marshland forest) - seasonally flooded lowland forest. Igapó Forest - permanently flooded lowland forest. Catinga Forest - along Rio Negro, called Campirana as well.

Departure to the lodge. We will leave the pier of the Tropical Manaus Hotel for the boat transfer to the Lodge. Arrival at the Amazon Ecopark Resort, check-in welcome reception with local juices after which guests will be shown to the room.

Amazon Ecopark is a touristy, scientific and educational property created and directed by the private initiative. It has been established since 1991 and as a Lodge since 1995. Located in the Rio Tarumã, a tributary of Rio Negro, approximately one hour from Manaus airport and in the middle of the Amazon Forest it includes not catalogued species in virgin rainforest, natural savannahs and creeks. It offers clients comfort and a safe jungle experience, several streams of crystal clear warm water run through the area, over 6 miles of jungle trails, orchids and giant trees.

Amazon Ecopark offers 60 apartments in 20 bungalows (03 each), made of concrete and wood. Each room with independent entrance porches and bathrooms, all with air-conditioning, electric showers and screened windows.

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The bungalows, although rustic, are pleasantly decorated and provide much comfort (night light, carpet, indigenous decorative objects, etc.)

VISIT TO THE MONKEY JUNGLE

A rehabilitation center for primates brought to this local by IBAMA when confiscated from illegal sales and exports. At this location, primates are initially kept in quarantine in order to be evaluated and treated by veterinarians and biologists. After a period of time, primates are reintroduced to the jungle.

TYPICAL BUFFET DINNER AT THE HOTEL

With various options of beef, chicken or regional fish, many side dishes, vegetables, salads, fresh fruits of the season and various sweet desserts.



NIGHT TOURS IN CANOES - ALLIGATOR SPOTTING

Depart lodge in paddle or motorized canoes, to appreciate the sounds of the jungle at night, with the possibility to spot small alligators (or other nightly creatures). Alligators are spotted because their eyes shine like small red lights, once the alligator is spotted by the guide spotlight, the guide will try to catch a small alligator with his own hands and bring it on to the canoe, and a brief explanation of their habitat follows. The alligator will then be safely release back to the river. (No harm is done to any of the animals). Duration: about 1 hour, a bilingual guide accompanies every group.

Overnight at the lodge.

Day 4: MANAUS (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the Hotel

PACKAGE AMAZON ECOPARK E2 - 2ND DAY



While the schedule of activities is always subject to variation due to weather, water level and other factors, there are generally two different activities included each day, generally early in the morning and later in the afternoon or evening. These are times when wildlife is most active (we recommend you lay low during the mid-day sun, as the wildlife does!).

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NATURE-HIKE

Introduction to the amazon area. Group will be accompanied by Bilingual guides and by military officers from the Amazon Jungle Army who is specialized in jungle survival skills. Activities will involve trekking in the jungle throughout the morning and afternoon. Programmed stops will be made at "Work Stations".

LUNCH DURING THE TOUR

Lunch will consist of sandwiches, fruits a barbecue of chicken and/or piranhas and soup (picnic style).

VISIT TO THE CABOCLOS

After a short rest, visit to the home of local Amazonian residents "caboclos" with an opportunity for Fishing. A bilingual guide will help you learn about the traditions and customs of this people.

Duration: may vary according to the place visited / "low water level seasons" closest to the Lodge; "high water level season" distant communities can be visited (1 to 3 hours). Back to hotel

TYPICAL BUFFET DINNER AT THE

Overnight at the lodge.

Day 5: MANAUS (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the Hotel

PACKAGE AMAZON ECOPARK E2 - 3RD DAY



BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

A trip will also be made to the unforgettable MEETING OF THE WATER, where the fast moving black waters of the Rio Negro meet the slower brown waters of the Rio Solimões meet to form the Amazon proper. These two waters run together for miles without mixing as differences in speed, temperature and composition keep them separate. It is an amazing spectacle to behold.

Boat transfer to the pier & airport

The car will be waiting to drive the clients to the airport.

ATTENTION: The activities described may be altered due to weather conditions and flight schedule, with the intent of maximizing your experience of the eco-system.

WHAT TO BRING: Most of the time, passengers will find themselves wearing light clothing such as T-shirts, shorts, bathing suit and sandals, but for the hikes in the forest they should also have a long sleeved shirt, long trousers, light coat, good closed footwear such as high tennis shoes or hiking boots, hat, small flashlight, binoculars, camera, insect repellent and personal effects.

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At proper time transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you to Rio de Janeiro. Arrival to Rio de Janeiro, meet and greet by local staff and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the selected hotel in Rio de Janeiro, breakfast included.

Day 6: RIO DE JANEIRO (B, L)

Breakfast at the Hotel

You will enjoy a half visit to SUGAR LOAF, a worldwide symbol and trademark of Rio de Janeiro. From the top of the hill, you will enjoy the most beautiful views of the city. The two 2 mountains are reached and connected by a cable car: the first one is Morro da Urca, which is 220 meters high and offers a beautiful view of the Guanabara Bay, the beaches of Botafogo and Flamengo, the local airport and the Rio-Niteroi Bridge. From this stage, a second cable car will take you up to the top of the second mountain, 395 meters above the sea level, to find a splendid view of Copacabana beach, the Santa Cruz fortress and some of the beaches of Niteroi.



Lunch included at a local restaurant

Return to the hotel in the afternoon.

Overnight at the selected hotel in Rio de Janeiro, breakfast included.

Day 7: RIO DE JANEIRO (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

You will enjoy a half day visit to the CHRIST OF CORCOVADO & FLORESTA DE TIJUCA RAIN FOREST. Rio's best-known icon is a concrete statue of 30 meters, whose wide open arms seem to embrace the whole city. The base stands on the top of the Corcovado hill (710 meters), offering a magnificent view of the city: the Guanabara bay, Niteroi, the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana, the botanical garden and the Sugar Loaf. The Christ of Corcovado has been declared one of the Seven Wonders of Modern World.



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Return to the hotel at midday.

Overnight at the selected hotel in Rio de Janeiro, breakfast included.

Day 8: RIO DE JANEIRO – IGUASSU FALLS (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

Transfer to Rio airport to take the flight to Foz do Iguazu (2:20 hours)

Met upon arrival, to be transferred to the hotel, for check in

Half Day excursion to Brazilian Falls

In the afternoon, take a guided tour through the BRAZILIAN SIDE OF THE FALLS: You will discover secure and modern catwalks that lead through the falls. You will continue down the pathways, which take you over the falling water up to a special area with a fantastic panoramic view of the Devil's Throat and the surrounding falls.



Overnight at the selected hotel in Iguassu, breakfast included.

Day 9: IGUASSU FALLS / BUENOS AIRES (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

In the morning, you will cross the border to enter into Argentina for a Full day excursion of the ARGENTINEAN SIDE OF THE FALLS. You will enjoy a Full Day tour, visiting the 3 main circuits that will bring you face to face with the native wildlife: the Lower, Superior circuits, and the most impressive, the Devil's Throat. The Iguazu River plunges into a gorge of over 275 falls along 4 km completely surrounded by a dense tropical forest. The Upper Circuit guarantees spectacular panoramic views of the falls. The Lower Circuit will give us a close contact with the falls and surrounding vegetation. Finally, we will arrive at the Devil's Throat, the most impressive one of the Iguazu Falls.

Take a boat ride on the Iguazu river, getting close to the falls, and getting completely drenched!



At proper time pick up at the hotel and transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you to Buenos Aires. Arrival to Buenos Aires, meet and greet by local staff and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the selected hotel in Buenos Aires, breakfast included.

Day 10: BUENOS AIRES (B)

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Breakfast at the Hotel

The old Buenos Aires: Plaza de Mayo, San Telmo, La Boca and Puerto Madero

You will discover Buenos Aires most traditional neighbourhoods. The first stop will be the **Plaza de Mayo** (May Square), historical scenery of the main political events of our country. Site where the city was founded in 1580, centre of the political, religious and social life of Buenos Aires, surrounded by the Government House, the old city hall, the cathedral, the Central Bank and Economy ministry, the Plaza de Mayo has been witness of the most dramatic and joyful days of Argentina.

Next to the Government House, the brand new **Bicentennial Museum** allows visitors to have a panoramic view over the Argentinean history. Over one hundred and forty meters of vaulted galleries, the collection is organized through the various stages of the two centuries of our history, with the support of various multimedia resources.



Taking the historical **Avenida de Mayo**, to get to the mythical **Café Tortoni**, the oldest caffè in the Buenos Aires. Throughout the years, it has received the most distinguished visitors, writers and musicians, local and foreigners among them, such as Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar, Federico García Lorca, Carlos Gardel.

Continue the tour in **San Telmo**, a picturesque area that still preserves its cobbled stone streets, as well as some colonial constructions and of the turn of the century; nowadays there are many antique shops and artist's ateliers. On Sundays there is a Flea Market, bustling with unique artisans and antiques.



Continue the tour, to southern **La Boca**, where you will visit the famous **Caminito** street open air museum and characteristic colourful tin houses and Boca Juniors Stadium. The neighborhood has its own strong identity, the Italian immigrants that have settled in this area, close to the port, building colorful houses. The neighborhood has retained much of its original character, a mixture of popular culture, tango, street art and soccer.

We will continue towards **Puerto Madero**, the newest and most contemporary district of Buenos Aires, where modern real estate and high-rise office buildings form a new kind of skyline, towering above an upscale promenade of riverfront bars and restaurants.

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Enjoy a dinner and tango show in Rojo Tango where you will be able to see a top-quality show, with professional tango singers and dancers together with an excellent cuisine in one of the most exclusive atmospheres of Buenos Aires' nightlife. It is one of the most exclusive tango shows in Buenos Aires. It takes place in the exclusive Faena Hotel where four couples of dancers and a live orchestra are the main attraction of the show but the first-level menu and the excellent service also have to be taken into account.

Upon arrival, you will be surprised by the remake of a cabaret from the 30s, with a touch of Philippe Stark.

The first level gastronomic offer pays special attention to the combination of flavors and perfumes. In each step you will have three dishes to choose from. You can join them with first-quality wine or champagne. The live orchestra leads a different show in which the bodies are guided as if they were in a trance by what the bandoneon plays.



Overnight at the selected hotel in Buenos Aires, breakfast included.

Day 11: BUENOS AIRES / EL CALAFATE (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

At proper time, pick up at the hotel and transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you to El Calafate. Arrival at El Calafate, meet and greet by local staff and transfer to the hotel.

Excellent half day tour option if you want to practice a morning or afternoon activity.

You depart from your hotel in El Calafate to complete a journey of about 35 kilometers above the line of hills located behind the village. The trail immerses us into steppe landscapes where we reach heights up to 1050 meters above sea level and we marvel at the variety of vegetation at this height.

Our first stop is at a natural viewpoint where passengers enjoy a panoramic view of El Calafate and the main body of Lake Argentino. The tour will offer views of the Andes and the accumulation zone of glaciers, the Boca del Diablo (narrowest part of the lake, towards the Upsala arm) and, if cleared, you will see the Fitz Roy and Torre in Chalten and you will contemplate the flight of the condors.

Continuing the ascent, we reach the Stone Labyrinth, which is a formation of the Cretaceous period, dating back 85 million years old, ever riverbed where even today we can find fossils that refer to the past. From there we will descend the northern face of the hill and arrive at the Hats Rock, curious iron concretions found only in four places around the world.

We return to El Calafate without losing sight of the imposing Lake Argentino.

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Overnight at the selected hotel in El Calafate, breakfast included.

Day 12: EL CALAFATE (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

Full Day excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier with mini trekking over the glacier – Private
Box lunch is included

Visit Perito Moreno Glacier. There are seven balconies or viewpoints, located at different heights and distances from the glacier, connected by paths and stairs. From the highest balcony, you will see the amazing surface of the glacier, the northern and southern face. As you go down, you will find the second balcony, closer to the ice. This is the place where on occasions the ice dam is formed. The lower balcony is the closest you can get to the glacier.



The Minitrekking over the Glacier - Shared

Tour begins in the embarking pier located in “Bajo de las Sombras” port, about 6 km before the glacier Balconies- where you embark for a 20 minutes navigation across the Rico Arm, enjoying breathtaking views of the Perito Moreno glacier’s front wall. You disembark on the opposite shore, where specialized bilingual mountain guides welcome you and lead you to a small shelter. After checking the last details, groups of not more than 20, follow their guides along the lake’s shore towards the edge of the glacier. Once on the ice the guides put each participant a pair of crampons on, and explain how to use them.

The two hours circuit that follows introduces you to the fascinating landscape of the glaciers: streams, small lagoons, gullies, crevasses and plenty of ice formations of the most incredible blues. The trekking is moderate. The ice surface over which you walk is irregular, but firm and safe. You will receive explanations about flora, fauna and general glaciology of the region and also about the particular phenomenon that happens in the Perito Moreno Glacier and eventually produces its rupture. After the walk, a stroll through the forest brings you back to the shelter, from where you sail back to the Pier, and then transfer to the town of El Calafate.

WHAT TO BRING

•Outfit: Sport shoes or trekking boots. Rubber and prè ski boots, as well as high heel shoes are not allowed. Comfortable sportswear, long trousers, warm sweater or pile, water or windproof jacket, sunglasses, sun block, gloves.

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IMPORTANT

- Restrictions: due to the degree of effort and difficulty that this excursion presents, is NOT allowed for; pregnant women, people with overweight, some type of disability, or health problems.
- Age: Between 10 and 65 years old.



Return to the hotel in the afternoon

Overnight at the selected hotel in El Calafate, breakfast included.

Day 13: EL CALAFATE (B) – Rios de Hielo Navigation

Breakfast at the Hotel

The boarding time, in the Punta Bandera Private Port (47 kilometers from the city of El Calafate), will be at 08H30 and the departure will be at 09H00, after the passengers are informed about the safety and sailing conditions. Once on board we will sail through the North Arm of the Argentino Lake to reach the Upsala Canal, where we will find a spectacular Océbergs Barrier. From there we will have a panoramic view of the Upsala Glacier.

Afterwards we will navigate the Spegazzini Canal, where we will observe the Seco Glacier to reach the front of Spegazzini Glacier, the highest in the National Park.

The return to Punta Bandera Private Port will be at 16H00 approximately.

**The tour may be modified depending on weather conditions, security and decision of the captain on board.



Overnight at the selected hotel in El Calafate, breakfast included.

Day 14: EL CALAFATE / BUENOS AIRES

Breakfast at the Hotel

At proper time, pick up at the hotel and transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you to Buenos Aires. Arrival to Buenos Aires, meet and greet by local staff and transfer to the hotel.

Northern neighborhoods of Buenos Aires: Colon Theatre, Recoleta & Palermo

You will experience the contrast with the areas visited the prior day. Start the tour with a drive along 9 de Julio Avenue, the widest one, which features the famed Obelisk.

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Take a guided tour inside the **Colon Theatre**, which sublime architecture stands out in every single detail, amazing and captivating its visitors with its flight of stairs, sculptures and stained-glass windows. Visiting the Colon Theatre and feeling the magic of its mystical atmosphere in every step is an extraordinary experience that makes visitors feel privileged.



Explore **Recoleta** district, The Recoleta neighborhood is the hub of the city's aristocracy, where old-money families live in pricey apartments along avenues with soaring French architecture. Discover the Parisian air of Alvear Avenue, the most exclusive fashion shops, luxurious French palaces and the legendary Recoleta Cemetery.



Recoleta cemetery is the final resting place of many of the wealthiest and most important Argentine historical figures. Once the garden of the adjoining church, the cemetery was created in 1822 and is among the oldest in the city. It covers 4 city blocks, full of tombs adorned with works by local and international sculptors. More than 6,400 mausoleums form an architectural free-for-all, including Greek temples and pyramids. The most popular site is the tomb of **Eva "Evita" Perón**, which is always heaped with flowers and letters from adoring fans.

And finally, visit Palermo district, so diverse that allow completely different areas to coexist: you will tour the green area of Buenos Aires, the most traditional **Palermo Chico** housing beautiful French style palaces, **Palermo Soho & Hollywood**, the trendy and fashionable districts featuring bars, restaurants and hip stores.

Overnight at the selected in Buenos Aires, breakfast included.

Day 15: BUENOS AIRES (B)

Breakfast at the Hotel

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At proper time, pick up at the hotel and transfer to the airport in order to take the flight that will take you back home.

*****END OF OUR SERVICES*****