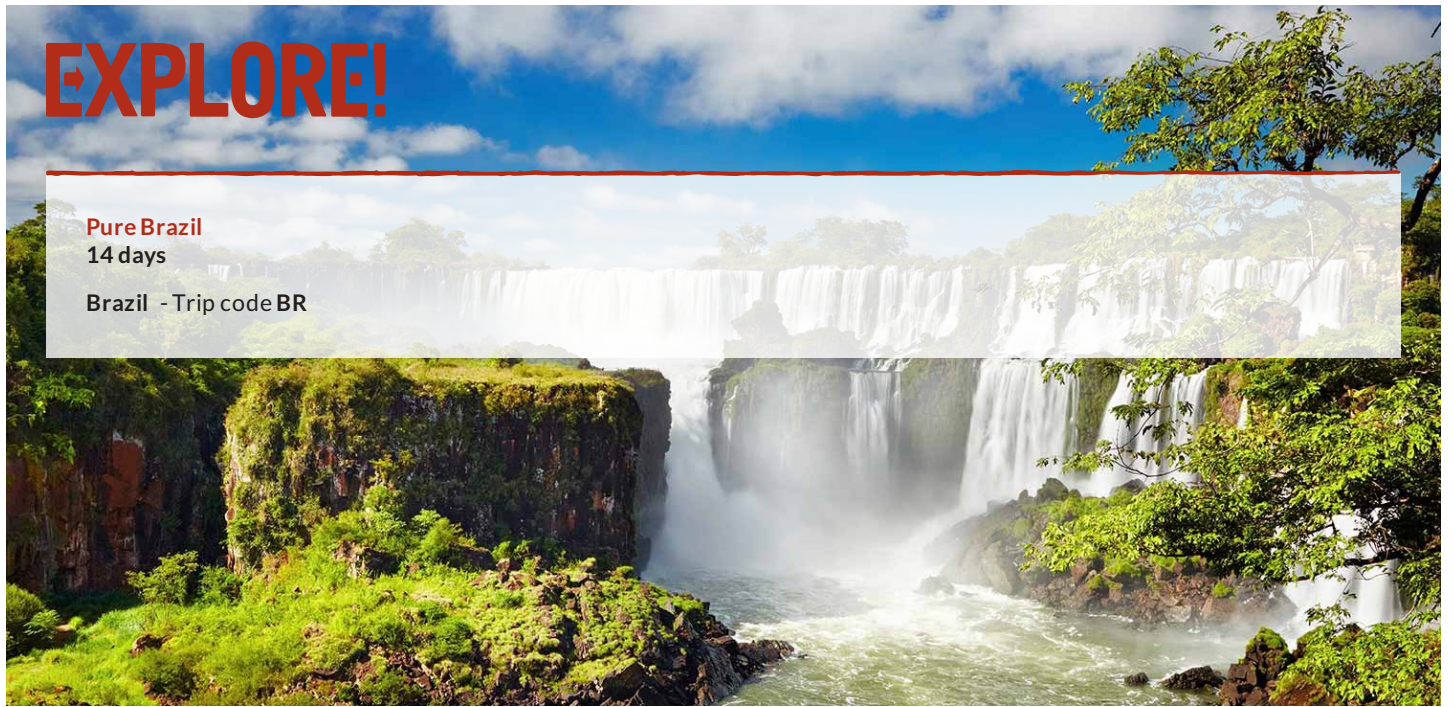


EXPLORE!

Pure Brazil

14 days

Brazil - Trip code BR



Pure Brazil

From the coast to the deep leafy green interior, Brazil is full of contrasts that deserve to be visited properly. This in-depth exploration of Brazil not only passes through the coastal cities of Salvador and Rio de Janeiro, but it encompasses the mysterious Amazon region, the wildlife nirvana of the Pantanal and the thundering waters of the Iguazu Falls. Searching for animals including capybara and caiman is the best way to explore the Pantanal wetlands, while three nights in the remote Amazonia region give another perspective on this huge and varied country.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Rio** - Explore South America's most beautiful and vibrant city including a tour of Sugarloaf Mountain with panoramic views of the stunning coastline
- ★ **Salvador** - Discover Brazil's colourful colonial city
- ★ **Amazon Rainforest** - Two nights in Amazonia with various boat and land excursions
- ★ **Pantanal** - Wildlife spotting on foot and by canoe
- ★ **Iguazu Falls** - South America's most beautiful waterfalls, viewed from both the Brazilian and Argentinian sides

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:**Moderate**

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:**12 - 18**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour in Salvador

We join our tour today in Salvador, the capital of the state of Bahia and one of Brazil's most historic cities. Its roots stem 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.



Accommodation: Pousada da Mangueira (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Guided tour of the city; free afternoon

This morning we have a guided orientation tour of the city. 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. This afternoon is left free for personal exploration of the area or to relax on the beach.



Accommodation: Pousada da Mangueira (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Fly to Manaus, gateway to the Amazon

Today we transfer to the airport in Salvador and fly 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. When we arrive, we will transfer to our accommodation.



Accommodation: Hotel Saint Paul (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Journey by bus and boat to reach our Amazon lodge

The morning is free to explore Manaus where you may wish to visit the Opera House. 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.



Accommodation: Juma Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 5 - In the Amazon; Jungle walk , visit the local community and search for caiman on a night boat trip

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 Caboclo

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.



Accommodation: Juma Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Return to Manaus and fly to Cuiaba

Travelling by launch along the Rivers Juma and Macarico we return to Careiro Village and onto Manaus where we board our plane to take us to Cuiaba, from where we will begin our journey the following day into the Pantanal.



Accommodation: Mato Grosso Palace (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Drive to the 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 piranha. Animals include deer, armadillo, tapir, boar, the unusual capivara and thousands of Jacare caiman (alligator). Few visitors discover the remote Pantanal, so there is little infrastructure for tourists. 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.



Accommodation: Piuval (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8 - Explore the Pantanal on foot and by boat

We plan to explore the area around our 'fazenda' on foot and in small boats. Our time here is flexible as we have two days to explore. Early morning and dusk is the best time for wildlife spotting, and we split large groups into two for better viewing opportunities. We will also have the opportunity to do some Piranha fishing.



Accommodation: Piuval (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 - In Pantanal; jeep safari and boat ride

Today we continue exploring Pantanal Wildlife Reserve.



Accommodation: Piuval (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10 - Fly to Iguazu Falls, overnight in Foz do Iguacu

This morning we return to Cuiaba by road for an afternoon flight to Iguazu. We will experience the vastness of the Amazonian plains below as the flight takes up the majority of the day, and you will have the anticipation of seeing the Falls over the next day. With its jungle setting, the Iguazu Falls are perhaps the world's most beautiful waterfalls and are a major highlight of our trip.



Accommodation: Hotel Rafain Centro (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Visit the Brazilian side of the falls, optional helicopter ride

Today we visit 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, hummingbirds 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.



Accommodation: Hotel Rafain Centro (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Fly to Rio de Janeiro; Free afternoon

Leaving the Iguazu area, we fly to Rio de Janeiro. The spectacular setting of Rio is hard to beat. With 120 miles of marvelous beaches and a mountain backdrop it really is a tropical paradise. Flight time permitting this afternoon is free to relax - visit the Botanical Gardens existing in the city for more than 200 years, or sip a caipirinha overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This evening you could finish off your Brazilian experience with an optional samba show, or sample the sounds and rhythms of the city in the nightlife district of Lapa.



Accommodation: Hotel Copa Sul (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available




Meals Provided: Breakfast


DAY 13 - In Rio; Optional Corcovado, afternoon city tour

In the morning your Tour Leader can organise a visit to the towering summit of Corcovado topped by the immense statue of Christ the Redeemer and the Sambadrome where the Rio carnival takes place (optional) or relax on the beaches before our afternoon city tour. After lunch our local guide take us along the Guanabara Bay coastline, decorated with the spacious lawns and native trees of Parque do Flamengo, to the city centre to see the enormous stain glass windows of the Metropolitan Cathedral before taking a cable car up to the huge Sugar Loaf Mountain from where the late afternoon views of Rio are breathtaking.



Accommodation: Hotel Copa Sul (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 14 - Tour ends Rio de Janeiro

The tour ends in Rio this morning after breakfast.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 13
Lunch: 4
Dinner: 5



Transport

Bus
Boat
Flight
Public Bus



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

8 nights standard hotel
5 nights standard lodge

Trip information

Country information

Brazil

Climate

Due to its continental size, Brazil has many different climatic zones. Temperatures rarely dip below 20° C, only in the mountains and the extreme South it can get quite cold during the winter (June to August). The main rainy season runs from January to April. The Amazon region is characterised by a hot and sticky equatorial climate and can experience rains throughout the year. In the vast central area as well as a large part of the coastline the climate can be described as tropical, with warm to hot temperatures and a clearly defined rainy season. In the South, the climate is subtropical, similar to the warmest parts of the Mediterranean, with colder winters and hot summers (December to March).

Time difference to GMT

-3

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Language

Portuguese

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

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 these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Salvador - Bahian dance show and dinner US\$ 85 (min 4); Capoeira demonstration US\$ 12 and Salvador community tour US\$ 50. (occasionally close on Sundays)

Manaus - Opera House US\$ 5.

Pantanal - Full day Jaguar search including lunch - US\$405 (2-3 pers); US\$315 (4-5 pers); US\$265 (6-7 pers); US\$ 230 (8-9 pers) - seasonal Jun-Nov

Iguazu - Visit the Argentinian falls US\$ 50 (min 4) plus entrance US\$35; Bird park US\$ 36; Helicopter flight over the falls US\$135; Boat trip on the Argentina side US\$70; on Brazilian side US\$90

Rio De Janeiro - Visit Corcovado US\$ 67 (min 4) ; Botanical Gardens US\$ 4 (entrance fee only); Football match US\$ 70-110. Samba show US\$ 85 (min 4).

Brasilia - city tour (only if flight schedule allows) US\$60 (min 4).

Clothing

Pack for 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. Bring lightweight long sleeved tops and long trousers in neutral colours to protect from the sun and insects.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes, trainers and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of luggage and a daypack. An overnight bag is needed for the Amazon visit - your main bags should be lockable, this can be left behind at the Manaus hotel. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage - so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Insect repellent, sunscreen and a torch.

Tipping

Explore leader

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

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 60 for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Country Information

Brazil

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£10

Dinner price

£17

Beer price

£2.1

Water price

£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Real.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange. RRC trip only - during Carnival it may be difficult to find an exchange in the first few days - we recommend you change enough for the first 2-3 days either before leaving home or at the airport on arrival.

Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Flight, Public Bus

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Brazil: Visas are not required for UK citizens. They are, however, required for Canadian, Australian and US citizens. Citizens from Canada, Australia and the US can now get their visa for Brazil online. Applications can be done [here](http://www.vfsglobal.com/brazil-evisa/) - <http://www.vfsglobal.com/brazil-evisa/>

You should also check if you need a visa for Argentina, though this is only necessary if you wish to visit the Argentinean side of the Iguazu falls. Argentinian visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done online - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Brazil

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. There is currently an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Brazil. Yellow fever is recommended for those travelling to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Bahia, Iguazu falls and inland cities such as Brasilia. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

