



## **BRAZILIAN INSIGHTS**

**Wednesday 22nd June to Thursday 14th July, 2011**

Think of Brazil and its images of immense jungles, exuberant people, coastal rainforest, the world's largest wetland, exotic edible fruits, diverse cuisine, World Heritage colonial towns, the mighty Amazon River and irresistible Rio de Janeiro!

*Brazilian Insights* starts from Rio de Janeiro on 22nd June 2011 on a twenty-three day tour of this colossal country – the largest in South America.

*Brazilian Insights* encompasses the states of Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Amazonia, Amapa and the cities of Curitiba, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. We visit many places far off the beaten track.

We will experience the Pantanal – the world's largest wetland area, situated in western Brazil where we stay 3 nights at Refugio da Ilha lodge. We also stay at a floating lodge in Mamirauá Reserve situated in a remote area of the Amazon forest.

Highlights and insights include: train ride on the spectacular Serra do Mar Railway; remote lodges; historic towns; European, Portuguese and native Indian influences as well as spectacular scenery; regional culinary specialties and enthralling diversity.

The tour is fully escorted and we stay at premium hotels, include all meals, entrance fees, tips and transportation and we have our own local guides.

**Day 1                      Wednesday 22nd June                      Sydney to Rio de Janeiro**

We depart late morning for our Qantas flight non-stop to Buenos Aires where we connect for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. We arrive in Rio on the same day as our departure thanks to the International Dateline. A coach will transfer us to our hotel, the Praia Ipanema Hotel, situated close to the famous Ipanema beach.

**Day 2                      Thursday 23rd June                      Rio de Janeiro**



This morning we transfer to the Trem Corcovado railway station and board our private, chartered carriage on the train to the summit of Corcovado mountain. The train climbs through the stunning Tijuca forest enroute to the summit of Corcovado, a magnificent vantage point 700 metres high, overlooking Rio and home to the famous statue of Christ known as Cristo Redentor - voted one of the 7 wonders of the world. This railway commenced operation in 1884 and claims to have transported Christ during the 4 years of construction of the statue.

We then visit the picturesque Botanic Gardens where we will have a specially guided tour focusing on endemic Brazilian plants. This afternoon we visit one of the favelas - slum areas, which are found all over Rio alongside the rich and affluent districts and are home to around 20 per cent of Rio's population. We will experience the city and many of its contrasts. This evening we will experience a Samba show and dine at the Plataforma restaurant.

**Day 3                      Friday 24th June                      Rio de Janeiro**



This morning's cultural tour of the city includes Teatro Municipal, a grand building opened in 1879 and the Museu Nacional. Late morning we board Rio's only tram for the climb to the hillside district of Santa Teresa, home to many of Rio's artisans and artists. We have lunch at Aprazivel restaurant then there will be time to browse the boutiques of Ipanema until late afternoon when we transfer to Sugar Loaf - a bare granite mountain which overlooks Guanabara Bay for a cable car ride to the summit in time to witness the sunset. Tonight we dine at Rio Scenarium restaurant in Lapa accompanied by authentic Brazilian music.

**Day 4                      Saturday 25th June                      Rio de Janeiro to Ouro Preto**

Our coach follows the Estrada Real – the Royal Road - from Rio to the town of Ouro Preto situated in the state of Minas Gerais. The route was named by the Portuguese colonisers who used it to transport their gold from the interior to the ports. During the 18th century, Ouro Preto was one of the wealthiest gold bearing areas of Brazil and was an important economic and political centre where enormous quantities of gold were mined. We stay 2 nights at the Hotel Solar do Rosario.

**Day 5                      Sunday 26th June                      Ouro Preto and Mariana**



Declared a World Heritage Site in 1980, Ouro Preto is a resplendent piece of Brazil's colonial and independence history. Founded at the end of the 17th century, it was the principal town of the fabulously rich, gold rush era which left a wonderful legacy of artistically and architecturally historic buildings.

The masterful baroque sculptor, Aleijadinho, was born in Ouro Preto in 1730 and much of his work is preserved in the town's many 18th century Baroque and Rococo style churches. During our tour we will visit one of the most impressive – the rococo style church of Igreja de Sao Francisco de Assis, completed in 1776, which he designed and sculptured. We visit the nearby town of Mariana, the former state capital and this afternoon we will return to Ouro Preto by the restored steam train. Lunch and dinner will feature the special cuisine of Minas Gerais state.

**Day 6                      Monday 27th June                      Ouro Preto to Brasilia**



This morning we drive to the city of Belo Horizonte to board our flight to Brasilia. In the 1950's Brazil commenced the construction of this imaginative, futuristic capital city now home to 2.5 million people. Following lunch we will have an afternoon city tour includes seeing the masterpieces of renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Neimeyer: the Metropolitan Cathedral, National Congress building and the Brazilian National Museum. Overnight at the Brasilia Palace Hotel.

**Day 7                      Tuesday 28th June                      Brasilia to Macapa**

We have a morning flight via Belem to Macapa and this afternoon a city tour. Macapa is a port city situated about 100kms from the mouth of the Amazon and is the capital of the state of Amapa. Our visit to Amapa will be a contrasting experience to the other regions which we visit during our tour of Brazil and offers an insight into this remote area, which borders the French territory of French Guiana to the north and the vast Amazonian forests to the west.

**Day 8****Wednesday 29th June****Macapa**

This morning we board the rustic, local train to travel from Macapa to the mining town of Serra do Navio. During the journey through the Amazonian jungle aboard this unique train, you will be able to observe the lifestyle of the people of this remote corner of Brazil. After lunch we return to Macapa by our chartered coach.

**Day 9****Thursday 30th June****Macapa to Manaus**

Depart very early this morning for our flight to Manaus. Leisure time for the remainder of the morning until lunch after which we embark on our private chartered cruise from the hotel's pier to the Meeting of the Waters – the confluence of the Rio Negro and Rio Solimoes where the contrasting black and cream coloured waters of the respective rivers meet in a spectacular way. This phenomenon is caused by the varying acidic levels of the rivers.

**Day 10****Friday 1st July****Manaus to Uacaria Lodge**

Morning tour of Manaus – a port city situated 1600kms from the mouth of the Amazon but where we'll see ocean going cargo vessels docked. We visit the opulent Teatro Amazonas – the opera house built in 1896 by the barons of the then booming rubber industry. Early afternoon we fly to Tefé situated about 200kms upstream of Manaus and then transfer 2 hours by boat to our lodge deep in the Amazonian forest for the next 3 nights.

**Day 11****Saturday 2nd July****Uacaria Lodge**

Uacaria Lodge is within the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve - the largest reserve protecting the Amazonian floodplain. It is located in the region known as the Middle Solimões, near the confluence of the Japurá and Solimões rivers. The Mamirauá Reserve is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. We will have a series of guided safaris and expeditions on foot and by boat to explore the Amazonian eco system.

**Day 12****Sunday 3rd July****Uacaria Lodge**

The Uacaria Lodge consists of 10 floating cabins designed to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment. The lodge is in the scenic Mamirauá Reserve, which protects the habitat of the endemic white Uacaria monkey and is staffed by local people and naturalists.

**Day 13            Monday 4th July            Uacaria Lodge to Brasilia**

Today we journey from the Amazon to the contrasting European influenced areas of southern Brazil. We leave Uacaria with a morning boat transfer to Tefé then fly via Manaus and on to Brasilia where we overnight at the Brasilia Palace Hotel.

**Day 14            Tuesday 5th July            Brasilia to Curitiba**



Morning flight to Curitiba and transfer to the Bourbon Curitiba Hotel for check in and lunch. In the afternoon we'll have a comprehensive city tour to discover the European heritage of this area with its mass migrations from Germany, Italy and Ukraine. Curitiba is recognised for its innovative transport system and has received the Global Sustainable City Award.

**Day 15            Wednesday 6th July            Curitiba to Iguazu Falls**



This morning we join one of the world's most spectacular train journeys for the descent of the Serra do Mar mountains through the Atlantic Rainforest. There will be a scenic viewing stop before we arrive at Morretes, a small town beside the Nhundiaquara River where we have lunch. This afternoon we travel by our coach to Curitiba Airport for our flight to spectacular Iguazu Falls. Our next 2 nights are spent at the Hotel Das Cataratas ideally located within walking distance of the falls.

**Day 16            Thursday 7th July            Iguazu Falls**



A full day to take in the wonder of these colossal falls situated at the border of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. Our guided touring will include visits to many vantage points on both the Brazilian and Argentinean sides of the falls. Our hotel is situated within the national park surrounding the falls and as well as our guided viewing, there are many opportunities to enjoy the nearby walks.

**Day 17            Friday 8th July            Iguazu Falls to Campo Grande**

This morning we fly to the city of Campo Grande - one of the gateway cities to the Pantanal - the world's largest wetland area. This afternoon we will have a guided city tour of Campo Grande.

**Day 18          Saturday 9th July          Campo Grande to Refugio da Ilha**

This morning we board the Pantanal train from Campo Grande – an ideal way to sedately enter the perimeter of the world's largest wetland. There will be enroute stops at local villages and lunch at the town of Aquidauana. We arrive at Refugio da Ilha in the early evening. We stay 3 nights at this comfortable lodge set in a very special location in the Pantanal and enjoy 2 days of safaris and exploration.

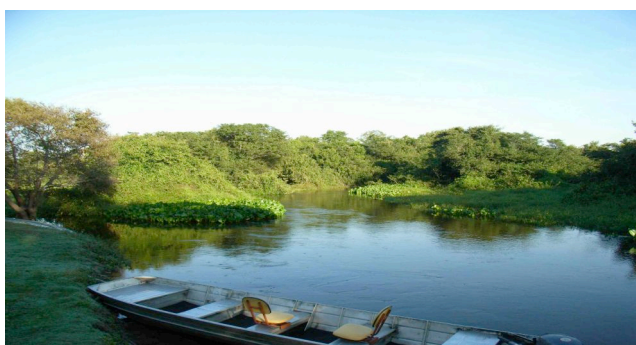
**Day 19          Sunday 10th July          Refugio da Ilha**



Today we participate in morning and afternoon safaris with a combination of electric boat, vehicle, canoes, walking and optionally, horseriding. Our expert guides will be keen to explain the eco systems and help you observe the largest rodent - the capybara (pictured), toucan, macaws, otters and giant anteater which can be seen in the area.

Photo: John Tuckerman

**Day 20          Monday 11th July          Refugio da Ilha**



Refugio da Ilha is a family run lodge and hosts only a small number of guests in a comfortable and relaxing location. Today we again have several safari options as arranged by the resident guides. The options will be explained by the guides and are decided based on anticipated viewing opportunities, weather and guests preferences.

Photo: John Tuckerman

**Day 21          Tuesday 12th July          Refugio da Ilha to Sao Paulo**

This morning we fly by chartered light aircraft for an aerial perspective of the Pantanal on our way to Campo Grande. There we board a jet to Sao Paulo and see a part of this huge metropolis as we transfer to our hotel. We stay overnight at the Marriot Hotel close to Sao Paulo's Guarulhos airport.

**Day 22          Wednesday 13th July          depart Sao Paulo**

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Buenos Aires where we connect with our nonstop overnight Qantas flight to Sydney. Overnight in flight, crossing the Pacific Ocean.

**Day 23          Thursday 14th July          arrive Sydney**

We arrive in Sydney at 5.50pm

## General Information and conditions of booking

### Cost

The cost of this tour is \$17,790 AUD

For land content only, the cost of this tour is \$14,990 AUD - ie from arrival Rio de Janeiro on Day 1 until completion of breakfast on Day 22.

The cost includes:

- return economy class flights between Sydney and Brazil
- all domestic Brazilian flights as specified in the itinerary, in economy class
- private chartered air conditioned mini coach for all road transport and transfers
- private chartered carriage on the Corcovado rack railway train in Rio de Janeiro
- executive class seats on train on day 15
- best available class seats on trains on days 5 and 8
- Turistica class seats on the Pantanal Train from Campo Grande to Miranda
- accommodation on a twin share basis in 3.5 or 4 star hotels for 13 nights
- 6 nights accommodation at lodges in the Amazon (3) and Pantanal (3)
- all sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places specified in the itinerary
- private chartered cruise on the “Meeting of the Waters” on the Amazon River at Manaus on day 9
- all meals
- all taxes and charges
- all tips and gratuities
- services of Insights Tours’ escort throughout the tour
- bottled water on coaches and at lunch and dinner daily
- cost of visa

**The additional costs are:** drinks, cost of travel insurance and items of a personal nature.

## **Flights**

The inclusive tariff includes return airfares between Sydney and Brazil. We fly with Qantas between Sydney and Buenos Aires then a Brazilian airline provides the connecting flights to Rio de Janeiro on Day 1 and from Sao Paulo on day 22.

The airfares are based on a special group fare for 9 guests travelling from Sydney. In the event that there are less than 9 guests travelling from Sydney, Insights Tours will obtain the best available fare however this might mean that a supplement is payable. In that case, we will provide you with full details.

## **To make a booking**

Please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Places on the tour require a \$1000 deposit.

The balance will be due by Monday 18th April, 2011.

## **Cancellations policy**

If you need to cancel your booking prior to or on Monday 18th April 2011 – the cancellation fee will be equivalent to the amount of the deposit. That is, there is no refund of the deposit.

If you need to cancel your booking after Monday 18th April 2011 - the cancellation fee is 100% of the total tariff. That is, there is no refund of the total tariff.

Insights Tours strongly recommends that you consider travel insurance in case you need to cancel.

## **Insurance**

We strongly recommend considering travel insurance to cover medical expenses, lost luggage, emergency costs, flight delays and cancellation penalties. Insights Tours can provide information about obtaining insurance. We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance.

## **Viability of tour**

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Tuesday 19th April 2011 and we will refund in full any money paid.

The published tariff is based on the current exchange rates however should there be a significant change, we reserve the right to either cancel the tour or offer the alternative of paying a supplement to the tariff to make up the difference in the exchange rates

## **Trains**

On days 2, 5, 8, 15 and 18 we travel by train as part of the itinerary. The inclusion of these train journeys is for your added insight into Brazil and its people, countryside and for an alternative perspective. Each train will afford it's own special experience. Most of the trains will have good facilities however the train at Macapa is a rustic operation which conveys local people to their homes in the Amazonian jungle in a remote corner of Brazil and therefore a sense of adventure is requisite for guests.

### **Accommodation**

All hotel accommodation is of either a good 3 star, or a 4 star standard. The cost of the tour is based on twin share ensuite accommodation.

Limited single accommodation is available for an additional supplement of \$2795 AUD

**Lodges** - due to the very nature of their remote locations, the lodges at Uacaria and at Refugio provide accommodation which is more modest but you can be assured of the provision of comfortable facilities and a clean room.

Uacaria Lodge in the Amazon where we stay for 3 nights, is in a very remote area of the Amazon. The advantages of this are that you will experience the authentic Amazonian jungle and riverine environment. This lodge has just 10 modest, comfortable rooms with ensuite facilities however airconditioning is not available.

At Refugio da Ilha in the Pantanal, the rooms are equivalent to a modest motel and provide ensuite facilities with airconditioning. There are comfortable and spacious lounge areas both internal and alfresco. The catering at Refugio is homestyle and therefore authentically local.

### **Road transport**

Insights Tours has chartered airconditioned mini coaches for all transfers and city tours.

### **Luggage**

Please limit your luggage to 1 suitcase and 1 piece of hand luggage per person. Porterage of luggage will be provided wherever possible during the tour except at airports where for security purposes you must be responsible for your own luggage. Maximum luggage weight is 20kgs per person for checked luggage and 7kgs for hand luggage.

### **Water**

Insights Tours provides complimentary bottled water on coaches and at lunch and dinner daily.

### **Brazilian Visa**

All Australian passport holders require a Brazilian visa. Insights Tours will assist you in the preparation and lodgement of forms for your visa. The visa fee and associated postage is included in the tariff. If you hold a passport from any other country please check with us regarding the requirements for entry to Brazil.

### **Argentinean visa**

On day 16 we enter Argentina for our tour of Iguazu Falls. Australian passport holders do not require a visa for this day.

### **Health**

To ensure you have the best advice in regards to inoculations, vaccinations and precautions, Insights Tours emphatically recommends that you obtain travel insurance. We also advise that you consult an expert travel medicine practitioner prior to departure regarding advisable medications. All visitors to Brazil must have a Yellow Fever certificate for re-entry into Australia.

## **Guides**

Insights Tours engages our own local, English speaking guides to ensure that our guests have the best insight into the locations being visited.

## **Insights Tours**

Insights Tours is a boutique tour business operated by Paul and John Tuckerman. We arrange tours which utilise coaches, aeroplanes and trains and provide our guests with spacious and comfortable travelling conditions. Our philosophy is to arrange tours with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the best insights of the regions visited.

Passenger numbers are limited to ensure a commodious travelling experience and to ensure that visits and guided tours are of maximum benefit. This tour is for a maximum of 16 guests.

Each of our tours is personally escorted ensuring you can relax in the confidence that all of the pesky administrative details and arrangements are being taken care of. This tour will be escorted by John Tuckerman

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

If you would like details or assistance with any bookings, or have any questions about the itinerary, please contact Paul Tuckerman

## **Insights Tours**

Telephone: (61) 02 42 672535

Facsimile: (61) 02 42 675530

Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Postal: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: at 14 Allenby Parade Bulli

(please make an appointment to ensure our office is attended when you visit)

# BOOKING FORM

## BRAZILIAN INSIGHTS 22nd June to 14th July, 2011

**Insights Tours** Travel agents licence no. 2TA5859

14 Allenby Parade Bulli NSW 2516  
Telephone: (61) 02 42 672535  
Facsimile: (61) 02 42 675530  
Post: PO Box 180, Thirroul NSW 2515  
Web: www.insightstours.com.au  
Email: paul@insightstours.com.au

Name (as on your passport): .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone:.....Email.....

Any special requirements or requests:.....

.....

Contact in an emergency:.....

Please indicate where you wish to join the tour

**I wish to travel from Sydney or I wish to take the land only content from Rio**

**Room type:** please circle your choice: Twin Double Single

### Passport details

Passport number .....

Date of birth .....

Nationality .....

Date of issue.....

Date of expiry.....

### Deposit

Cheque enclosed. (please make cheques payable to Insights Tours)

Electronic / bank transfer. Our account details are:

- Name of account: Insights Tours client travel account
- BSB: 062 607
- Account number: 1013 1313
- 

I acknowledge the general information and conditions of booking

Signature: .....