

URUGUAY, PANTANAL & THE FALLS, (ZFB)

Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro 23 Days, departing 3rd February 2022



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro

Duration: 23 Days

Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Ferry

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 7 nights
Camping 8 nights
Multishare Hostel 6 nights
Basic Hotel 1 night

Meals: Breakfasts x 17, Lunches x 10, Dinners x 10

Physical Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

You may be camping some of the time but the pace of the trip is fairly relaxed and the facilities and road conditions are generally of a high standard.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Buenos Aires (3rd February 2022)

Border information: if you are joining in Buenos Aires, you will most likely enter Argentina at Buenos Aires Ministro Pistarini International Airport, also known as Ezeiza Airport (IATA code: BUE/EZE).

Welcome to Buenos Aires, the wonderful capital of Argentina! There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Accommodation: Hotel Mundial "A"

Day 2 - Buenos Aires (4th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today will be a free day to explore the incredible city of Buenos Aires, soak up the atmosphere of its streets, and discover its amazing culture, art, and music.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about the cuisine of Argentina on a food tour of Buenos Aires visiting several incredible local top-class eateries that you won't find in the guidebooks!

Tour: 85 USD

Enjoy a free city tour of Buenos Aires

Tour: Free

Visit the strangely beautiful cemetery of Recoleta the final resting place of many ex-presidents and Argentine icons most famously including the tomb of Eva Peron

Entrance: Free

See a different side to Buenos Aires on a tour of its incredible street art with some of the local artists

Tour: 20 USD

Try your hand at the art of tango dancing with a private lesson in Buenos Aires

Lesson: 25 USD

Head out to a tango show in Buenos Aires' oldest cafe the Gran Cafe Tortoni - seeing a slice of iconic Argentine culture in an ideal and intimate setting

Show: 650 ARS

Day 3 - Colonia del Sacramento (5th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will hop on a ferry to Uruguay and head to Colonia del Sacramento, one of the oldest and most picturesque towns in Uruguay and a Unesco World Heritage site. The afternoon is free to explore the charming narrow cobbled streets of the Barrio Histórico and the pretty riverfront.

Our truck will relocate by road and catch us up in the afternoon.

Day 4 - Montevideo (6th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will head north to the Uruguayan capital Montevideo. We will have the afternoon to explore Montevideo. The city has a mix of historical buildings and modern architecture and a main feature of the city is the Rambla (waterfront promenade) where locals frequently go for a stroll to drink their mate. Mate is the traditional South American caffeine-rich infused drink sipped through a straw, particularly popular in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil and Chile.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about Uruguayan history and culture at some of Montevideo's many museums such as the National Historical Museum the Gaucho Museum and the Museum of the Andes

Entrances: Free

Get a deeper understanding of Montevideo on a free walking tour of the city from an enthusiastic local guide

Tips only: Free

Day 5 - Tacuarembó (7th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head to the Tacuarembó area - the traditional gaucho land of Uruguay. We will spend 2 nights in an authentic estancia to learn about the gaucho way of living. We will have a chance to learn how to prepare typical food from the area (and of course taste it!) and also enjoy some traditional music.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a 2-night stay at a traditional Uruguayan farm to gain a fascinating insight into the lives of gauchos
Included

Day 6 - Tacuarembó (8th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day at the estancia.

Day 7 - Yapeyú (9th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a half day drive north through the provinces of Entre Ríos and Corrientes, aiming to reach Yapeyú on the banks of the River Uruguay. Yapeyú is very famous amongst Argentines for being the birthplace of their national hero General José de San Martín, one of the liberators of South America from Spanish colonial rule.

Day 8 - Foz do Iguacu (10th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Argentina at Tancredo Neves, enter Brazil at Tancredo Neves.

Today we cross the border into Brazil and drive to the city of Foz do Iguacu.

Day 9 - Foz do Iguacu (11th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit the Brazilian side of the phenomenal Iguazu Falls, to get some incredible panoramic vistas of the mighty waterfalls. There is also plenty of time to visit the bird park, take a helicopter ride over the falls, see the incredible Itaipu Dam, or quickly stop into Paraguay to pick up some bargains in the nearby Ciudad del Este.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Discover the unbelievable Iguazu Falls from the Brazilian side

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the Parque das Aves bird park near Foz do Iguazu a wonderful conservation project which provides an excellent home to over 1000 iconic birds from the region such as toucans macaws and eagles

Entrance: 36 BRL

Take an unforgettable 10-minute helicopter flight over the Iguazu Falls enjoying a bird's eye view of one of the world's most incredible set of waterfalls

Price: 430 BRL

Visit the colossal Itaipu Dam the second largest hydroelectric dam in the world

Special Tour: 68 BRL

Day 10 - Foz do Iguacu (12th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will take a day trip back into Argentina to see the incredible Iguazu Falls from the other side. This is well worth doing as the views are even more spectacular, and you'll be able to look right down into the mighty Garganta del Diablo (the largest waterfall here) from a gantry walkway viewing point). We will have a full day at the Argentine side of the falls, allowing us lots of time to freely explore the site, hike some nature trails, or perhaps take an exhilarating (and very wet) boat ride!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend the day exploring the amazing Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side

Included

Optional Activities

Get a soaking on a boat trip to the Falls

Boat: 1,500 ARS

Day 11 - Bonito (13th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full drive day north to the Brazilian eco-tourism capital of Bonito.

Day 12 - Bonito (14th February 2022)

We have a full day in Bonito to take part in some of the incredible optional activities here. You could go out on a world-class snorkelling trip, explore the nearby caves, or go abseiling down some of the largest waterfalls in the area, amongst many other possibilities!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head on an unforgettable trip to Abismo Anhumas an incredible day out where you abseil through a fissure into a colossal underground cavern and snorkel in the lake at the bottom

Abeiling and snorkelling (incl transport): 800 BRL

Abseiling and Scuba Diving (incl transport): 1,089 BRL

Hire a mountain bike in Bonito to freely explore the incredible countryside of Mato Grosso do Sul

Bike hire: 20 USD

Lobo Guara guided bike trip (half day): 98 USD

Visit the ethereal and other-worldly Blue Lake Cave near Bonito an underground lake with an incredibly vivid shade of blue

Guided visit (incl transport): 105 BRL

Take an incredible snorkelling trip through the crystal clear waters of the Rio da Prata getting a phenomenal view of the fish and aquatic plants underwater

Snorkelling trip and transport: 290 BRL

Go rafting or tubing in the beautiful waters near Bonito

Tour incl transport: 150 BRL

Day 13 - Pantanal (15th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a short drive to Brazil's amazing Southern Pantanal region, where we have a visit a local eco-tourism ranch (or 'fazenda').

We will spend 2 nights here and have a comprehensive package of included activities such as exploring the beautiful surrounding countryside on horseback, trips down the wildlife-abundant rivers in boats and canoes, and safaris on the ranch's trucks and on foot where we hope to spot capybaras, caimans, and (if we are very lucky) jaguars and ocelots. Our stay here is an incredible highlight!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 2 nights in the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland area, exploring the flora and fauna with local guides

Included

Day 14 - Pantanal (16th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day in the Pantanal.

Day 15 - Campo Grande (17th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

After our morning activities and one final lunch in our beautiful ranch, it is time to leave the Pantanal. We will start driving east towards Sao Paulo state, and wild camp towards the end of the day.

Day 16 - Brotas (18th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the remote town of Brotas in southeastern Brazil.

Day 17 - Brotas (19th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today is free to take part in optional adventure activities such as white water rafting or canyoning, or to simply relax by the pool!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out white-water rafting on the fast moving waters of the Jacare River (approximately Grade 3-4)

Activity: 150 BRL

Go on a half-day canyoning trip through the gorges of the Jacare River near Brotas

Activity: 270 BRL

Day 18 - Paraty (20th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day drive to the colonial town of Paraty on the Emerald Coast of the Atlantic!

Day 19 - Paraty (21st February 2022)

Today we will have free time to explore the town, take a historical tour, walk along the stunning scenery of the coastline, head out snorkelling or diving, or simply relax on the idyllic beaches.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about the fascinating history of Brazil and the Gold Trail on an excellent walking tour of the old colonial town of Paraty

Walking Tour: 35 USD

Go for a scuba diving trip in the incredible oceans around Paraty

Diving trip: 250 BRL

Explore the ocean islands beaches and mangroves of Atlantic coast in a more serene and tranquil fashion on a sea kayaking expedition around the bay of Paraty

Kayaking: 80 BRL

Try your hand at stand-up paddle boarding by hiring a board from one of the many vendors at the Jabaquara beach in Paraty

Hire: 35 BRL

Day 20 - Ilha Grande (22nd February 2022)

Today we will travel a little further up the coast to the stunning island retreat of Ilha Grande. We will leave our truck behind for a couple of days and take a ferry, so you may wish to pack a small overnight bag. There are no private cars or banks on the island, so you will need to bring cash along with you and be prepared for a short walk with your bags to the hostel.

Day 21 - Ilha Grande (23rd February 2022)

Free day to enjoy the island.

Day 22 - Rio de Janeiro (24th February 2022)

This morning we will drive to the incredible Rio de Janeiro, one of the most beautifully situated cities in the world and home to the most famous Carnival celebrations in Latin America!

Day 23 - Rio de Janeiro - End Date (25th February 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: if you are leaving in Rio de Janeiro, you will most likely exit Brazil at Rio de Janeiro Galeão International Airport (IATA code: RIO/GIG).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Rio de Janeiro. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight, unless you are staying on for our Rio Carnival package! Please note that due to Carnival we will be unable to book ordinary post-tour accommodation on this date.

Accommodation:

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

ARGENTINA NOTES

BRAZIL NOTES

URUGUAY NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 27th May 2020**