

tour dossier for:

Tango & Samba

15 nights / 16 days • Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil



The Facts

Dossier Last Updated: 29-03-2008

Tour Code: TAB

Duration 15 nights / 16 days

Joining City: Buenos Aires

Departure City: Rio de Janeiro

Nearest International Airport (joining / departing):

This dossier is designed for this particular tour and should be read in conjunction with the country dossier(s), regional pre-departure booklet and optional excursions guides relevant to your itinerary. You will also receive a joining letter in advance of your journey with further information, while last minute updates may be posted in the Latest News section of our website. Please see tucantravel.com for details.



What's Included

Accommodation: 13 nights in hotels, 2 overnight buses

Meals: 7 Breakfasts included in Brazil when staying overnight in hotels

Excursions: Iguazu Falls

Transport Local public bus, ferry, on foot, taxi

Group: Average 8-12; max 18

Age: Recommended 18-60, although we do take older passengers provided they are fit and can harmonise with the group

Staff: Tucan Travel tour leader, local guides

What's Excluded

Local Payment

International flights & departure tax (see Brazil Country Dossier for current price)

Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items, other tips

Pre & post tour accommodation

Airport transfers

Spending money allow US\$25-30 per day to cover meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry and any extras (see the relevant Country Dossier for advice on how to carry your funds)

Optional Excursions - Please see our Optional Excursions Guide (available from www.tucantravel.com) for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Brief Overview

Travelling from Buenos Aires to Rio, two of South America's most dynamic and exotic cities, you'll be enthralled by both and amazed at the sights you'll visit in between. From Uruguay's melting pot capital to Iguazu Falls and São Paulo, this trip will have you living and breathing the Latino spirit.

This tour also operates in the reverse direction, click [here](#) for more dates

Itinerary

Day 1 to 3

Buenos Aires - Colonia - Montevideo

This beautiful city is known as the "Paris of South America" due to its lovely green parks, plazas and wide boulevards. The reputation of Buenos Aires' nightlife is not exaggerated, as there are many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and cinemas open until all hours. For a great evening, you could see a tango show in the city where the dance originated and you shouldn't leave Buenos Aires before trying one of the best beefsteaks in the world! Leaving Buenos Aires we head across the River Plate to charming riverside Colonia with its historic old city and on to Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. Montevideo is a blend of many cities and architectural styles with an international port and seaside at either end of the interesting old city. You might get the feeling that time has turned back to the 1930's as much of the architecture is from that era, as are many of the vehicles. Many buildings in the centre have fine stone and iron work and there are many museums and historic houses to visit. There are also plenty of outdoor markets and indoor malls if you want to shop. Near the port, the old railway station is now remodelled and overflowing with steak and seafood restaurants. But if steak and seafood is not your thing, Montevideo has a thriving café culture to keep you busy while you listen to the strains of tango music.

Day 4 to 5

Salto - Concordia

Onto the well presented town of Salto, a centre for growing and processing citrus fruits. The town centre is beautifully kept and there are several delightful parks you can stroll through. A popular excursion is to the nearby Salto Grande dam and hydroelectric plant. We have time to soak in the nearby hot springs or visit the aqua park before crossing the river and the border to the prosperous city of Concordia in Argentina. We take an overnight bus to the port city of Posadas.

Day 6 to 10

San Ignacio Mini - Foz do Iguaçu - Iguazu Falls - Curitiba

From Posadas we travel by bus to the Jesuit ruins at San Ignacio Mini, which were featured in the film "The Mission". Built in 1696, these are some of the best kept Jesuit ruins in the region and show how the Jesuits lived when they came here to convert the Guarani Indians to Catholicism. The location, together with the nearby missions of Santa Ana and Loreto, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Crossing into Brazil we reach Foz do Iguaçu, our base for visiting the famous Iguazu Falls, known to be the most magnificent waterfalls in the world. Unlike most other waterfalls that have just one or two cataracts, at Iguazu there are 275 cataracts that you can visit from the Brazilian (included) or Argentine side (optional). You can see the falls by walking through the rainforest and along catwalks above and below the rushing water or, for a bird's eye view a helicopter flight is on offer (optional). You can also visit the world's largest hydroelectric dam at Itaipu (optional) where you can learn more about the ecological issues faced during the dam's construction. There is also a good bird park nearby - perfect for that must-have photo with a toucan! Visiting the Argentinean side of the falls will give you a completely different perspective from the Brazilian side. Here you may board a speed boat which will take you under the falls soaking you from head to toe - an adventure you'll never forget! On the Argentine side you'll also find the famous "Devil's Throat" where fourteen falls drop with such force that there is always a massive cloud of spray overhead. An overnight bus takes us to the attractive university city of Curitiba. An exceptionally planned city, there are many pleasant squares and parks to wander and quite a lively nightlife. We spend the night here and have the option to take a scenic train trip through the mountains and down the escarpment of the fabulous Murumbi National Park to the

Atlantic coast. There is also a good hop- on, hop- off tourist bus which visits all the main attractions in the city.

Day 11 to 12

São Paulo

We then visit the world's fastest growing city, São Paulo, which has a metropolitan population of 19 million and skyscrapers sprawling upwards and avenues spreading outwards. We can visit a snake farm and the Latin American Exhibition Centre designed by famous architect Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed Brasília, the country's capital (optional tours). After a hard day of sightseeing we can relax and perhaps have a meal in the Japanese quarter. Interestingly, São Paulo has the most Japanese residents outside of Japan so this is a great place to enjoy sushi. We stay in a pleasant area full of life and activity with easy access to the city by underground metro trains.

Day 13 to 16

Parati - Rio de Janeiro

Following the stunning coastline north we come to colonial Parati, an old pirate town with streets made of stone slabs designed to let the tide wash over and clean them. You have an option to go on a full day boat cruise around the bay with plenty of time for swimming in the turquoise waters, sun- baking on the decks and eating a fresh seafood lunch washed down by a few cold beers. Other popular past-times here are exploring the nearby beaches and shopping in the hippy markets. We arrive at our last stop on this tour around lunchtime. Fantastic Rio de Janeiro has many things to see and do. There are trips up Sugar Loaf Mountain by cable car and Corcovado, with its famous Statue of Christ, for great city views. Another interesting journey is on the old tram system across the viaduct into the cobblestone neighbourhood of Santa Teresa. A walking tour of Rio's historic buildings is also a lovely way to pass an afternoon, or you may like to visit the Botanical Gardens or one of the famous beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema or Leblon. If you are in Rio around February, get ready for the world's biggest party – the Rio Carnival! If your tour coincides with the Carnival you can book a four night extension package including a carnival ticket (see our brochure or the Brazil Country Dossier for details). Our tour concludes on Day 16 in Rio de Janeiro.

URUGUAY VISA NOTE: If you need a visa to enter Uruguay, you MUST obtain this before arriving in Buenos Aires. Although it is possible to obtain a Uruguayan visa in Argentina this process takes at least 8 days and you would therefore not be able to travel into Uruguay with the rest of the group.

Important note: the itinerary listed above is to be used as a guide only. Occasionally we may need to update this document and it may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances during the tour. It is very important that you visit our website and review a copy of this dossier as close as possible to your departure date in case of changes that may affect your plans. Any last minute changes may also be posted in the Latest News section of our website.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

Very little time is spent in the starting and finishing cities and you will need to allow a few days at the beginning or end of your tour if you want to explore them further. For details of pre and post tour accommodation bookings (which should be made at the time of your tour booking) please refer to our current brochure.

About Adventure Tours

Adventure Tours travel by public transport wherever possible and so have a high degree of interaction with the local people. This hands-on style means that you will need to travel light (see below for details). Tucan Travel Adventure Tours will bring you into contact with cultures and experiences that contrast dramatically with those at home and therefore a sense of humour and patience is essential!

Don't forget that Tucan Travel also offers four other tour styles: Discovery Tours (Central and South America) where we travel by private and comfortable, custom- built vehicle staying in hotels; Overland Expeditions (in South America only), which usually have a high percentage of camping, travel by overland truck and suit travellers who love the great outdoors; Budget Expeditions (great value tours for 18 to 35s in South America) are flexible tours offering travellers optimum control over their budgets, travelling in our custom- built expedition vehicles, plus coaches and local transport, staying in pleasant hotels, hostels and campsites; Independent Travel offers personalised itineraries, stopovers and language schools with your choice of accommodation and flexible travel days.

Local Payment

The cost of all Tucan Travel tours includes a compulsory Local Payment which is in addition to the Tour Price paid to your booking agent. The Local Payment MUST be paid to your Tour Leader in full \$USD cash at the pre- departure meeting on the first day of your tour. The Local Payment is administered by Tour Leaders and no refunds can be made for any unused services or if you decide to leave the tour early.

Pre Departure Meeting

The address of your joining hotel can be found on your joining letter and tour voucher. On arrival you should look for a Tucan Travel information sheet on the hotel notice board where you will find details of the pre- departure meeting. The tour leader will normally hold the pre- departure meeting on the afternoon of Day 1 (assuming that all clients have arrived by then). Your tour leader will give a briefing about the tour, outline the plan for the next few days, answer any questions and collect your Local Payment in full in US\$ cash. Then there may be an option for everyone to go out for dinner and drinks to start to get to know one another. Please note that you will need to bring the following important items to the pre departure meeting:

1. Passport (including any necessary visas) original document and a photocopy.
2. Vaccination certificates (e.g. Yellow Fever, if required)
3. Travel voucher
4. Travel insurance policy
5. Local Payment

Tour Personnel

Adventure Tours use a variety of different styles of leadership in order to maximize your enjoyment and experiences. On this tour you will have a combination of Tucan Travel tour leader and local guides. The Tucan Travel Tour leader accompanies your tour and local guides will lead your included and optional excursions.

Degree of Difficulty/Fitness

Adventure Tours suit people who are fit and active. Although no experience is required there are many walks between bus/train terminals and hotels and travellers must be able to carry their own luggage over various terrains as well as lift up luggage onto the tops of buses!

Pre- Departure Information

Once you have booked the tour (paid your deposit), your booking agent will provide you with a detailed pre- departure booklet with in-depth information to help you prepare. If you do not receive your pre- departure information shortly after booking your tour please consult your travel agent. After you have paid for your tour in full you will also receive from your travel agent: a local map and joining letter for your arrival city, your tour voucher and transfer voucher (if applicable).

Country Dossiers

This Trip Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with our Argentina, Uruguay & Brazil Country Dossiers which you can download from our website or obtain from your booking agent. The Country Dossiers contain essential information about visas, arrival transfers, spending money & costs, taxes & tips, climate, local food etc.

What you need to bring

A full list of suggested equipment can be found in the pre- departure booklet. You should consider bringing a towel although a sarong may be a useful alternative.

On Adventure Tours it is very important that you do not bring too much luggage as you will find it extremely difficult to get on/off buses and trains etc and there is a fair amount of walking to/from hotels. You are also likely to encounter many cobbled streets and dirt roads so luggage on wheels is totally unsuitable.

Please note: You must be prepared to carry your own bags at all times. We therefore strongly urge you to limit your luggage to a maximum of 10- 14 kgs. Please see the relevant Country Dossier and Pre Departure Information booklet for further information about luggage requirements and what to pack.

Transfers

We do not offer arrival transfers in Buenos Aires due to the ease, availability of local transport. Please see the Argentina Country Dossier for detailed information.

Accommodation

This tour includes 13 nights in hotels and 2 overnight buses (Foz do Iguacu to Curitiba comfortable non- a/c coaches and Concordia to Posadas comfortable a/c coaches with reclining seats, toilets & usually hostess service. In both cases travelling at night is far more comfortable as daytime temperatures can be very high).

All hotels are chosen for their central locality, security, friendliness, cleanliness and ambiance. Although sometimes simple, you will find clean comfortable rooms with en- suite facilities (occasionally bathrooms may be shared but this is rare), and often a bar and restaurant are attached or close by. All rooms will be allocated on a share basis, usually in twins or triples (depending on the male/female ratios).

Transport

On Adventure Tours our goal is to offer you as much variety as possible while meeting the local people. On this trip we will be using local public buses, ferries and taxis. There will also be some walking with your luggage between bus terminals and hotels. Optional excursions

may use other forms of transport, for example boats, horses and mountain bikes.

Meals

All meals, snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense, except breakfasts when staying at hotels in Brazil.. Please see the relevant Country Dossier for more information about the local food.

Tour Highlights

- Buenos Aires the most cosmopolitan & liveliest city in South America.
- Colonia old colonial town with lovely old architecture.
- San Ignacio Mini Jesuit ruins, the best there are.
- Iguazu Falls without doubt, the most spectacular falls on earth
- Coastal Parati UNESCO colonial town, optional excursion on yacht.
- Rio de Janeiro Lively city with great beaches, incredible views and lots to see and do
- Orientation walks Introductory walks conducted by your tour leader at each main stopover.

Day to Day Itinerary & Meals

- Day 1 Arrive Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Day 2 Colonia Montevideo (Uruguay)
- Day 3 Montevideo free time
- Day 4 Bus to Salto PM free time
- Day 5 AM free time in Concordia, nightbus to Posadas
- Day 6 San Ignacio option visit Jesuit Ruins
- Day 7 Bus to Foz do Iguacu (Brazil)
- Day 8 Iguazu Falls visit falls/options, B
- Day 9 Iguazu Falls free time, nightbus to Curitiba, B
- Day 10 Curitiba, optional train/bus to Paranagua
- Day 11 Bus to Sao Paulo, pm free time, B
- Day 12 Sao Paulo free time, B
- Day 13 Bus to Parati free time, B
- Day 14 Parati free time/option on boat, B
- Day 15 Bus to Rio de Janeiro, B
- Day 16 Depart Rio

(B Breakfast, L Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

Responsible Travel Tips

At Tucan Travel we are serious about our responsibility to care for the environment and people that we visit. Here are a few tips to help you to enjoy your tour while minimising your impact and enhancing your travelling experience. Learn more about our responsible travel policy at www.tucantravel.com.

1. Carbon offset your Tucan Travel tour and flights. Check out our website for details about how you can go about this www.tucantravel.com.
2. Bring your own metal water bottle. Fill up at restaurants or treat your own water on tour instead of buying lots of plastic bottles. Bear in mind that there may not be recycling facilities available at some destinations.
3. Cut out plastic remove and recycle the packaging of new travel gear before you pack, and bring a light cotton or string bag for your shopping, so you can politely refuse plastic bags at shops and markets.
4. Bring a stack of pens and pencils and hand these out to children rather than offering sweets. Your alternative gifts will still be popular and the parents will thank you for saving their children's teeth access to dental services may not be readily available there.
5. Learn a bit of the local language before you travel. Being able to say even a few words like hello, please and thank you will help you to connect with people in a positive way and really enhance your personal experience. Bring a phrase book on tour and keep practising to improve your confidence. You will also find some good language tips in the country dossier(s).

Feedback

At the end of your tour we would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to complete a questionnaire about your experiences. The tour leader will give you a paper copy and an electronic version can be found on our website. We take feedback very seriously as it allows us to maintain and improve the very high standards we expect from our road crew, local operators, hoteliers, transportation and office staff, among others. We also use this information to improve our itineraries and optional excursions on offer. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Subscribe to our e- newsletter

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Join our online communities

Make friends with fellow passengers in the Tucan Travel forums, and ask questions about any tour you like we've got the answers! See Share your tour photos and videos on Youtube and Flickr, and keep in touch with group members on Facebook, Bebo and Myspace. There are many Tucan Travel communities out there waiting to welcome you, just a few clicks away.

Write a travel diary and get published on our website!

Share your experiences of life on tour and you may be rewarded! Get in touch with us for details through www.tucantravel.com.

We want your photos!

We've taken you to some of the most amazing places on earth why not share that with the world? Send us high resolution colour photos of your adventures, and you could be published on our website or our brochure. Contact us through www.tucantravel.com.