

ULTIMATE BRAZIL

7 – 22 MAY 2027

RIO DE JANEIRO EXTENSION

21 – 25 MAY 2027

FROM
£13,840
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Nick Van Gruisen


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



After a brief stay in the charming city of Manaus, we will board the small and comfortable Motor Yacht Tucano to venture far up the Rio Negro, the least inhabited river in the Amazon Basin. Weaving in and out of small channels and exploring by river launches and rainforest hikes, we will discover untouched native forest which is the habitat of exotic birds such as parrots and toucans, howler monkeys, three toed sloth, frogs and snakes, peccary and tapir. On the water we will look out for giant river otter, king fisher, various species of caiman and pink river dolphin. There will be chances to fish for piranha, swim in the clear waters, and visit local villages.

After a brief stop in Cuiabá, you will spend four nights at a rustic eco-lodge in the Northern Pantanal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Following trails on foot and on horseback through thick jungle and wetland or navigating through pristine rivers by boat, we will have the opportunity to observe the great biodiversity of the area and hopefully spot the elusive jaguar.

Our final stop is the Iguassu Falls which are quite magnificent, and the national parks that flank the falls are rich in wildlife. We shall be staying at the luxurious Belmond Das Cataratas the on the Brazilian side of the falls, but we shall also visit the Argentinian side (which is better for wildlife).

There is an optional post-tour extension to Rio de Janeiro where we explore the Corcovado and historic Santa Teresa areas of the city as well as enjoying a Caipirinha making lesson.



M/Y Tucano

16 - DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 7 MAY 2027

7 May London / São Paulo

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 247 departing London Heathrow at 22.20 hrs.

8 May São Paulo / Manaus

Arrive in São Paulo at 06.00 hrs. Connect to a domestic flight to Manaus.

Lunch under own arrangements. Check into the boutique Hotel Juma Opera, a former mansion house moments from the Amazonas Opera House, where one night is spent. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

9 May Manaus / Rio Negro

Morning tour of Manaus including the famous Teatro Amazonas, the bustling markets, the historical Praça Dom Pedro II square and the Palacio do Rio Negro, once the baronial residence of a rubber baron.

Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to the Motor Yacht Tucano for a 4-night exclusive expedition charter on a full board basis. Accompanied by knowledgeable guides, explore far into the remote wilderness of the World Heritage site of the Rio Negro deep into the Amazonian forest. Using a combination of comfortable ship plus launches and on foot, voyage up-river away from the main riverbank settlements to see the amazing variety of exotic birdlife,

mammals adapted to the flooded forest. See the three different types of forest, have informative talks and learn about the differing types of forest as well as local medicinal plants. There will be opportunities to fish and swim safely in clear water and go for night walks enhanced by the lack of light pollution. Dinner on board.

10 - 12 May Rio Negro

Three days on board the M/Y Tucano exploring the Rio Negro. Lunch and dinner on board.



M/Y Tucano interior

13 May Rio Negro / Manaus / Cuiabá

Disembark the boat and transfer to Manaus Airport for a domestic flight to Cuiabá.

Lunch under own arrangements. On arrival in Cuiabá, check into the

Hotel Gran Odara, a modern hotel close to the Mãe Bonifácia Park, where one night is spent. Dinner under own arrangements.



Jacaré (Brazilian alligator)

14 May Cuiabá / Pantanal

Morning at leisure.

Early lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to the Pantanal, a vast, continuous wetland environment which has an area of 150,000 sq km and takes in part of the Amazon Rainforest, the Caatinga, the Brazilian Savannah, the Atlantic Rainforest and Paraguayan Chaco. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve which is home to almost 700 different species of birds, 260 types of fish, 80 mammals and 50 varieties of reptiles. Check into Araras Lodge, a rustic lodge with 19 rooms and a strong environmental focus located in the Northern Pantanal where four nights are spent. Introductory walk around the lodge and to the Mirante da Garça observation tower for sunset. Dinner at the lodge. Evening walk to observe the nocturnal life and habits of the Pantanal.



Giant River Otters



Toucan



Hotel das Cataratas, A Belmond Hotel

15 May Pantanal

Depart for the Clarinho River for a boat trip exploring the riparian forest and mangrove banks. Giant otters live in this area, and there's also the possibility of fishing for piranhas, a fun and challenging activity, as they steal the bait from the hook without the fisherman noticing.

Return to the lodge for lunch. Afternoon hike to the Bugio Tower offering a spectacular view over the Pantanal plain. Dinner at the lodge. Evening night safari.

16 May Pantanal

Morning horseback ride – on docile Pantanal horses – on trails that pass through diverse areas, occasionally even flooded locations.

Return to the lodge for lunch. Afternoon walk along the Rondon Trail to the Tuiuiú Tower from where you can see the place where a pair of these birds, a symbol of the Pantanal, make their nest. Dinner at the lodge.

17 May Pantanal

Depart along the Transpantaneira highway towards the Cuiabá River. Board a safari boat for an exciting search of the elusive jaguar! Navigate the Cuiabá, Piquiri, and Três Irmãos Rivers in search of the third largest feline on the planet and

the only one that kills its prey with a powerful bite to the skull, paralyzing them instantly.

Picnic lunch. Return to the lodge in time for dinner.

18 May Pantanal / Cuiaba / São Paulo / Iguassu

Dawn walk. Transfer to Cuiaba for a domestic flight to Iguassu Falls via São Paulo.

Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to the Belmond das Cataratas Hotel where three nights are spent. The only hotel located in the national park on the Brazilian side of the falls; this luxurious hotel is a classic Portuguese colonial style residence surrounded by Orchid-strewn tropical gardens. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

19 May Iguassu Falls

Morning walk to explore the Brazilian side of the falls. Running for some 2,700m, the Iguassu Falls is made up of a string of over 200 separate cataracts that together form a soaring cascade of crashing water over a horse-shoe shaped cliff. Follow a trail that descends into the canyon, providing a panoramic view of the deep gorge known as the Devil's Throat before taking the glass elevator up the cliff-face for a view of the falls from the upper

deck. Return to the hotel for lunch. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner under own arrangements.

20 May Iguassu Falls

Full day spent exploring the national park on the Argentinian side of the falls. Crossing the Tancredo Neves Bridge, with its lovely view over the Iguazu Canyon, you enter Argentina. Iguassu National Park is the most significant remnant of rainforest in the southern cone of South America, and - along with the falls themselves - has been declared a UNESCO National Heritage site. Explore both the upper trails around the Devils Throat as well as the lower trails which snake their way through the dense jungle known for its excellent wildlife.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner at the hotel.

21 May Iguassu Falls / São Paulo

Morning transfer to Iguassu Airport for a domestic flight to São Paulo Airport.

Lunch under own arrangements. Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 246 departing São Paulo at 15.30 hrs.

22 May London

Arrive London Heathrow at 06.50 hrs.



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£13,840
Single Supplement	£2,550

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

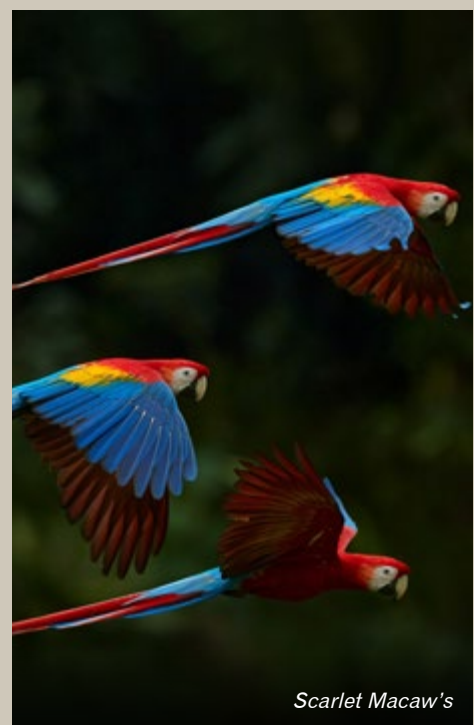
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily
- 7 lunches and 11 dinners
- Group transfers and transportation as per the itinerary
- All entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- Gratuities to driver/s; portorage
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Meals indicated as 'under own arrangements'
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 08/04/2026



Jaguar



Scarlet Macaw's

OPTIONAL RIO DE JANEIRO EXTENSION

21 May Iguassu Falls / Rio De Janeiro

Morning transfer to Iguassu Airport for a domestic flight to Rio de Janeiro Airport. On arrival, check into the Miramar by Windsor Hotel, a modern hotel occupying a prime spot on a quiet stretch on the famous Copacabana Beach, where three nights are spent.

Lunch under own arrangements. This afternoon, see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer, with its open arms blessing the whole city of Rio de Janeiro. Built in 1931 with donations by the Catholic Church, it is positioned on top of the 710-metre-high Corcovado (hunchback) Hill. Continue to Parque Lage, a former colonial sugar mill known for its beautiful gardens, trails and the School of Visual Arts (EAV). Dinner at the hotel.

22 May Rio De Janeiro

Morning exploring the historic city centre. Walk through the narrow lanes of Cinelandia lined with baroque-style buildings and visit the modernist Metropolitan Cathedral, Carioca Square and Largo São Francisco. End the morning at the Gabinete Portugues Library which, with over 350,000 volumes, is the largest and most valuable collection of Portuguese works outside Portugal.

Lunch at Confeitaria Colombo, the oldest coffee shop in Rio de Janeiro, originally opened as a meeting point for intellectuals and aristocrats. Built in 1894 and refurbished in 1914, it is a living portrait of Rio's Belle

Époque with famous Belgian mirrors in hardwood frames and lovingly preserved Italian marble benches. Continue to the Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro, one of the oldest in the world, where Tamarins (small omnivores related to monkeys) and a myriad of colourful bird species thrive amongst the lush vegetation. Return to the hotel via the Tijuca Forest, the world's largest urban forest. Dinner under own arrangements.

23 May Rio De Janeiro

Explore the hillside Santa Teresa district, Rio's bohemian and artistic neighbourhood filled with cobbled streets lined with 19th-century mansions which serve as a reminder of the economic boom which brought wealthy industrialists to the hills.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon visit to the world famous 'Pão de Açúcar', (Sugar Loaf Mountain), which has become an iconic symbol of the city of Rio de Janeiro. Exclusive evening caipirinha-making lesson. Return to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

24 May Rio De Janeiro

Morning at leisure. Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to the airport for suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 248 departing Rio de Janeiro at 18.00 hrs.

25 May London

Arrive London Heathrow at 08.35 hrs.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION PRICE

Extension Price	£1,745
Single Supplement	£290

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Domestic flights
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Local English-speaking guide/s

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Travel insurance
- Visa
- The services of your tour leader
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; portage
- Gratuities to driver/s and guides
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 26/03/2026



Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro



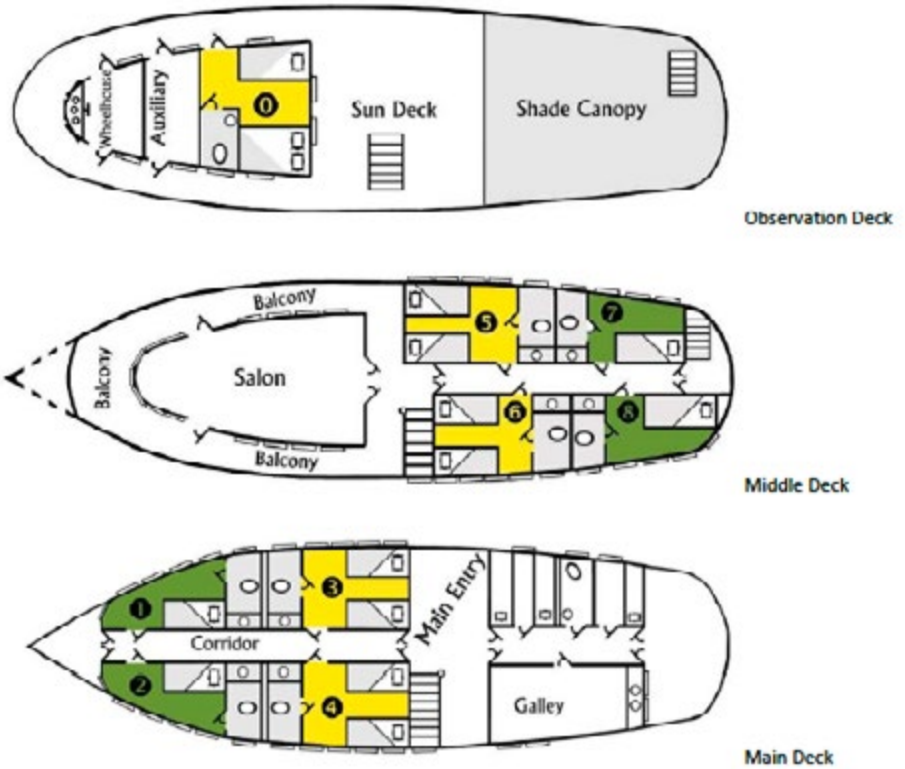
Sugarloaf Mountain

MY TUCANO FACT SHEET

The Tucano is a classic river boat built specially for travelling in the shallow waters, with a shallow draft and a fleet of exploration craft. She provides plenty of space to observe the nearby riverbanks and abundant wildlife and is the ideal way to penetrate the varied waters of the Amazon Basin. There is a comfortable Observation Deck with canopy shading and two further decks with a range of 9 cabins. The simple, but comfortable en suite cabins have air conditioning with individual controls, attractive wooden panelling, large windows and open onto the decks. The saloon is also air-conditioned; there is a Library and generous simple food using local ingredients prepared on board by the experienced crew.

Yellow category cabins 3, 4, 5 and 6 are significantly larger and have two single beds which can be placed together to form a queen bed.

Green category cabins, 1, 2, 7 and 8 can be configured with single beds or as twins with bunk beds each with single-sized mattresses.



Observation Deck



Salon / Dining Room



Yellow Category



Green Category Cabin Single



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Nick Van Gruisen

Raised in Northumberland, in the 1970s Nick spent five years as a professional guide in Botswana and southern Africa. He then joined the Tiger Mountain group, pioneering cultural, trekking and wildlife holidays throughout the Indian subcontinent. He founded Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions in 1991, from which The Ultimate Travel Company emerged in 1998.

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