

# 12 Days Dunes, Lagoons, Waterfalls and Beaches

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RIO DE JANEIRO (3N) + FOZ DO IGUACU (3N) + SÃO LUÍS (1N) +  
BARREIRINHAS (2N) + NATAL (2N)

## Day 1: Rio de Janeiro

Welcome to Brazil! Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro, you will be transferred to your hotel.

*Rio de Janeiro is green hills, blue sky, beautiful bays, islands and marvelous beaches. It is the second biggest city in Brazil (after Sao Paulo) and, certainly, one of the most beautiful cities in the world! Beach hotels are situated along the whole perimeter of Guanabara Bay and, if you are staying in one of these hotels, the beauties of Rio de Janeiro are open for you all the time. Blue ocean water will call you to the beach. The most popular beaches - Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon, are famous for their black and white tiled promenade. From early morning to late in the night you can see people playing soccer and volleyball on the golden sand of the beaches. For those who prefer active holidays, Rio offers opportunities to practice almost any sport: golf, tennis, surfing, rafting, diving, delta flight and many others. Numerous open cafeterias on the beach will offer you refreshing coconut water, freshly squeezed juices and other drinks. You can also see presentations of local musicians on the beach playing all kinds of music.*

## Day 2: Rio de Janeiro

Breakfast at hotel.

Corcovado and Christ the Redeemer Statue (4 hours)

After breakfast we set off on a tour through the city. Arriving at the station, the environmentally friendly train will take us through the jungle to the top of Corcovado. On both sides of the railway you will have spectacular views of Tijuca forest, inhabited by monkeys and other exotic animals and birds. On top of Corcovado, at an altitude of 700 m above sea level, you will stand in front of the symbol of Rio de Janeiro- Statue of Christ the Savior (38m) that was built in 1931. From top of Corcovado, you have a breathtaking panoramic view of the city and its surroundings like the Bridge Niteroi, Guanabara Bay, the Botanical Garden, the Maracana stadium and the Sugar Loaf.

## Day 3: Rio de Janeiro

Breakfast at hotel.

City Tour and Sugar Loaf (4 hours)

After breakfast you have the chance to go on a half-day excursion to the Sugar Loaf. The first stop is the Urca Mountain, with a wide viewing area that also offers the possibility to have a snack in the restaurant on top of the mountain. On the mountain of Sugar Loaf you will have a beautiful view of Rio, Copacabana beach, the bay, the surrounding mountains, islands in the ocean, bridge Niteroi, and the statue of Christ on Corcovado Mountain. After going down by cable car, the tour continues by car to the central regions of the old town of Rio where you can admire several old churches, monasteries, the main cathedral of the city as well as buildings in colonial style.

## Day 4: Rio de Janeiro – Foz do Iguacu

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight to Foz de Iguacu where you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel.

*At the big waterfalls of Foz de Iguacu you can find the border triangle with Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. A former frontier military outpost, construction and tourism led to development and growth in the area.*

*The Iguacu Falls receive their name from the Caigangues Indian word meaning 'great waters'. The falls are formed by the Iguacu River and consist of 275 separate falls; they are surrounded by the virgin jungle of Iguacu National Park which is home to about 2000 species of flora and 400 bird species (including parrots and toucans). The highest fall, the 'Garganta do Diabo' (Devil's Throat) reaches 70m (230ft), which is one and a half times the height of the Niagara Falls. Besides taking in the stunning view from one of the many "catwalks" visitors may try rafting or take a spectacular boat ride through the falls.*

#### **Day 5: Foz do Iguacu**

After breakfast an unforgettable adventure awaits you at the Iguazu falls Brazilian side. You will see hundreds of cascades of water falling down, and at the end we will come to a platform where the mightiest waterfalls, the Devils Gorge falls down into the Iguazu river leaving us wet with splashes and high with emotion! After this nature spectacular show our guide will take up the board a jeep trough the tropical rainforest and then a boat will take us trough the Iguazu river on high speed. We will actually get INTO the falls. Adrenaline guaranteed!

After the waterfun we will visit bird park. Walking inside huge cages exotic birds will fly freely around us, such as Tucans, Macaws and many other beautifully colored birds. You will go on a trip "Makuko safari" through the jungle. You'll ride in the open back of the jeep for about 3 kilometers, accompanied by a guide who will tell you many interesting things about the ecology of the region. Then you go on foot to the river Iguazu, where a motor boat will carry you close to the falls.

#### **Day 6: Foz do Iguacu**

Good Morning! After a delicious breakfast in your hotel, our guide will pick you up for a full day adventure to the Argentinian Side of the Iguazu Nationalpark. The Argentinean side is very different from the Brazilian one; there are the three trails leading you through the nature in the parc:

*The Lower Circuit: At a length of 1,700 meters, runways venture into the lush jungle to take direct contact with the breaking of the Dos Hermanas, Chico and Ramirez. Walking down a runway you can be at the foot of a huge seawall water which is the fall of Salto Bosetti and you will enjoy the steep falls in the Saltos Alvar Nuñez, Elenita and Lanusse.*

*The Upper Circuit: a walk of 1,300 meters, elevated runways will take you on the fall line of several major jumps, reaching the edge thereof. It provides an overview of the whole area from a greater height.*

*The Devil's Throat: Accessed through the Rainforest with the Ecological Train arriving at the Devil's Throat Station. From there, after a 1,000 meters walk, you will reach the enormous 'Devil's Throat'.*

You will walk around next to the falls to have a close look of the falls. You can feel the strength of the water and enjoy the 55.500 hectares of natural beauty!

In the evening your driver will drive you back to your hotel.

#### **Day 7: Foz do Iguacu – São Luís**

After breakfast private transfer to the airport for your flight to São Luís. Upon arrival you will be welcomed by your guide.

In the afternoon explore São Luís on a nice city tour!

Walking through the streets of the Historical Center of São Luis is experiencing literary and religious scenarios, taste the local cuisine and realize how much Maranhão people greets well the visitors. The city is an island that enchants by its beauty, legends and history. Surrounded by warm water beaches all year, São Luís City, World Heritage Site since 1997, offers visitors, the centuries old streets with colonial buildings and tiles. Itinerary: Departure from the hotel, passing by Calhau, São Marcos, Ponta d'Areia beaches and Jansen Lagoon, reaching the historical Center, walking through the cobblestone streets. On the tour we will visit the main points of the city, which maintains local evidence of São Luís history. Interesting sights: Pedro II square, Lions Palace, Benedito Leite square, Sé Church, Ribeirão Fountain, Bosta Alleyway, Santo Antônio Church, Gonçalves Dias square, Arthur

Azevedo Theater, Carmo Church, Quebra-Bunda Alleyway, Desterro Church, Tulhas Market, Portugal Street and House of Maranhão.

### **Day 8: São Luís - Barreirinhas**

Around 7h00 am, departure to Barreirinhas, the travel takes 4h in good road where we will see plantations of Babaçu and Buriti. Barreirinhas is located on the waterfront of Preguiças River, being still a very peaceful and hospitable town. The Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, located close to town is a rare gem with magnificent dunes sculpted by nature and at the period of March to September contains hundreds of lakes formed by rainwater falling at season. At 14h after check in at the hotel, will begin the tour in a 4x4 vehicle to get to the heart of the Park, where we walk in the Blue pond circuit with bath on pond and contemplation of the beautiful sunset in the dunes. Return to Barreirinhas around 19h00 and you can continue enjoying a bath in the hotel pool or go out at night in the quiet streets of the city or simply enjoy on the riverside the calm waters and savoring a beautiful pizza at restaurants in the town. Overnight in Barreirinhas

### **Day 9: Barreirinhas**

Around 8h30 , departure in speedboat ride on the majestic Preguiças river, with its calm waters where we will have a sight of the bayous on their margin, mangrove, buritis, Juçara's trees (açai), tucunzeiros, as well as herons and kingfishers. We will make stops on communities of VASSOURAS, also known as small "Lençóis" and place where we can enjoy a delicious coconut water, interact with monkeys nails that dwell there, Mandacaru, small fishing village where we will ascend 160 steps in the Mandacaru's lighthouse to contemplate scenic view of the dunes, river and its estuary, ocean and vegetation typical. Next stop: Caburé, this being an arm of dunes located between the river and the Sea. Return scheduled for Barreirinhas around at 15h00.

### **Day 10: Barreirinhas - São Luís - Natal**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport with a guide. Flight to Natal. Arriving in Natal. Meeting at the airport with an English speaking guide. Transfer to the hotel.

*Natal is the capital and largest city of Rio Grande do Norte, a northeastern state in Brazil, with amazing beaches such as Ponta Negra, Pipa and Genipabu.*

### **Day 11: Natal**

Breakfast at the hotel.

City Tour + Tour by boat (about 8 hours, with an English speaking guide). The tour starts in the area of Ponta Negra. You will visit the Fort of the Three Kings from the 16th century. The fort has the shape of a star which still preserve old cannons. Then we will walk through the historical of Natal: Santos Reis and Rocas and Ribeira. Afterwards we will go on to the "Cultural Corridor" of the city, which includes the Cathedral and other attractions. Next stop - the tourist center. Here you can enjoy the typical life on a market with local food and drinks you should definitely not miss! Then we will return to Ponta Negra. Visiting the symbol of the area - Dunes Morro Careca. We will finish the tour with a nice and relaxing boat trip.  
Return to your hotel.

### **Day 12: Natal**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport with an English speaking guide, for your flight back home!

## End of the Program

### The Program includes:

- ✓ Accommodation in hotels mentioned or similar, including breakfast
- ✓ Transfers and tours according to the Program in private with English speaking guide

DUNES, BEACHES AND FALLS		1 PAX	2 PAX		3/4 PAX		
		SGL	SGL	DBL	SGL	DBL	TRP
4*	Copacabana Praia + Viale Cataratas + Hotel Luzeiros + Gran Lençóis Flat Residence + ONTALMAR PRAIA HOTEL, Breakfast included	\$ 4.835	\$ 3.474	\$ 2.798	\$ 3.130	\$ 2.454	\$ 2.375
5*	Hilton Copacabana + Mabu Thermas Gran Resort + Pestana São Luís + Porto Preguiças Resort + Serhs Grand Natal, Breakfast included	\$ 6.344	\$ 4.983	\$ 3.558	\$ 4.639	\$ 3.214	\$ 2.943

- ✓ Transfer out Rio de Janeiro: private, driver only
- ✓ 20% commission for tour operators
- ✓ Meals mentioned in the Program

### The Program does not include:

- Optional excursions
- International Flights
- Internal Flights: Rio de Janeiro – Foz do Iguaçu – São Luís - Natal
- Personal expenses and tips

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(ADA-25/07/2019)