

BRAZIL & ARGENTINA

Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu & Buenos Aires



An incredible introduction to Brazil and Argentina, this 9 day, 8 night tour offers a fantastic insight into some of the best these countries have to offer. Discover the breathtaking beauty of the flamboyant Rio de Janeiro, experience the wild thunder of the mighty Iguazu Falls & get lost in the alluring passion & elegance of Buenos Aires. This extraordinary tour combines natural wonders, tropical jungles, world famous beaches & vibrant cities.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Brazil & Argentina. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements & travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Rio de Janeiro

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Rio de Janeiro International Airport, via Madrid, Spain. On arrival, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to settle in and relax.

DAY 2: Rio de Janeiro B

Spend the morning on a half day tour of the city including a visit to Sugarloaf Mountain, a natural peak situated on a peninsula at the mouth of a bay, and one of Rio's most famous icons. Take a ride in a cable car to the 394 metre summit for breathtaking views over the surrounding beaches and bays including the well-known Copacabana Beach. Enjoy the rest of the day as free time to further explore this beautiful city and perhaps stop to try some 'acai', a local deliciously healthy fruit, at one of the city's thousands of juice bars found on every corner you turn.

DAY 3: Rio de Janeiro B

This morning's tour takes you to Corcovado Mountain in Tijuca Forest, site of the magnificent Christ the Redeemer statue. Considered to be the

largest art deco statue in the world, the impressive figure standing 30 metres tall and arms stretching 28 metres wide, is a symbol of Brazilian Christianity overlooking the city. The afternoon is at leisure, you may choose to take a stroll along Ipanema beach or explore the beautiful Botanical Gardens.

DAY 4: Rio de Janeiro & Iguazu B

The morning is free before you take your flight to the Brazilian side of the Iguazu Falls. We suggest you take a trip to Santa Teresa, a bohemian neighbourhood where the Portuguese Royal Family used to reside in the eighteenth century. On arrival in Iguazu, you will be transferred to your hotel where you will spend the night.

DAY 5: Iguazu Argentinian Side B

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, Iguazu National Park is home to incredible waterfalls with 275 jumps of water falling from an average height of 70 metres. On today's tour you will explore the routes of the Upper Circuit, Lower Circuit and Devil's Throat. The Lower Circuit is a trail of just under one mile and allows you to get closer to some of the smaller waterfalls. From the Upper Circuit you will be able to enjoy stunning panoramic views and the top of the majestic falls. The infamous Devil's Throat is where the largest volume of water descends from Iguazu and from the catwalk here you will really be able to feel the intensity of the almighty thunder.

DAY 6: Iguazu & Buenos Aires B

This morning, cross back into Brazil to see this side of Iguazu National Park. Take in the amazing views of San Martin Island and three of the most

impressive jumps of the falls before getting to a further viewpoint with a perfect view of the Devil's Throat just 150 metres away. In the afternoon you will transfer to the airport in order to catch your flight to Buenos Aires where you will be met and taken to your hotel.

DAY 7: Buenos Aires B

Today's morning tour of the city starts in the historic Plaza de Mayo, the site of the 1810 revolution and now a hub of political life. From here you will see the Casa Rosada government palace and its famous balcony where Eva Peron used to address the people. Later you will reach the picturesque and colourful neighbourhood of La Boca with its famous street 'Caminito' whose architecture reflects the European influence of the late 19th century. After this, head to the modern Palermo neighbourhood with its elegant residences, finally reaching the district of Recoleta, the most sophisticated neighbourhood in Buenos Aires. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure; perhaps see a Tango show which your guide will be able to organise for you at an additional cost.

DAY 8: Buenos Aires B

Enjoy a day at leisure to take in the city at your own pace. We recommend a visit to the Malba Museum to learn about Latin America arts or a drink at one of the vibrant bars in Plaza Serrano - ask for an 'alfajores,' a soft delicate cookie filled with dulce de leche.

DAY 9: Buenos Aires to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK via Madrid, Spain, or continue on to your extension.

Your Hotels

Rio de Janeiro (3 nights): 4★ Windsor Leme Hotel - Avenida Atlântica, 656 - Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 22010-00, Brazil.

Contact number 0055 21 2195-5400

Iguaçu (2 nights): 4★ Hotel San Martin - Avenida das Cataratas, 21 Foz do Iguaçu - PR, 85853-000, Brazil. Contact number 0055 45 3521-8088

Buenos Aires (3 nights): 4★ Kenton Palace - Defensa 383, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Contact number 0054 11 4331-2020

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating/air-conditioning and TV. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Please be advised the hotels do not offer tea and coffee making facilities. Therefore we suggest that you bring a travel kettle and tea/coffee supplies with you if you wish to have these in your room. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner are not included in the tour so you will be able to choose where you dine for these meals. Your guide will be able to offer recommendations if you wish.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Rio de Janeiro you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Blumar, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Blumar representative will show you to your transfer vehicle.

Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Blumar or Eurotur (Argentina) during your stay the details are:

Regiane Freitas, Blumar

Av Borges de Medeiros, 633 - sl. 405 a 408
Leblon, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Telephone: 0055 21 2142 9300

or

Natalia Campos, Eurotur SRL

Viamonte 486
Buenos Aires - Argentina
Telephone 0054 11 4312-6077

Emergency contact information

Please find below the 24 hour emergency contact details
If you are calling from outside Argentina: 0054 9 11 6878-1562

If you are calling from Buenos Aires: 15 6878-1562

If you are calling from another city in Argentina: (011) 15 6878-1562

Emergency e-mail address: emergencias@eurotur.tur.ar



Visas

UK passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa prior to travel for either countries. This will be granted on arrival for stays of up to 90 days. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you to check with your destinations' tourist board or embassy for the most up to date guidelines regarding the required passport validity.

Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 10 days cover	£37	£72	£104
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135

Prices are for worldwide insurance, excluding the USA. For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival and will have a guide with you for the duration of your trip, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

It is customary to tip both your driver and guide and is at your discretion. We would recommend approximately £2.00 (\$3.00) per person per day in total. This will be collected at the end of your day and can be paid in both local currency and US dollars.

Health and Vaccinations

We recommend that you consult your local GP for advice on travel health/vaccinations before departure. It is not advisable to drink the tap water.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches. **This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.**

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Brazil is the Brazilian Real, known as BRL. The currency in Argentina is the Argentine Peso, known as ARS. However, US Dollars are also widely used and recommended throughout both countries and are exchangeable at official outlets. Cash machines are available in all the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency. The Argentine Peso can not be exchanged in the UK.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to

cover lunch and dinner daily as well as to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £300-£400 will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Personal Safety

We recommend that you do not wear any jewellery whilst you are walking around and don't advertise your cameras and phones by keeping them in a bag or pocket where possible. Rio has had a bad reputation in the past for personal security, but this has vastly improved in recent years thanks to far more tourist police and better patrolling of problem areas. Keep cash to a minimum and leave your passport in the hotel's safe.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

What to Pack

- Sunscreen and hat
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor (current is 110v and requires a three prong adaptor)
- Binoculars

Leave plenty of space in your case for shopping!

Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Galeao International Airport Rio de Janeiro with British Airways (BA), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 5.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Heathrow-Rio de Janeiro	12:20	20:00	11 hours 35 mins	BA0249
Rio de Janeiro-Iguaçu	16:13	18:25	2 hours 12 mins	JJ3187
Iguaçu-Buenos Aires	15:35	17:30	1 hour 55 mins	LA4029
Buenos Aires-Heathrow	13:10	06:30	13 hours 20 mins	BA244

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 56cm x 40cm x 20cm in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalised on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check – in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

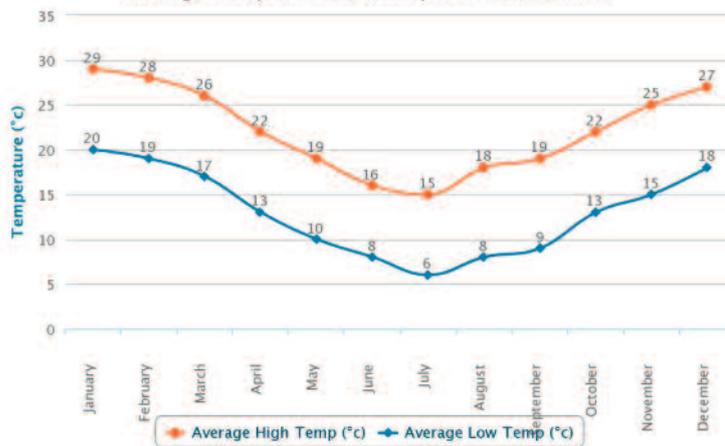
Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, accommodation or lounges at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

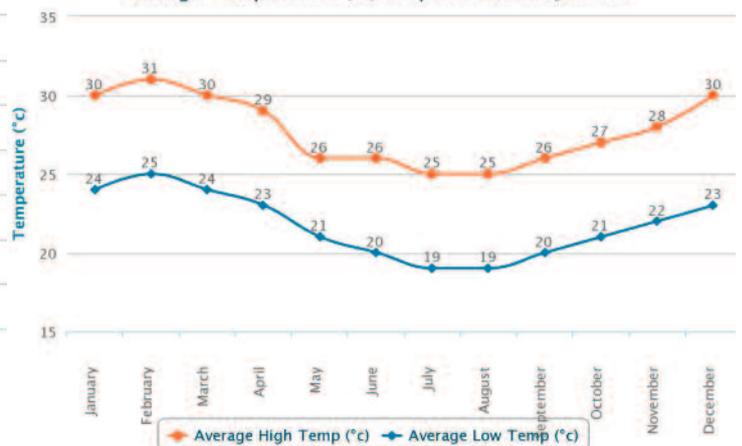
Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

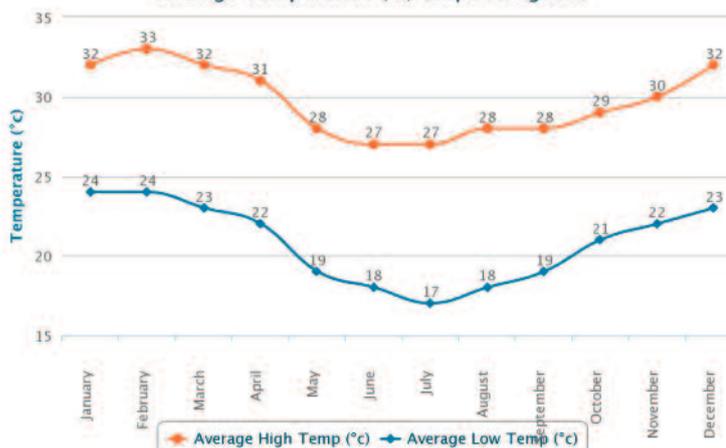
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Buenos Aires



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Rio De Janeiro



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Iguacu



YOUR ADD-ON TO BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Discover why so many people fall in love with the 'Paris of the Southern Hemisphere'. Buenos Aires provides a seductive mix of stunning European architecture, old-world languor & elegant neighbourhoods where colonial buildings and lively outdoor markets can be found at every turn.

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires

Enjoy three nights at your leisure to explore this fascinating and beautiful European-like city offering gourmet cuisine, excellent shopping, a varied nightlife and a wealth of activities.

Buenos Aires is a cosmopolitan metropolis with an elegant, seductive feel and an old-world languor, a city unlike any other in the world.

Hotel

Your Buenos Aires stay will take place at the 4★ **Kenton Palace** on Bed & Breakfast, unless otherwise stated at booking. Address: Defensa 383, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tel: 0054 11 4331-2020

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, snacks and drinks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Buenos Aires is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Transport

Taxis are readily available and are on the meter. A journey of 30 minutes will cost approximately £7.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

Flight Information

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Buenos Aires-Heathrow	13:10	06:30	13 hours 25 mins	BA244

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Weather and Climate

