

Iguazu Falls Extension

Naturetrek Itinerary



Iguazú Falls

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Fly São Paulo to Iguazú and transfer to La Reserva Virgin Lodge (formerly called La Cantera Lodge)
Day 2	Full day exploring the falls in the Argentinian National Park
Day 3	Explore the Brazilian National Park and transfer to airport
Day 4	Land in UK

Summary

This extension outlines the shortest way to experience both the Brazilian and Argentinian National Parks to view the spectacular Iguazú Falls. Extra nights can of course be added should you wish. This extension can be tailored for you.

This extension will work very well following these tours, though can of course be taken before our main group tours if this better suits your schedule:

Brazil – Just Jaguars (web code **BRA02**)

Brazil – South America's Big Five (tour code **BRA04**)

South America's Big Cats (web code **BRA06**)

Brazil - Mammals of the Pantanal (web code **BRA11**)

Amazon Wildlife Cruise (web code **BRA07**)

Brazil - A Wildlife Cruise to the remote Pantanal National Park (web code **BRA12**)

Brazil - Birds & Mammals of the Amazon & Pantanal (web code **BRA08**)

Located on the Brazilian border with Argentina and Paraguay, Iguazú is often regarded as one of the greatest waterfalls in the world. Standing over 30 metres taller than the Niagara Falls, their location within the Iguazú National Park surrounds them with a wealth of wildlife and bird species, many of which can be observed via exploring the park's extensive network of walking trails. Exploring the park on both the Brazilian and Argentina sides of the border is highly recommended in order to get the most out of your stay here. Residing in the heart of the forest for the duration of your stay, you will become immersed in an environment so very different from that encountered in the Pantanal; Iguazú National Park really is a worthy addition to any Brazilian venture!

In the national parks of Iguazú, over 540 bird species have been recorded, including Spot-billed toucanet, Pygmy Tyrants, Motmot, Anhinga, Surucua trogon, Band-tailed Manakin, Tropical Parula, Amazon Kingfisher, Squirrel Cuckoo and Blue Dacnis.



Blue Dacnis

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Final Day of Group Tour

If carrying out the extension after the tour, which is most popular, on the final day of the main group tour you will fly with the group back to Sao Paulo and transfer to the Hampton Hotel to overnight. A private transfer will be arranged to reach the hotel and there is a hotel shuttle to return in the morning for your flight to Iguazú.

Day 1 Arrive at Iguazú airport and transfer to La Reserva Virgin Lodge

After a relaxed start, you will take the complimentary shuttle from the hotel to Sao Paulo airport. You will catch a flight to Iguazú, leaving at around 12 midday and landing at around 2pm. A 1hr 45 minute direct flight. From here we shall travel across the border into Argentina and make our way to our lodge. La Reserva Virgin Lodge. This lodge used to be called La Cantera Jungle Lodge until very recently. If time allows and the garden is open, we will try to stop in for a look in the hummingbird garden on our way to the lodge. We will then have time to check in relax and enjoy the grounds of the lodge before dinner. The drive time from the airport to the lodge is around 30 minutes with usually a short stop to cross the border. No visa or any extra documentation is needed to cross into Argentina. Just your passport to have ready.

Day 2 Full day in the Argentinian National Park

Having enjoyed breakfast in the hotel, you will be collected by your guide and taken to the Argentinian side of the falls for a full day guided tour.

From the Argentine National Park there are a great number of different routes and trails through the forests to access different viewpoints to appreciate the Falls. Black-fronted Piping-Guan, and Red-breasted Toucans are among the possible bird specialties here. Look out for Epaulet Oriole, Yellow-fronted Woodpecker and Chestnut-eared Aracari as you walk the trails while Brazilian Tapir is also occasionally seen. South American Coatis are very common and habituated here.



Great Dusky Swift

The Great Dusky Swifts which are the emblem of this park can often be seen flying near to the falls and overhead. These Swifts nest on the falls edge and the sharp-eyed may be able to see them on their nests in this most extreme of nesting sites!

Once you have fully explored the extensive pathways of the National Park and soaked up (quite literally) these incredible falls, you will be taken back to the lodge to enjoy a relaxing evening and a final night in the tranquil forest surroundings. You can expect to be back at the hotel at around 4-5pm. The tour is private for you however if you wanted to go back earlier.

Day 3 Check out, explore the Brazilian National Park, depart

After breakfast this morning and check-out, you will be picked up at reception (time detailed in final instructions depending on flight time) and transferred back across the border to the Brazilian Iguazu National Park to see the falls from this side. Some fantastic panoramic views may be obtained from the various viewpoints and trails lead out to the very edge of these spectacular falls. As you take in the falls there is of course an opportunity to see some birdlife which may include Red-rumped Cacique, Toco Toucan and Suracua Trogon. Ashy-tailed and Great Dusky Swifts may be seen overhead while in the surrounding Atlantic Rainforest habitat Blue-naped Chlorophonia and Purple-throated Euphonia are possible.

You will notice here that again the resident South American Coatis have become largely habituated here. They will often try and stick their noses into bags and generally try and pick up any scraps from the tourists. It is wise not to feed them and of course not to try and touch them. They will often behave naturally and pose for great photos and are endearing creatures indeed. Azara's Agouti is another species to keep a look out for here.



South American Coati

Following your guided tour which will finish at around 4pm you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Sao Paulo and on to London.

The Hummingbird Garden

Flight times and opening times permitting there may be the chance to visit the Jardin de los Picaflores hummingbird garden during your visit and we do try our best to visit. This is a small garden with various hummingbird feeders and fruit put out for the birds. A short visit of around 30-40 minutes is all that is required to see a wide range of species and some close-up views of these special birds. Species here may include Versicoloured Emerald, Swallow-tailed Hummingbird, Glittering-bellied Emerald and Purple throated Euphonia to name but a few and there are identification plates to help in the garden. This garden also provides excellent photographic opportunities.

Day 4

Land UK

Land at London Heathrow

Cost and Guiding

We will provide a price on request as it can change month to month. The price is based on the extension being private for you.

We can book this extension with a generalist guide. It is then up to you how closely you walk with them at the falls and if you wish, you can have free time of course to explore alone and do your own thing.

Currency and Spending Money

There is no need to order any Argentinian Pesos and this extension is possible to undertake without acquiring any. La Reserva Virgin Lodge will accept card, USD or Brazilian Reals for your dinners and any extras. Both National Parks accept USD, Brazilian Reals and cards.

This extension offers the shortest and most cost effective way to see both National Parks to fully appreciate the Falls but if you wished to have a further night and adapt this extension you can do of course.

What is included

3 nights' accommodation on a Bed and Breakfast basis (see hotels below).

Internal flights.

Private transfer from Sao Paulo airport to your airport hotel. Between Iguazú airport and your lodge in Iguazú (in both directions) and for your half and full day excursions to and from the falls.

Private guided tours of the Argentinian (full day) and Brazilian (half day) sides of the Falls with an English speaking generalist guide.

We will do our best to fit in a visit to the Hummingbird garden in Puerto Iguazú in Argentina. It is a small private garden and the opening times are very sporadic and hard to predict but we will hope to visit and are usually able to.

Additional Expenditure and Currency

Please note that meals (apart from breakfast), drinks, tips, souvenirs and any transport in addition to the above are not included in the cost of your extension.

La Reserva Virgin Lodge accepts US dollars and cards. Argentine pesos are generally not needed as US dollars are widely accepted. The lodge is happy to exchange \$US for Argentine pesos if this is particularly wanted.

Accommodation

Sao Paulo Airport – The Hampton by Hilton Hotel

A very comfortable airport hotel with a restaurant and all the expected facilities.

Iguazú Falls – La Reserva Virgin Lodge

Located amongst the lush rainforest on the Argentine side of the border, this medium-sized lodge has an authenticity that is lacking in the larger international hotels. The rooms are very comfortable, air-conditioned and have a fresh feel. There's a pleasant swimming pool with wooden decking from which the sounds of the forest can be enjoyed with a cool drink. Forest rooms are booked as standard with this extension, though upgrades can be provided upon request subject to availability.



Swimming Pool at La Reserva Virgin Lodge

Should you wish to stay at an alternative hotel for your time at the falls, then please do let us know at the time of booking. Other options include The Gran Melia Hotel Iguazú on the Argentinian side (formerly the Sheraton). This hotel lies within the National Park and allows you to view the falls from the hotel or a short walk and before the park officially opens for tourists. In the Brazilian National Park it is the Hotel Das Cataratas.

The cost of an upgrade to Melia Hotel can be given on request.



Melia Hotel Iguazú

Guiding

As standard, we assign a generalist guide and they will have an all-round knowledge of the falls and ecosystem. If you would like a naturalist guide, please request this at the time of booking and this can be arranged. They will guide you around the trails and be on hand to answer questions and point things out of course. If you like having time to yourself, you can discuss this with your guide and have time to explore alone and make a plan with them when you are there. The guide will not be a specialist birding guide. If you wish to have a specialist birding guide, please let us know and we can advise on availability and make that plan for you.

How to book your place

In order to book your place on this extension you will need to have joined one of the main tours highlighted above. Please then let us know when booking that you wish to extend. Please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card to confirm your place. We will need 20% of the extension cost alongside the deposit for the main tour. Please call with any questions and speak to Tom or email tom@naturetrek.co.uk.