

# itinerary

## brazil classic

cities	nights
Rio de Janeiro	3
Ouro Preto	3
Iguassu Falls	3
Manaus	1
Amazon	3
Recife	2
P. de Galinhas	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 tropical beaches to cool mountains, from virgin forest to arid backlands, from ancient colonial settlements to bustling metropolis, Brazil is as diverse as its continental size. This itinerary presents some of Brazil's most spectacular cultural and natural highlights in an exhilarating 2½-week roundtrip.



### DAY 1 | RIO DE JANEIRO

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 in vicinity of the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 2 | RIO DE JANEIRO

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 selected hotel.

### DAY 3 | 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.

### DAY 4 | RIO DE JANEIRO - OURO PRETO

Morning transfer to airport for the flight to Belo Horizonte. Arrival at the airport, meet-and-greet with our local, bilingual guide and transfer in private, air conditioned vehicle to Ouro Preto. After check-in, free time to relax in Ouro Preto. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 5 | OURO PRETO



This full-day tour comprises two historical towns: Ouro Preto and Mariana. Ouro Preto was previously known as Vila Rica and formerly capital of the state of Minas Gerais. Becoming the first Brazilian city to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1980, Ouro Preto is located high up in the remote Serra do Espinhaço mountain range. The name Ouro Preto originates from the strange black metal that was found in 1693 by the Bandeirantes (explorers from São Paulo who were looking for indians to capture) and which later turned out to be gold (alluvial gold mixed with iron ore).

The resulting wealth and prosperity brought a flowering of the arts and the advent of the great Manuel da Costa Athaide (paintings) and Antônio Francisco Lisboa, or Aleijadinho (sculptures). Ouro Preto now constitutes the largest homogeneous collection of Baroque art in the world, its masterpieces including the churches São Francisco de Assis (1771) and Nossa Senhora do Pilar (1730), one of Minas Gerais' most exuberant temples. Ouro Preto was also

the site of a violent revolt (the 1789 Inconfidência Mineira) against the Portuguese, caused by unpopular taxes on gold. The tour includes visits to the Museu da Inconfidência (one of the most important museums in Brazil) and the Nossa Senhora do Rosário Church (1785), an excellent example of the colonial Baroque period in Minas Gerais.

From Ouro Preto, the tour continues to Mariana, a pleasant little mining town only 12km away, once the administrative centre of the gold mines of central Minas Gerais. As in Ouro Preto, there are numerous historical monuments and churches, weekly organ concerts of Baroque music being played on the 1701 German organ at the Cathedral Basílica da Sé. Lunch is included. Overnight at selected hotel.

#### DAY 6 | OURO PRETO

Free day to relax in vicinity of the hotel or to explore Ouro Preto on own account. Overnight at selected hotel.

#### DAY 7 | OURO PRETO - IGUASSU FALLS

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



#### DAY 8 | IGUASSU FALLS

Half day 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 9 | IGUASSU FALLS

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 10 | IGUASSU FALLS - MANAUS

Morning pick-up at hotel and transfer to airport for flight to Manaus. Arrival at the airport of Iguassu, meet-and-greet with our local, bilingual guide and transfer in private, air conditioned vehicle to the hotel. Rest of the afternoon free and overnight at selected hotel.



## DAY 11 - 14 | MANAUS

(here two examples: Amazon Lodge and Anavilhas Lodge)

Transfer to either Amazon Village Lodge or the Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge. Amazon Village is located 30 km from Manaus, on the banks of Puraquequara Lake, upstream Puraquequara River. The trip on board a local river boat takes about 2 1/2 hours and passes by the "Meeting of the Waters" and continues through a side arm of the Rio Negro to the Lodge. The transfer is in itself already a rather enjoyable experience.



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 lodge include forest walks, exploration of flooded forests by canoe, visit to a local village, cayman spotting amongst others.

**Overnights on full board basis at selected lodge.**

## DAY 14 | MANAUS - RECIFE / OLINDA

Departure to the airport for the afternoon flight to Recife. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel in Olinda.

## DAY 15 | RECIFE / OLINDA



Walking tour of Olinda. Founded in 1535, Olinda is one of Brazil's largest and best preserved colonial towns, recently becoming the country's first Culture Capital. With its steep cobbled streets and colourful houses sitting majestically on the hillside overlooking Recife and the emerald sea, Olinda is surely one of Brazil's most charming and picturesque attractions. Overnight at selected Hotel.

## DAY 16 | OLINDA - PORTO DE GALINHAS

Check out of the pousada and subsequently transfer to Porto de Galinhas. Rest of the day free for leisure to join the beach and small village of Porto de Galinhas. Overnight at selected hotel.

Originally a fishing village, Porto de Galinhas ("Chicken Port") lies 70km from Recife along a road that passes through sugarcane fields, small towns and marshlands. The town's name originated during the years that followed the abolition of slavery in 1888: on hearing that "Angola chickens" had arrived, the slave-traders of Pernambuco knew to expect a shipload of slaves. Porto de Galinhas' calm, crystal-clear waters and comprehensive tourist infrastructure have made it a favourite beach retreat among locals and one of Brazil's top beach resorts. At low tide, the beachfront is dramatically transformed as the long reef appears. Numerous sailing rafts or jangadas ply the channels through the reefs, taking visitors to tide pools where they can snorkel freely amongst the schools of temporarily trapped fish. Porto de Galinhas has a lively town centre with plenty of gift shops, bars and restaurants, many of which afford marvellous views of the beach and reefs.

## DAY 17 | PORTO DE GALINHAS

Day at leisure in Porto de Galinhas to join the paradisiacal beaches by day and the good offer of restaurants by night. Overnight at hotel.



## DAY 18 | PORTO DE GALINHAS - RECIFE

Time permitting, morning at leisure in Porto de Galinhas. Transfer to airport for flight back home.

**INCLUDED:**

- Rio de Janeiro 3 nights at selected hotel
- Ouro Preto 3 nights at selected hotel
- Iguassu Falls 3 nights at selected hotel
- Manaus 1 night at selected hotel
- Amazon 3 nights at selected lodge
- Recife / Olinda 2 nights at selected hotel
- Porto de Galinhas 2 nights at selected hotel
- 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.