

For tours departing beyond 2009, itineraries may be subject to change. This will be confirmed by the publication of the 2010 brochure (issued in Oct 09).

2009
Tour Dossier

EXPLORE!

WORLDWIDE

BRAZIL Dossier Ref. BR

Pure Brazil

Amended 04 Jun 2009. Valid from 01 Apr 2009 to 31 Dec 2009
Since first issue this dossier has been updated with amendments to the following sections: single room option, visa & vaccinations, meal plan & sightseeing

As our itineraries may be amended from time to time, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers, please ensure you have the most up-to-date copy of this dossier immediately before you travel. You can download the dossier from our website, www.explore.co.uk. Of course we will notify you of any significant changes, but sometimes minor changes may simply be added to the tour dossier.

JOINING TOUR ABROAD

15 days/14 nights Land Only
Rio de Janeiro to Salvador

Join Rio (day 1)

End Salvador (day 15)

Clients booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Rio. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

GROUP TRAVEL FROM LONDON

17 days/16 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights
London-Rio de Janeiro & Salvador-London

Depart from London Heathrow Airport to join tour in Rio the following day (day 1 of Land Only itinerary).

Return from Salvador (day 15 of Land Only itinerary) and arrive London Heathrow Airport the following day.

Passengers with non-group flights booked through Explore should refer to their individual confirmation invoice for flight details. Transfers to and from the airport are not included unless purchased in addition to the tour package.

Earth Matters

- Our time in the Pantanal and Amazon is spent in local lodges whose focus is on the environment and its protection. Our impact on the area is kept to a minimum by travelling in small manageable groups.
- By bringing groups to the threatened Amazon Rainforest we are promoting an alternative to deforestation as a way of making a living.
- To cut down on waste plastic resulting from buying bottled water, why not consider taking your own water purification filter and waterbottle with you on holiday? These are available from Explore Trader or all good outdoors shops.
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Please note: Flights within Brazil are not always direct between departure and destination cities. At times we are likely to touch down in other locations en route, and will occasionally need to change planes. In planning the tours all attempts are made to secure the best possible times and routing to ensure you get the best out of your time in Brazil.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights of this trip we particularly mention:

- * **RIO** Tour of Sugar Loaf mountain.
- * **IGUAÇU FALLS** South America's most beautiful waterfalls.
- * **PANTANAL** Wildlife spotting on foot & in canoe.
- * **MANAUS** Teatro Amazonas.
- * **AMAZON RAINFOREST** 2 nights in Amazonia with various boat and land excursions.
- * **SALVADOR** Brazil's finest colonial city.

The largest country in Latin America, Brazil has a range of attractions that dwarfs most of its neighbours. Home to the planet's largest rainforest, the world's most impressive set of waterfalls and finest beaches, Brazil offers the traveller a remarkable range of experiences. We begin our adventure in the impressive and exotic city of Rio de Janeiro, where we explore Sugar Loaf mountain. The Pantanal is a magnet for wildlife enthusiasts – take a canoe and go caiman spotting at night, or take a foot Safari to track down Capybaras or watch the world's largest concentration of wading birds. We spend 2 days in the Amazon rainforest, exploring by boat and finally end in Salvador, Brazil's finest colonial city. Staying in hotels, pousadas and lodges, and using chartered transport we travel through one of the friendliest and ethnically diverse countries in the Americas, flying between the main centres of attractions to maximise our time.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

Be Prepared: While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

CO₂ Offsets Included

The biggest environmental impact of your holiday with Explore is the CO₂ generated by your flights. As a responsible tour operator, we have included in our tour prices the costs of offsetting CO₂ emissions from all international and domestic flights forming part of the tour. Our chosen offset partner is Climate Care. If you are making independent flight arrangements to join one of our tours, may we urge you to take responsibility for your CO₂ emissions by offsetting through Climate Care, or a similar offsetting scheme.



Accommodation and Included Meals: please find the key to our accommodation ratings overleaf, and note that included meals are indicated in the itinerary below and are shown on the day they are provided (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).

Day 1. Join tour Rio de Janeiro

Arrive Rio and check-in at hotel. The spectacular setting of Rio de Janeiro is hard to beat. With 120 miles of marvellous beaches and a mountain backdrop it really is a tropical paradise. The afternoon is free to relax – alternatively your leader can organise a visit to the towering summit of Corcovado topped by the immense statue of Christ the Redeemer (optional). **2 nights hotel H+.**

Day 2. In Rio de Janeiro

Today we take to the city and visit the Sambadrome, the old town and take a cable car up to the huge Sugar Loaf mountain from where the views of Rio are breathtaking. You also have the opportunity to visit the beaches or Botanical Gardens or take a favela tour (optional). **(Included meals: B).**

Day 3. Fly to Iguacu

Leaving Rio this morning, we fly to Iguacu from where we can visit the spectacular Iguacu Falls. With its jungle setting, the Iguacu Falls are perhaps the world's most beautiful waterfalls and are a major highlight of our trip. **2 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

Day 4. At Iguacu; visit Iguacu Falls

We will spend this morning (when the light is best) visiting the Falls on the Brazilian side. Set in a National Park, the Iguacu river hurtles over high cliffs into a marvellous curved amphitheatre several miles wide – a breathtaking sight. The noise is tremendous and huge clouds of mist are churned up by the cascade. The surrounding spray-soaked forest is alive with brightly plumaged toucans, parrots, humming birds and colourful butterflies. From here it may be possible to take a spectacular helicopter flight over the falls (optional), or arrange a visit to the Argentinian side of the falls to get a close up of the fitfully churning 'Devil's Throat' by navigating a series of catwalks. Another exciting alternative is to take a trip by powerboat virtually into the falls themselves (optional). **(Included meals: B).**

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Day 5. Fly to Cuiaba

Today we fly to Cuiaba, gateway to the Mato Grosso. We will experience the vastness of the Amazonian plains below as the flight takes up the majority of the day. Depending on our arrival time we may visit Chapada dos Gumes (optional). **Overnight hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

Day 6. Drive to Pantanal Wildlife Reserve

Driving from Cuiaba to the Pantanal Wildlife Reserve along the Transpantaneira road we have our first encounters with wildlife at the waterholes. We have two full days to explore this paradise for birds and wildlife. There are over 600 bird species including waders, toucan, heron, stork, duck and coot and 350 varieties of fish, including the remorseless piranha. Animals include deer, armadillo, tapir, boar, the unusual capivara and thousands of jacaré caiman (alligator). Few visitors discover the remote Pantanal, so there is little infrastructure for tourists: our accommodation is simple, yet gives us the chance to soak up the rural atmosphere of the place. **3 nights lodge H+ (included meals: B, L, D).**

Days 7 & 8. Exploring the Pantanal Wildlife Reserve

We plan to explore the area around our fazenda on foot and in small boats. Early morning and dusk is the best time for wildlife spotting, and we split large groups into 2 for better viewing opportunities. Our lodge is located by a river and has a pool to relax beside – a wonderful combination of relaxation and a chance to see the most readily accessible and prolific wildlife in Latin America. Lie in your hammock and appreciate the evening birdsong. **(Included meals: Bx2, Lx2, Dx2).**

Day 9. In the Pantanal; drive to Cuiaba & fly to Manaus

We have the best part of the morning for further wildlife excursions before driving back to Cuiaba in the afternoon to catch our flight to Manaus, the famous city, set in the heart of the Amazon basin on the banks of the Negro river. The bustle of an urban community seems almost other-worldly in the midst of vast tracts of jungle stretching in all directions. Once rich and fashionable, the capital Amazonas is now quickly expanding as a free trade zone. **Overnight hotel H+ (included meals: B, L).**

Days 10 & 11. Launch into the Amazon rainforest

The morning is free to explore Manaus where you may wish to visit the Opera House and to prepare ourselves for our visit to the rainforest. In the early afternoon we drive to the port where we board our boat and cross the Amazon, seeing the 'Meeting of the Waters' phenomenon en route. We continue by bus and travel by speedboat through the channels and creeks through the rainforest to our lodge. There are a range of activities to make the most of our time in the heart of the rainforest. Fish for Piranha, visit the local

indigenous community or take one of the treks into the jungle, accompanied by a local guide. At night it is possible to go caiman spotting by torchlight, their beady eyes reflecting the light, red pinpricks floating in the darkness. Whatever your preconceptions, you will be amazed by the area. **2 nights lodge H+ (included meals: Bx2, Lx1, Dx2).**

Day 12. Launch to Manaus; fly to Salvador

We return to Manaus by launch, bus and ferry, appreciating the beauty of this fragile environment as we travel. We disembark in Manaus and begin our lengthy journey by plane to Salvador the capital of the state of Bahia – one of Brazil's most historic cities, its roots stemming back to 1501 when the navigator Amerigo Vespucci first sailed into its bay. Initially considered to be the nation's capital due to the natural protection of the cliffs rearing from the sea, its bay was one of the finest anchorages on the eastern shores of the New World. Once an opulent city from trade and later from the discovery of diamonds inland, this period of prosperity has left a legacy of colonial architecture, largely centred in the Upper City atop the cliffs – now designated a historic monument by Unesco. **3 nights hotel H+ (included meals: B).**

Days 13 & 14. In Salvador

After our orientation tour of the city, our last two days are free to explore. The Pelourinho area is considered to be the most important collection of 17th-18th century architecture in the whole of the Americas. The area is a jumble of centuries old churches, narrow cobbled streets and spacious plazas bordered by once elegant but now gently decaying mansions. The natural setting is magnificent overlooking the Todos os Santos Bay. What immediately strikes the traveller is that despite its Portuguese architecture, the spirit, cuisine, culture and people are predominantly African. The area's riches were originally based on sugar cane and tobacco, with the majority of the workforce coming from the west coast of Africa – for over 300 years Salvador was the centre of a thriving slave trade. The modern day population is mostly of African descent – this can be heard in the rhythms of the music and in the dance, the cuisine and Candomble, a mixture of African and Christian deities and rites. **(Included meals: Bx2).**

Day 15. Tour ends Salvador (Included meals: B).

Booking a Single Room

All of our tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. On this particular tour we are pleased to be able to offer customers the option of pre-booking a guaranteed single room for each night of the tour.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You'll need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, tipping, souvenirs and items of a personal nature.

Foreign Exchange

Local Currency: Brazilian Real.
Recommended Currency for Exchange: Bring all your funds in US Dollars, or Euros. It is advisable to take some US\$400–500 of your total spending money in cash, in small denominations
Where to Exchange: In major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.
ATM Availability: In major cities and airports.
Credit Card Acceptance: In major restaurants.
Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be difficult to exchange.

Up-to-date information re: global exchange rates can be obtained at <https://www.currency-express.com/explore/>

Meal Plan

Local Food and Drink: 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners are included on this trip; please be prepared to pay for all other meals. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location and the prices below are given as an average guide only.

	UK	Brazil
Coffee	£1.20	\$1.00
Soft drink	0.80	1.00
Bottled water	0.80	1.50
Bottle of Beer	2.50	6.00
Breakfast	3.00	8.00
2 Course Meal*	10.00	10.00
3 Course Meal**	18.00	15.00
Bottle of wine	10.00	20.00

*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant.

**Typical food in a simple, reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

THE TRAVEL FOUNDATION

The Travel Foundation is a charity established to manage tourism in a more responsible way. It does this through working with tourism businesses to improve their practice and through supporting and initiating sustainable tourism projects in destinations which benefit local people and reduce environmental impact. We are delighted to have incorporated some of the Travel Foundation projects into our tours. In Brazil you may have the chance to join a community tour in Salvador that gives a fascinating insight into local life whilst really benefitting the local people. Explore is a member of the Travel Foundation Industry Forum also sits on the Activities Committee which oversees projects.

www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

ACCOMMODATION: An important feature of many Explore tours is the wide range of accommodation used, and since the beginning our philosophy has been to select accommodation to suit the itinerary - not the other way round. To help gauge the comfort level on your chosen tour, we have graded the accommodation standards at all night-stops using the rating guide below. Please keep in mind however that standards can vary from one trip to the next, and occasionally we may need to change a night-stop without advance warning. Please note descriptions are only intended as guidelines in order to give a flavour of the type of accommodation to expect. We cannot guarantee the use of particular properties. Facilities and characteristics may vary from those described.

Hotels / lodges / guesthouses - or similar

H+ : Standard hotels, lodges or guesthouses, usually with twin or single rooms and en suite facilities. These are generally standard, no-frills hotels with adequate amenities and service standards. Whilst comfort levels are perfectly acceptable to most, please don't expect too much! These are often small, family run establishments.

Brazil's infrastructure is well-developed and the standard of accommodation and service is generally very good with air conditioning and en suite facilities as standard at most places we stay. We've chosen a variety of hotels and lodges to allow you to experience different aspects of Brazil; whether it be access to the bustle of downtown a modern city hotel affords, or a taste of farm life on a Pantanal ranch.

We start our tour in Rio in a smart, modern hotel, just off Copacabana Beach. Service and facilities are of a good standard and the location is great! In Iguacu, Cuiaba and Manaus our hotels are simple, modern and comfortable and some have swimming pools. Of particular note is our accommodation in the Pantanal where we stay in a family run lodge on a working ranch in the heart of the wetlands. Our ranch is full of character and a stay here gives a great insight into life in this part of Brazil. Simple rooms are arranged around peaceful gardens: this is a great place to lie back in a hammock and enjoy the views and the birdsong. Probably our most unusual accommodation is our quirky Amazon jungle lodge which is totally integrated into its jungle surroundings. Accommodation is in simple and rustic thatched huts and is quite unique. The lodge was built on solid ground and is supported on stilts. This type of construction is necessary due to the flood season, when the river water level rises up to 15 meters! Finally in Salvador we stay in simple apartments.

To book please call 0844 499 0901 • www.explore.co.uk

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Tipping

Local Staff: In this area, tipping is a recognised part of life. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US\$30 for tipping.

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Other Sightseeing

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. N.B. It is advised to pay for optionals where possible in cash.

RIO DE JANEIRO Visit Corcovado US\$45; Botanical Gardens US\$25; Football at Maracana Stadium US\$55.

IGUACU Visit the Argentinian falls US\$25; Helicopter flight over falls US\$110; Boat trip 'into' Iguacu Falls Brazil US\$85, Argentina US\$50; Bird park US\$20.

MANAUS Opera House US\$10.

SALVADOR Bahian dance show and dinner US\$60; Salvador community tour US\$30.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Seasonal Climate

As benefits such a large landmass, there are several distinct regional variations. The area around Manaus, being near to the equator is hot and humid year round (30°C to 37°C), the driest season is June-October, but bear in mind that rain should be expected throughout the year – normally in short torrential downpours. Salvador is hot year-round (28°C to 30°C), and driest August-March, the heat tempered by sea breezes. Rio's average maximum is 25°C May-October, the rains falling December to March, whilst the Pantanal's dry season is April-October. On this tour, rain should be expected at some time on tour – and if travelling in July and August, temperatures will be cool in the area around Iguacu and at night in the Pantanal in May.

Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/> weather. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Visa Requirements

Brazil: No visa required by UK citizens. Visa required by CAN, AUS, NZ & USA citizens.

Please note: Please note that flights on the tour may transit through the USA. According to US law, passengers may have to disembark, collect luggage and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight.

Holders of the UK, AUS, NZ, CAN and several EU country passports can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if they hold a machine readable passport. They must also be entering the country by sea or air on a carrier participating in the visa waiver scheme, holding a return/onward ticket. As well as being machine readable, if your passport was issued on or after 26 October 2005, it must contain both a digital photograph of the holder and also an integrated circuit chip that stores biographic information.

From 12 January 2009 all passengers travelling to the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme must provide their details online no later than 72 hours prior to travel. British travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be detained and sent home. In addition to passport information, you must also supply the full address of your first night's accommodation in the USA. This information can be obtained from your joining instructions which are sent out approximately 3 weeks before travel.

For more information, and to apply online, please visit the following website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Once obtained, the application will be valid for a period of two years, or for the validity of your passport (whichever is shorter). At present, US authorities do not propose to levy a charge for this service, although they have reserved the right to consider doing so in the future.

For more information about who is eligible for the VWP, or any other questions you may have regarding your eligibility, or machine readable passports, please contact your local consular office, or visit www.usembassy.org.uk

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

We recommend protection against, typhoid, tetanus, polio, infectious hepatitis and malaria. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever, especially if travelling to the Pantanal and Amazon.

Special Note: Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Electric Supply and Plugs

For comprehensive information regarding voltages and plug types in use in the countries visited, follow the relevant link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice/>

Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory for all bookings. You must take your policy document with you on tour, as your tour leader will ask to see this at the start of the trip. Your documentation must state in writing that you are the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for your period of travel. Your policy document must also indicate that you have medical expenses and emergency repatriation cover and a 24-hour contact telephone number for your Insurance Company must be shown on your documentation in case of emergency.

If you are unable to provide all this information at the start of the trip you will not be allowed to join the trip. If you have purchased Explore Insurance you should carry the Master Certificate leaflet with you, which outlines the conditions of the policy together with a copy of your Confirmation Invoice, which is your proof of purchase of insurance. Explore Worldwide are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by

the Financial Services authority.

Know Before You Go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination including safety and security, local laws and customs, entry requirements and health. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Traveladvice>.

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's '**General Information Booklet**', available only after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

Luggage: One main piece of luggage and a daysac. An overnight bag is needed for the Amazon visit – your main bags can be left behind at the Manaus hotel. Total allowance: **44lbs/20kgs**. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage – so don't overload yourself.

Clothing: Pack essentially for '**All Tours**' and '**Hot Conditions**' but bear in mind that several different climatic zones will be experienced. For Brazil lightweight clothing is necessary for mostly warm and humid daytime conditions, though evenings can be cooler. Lightweight raingear is essential. For early morning boat-trips a fleece / windproof is recommended. Lightweight long-sleeved tops and long trousers in neutral colours to protect from sun and insects.

Footwear: Comfortable shoes, trainers and sandals.

Equipment: Insect repellent, sunscreen and a torch.

Trek Kit Bag: For an exclusively designed Explore Trek Bag, follow the relevant link at www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore

Personal First Aid Kit: For an exclusively designed Explore Medical Kit, visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore

Need help on clothing or equipment?

Then we suggest you contact Nomad Travel, our equipment partner, who specialise in kitting people out for adventurous travel. You receive a special 10% discount in-store or online. Visit one of their stores, phone 0845 260 0044, or visit their website www.nomadtravel.co.uk/explore for further information.

To book please call 0844 499 0901 • www.explore.co.uk

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