

## itinerary

# nature highlights [3 weeks]

cities	nights
Salvador	2
Chapada Diam.	3
Salvador	1
Manaus	1
Amazon Lodge	4
Campo Grande	1
Pantanal	3
Nightbus	1
Iguassu Falls	2
Rio de Janeiro	2



The largest country in Latin America, Brazil covers an area comparable to that of continental USA or Europe, making it a land of diverse landscapes and climates. From virgin forest to arid backlands and cataracts to vast wetlands with teeming wildlife, Brazil is as diverse as its continental size. This itinerary presents some of Brazil's most exquisite natural highlights in an exhilarating 3-week roundtrip.



### DAY 1 | SALVADOR

Arrival at the airport, meet-and-greet with our local, bilingual guide and transfer in private, air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel. After check-in, free time to relax around the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 2 | SALVADOR

Half day historic city tour during which the tourist gets to know the characteristics of the earliest streets and architectural structures of Bahia. This fascinating tour, starts with a walk along the historical center of Salvador and a true World Heritage site, considered by UNESCO as a highlight of XVII and XVIII century colonial architecture. Clinging to steep terrain, the picturesque colonial houses and churches (such as the Igreja do São Francisco) of the Pelourinho, artistically decorated in a myriad of colors, make this enchanting part of town a must for anyone visiting Bahia.

As Pelourinho is situated on an elevated point of the city, tourists are rewarded with stunning views over the surrounding city and harbor. The tour subsequently proceeds through other traditional neighborhoods such as Vitoria and Campo Grande (the square where Bahian carnivals begin and end) with a brief stop at the park and fountain of Piedade. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 3 - 6 | CHAPADA DIAMANTINA



The Chapada Diamantina (Diamond Highlands) is a continuation of the Espinhaço Mountain Range in the state of Bahia. Located 400 kilometres to the west of Salvador, these highlands are an immense oasis with flowered hills, luxuriant valleys and perennial rivers amid the barrenness of the backlands.

Visitors who climb the lush slopes feel as if they are in a make-believe world: 84,000 square kilometres peppered with crystal-clear waterfalls, gorges, caves, grottoes and rocky hills. In the middle of the Chapada lies Lençóis, a precious town, nowadays small and cosy, but once Brazil's diamond centre. To this day, Lençóis has retained its characteristic architecture and distinctive regional culture whilst developing the necessary infrastructure to welcome visitors to the Chapada Diamantina National Park.

From the hotel, visitors undertake numerous excursions into the Chapada Diamantina National Park, including half-day treks along creeks, amidst an imposing landscape of high plateaus separated by deep gorges and valleys, exploration of spectacular waterfalls and caves adorned with stalagmites, stalactites and underground rivers. One of the excursions takes the visitor to the top of the Morro de Pai Inácio escarpment for amazing views over the surrounding landscape and a beautiful sunset. All excursions are accompanied by an expert bilingual guide. Transfers to and from Lençóis by public bus. Three overnights at selected hotel.

### DAY 6 | CHAPADA DIAMANTINA - SALVADOR

Back to Salvador by bus. At the bus terminal, pick-up and transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 7 | SALVADOR - MANAUS

Pick-up at hotel and transfer to airport for flight to Manaus. Arrival at the airport of Manaus, meet-and-greet with our local, bilingual guide and transfer in private, air conditioned vehicle to the selected hotel in Manaus.

### DAY 8 - 12 | AMAZON

(example description for a 5D/4N package at either Juma Lodge or Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge)

#### Juma Lodge

Transfer to either Juma Lodge or the Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge. The Juma Lodge, located at the banks of Juma Lake (100 km South of Manaus), is a small scale jungle lodge, very well integrated within the jungle environment, and built on stilts to cope with the annual flooding. The Juma Lodge was carefully planned and built with five different types of wood all endemic in the near vicinity of the lodge. The roof top is made of palm leaves, giving the lodge an

almost indian village atmosphere. The lodge has 11 rooms only, all equipped with fan and private bathroom and carefully secured with mosquito netting.



#### **Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge.**

About 150 km northwest of Manaus, the Rio Negro river system widens out to a staggering 20km's from bank to bank, striated with over 400 islands. Each of these islands is adorned with a thick rainforest canopy fringed by seasonal river beaches. Together they form the Anavilhanas Archipelago, one of the Amazon's richest biodiversity hotspots, which provides shelter for countless numbers of birds, tree-dwelling animals and aquatic wildlife, the most remarkable of which is the pink River Dolphin. Located in the heart of this spectacular region, the alluring riverside Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge provides tourists with a unique opportunity to explore this vast protected area in comfort and style.

Daily activities in both lodges include forest walks, exploration of flooded forests by canoe, visit to a local village, cayman spotting amongst others.

**Accommodation at both lodges on full board basis.**

#### **DAY 12 | AMAZON LODGE - MANAUS - CAMPO GRANDE**

Transfer to Manaus for flight to Campo Grande. Arrival, pick-up and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the afternoon free and overnight at selected hotel.

#### **DAY 13 - 16 | PANTANAL**

(example description for a 4D/3N package at either Refúgio Ecológico Caiman or Fazenda Baía Grande)



Morning pick-up and transfer to lodge in the Pantanal, a vast wetland area in western Brazil, which cuts across the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul (as well as western Brazil and northeastern Paraguay), is one of the world's great wildlife reserves. Because of the veldt-like open land, it is also the best place to see wildlife in Brazil. 650 species of birds, among which are storks (including the stately Tuiuiu or Jabiru stork), egrets, herons, coots, ducks and ibises, can be observed in the region.

Animal life is represented by, among other species, alligators, jaguar, otters, emus, boa constrictors and monkeys.

#### **Refúgio Ecológico Caiman**

The Refúgio Ecológico Caiman is located 236 km from Campo Grande, state capital of Mato Grosso do Sul. The complex consists of various pousadas and each day, 2 excursions are offered to the guests, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, accompanied by bilingual university-level guides, called “Caimaners”.

#### **Fazenda Baía Grande**

Baía Grande is a local fazenda with accommodation for tourists, with rooms equipped with ceiling fans (some with air-conditioning), mosquito nets, private bathroom. Excursions are similar to those in Refugio Ecologico Caiman.

**Accommodation at both lodges on full board basis.**



#### **DAY 16 | PANTANAL - CAMPO GRANDE - FOZ DO IGUASSU**

Transfer back to Campo Grande to the busstation for a busride in a comfortable air conditioned night bus, with declining seats, to Foz do Iguassu. Who prefers, it is also possible to fly to Foz do Iguassu.

#### **DAY 17 | FOZ DO IGUASSU**

Morning arrival and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon visit to the Brazilian side of the Iguassu Falls. The excursion begins at the Iguassu National Park Visitors' center, from where tourists board a vehicle for a drive through the park's lush sub-tropical vegetation. Near the falls, visitors leave the vehicle and proceed on foot along a walkway that leads into the canyon and onto spectacular panoramic viewpoints of the falls, among which a glass elevator that climbs the cliff face for a view of the upper falls and The Devil's Throat. The Iguassu National Park, along with its sister park in Argentina, is the most significant area of remaining rainforest in the southern cone, and, together with the cataracts, has been declared a National Heritage Site by UNESCO. Overnight at selected hotel.

#### **DAY 18 | FOZ DO IGUASSU**



Half day excursion to the Argentinean side of the Iguassu Falls. The excursion offers lovely views over the Iguassu Canyon, en route to the National Park. The upper walkways are visited, allowing a birds-eye view of the falls and adjoining rainforest. A highlight of this trip is a visit to a suspended platform at the edge of The Devil's Throat. Overnight at selected hotel.

## DAY 19 | FOZ DO IGUASSU - RIO DE JANEIRO



Morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival meet-and-greet with our local, bilingual guide and transfer in private, air conditioned vehicle to your selected hotel.

In the afternoon a half day tour to the Sugarloaf, an imposing natural monument that has made the unmistakable Rio skyline a modern icon.

The tour is divided into two parts, the first taking in a number of sites of interest in downtown Rio de Janeiro, namely the contemporary Metropolitan Cathedral, with its vast stained-glass windows and

Aterro do Flamengo, a calm, spacious park with lawns and blossoming trees, offering lovely views of Rio and The Sugarloaf.

The second stage of the tour takes visitors through the old Urca neighborhood towards the Sugarloaf. Here tourists board a cable-car which starts the steep, exhilarating 215m climb up Morro da Urca. From here, the cable-car travels high above the rugged, vegetated terrain to the Sugarloaf's 395m summit. Visitors can enjoy wonderful panoramic views over Rio de Janeiro from the top, sunsets being particularly spectacular. Overnight at hotel.



## DAY 20 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Half day tour of Corcovado. Perched atop the Corcovado (Hunchback) Mountain at an altitude of 710m, the statue of Christ the Redeemer is certainly one of the world's best-known and most-visited monuments. Clad with a soapstone mosaic, the statue is also one of Rio's finest Art Nouveau monuments and at night becomes a shining landmark visible from all over the city. From the top there are breathtaking views of Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, the Botanical Gardens, Jockey Club and Rodrigo Freitas Lagoon. A rack railway takes the visitor up to the foot of the statue, the train leaving the Cosme Velho district and climbing the steep slopes of Tijuca Forest. Located around the base of Corcovado and with many springs and waterfalls, this dense forest was proclaimed a National Park in the early sixties. Overnight at hotel.

## DAY 21 | RIO DE JANEIRO

Time permitting, morning at leisure in Rio de Janeiro. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for the flight out.

**INCLUDED:**

- Salvador 3 nights at selected hotel
- Chapada Diamantina 3 nights at selected hotel
- Manaus 1 night at selected hotel
- Amazon 4 nights at selected lodge
- Campo Grande 1 night at selected hotel
- Pantanal 3 nights at selected lodge
- Busride Campo Grande - Foz do Iguassu by night
- Foz do Iguassu 2 nights at selected hotel
- Rio de Janeiro 2 nights at selected hotel
- Bus tickets: Campo Grande - Foz do Iguassu and Salvador - Lençóis - Salvador
- Transfers as specified in air-conditioned vehicles
- All excursions and packages listed above with English-speaking guides
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast plus all meals as specified.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- All domestic and long-haul flights, airport taxes etc.
- All meals and excursions not listed above

The itinerary is available with different categories of hotel selected on the basis of customer preference.

Due to the vastness of the country, the best way to visit Brazil is by using a "Visit Brazil Air Pass" which allows you to fly between cities.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The destinations, hotels and excursions presented in this itinerary may be altered according to customer preference. All tours are presented as LAND ONLY (no airfare is included). All tour programs are subject to your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions on reservation. Please review Terms & Conditions.