



# Best of Brazil

Private Tour | 13 Days | Physical Level 2

Rio de Janeiro – Manaus – Campo Grande – Pantanal – Iguazu – Sao Paulo

Brazil offers diverse travel experiences, from the vibrant beaches and landmarks of Rio de Janeiro to the lush Amazon rainforest accessible from Manaus. The Pantanal wetland is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts, while Iguacu Falls dazzles with its immense beauty. In contrast, São Paulo offers urban sophistication with world-class art, food, and nightlife. Each destination reveals a unique aspect of Brazil's natural and cultural richness

- Explore spectacular Rio de Janeiro
- Discover the wonders of the Amazon
- Spot wildlife in the Pantanal
- See the amazing Iguacu Falls
- Experience vibrant Sao Paulo

## TOUR MAP

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## BEST OF BRAZIL PRIVATE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and activities with entrance fees
- Domestic flights economy class
- All shared transportation and transfers
- English speaking local guides

**Not included in the tour:** international flights, visas, drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

## PRIVATE TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Best of Brazil' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- Guests are expected to climb on and off canoes/boats unassisted.

Of course, the local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## ITINERARY CHANGES:

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It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive to Rio de Janeiro

Meals:

Arrive to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where on arrival you will be met and transferred approximately one hour to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore your surroundings.



#### Destination Information

**Rio de Janeiro** – Known for its awe-inspiring scenery and lively atmosphere, 'January River' is famous for its love of football and iconic carnival. This seaside city, with its sprawling favelas is home also famed for Christ the Redeemer statue and Corcovado Mountain.

### Day 2: Explore Rio de Janeiro

Meals: B, L

Today, embark on a scenic tour of Rio's most famous landmarks. Start by driving along the picturesque Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, then head to Corcovado, where you'll board a train that winds through tropical forests, taking you to the base of Christ the Redeemer. From here, the panoramic views of the city and its stunning surroundings are truly breathtaking. After descending, enjoy a delicious lunch before soaring up again—this time via glass cable cars to the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain. At 395 meters high, you'll be treated to incredible views of Rio's beaches and mountains from a new perspective. Touring will last approximately 8 hours today.



#### Destination Information

**Corcovado Mountain** - Rising 710 meters above sea level, the mountain offers breathtaking panoramic views of the city, including beaches, forests, and urban landscapes. The journey up through lush tropical forests, either by train or road, adds to the scenic experience.

**Christ the Redeemer** - An iconic statue standing 30 meters tall atop Corcovado Mountain. One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, it symbolizes peace and faith, with its outstretched arms embracing the city below. Offering breathtaking panoramic views of Rio's beaches, mountains, and urban landscape, the statue is a cultural and religious landmark that attracts millions of visitors each year.

**Day 3: Travel to Manaus**

Meals: B, D

After breakfast, take a 30-minute transfer to the airport for your flight to Manaus. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your accommodation. Enjoy a refreshing welcome juice and an introduction to the lodge.



During your stay, you'll have the option to choose from various activities, such as a nature hike, a visit to the Monkey Forest, Caboclos House, or the famous 'Meeting of the Waters.' You can also experience a thrilling night tour by canoe. The schedule for these activities will be coordinated by the local operations team and provided upon your arrival. The activities mentioned during your stay are just suggestions. Activities are subject to availability, allowing you to tailor each day to suit your interests. Please note that all activities will be on a shared basis. Detailed descriptions of all activities can be found at the end of this document.

**Destination Information**

**Manaus** – The capital of the state of Amazonas and located in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest. Known as the "Gateway to the Amazon," it is a bustling city that blends urban life with the rich biodiversity of the rainforest. Manaus is famous for its proximity to natural wonders. The city has a vibrant history, particularly from the rubber boom era, and is home to the iconic Amazon Theatre (Teatro Amazonas), a symbol of its cultural wealth.

**Day 4: Explore the Amazon**

Meals: B, L, D

A day in the Amazon is a thrilling journey into the heart of nature and culture. Start with a guided morning hike through the dense rainforest, where an expert guide will introduce you to the incredible biodiversity, from towering trees to exotic wildlife like monkeys and vibrant bird species.



Later, visit the Monkey Forest to observe playful primates in their natural habitat. After lunch, immerse yourself in the local culture with a visit to a Caboclos House, learning about the traditions of Amazonian families. In the afternoon, witness the awe-inspiring "Meeting of the Waters," where the Rio Negro and Solimões rivers flow side by side without mixing. As night falls, embark on an exciting canoe tour, spotting nocturnal creatures and experiencing the serene mystery of the Amazon under the stars.

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### Destination Information

**The Amazon** – The Amazon in Brazil is the world’s largest rainforest, covering over 2 million square miles and representing more than half of the planet’s remaining tropical forests. It is home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, including jaguars, pink river dolphins, macaws, and countless species of plants and insects. The Amazon River, the second-longest river in the world, flows through the region, sustaining both the ecosystem and local communities. Known as the “lungs of the Earth,” the Amazon plays a vital role in regulating the global climate by absorbing massive amounts of carbon dioxide. Its dense canopy, winding rivers, and rich biodiversity make it one of the most significant and awe-inspiring natural wonders on the planet.

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#### **Day 5: The Amazon**

Meals: B,L,D

Another day to explore your amazing surroundings, as you learn about the unique flora and fauna, and the rich culture, traditions, and crafts of the local indigenous community. With each activity offering a deeper connection to the environment, this will be another unforgettable day of discovery in the Amazon.



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#### **Day 6: Travel to Campo Grande**

Meals: B

After breakfast you leave your lodge and transfer to Manaus airport to board a flight to Campo Grande – the gateway to the Pantanal. On arrival transfer to nearby hotel for overnight.



### Destination Information

**Campo Grande** - Campo Grande is the capital of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul, located in the central-western region of the country. Known as the "Cidade Morena" (Brown City) due to its reddish-brown soil, it serves as a major hub for agribusiness, particularly cattle ranching and soybean farming. The city is also a gateway to the Pantanal, one of the world's largest tropical wetlands, attracting ecotourism.

**Day 7: Into the Pantanal**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, journey to the Pantanal, which will take approximately four hours by car, allowing you to experience the stunning natural landscapes of the Pantanal region along the way. As you drive through the vast wetlands, you may catch glimpses of local wildlife and the unique flora that make this area a biodiversity hotspot.



Once you arrive at your accommodation, you will be warmly welcomed by the lodge staff. The program of daily activities will be confirmed upon your arrival. The lodge offers a variety of immersive experiences designed to give you a deep connection with the Pantanal's rich ecosystems and culture.

A day in the Pantanal offers an immersive experience into one of the world's most biodiverse regions. The day typically begins at dawn, when wildlife is most active. Early morning activities might include a guided safari or birdwatching tour, where you can observe jaguars, capybaras, caimans, and a vibrant array of birds. After breakfast, you may embark on a boat tour or enjoy canoeing along the waterways. During the midday heat, there's usually time to relax at the lodge before the afternoon brings more adventures, such as piranha fishing, hiking, or visiting local Pantaneiro families to learn about their culture. As evening sets in, a night safari reveals the region's nocturnal wildlife, providing a completely different perspective of the Pantanal's rich ecosystem. The day ends with dinner under the stars, surrounded by the sounds of the wild.

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**Destination Information**

**The Pantanal** - The world's largest tropical wetland, located primarily in Brazil, with parts extending into Bolivia and Paraguay. Covering around 140,000 square kilometres, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a biodiversity hotspot, home to an incredible variety of wildlife, including jaguars, capybaras, giant otters, caimans, and over 600 species of birds

**Day 8: Exploring the Pantanal**

Meals: B,L,D

On your second day in the Pantanal, you'll wake up early to the sounds of the wetlands coming to life. After breakfast, you might embark on a new adventure, such as a boat tour along the rivers or horseback riding through the floodplains, giving you a deeper understanding of the landscape, or you could opt for a hiking tour, guided by experts who reveal hidden aspects of the flora and fauna. The day closes with a tranquil evening back at the lodge, where you can unwind and enjoy the peaceful, star-filled sky.



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**Day 9: Fly to Iguazu**

Meals: B

Today, you'll depart from the Pantanal and make your way to Iguazu. After a four-hour transfer to the airport, you'll board your flight. Upon arriving in Iguazu, you'll be transferred directly to your hotel, ready to begin the next adventure.

**Destination Information**

**Iguacu Falls** - One of the world's most spectacular waterfall systems, located on the border between Brazil and Argentina. Comprising 275 individual falls, it stretches over nearly 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometres) and features the iconic Devil's Throat, a massive U-shaped cascade that plunges 262 feet (80 meters) into the river below. Surrounded by lush rainforests, the falls are renowned for their stunning beauty, producing a constant mist and vibrant rainbows. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Iguazu Falls is a major attraction for visitors seeking breathtaking views and unique experiences in nature

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**Day 10: Iguacu Falls**

Meals: B

After breakfast, depart from the hotel and cross the Tancredo Neves Bridge, taking in the stunning views of the Iguassu Canyon as you head toward Iguazu National Park in Argentina. Upon entering the park, hop on a small train that takes you on a scenic tour, with two stops at the upper and lower circuits. Explore the walkways that lead to the top of the waterfalls, where you'll enjoy breathtaking views of the 'Cataratas' surrounded by lush nature filled with orchids, vibrant birds, and diverse wildlife. The highlight of your visit is the suspended platform at the edge of the Devil's Throat, the largest of the waterfalls, offering an unforgettable experience.

**Destination Information**

**Tancredo Neves Bridge** - Known also as the Friendship Bridge, spans the Paraná River, connecting Brazil and Argentina. Opened in 1985, this impressive structure is renowned for its stunning views of the Iguassu Canyon and the surrounding landscapes. Named after the Brazilian politician Tancredo Neves, the bridge is a vital transportation link for both countries, facilitating trade and tourism. Its architectural design features a combination of concrete and steel, making it not only functional but also an iconic landmark in the region.



**Iguassu Canyon** – A breathtaking natural feature near the Iguazu Falls, located on the border between Brazil and Argentina. Carved by the Iguazu River, the canyon boasts dramatic cliffs, lush vegetation, and diverse wildlife. It offers spectacular views and serves as a stunning backdrop to the iconic waterfalls. Visitors can explore various viewpoints and trails that provide unique perspectives of both the canyon and the falls, making it a must-see destination for nature enthusiasts.

**Iguazu National Park** – This UNESCO World Heritage Site is located on the border between Brazil and Argentina and is home to the breathtaking Iguazu Falls. Spanning over 55,000 acres, the park features lush rainforests, diverse wildlife, and numerous hiking trails. The park is a haven for eco-tourism, offering opportunities for activities such as birdwatching, hiking, and boat tours.

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**Day 11: Travel to Sao Paulo**

Meals: B

After breakfast, check out, leave the hotel and head towards the Iguazu National Park in Brazil. En route to the falls, we will drive through the lush, subtropical vegetation of the park. After arrival, we will take a descending trail of the canyon, from where we can enjoy panoramic views of more than 240 falls. We will board a glass elevator, which takes us to a platform where more exquisite views will be revealed. Along with its “sister” park in Argentina, The Iguazu National Park forms the most significant remaining rainforest in the southern cone of South America, which, along with the waterfalls, has been declared a National Heritage Site by UNESCO.



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**Day 12: Sao Paulo**

Meals: B

The day begins with the impressive art of the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), where you can admire a collection featuring both modern and classic works. Then, stroll down the Avenida Paulista to see some of the city’s grand architecture and soak up the lively atmosphere. Stop by the bustling municipal market to sample a variety of delicious local foods, including a mouthwatering mortadella sandwich. Spend the afternoon in Ibirapuera Park, relaxing among its green spaces and lakes, overlooking cultural institutions like the Bienal Pavilion and Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Destination Information**

**Sao Paulo** - The largest city and a major cultural and economic hub in South America. Known for its diverse population and vibrant culture, it boasts a rich tapestry of art, music, and gastronomy, reflecting influences from various immigrant communities. The city is home to impressive skyscrapers, expansive parks, and iconic landmarks such as the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP) and Ibirapuera Park.

**Day 13: Depart Sao Paulo**

Meals: B

After breakfast and check out of your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your onwards travel arrangements.



## BEST OF BRAZIL TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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Australian passport holders can currently enter Brazil without visa until **10 April 2025**, which is when a new visa requirement will go into effect. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### EATING IN SOUTH AMERICA:

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Eating in Brazil is a delightful adventure that showcases the country's diverse culinary influences and regional specialties. Brazilian cuisine is known for its vibrant flavours, fresh ingredients, and a mix of indigenous, African, and European traditions. Each region of Brazil has its own unique dishes. For example, the north is famous for *açaí* and seafood stews, while the northeast features dishes like *moqueca* (a fish stew) and *acarajé* (deep-fried black-eyed pea balls).

**Feijoada:** Considered the national dish, *feijoada* is a hearty black bean stew made with various cuts of pork and beef, typically served with rice, collard greens, and orange slices.

**Street Food:** Brazilian street food is a must-try, with options like *pastel* (fried pastry filled with various fillings), *coxinha* (chicken croquette), and *pão de queijo* (cheese bread).

**Churrasco:** Brazilian barbecue, or *churrasco*, is a popular dining experience, where various types of meats are grilled on skewers and served with side dishes like rice, farofa (toasted cassava flour), and vinaigrette.

**Tropical Fruits:** The abundance of tropical fruits, such as mango, papaya, guava, and passion fruit, is prominent in Brazilian cuisine, often enjoyed fresh, in juices, or in desserts

**Culinary Influences:** Brazilian cuisine reflects its cultural melting pot, with Italian pasta, Japanese sushi, and Middle Eastern kebabs all making appearances in various dishes and restaurants.

**Desserts and Sweets:** Popular Brazilian desserts include *brigadeiro* (chocolate truffle), *quindim* (coconut custard), and *torta de limão* (lime pie).

**Drinks:** When dining in Brazil, be sure to try *caipirinha*, the national cocktail made with cachaça (sugarcane spirit), lime, and sugar. Fresh fruit juices and *guaraná*, a popular Brazilian soft drink, are also widely enjoyed.

**Dining Experience:**

**Restaurants and Cafés:** From upscale restaurants to casual eateries, Brazil offers a wide range of dining options. *Kilo* restaurants, where you pay by weight, are popular for trying various dishes.

**Cultural Etiquette:** Sharing meals is an important aspect of Brazilian culture, and dining is often a leisurely affair, encouraging conversation and enjoyment.

**Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.**

### ACCOMMODATION:

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Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

### SOUVENIRS:

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

### TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Travel between major cities is easily accessible, faster, and safe, while road conditions in rural and mountainous areas are impacted by rainy conditions.

**River Transport:** In the Amazon region, boats and ferries are essential for transportation, connecting remote communities and offering a unique way to experience the rainforest.

**Access Roads:** The Pantanal is primarily accessed by road, with unpaved highways connecting major towns and lodges. Common routes include the Transpantaneira Highway, which runs through the heart of the Pantanal, offering stunning views of wildlife and landscapes.

**4x4 Vehicles:** Given the uneven terrain and seasonal flooding, 4x4 vehicles are often used for travel within the Pantanal, especially to reach more remote lodges and areas.

**Canoeing and Boating:** Exploring the waterways by canoe or boat is a popular way to experience the Pantanal's unique ecosystem. Guided boat tours offer close encounters with wildlife and scenic views of the wetlands.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within South America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

## APPROPRIATE DRESS:

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When traveling in Brazil, particularly in the Amazon and Pantanal regions, dressing appropriately is essential for comfort and protection against the elements. Here's a guide on what to wear in these areas:

### General Tips for Brazil

**Lightweight Fabrics:** Choose breathable, lightweight fabrics that wick moisture, as Brazil can be hot and humid, especially in the Amazon. **Layers:** Even in tropical regions, temperatures can drop at night, so consider bringing a light sweater or jacket.

### Appropriate Dress for the Amazon

#### Clothing:

**Lightweight, Long-Sleeve Shirts:** Protect your skin from the sun and insects. Light-coloured fabrics can help keep you cool.

**Quick-Dry Pants or Shorts:** Opt for quick-drying materials to stay comfortable in humid conditions.

**Rain Jacket or Poncho:** The Amazon experiences frequent rain, so a waterproof layer is essential.

#### Footwear:

**Waterproof Hiking Boots or Shoes:** Durable, waterproof footwear is important for navigating wet and muddy trails.

**Sandals:** Comfortable sandals can be useful for relaxing at the lodge but may not be suitable for all activities.

**Accessories:**

**Insect Repellent:** Use products with DEET or natural alternatives to protect against mosquitoes and other insects.

**Sun Protection:** A wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are vital for sun protection.

**Bandana or Buff:** Useful for protecting your neck from the sun or keeping sweat at bay.

**Appropriate Dress for the Pantanal**

**Clothing:**

**Lightweight, Long-Sleeve Shirts:** Similar to the Amazon, long sleeves protect against sun and insects.

**Cargo Pants:** Comfortable, lightweight cargo pants with pockets are practical for hiking and wildlife watching.

**Quick-Dry Fabrics:** Materials that dry quickly are ideal, especially if you encounter wet conditions.

**Footwear:**

**Sturdy Hiking Boots:** Good-quality hiking boots are essential for uneven terrain and long walks.

**Waterproof Shoes:** Consider waterproof shoes or boots, especially during the wet season when areas can be flooded.

**Accessories:**

**Insect Repellent:** As in the Amazon, insect repellent is necessary for protection against mosquitoes.

**Sun Protection:** Bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen to shield against the sun during outdoor activities.

**Lightweight Backpack:** A small backpack is useful for carrying essentials during day trips.

**Additional Considerations**

**Colour Choices:** Neutral or earthy tones are often recommended for wildlife viewing, as bright colours can scare away animals.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** While beachwear is acceptable in coastal areas, it's advisable to dress modestly when visiting cities, towns, or rural communities.

**Comfort is Key:** Ensure that all clothing is comfortable for extended wear, as you'll likely be participating in various activities throughout the day.

By dressing appropriately for the climate and environment, you'll enhance your comfort and enjoyment while exploring the beautiful regions of Brazil, the Amazon, and the Pantanal.

## ACTIVITIES:

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### MANAUS

#### **TOUR OF THE 'MEETING WATERS'**

(only available for guests with pick-up - hotels or airport - until 08:30am). Departs to ECOPARK on board a regional double deck boat. The boat goes down the Negro River, navigating along the shore of the City of Manaus, allowing passengers to view the Amazonas Theatre, the Port of Manaus, the Customs, and the interesting aspects of the local life - the stilt houses, for instance. Arrival at "The Meeting of the Waters" by 11h30am. It's a spectacular merge of Negro and Solimões Rivers. From this point on, both rivers form the famous Amazon River that runs all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. The waters of the two rivers run together for about 12 km, side by side, without mixing. The phenomenon happens due to differences in temperature, density, and speed of the waters of the rivers. Optional lunch will be served in a typical restaurant (rustic yet clean restaurant with a buffet style, international and regional dishes). Duration: 8 to 9 hours.

#### **NATURE HIKE**

Biodiversity is the main characteristic of ECOPARK. It includes uncatalogued species in virgin rainforests, natural savannahs, and creeks. Several streams of clear water also run through the local. During the tour, the guide will lead, educating about the local flora & fauna, how and where to find edible fruits and potable water, first aid, how to the way in the forest, and much more. Duration: 1 to 3 hours (depending on the health conditions of participants).

#### **MONKEY FOREST**

The facilities for the rehabilitation and reintroduction of wild animals in their habitat (known as the Monkey Forest), was created in 1991 with the intention of receiving animals that have been confiscated from illegal commerce. This is a joint project with the Municipal Secretary of Environment and Sustainability. In this centre, the animals are initially put into quarantine to be evaluated and taken care of by a team of veterinarians and biologists. In partnership with the FFV (Live Forest Foundation), a nonprofit institution overseen by Amazon Ecopark Lodge, a unique feeding system has been developed. Twice a day (10:30 & 15:30), the animals receive supplements of their natural diet, ensuring that they are being fed the necessary nutrients. The Monkey Forest is open to guests at feeding times, always accompanied by a credentialed professional, permitting guests to film and photograph these animals in a natural and safe environment. Eventually, the monkeys may not appear; there are factors in nature (breeding season, heavy rain) that can interfere with the presence of monkeys. Duration: 40 minutes to 1 hour. **IMPORTANT!** Twice a year, the monkeys move away for 2-3 weeks to travel through the forest and demarcate their land. During this period, it will not be possible to see the monkeys, only the ones in quarantine.

#### **VISIT THE CABOCLOS HOUSE**

Depart the lodge on a boat or motorized canoe, accompanied by a Bilingual guide to learn about the traditions and customs of local Amazonians ("natives"). Duration: 40 minutes to 1 hour

#### **FISHING TOUR**

Depart the lodge in paddle or motorized canoes, accompanied by a Bilingual guide. (Fishing of piranhas and other species, depending on the season). Note: It is non-professional fishing. Duration: 40 minutes to 1 hour

### **NIGHT TOUR IN CANOE**

Depart the lodge in paddle or motorized canoes to appreciate the sounds of the jungle at night, with the possibility to spot small alligators (or other nightly creatures). Alligators are spotted because their eyes shine like small red lights. Once the alligator is spotted by the guide's spotlight, he will try to catch a small alligator with his own hands and bring it on to the canoe, and a brief explanation of their habitat follows. The alligator will then be safely released back to the river. (No harm is done to any of the animals). Duration: about 1 hour. Note: during "high water level" season (from April to August) and on full moon evenings, it might be difficult to find alligators.

### **PANTANAL**

#### **HORSE RIDING TOUR**

All tours take place amongst the region's unique landscapes, but the horses are one of Aguapé Lodge's main attractions and the best way to explore the swamp. Riding through the open fields, marshes, capões, ridges, streams, and bays, we will encounter a rich variety of wildlife and lush vegetation, typical of this well-preserved area. The horses are very calm so even those who have never ridden can do this tour. Several routes of different lengths are available, which can be done in both the wet and dry seasons, always with experienced local guides who will share their expert knowledge of the region. The ride lasts 1h30 to 03 hours, depending on the chosen route, starting and finishing at the lodge. There will be a stop along the way to rest and a drink. Before setting off on the horseback ride, there will be a full explanation of the basic rules of horse riding, including how to assemble and use the bridle and stirrup.

#### **CATTLE HERDING**

(AM or PM) accompanies the cowboys on their daily work schedule with the cattle, herding them between different parts of the farm (cattle drive), taking care of the calves, or watching the cowboys working in the enclosure. This is an excellent opportunity to learn a little about the culture and habits of some of the Pantanal locals. This tour is subject to availability and depends on the work the cowboys will carry out on the day.

#### **HORSE CARRIAGE**

A pleasant tour that takes us through the farm's fields; a great option for anyone who isn't able, or doesn't want, to do the horseback tour. You can do the same route in the carriage as the horseback tour, exploring all the different tracks even during the rainy season. Along with the extra comfort the carriage provides, its peace and quiet are added bonuses to this kind of tour. The tour lasts 1h30 to 3 hours, depending on the route.

#### **BOAT TOUR**

This is by far the best way to get to know the Aquidauana River and the beauty and vitality of the surrounding gallery forest. This is the beautiful natural habitat of the mammals and reptiles that lie on river banks, and we can also enjoy the simple songs of the many birds in the area. The tour lasts two and a half hours, and you must always wear a lifejacket (provided by the lodge). It takes place in a motorboat with space for six people. Swimming or fishing in the Aquidauana River is not permitted during this tour.



### **TREKKING**

The trekking tour takes us through dense vegetation, open fields, and gallery forests, allowing you to get close to the region's nature and learn about the role of the plants and animals in the Pantanal ecosystem. This is also a chance to spot some of the animals from closer up, and several routes are available between 1h30 and 04h00. In the rainy season, some paths sometimes get flooded, so clothing and footwear may get wet. Photographic safari in an open-top vehicle the photo safari tour gives you the opportunity to cover much more of the farm's grounds, traveling through many different landscapes like cerrado (semi-arid savannah), open grasslands, "vazantes" (low-lying areas that are seasonally flooded), "brejos" (swamps) and permanently flooded bays. This is the perfect tour to see the Pantanal's wildlife. It lasts between two and a half and three hours and can also be combined with the nocturnal animal spotlight tour, depending on the time of the sunset.

### **NOCTURNAL ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT**

Done in a 4X4 vehicle or a boat (depending on the season), this tour takes you to spot the region's nocturnal animals such as anteaters, foxes, capybaras and caimans. You will hear the sounds of frogs and insects at night and enjoy the beautiful night sky of the Pantanal. The tour lasts about one hour.

### **PIRANHA FISHING**

Piranha fishing takes place in one of Aquidauana River's many bays, not far from the lodge. Piranha is mainly used to prepare one of the region's most traditional dishes: piranha soup. Besides fishing, this experience is also a good way to see the caimans who sit watching the people fishing so they can try to steal their piranhas. On this tour, it is very important to always follow the guide's instructions because even after they have been taken from the water, the piranha can still bite. All the fish will be taken off the lines by the guide. The length of this tour depends on who is taking part and how much they enjoy the activity.

### **TIPPING POLICY:**

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Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience, however tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

### **LUGGAGE:**

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

### **PORTERAGE:**

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Please be aware that portage is not included. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like boats and coaches.

### VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

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We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: October 2024