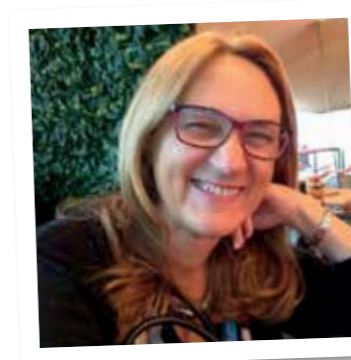




Peru, Cusco Province

Welcome



Travel has been my life for 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today. A recent visit to the gorillas of Uganda has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains. And reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures here are no less enthralling. And everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

Claire Farley

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Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America, famous for its glamorous beaches, energetic cities and fun loving Brazilians with their celebrated love of music and dance. It is also the place to see exceptional wildlife in the Pantanal Wetlands and Amazon Basin.

Rio de Janeiro is South America's most famous city and every year the world's gaze focuses on its fantastic carnival, traditionally held in February or March. Prices rocket but Carnival is truly sensational with spectacular costumes and samba bands that power the rhythm. The energy and footwork of the dancers is amazing – they literally dance for hours. Whatever time of year, Rio's incredible Latin vibe makes it the first stop on most holidays to Brazil.

Take the cog train through Tijuca rainforest to Corcovado Mountain to

view the towering statue of Christ the Redeemer, one of the seven wonders of the modern world, with a spectacular 360 degree panorama of the city. Also take the two cable cars up Sugarloaf Mountain for wonderful views over Copacabana Beach and Guanabara Bay, with its many inlets packed with small boats. A city tour is also a must, including a visit to the Sambódromo, the colourful Selaron Steps and Maracana football stadium, one of the largest in the world. The Museum of Contemporary Art is also outstanding.

It will take most of the day to explore the famous beaches of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon, using the magnificent pedestrian walkway designed by Oscar Niemeyer, with its undulating black and white curves of basalt and limestone. Allow plenty of time to stop and people-watch, drink delicious coconut water or freshly made caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail. There is a huge array of places to eat from local churrascarias (barbeques), to high quality sushi bars and seafood restaurants.

Although the beaches are great in Rio, they are city beaches with strong currents so many visitors opt to spend some time at one of the nearby beach resorts. Buzios is only a few hours to the north and is the ideal spot to laze away the day. It is busy in the summer months and especially at weekends, but this all adds to the vibrant beach lifestyle for which Brazil is so famous.

The Portuguese colonial town of Paraty, three hours drive south of Rio, is another good option. Also known as the Emerald Coast, Paraty is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with brightly coloured houses, cobbled streets and a picturesque harbour offering boat trips to explore the lush rainforest. Further south, the vast beach of Praia do Rosa is a short flight from Rio and one hour drive from Florianopolis. Here you can whale watch from June to November.

The thundering Iguassu Falls located in the southwest corner of Brazil are truly impressive and one of the greatest natural wonders in the world. With a network of over 275 different waterfalls, Iguassu is twice the size of Niagara and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The gateway town of Foz do Iguaçu offers easy access to both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides of the falls. The falls and their rainforests can also be reached from Ciudad del Este in Paraguay.

One of the most impressive features of the falls is a horseshoe-shaped curve called the Devil's Throat, where approximately half of the entire volume of water powers through. Boat trips can take you right under the falls but hold on tight, take a



mac and be prepared to get wet. Helicopter flights offer spectacular views and give a real sense of how extensive the falls are. Iguassu Falls National Park protects much endangered wildlife, as well as extensive bird and butterfly life. A raccoon-like animal called a coati lives in abundance here and caiman can be spotted further down the river.

The city of Salvador on the northeast coast, in Bahia state, has a truly unique atmosphere. Its historical links with the west coast of Africa, the sugar industry and the slave trade, have resulted in an Afro/Brazilian cultural fusion, drummed

out to the beat of the samba, with a carnival to rival that of Rio. The Bahians have their own Capoeira dance (a type of martial art born out of defence), music, religion and food such as moqueca, a tasty seafood stew. Salvador's historic centre, known as the Pelourinho, is a World Heritage Site with cobbled streets and a triangular main 'square'.



South America Highlights

- DAY 1** Arrive in Rio de Janeiro
- DAY 2** Ascend Corcovado Mountain by cog train & view the statue of Christ the Redeemer
- DAY 3** Rio city tour, including cable car ride up Sugarloaf Mountain
- DAYS 4/5** Fly to Iguassu Falls, with tours of both sides of the falls
- DAYS 6/8** Fly to Buenos Aires, with city sightseeing & tango show
- DAY 9** Depart from Buenos Aires

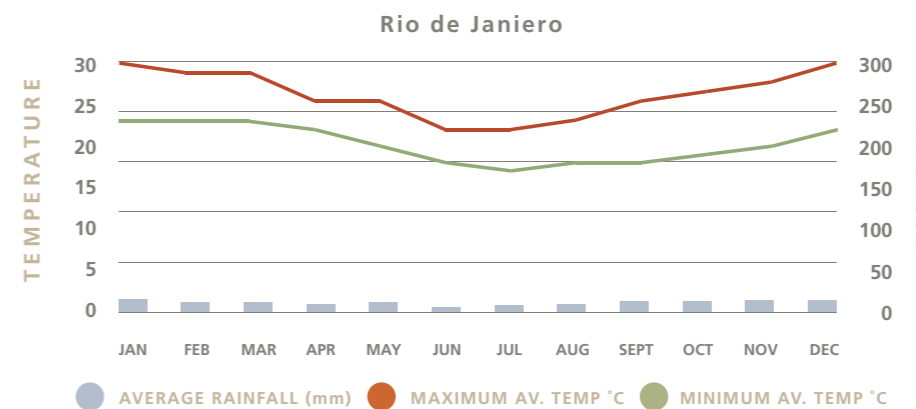
From £2,295 per person sharing including flights, mid season



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on **01582 766 122** or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk

When to go

Brazil has a warm tropical climate, with a variety of weather patterns, so can be visited all year round. The summer months (October to March) are peak season in Rio, but as these months can be hot and humid many people prefer to visit during the cooler months (April to July). Rio is rainy in August and September. The Pantanal is best from May to October (the dry season). The Amazon rainforests are hot and humid all year round. Salvador and the beaches of the northeast have a rainy season from April to July.





Jaguar, Pantanal



Pelourinho, Salvador



Macaw, Amazon Basin

The name Pelourinho comes from Portuguese for whipping post, which hints at its dark history as a slave market. Today it is a hub for cultural and artistic attractions, restaurants and bars. It was here that Michael Jackson famously filmed his music video *They Don't Care About Us*.

The beaches to the north of Salvador, near Praia do Forte, are an ideal spot to relax at the end of a holiday. Morro de Sao Paulo and the more rustic Boipeba Island can be reached by boat or short flight, and offer a real tropical island getaway. South

of Salvador you can fly to the wild beaches of Peninsula de Marau, the luxury lodges of Itacare and the trendy, hip area of Trancoso, which is ideal for a bohemian honeymoon or beach break.

Further north still and close to the equator the beaches are even more stupendous. Accessed from Fortaleza, Jericoacoara Beach, known locally as Jeri, was voted one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. This isolated beach village is one of Brazil's most scenic locations with stunning coastal scenery, dunes and

lagoons. There are colonial gems in the region too. To the north of Recife, Olinda's historic centre is a World Heritage Site and is filled with galleries and artisans' workshops. An hour's drive south of the city the beaches of former slave port, Porto de Galinhas, are now a tourist hot spot. For the ultimate in eco-luxury, fly from Recife to the magnificent volcanic island of Fernando de Noronha, where you'll find pristine beaches, emerald seas and superb marine life.

Seeing a wild jaguar in the Pantanal Wetlands is a life-changing experience

The flooded Pantanal Wetlands, in the southwest of Brazil, is a real highlight and a must-see for any wildlife enthusiast. This beautiful, expansive area of blue and green flooded forest and marshland is twenty times larger than the Everglades in Florida. It splits into a northern and southern region and extends into Bolivia and Paraguay.

The area is renowned for its superb birds and wildlife and is home to capybara, caiman, anaconda, Marsh deer, Giant river otter, various monkeys and the endangered Hyacinth macaw. Jaguars live in the northern and western Pantanal and, while hard to spot, there is a healthy population here – allow at least a week if tracking this magnificent creature is your focus. The best time to visit is from May to October, when it is not as hot and water levels are lower, making it easier to see the wildlife. The lodges provide tasty, home-cooked meals with daily guided excursions into the wetlands on foot, by canoe, jeep or on horseback.

Another of Brazil's iconic wildlife regions, the Amazon, is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and

stretches across nine South American countries. Over half of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil, with Manaus the main gateway for visitors. Here you can see the unusual phenomenon of the 'Meeting of the Waters' at the confluence of the Rio Negro and Amazon rivers. The Rio Negro is black, coloured by natural tannins in the water, whereas the Amazon is sandy coloured, so you will see a distinct line between the two rivers as they flow side by side.

The Amazon is literally miles from anywhere, so a stay of at least 3 or 4 nights is recommended. It's a fascinating experience with over 10% of the world's known species found in these rainforests. Lodges are dotted along the riverbanks but you need a keen guide to spot wildlife, as the vegetation here is dense. Pink river dolphins are a highlight and thrive here in fresh water. You may spot caiman and piranha and the birding is excellent. So make sure you bring your binoculars. Another way of experiencing the Brazilian Amazon is by riverboat, exploring the smaller tributaries and creeks at a leisurely pace.



Best of Brazil

- DAYS 1/3** Arrive in Iguassu, with tours of both sides of the falls
- DAY 4/7** Fly to the Pantanal Wetlands & explore its amazing wildlife by jeep, canoe and on foot
- DAYS 8/9** Fly to cultural Salvador, with walking tour
- DAYS 10/12** Fly to Rio de Janeiro. Ascend Corcovado Mountain to see statue of Christ the Redeemer, take the two cable cars up Sugarloaf Mountain & relax on the glorious beaches
- DAY 13** Depart from Rio de Janeiro

From £3,995 per person sharing including flights, mid season



This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on **01582 766 122** or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk



Book with confidence

We have ATOL certification and membership of the Association of Tour Operators (AITO).

Booking your holiday

When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. In all our dealings we aim to be transparent and encourage you to read our terms and conditions thoroughly. These are on our website at www.2by2holidays.co.uk. Please do contact us if anything is unclear.

Financial Protection

Through our membership of ATOL (9025) and our Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is fully financially protected wherever in the world you live, regardless of whether you book land-only arrangements or a complete holiday package with flights.

AITO Quality Charter

AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Exclusive Membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial Security

An AITO member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the AITO logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK Government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to AITO on a regular basis.

Accurate brochures and websites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional service and continual improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire from their tour operator, the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

Sustainable tourism

Our members acknowledge the importance of AITOs Sustainable Tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

Customer relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, either party can call on an arbitration service to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

To contact AITO call 020 8744 9280 or visit their website www.aito.com

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