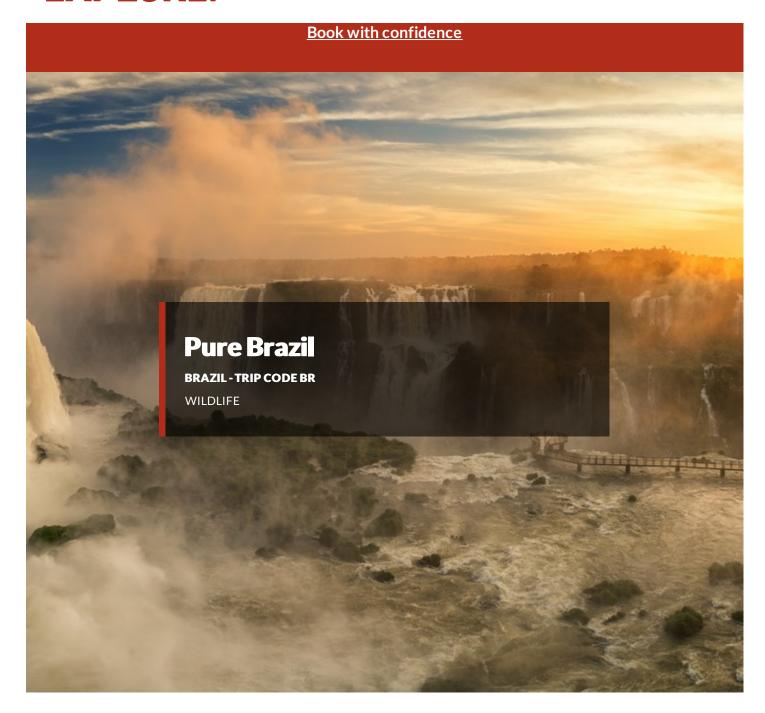
EXPLORE!



Why book this trip?

An unbeatable in-depth exploration of this huge and varied country. Feel the samba beats in Rio and the pounding spray of the Iguazu Falls. From the coast to the deep green Amazon and biodiverse Pantanal, Brazil is full of contrasts that deserve to be visited properly.

- Pantanal Explore this wildlife nirvana on foot and by canoe, searching for animals including capybara, caiman, armadillo and over 600 bird species
- **Rio** Explore this beautiful and eclectic city, taking a cable car up Sugarloaf Mountain for panoramic views of the stunning coastline
- Iguazu Falls These magnificent waterfalls are simply awe-inspiring up close. Feel the spray from both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides







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



TRANSPORT

Bus

Boat

Flight

Public Bus



8 nights
comfortable hotel
5 nights
comfortable lodge



TRIP PACE: Moderate



GROUP SIZE:

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip in Salvador

Arrive 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.

Due to the number of evening flights into Salvador, your Leader plans to do the welcome meeting on the morning of day two, and will leave a message in reception with details on timings and everything else that you'll need for the day. For those of you who have already arrived in the morning, our Leader will be in reception at 6pm if you would like to go out for an evening meal.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Salvador at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Salvador-Deputado Luis Eduardo Magalhaes International Airport (airport code: SSA), approximately a one hour drive from our hotel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Pousada da Mangueira (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel







SWIMMING POOL 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. If you'd like to stay active, there are easy cycling excursions available in the city - these guided cycle trips take in either the shorelines of the lower city and its landmarks or the Barra district, home to Brazil's largest street festivities during Carnival time, and leading to some of the most beautiful beaches on Salvador's long coastline. The flat areas around the city are perfect for cycling.



ACCOMMODATION:
Pousada da Mangueira (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



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 otherworldly 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)

Grade: Comfortable 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:
Amazon Eco Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable 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:
Amazon Eco Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable 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)

Grade: Comfortable 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: Pousada Piuval (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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:
Pousada Piuval (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 9 - In Pantanal; jeep safari and boat ride

Today we continue exploring Pantanal Wildlife Reserve on foot and by boat, with plenty of opportunities to spot wildlife. Jeep and boat safaris are all included within your stay at the lodge, and the wealth of wildlife on offer is incredible. For those who wish there is one full day option (not included) for you to spend the day searching for the Pantanal's elusive jaguar. In recent years the Pantanal has emerged as one of the best places to spot jaguars in the wild - although daily sightings cannot be guaranteed as these vary according to the temperature, rainfall and seasonal water changes. The excursion leaves our lodge at around 5.30am, returning at approximately 7pm, giving around 7-8 hours of boat time to spot these beautiful creatures. You'll spend most of the day sailing on the Rio Claro, as jaguars are more easily spotted from the banks with the help of the eagle eyes of the boat captains.



ACCOMMODATION: Pousada Piuval (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL 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)





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

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, visit the historic centre and see the enormous stained glass windows of the Metropolitan Cathedral, 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)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Visit to Santa Teresa, the Morrinho Project and Sugar Loaf Mountain

A busy day lies ahead of us. In the morning, you have the option to visit the towering summit of Corcovado topped by the immense statue of Christ the Redeemer or relax on the beaches before our afternoon city tour. After lunch our local guide will take us to the bohemian neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, with its winding streets, famous street cars and colourful buildings, whose hilltop setting gives us an excellent view out to the Guanabara Bay coastline. During our trip we will be visiting the enchanting and significant art installation of the Morrinho Project. This miniature depiction of Rio de Janeiro's famous favelas is enormous, made entirely of painted mud bricks and complete with tiny people on the winding streets, graffiti and even armed checkpoints. In the company of one of the project's founders, we'll learn about how this project, that started as an amusement, has become a way for the younger generation to express themselves and their hopes. After our visit we will take 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)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 14 - Tour ends Rio de Janeiro

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Rio.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Rio at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Rio de Janeiro International Airport (airport code: GIG), which is approximately a one hour drive from our hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Brazil

Climate

Due to its enormous size, Brazil has many different climatic zones which vary year round. There is no 'best time' to visit Brazil, but at different times of year your experience will vary. Temperatures rarely dip below 20° C, with Iguazu, Rio and Salvador dropping down there during the winter months of June to August. Evenings around the coast are cooler during this period but the sea is still warm and fresh, and the air is less humid. In Paraty, Belem, the Pantanal and the Amazon temperatures tend to hover around 30° C year round. January to March is mid-summer across Brazil, but warm days on the coast are matched by the rainy season in the Amazon and the Pantanal. Parts of the Pantanal become flooded and it can be a very lively time to visit. The main characteristics of this season are the beautiful water landscapes and the prevalence of many water birds. Conversely, the dry season (July to October) in the Pantanal is a better time to observe larger wildlife such as the coati or giant anteater. In the vast central area of the Amazon, the climate is tropical, with warm to hot temperatures year round, and a rainy season as detailed above.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-3	2 Pin Round	Predominantly Roman Catholic.	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 - Cycling tour US\$90 (min 3 pers)

Manaus - Opera House US\$ 5

Pantanal - Full day Jaguar search including lunch - US\$424 (2 pers); US\$361 (3 pers); US\$270 (4 pers); US\$ 216 (5 pers) - seasonal Jun-Nov

Iguazu - Visit the Argentinian falls US\$ 60 (min 4)plus entrance US\$28; Bird park US\$ 30 (min 4 pers); Boat trip on the Argentina side US\$100; on Brazilian side US\$100

Rio De Janeiro - Visit Corcovado US\$ 71 (min 4); Botanical Gardens US\$ 13 (entrance fee only): Football match US\$ 77-121, Samba show US\$ 94 (min 4).

Brasilia - city tour (only if flight schedule allows) US\$43 (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

We advise taking a water bottle for day to day use, as well as insect repellent, sunscreen and a torch.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized 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. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 60, approx. 250 Reales for group tipping

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£10	£17	£2.1	£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Real (BRL)

Recommended Currency For Exchange

You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. The exchange rate with the BRL is approximately BRL 5 to the British Pound. We recommend you take some emergency cash in USD as the GBP exchange rate isn't very good. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange. Please check on line for up to date information

Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

ATMs can also be found in the major towns and cities for cash withdrawals in BRL. Always have some cash back up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Cheques

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Flight, Public Bus

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety 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 citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

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/

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 on line - https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely 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 be able to apply 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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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.

Additional Information



Reviews





PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE



AIRPORT TRANSFERS