

Iguazu Falls Extension

Naturetrek Itinerary



Iguazú Falls

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Fly São Paulo to Iguazú and Brazilian Falls
Day 2	Full day exploring the falls in Argentina
Day 3	Morning at leisure 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 along with extra activities which may include a helicopter ride or boat trip. 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**)

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!



Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)

In the national parks of Iguazú, over 540 bird species have been spotted by the naturalist guides. Species include: Spot-billed toucanet, Pygmy Tyrants, Motmot, Anhinga, Surucua

trogon, Band-tailed Manakin, Tropical Parula, Amazon Kingfisher, Squirrel Cuckoo and 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 an 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 Panamby Hotel to overnight. A private transfer will be arranged to reach the hotel and a there is a hotel shuttle to return in the morning for your flight to Iguazú.

Day 1 Arrive at Iguazú airport and transfer to explore the Falls (Brazil)

After taking breakfast and the complimentary shuttle from the hotel to Sao Paulo airport, you will catch a morning flight to Iguazú, landing just before or around midday. From here you will be greeted by your English-speaking guide and travel for around 15 minutes to the National Park. Here you will enjoy lunch at the Porto Canoas restaurant (to be paid locally) before enjoying a guided half day tour of the Brazilian side of the falls.

Some spectacular 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 special birds 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.



South American coati (*Nasua nasua*)

You will notice here that 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.

Following your guided tour which will finish at around 5pm you will be transferred to your hotel in Argentina arriving there at around 5.45pm. There is no visa required to cross into Argentina and the La Cantera Jungle Lodge is a perfect base. You will stay here for the next two nights. There is an excellent restaurant here for dinner and swimming pool and some excellent, well-marked forest trails within the hotel grounds to explore.

Day 2 Full day in the Argentinian National Park

Having enjoyed breakfast in the hotel, you will again 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 greater 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 among the possible 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. As with the Brazilian side the South American Coatis are very common and habituated here.



Red-breasted Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*)

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 harsh of nesting sites.

Once you have fully explored the extensive pathways of the National Park, you will be taken back to your hotel to enjoy a relaxing evening and a final night in the tranquil forest surroundings. You can expect to back at the hotel at around 4-5pm.

Day 3 Relax in the morning and transfer to Iguazú airport

After enjoying a leisurely breakfast, this morning will be your own to do a last bit of exploring from the hotel or relax by the pool. Flight times permitting there may be time to visit the Jardin de los Picaflones hummingbird garden en route to the airport, for those who wish. 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.

After checking in at Iguazú airport it will be time to board your onwards flight to Sao Paulo, before taking a late evening flight back from Sao Paulo to London Heathrow.

Day 4

Land UK

You will land at London Heathrow mid-afternoon.

Cost

This extension will be carried out on a private basis and costs are below.

2 people with no guide at the falls: £595 per person.

2 people with a generalist guide: £795 per person.

2 people with a naturalist guide: £895 per person.

1 person with no guide at the falls: £695 per person.

1 person with a generalist guide: £895 per person.

1 person with a naturalist guide: £1195 per person.

By choosing a naturalist guide you have the option to gain access to trails not open to the public.

If you choose no guide, you will be dropped off at the National Parks and picked again up by a professional driver with the time to explore on your own along the well-marked paths and trails. With this option you would pay the entrance fee yourself at the National Park entrance. The costs currently are: Brazilian National Park of Iguazú is currently R\$ 64,30 per person (around £15). The Argentinian side charges 500 pesos per person (around £25).

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 hotel in Iguazú (in both directions) and for your half and full day excursions to and from the falls.

Private, guided tours of the Brazilian (half day) and Argentinian (full days) sides of the Falls with an English speaking guide either being generalist or a naturalist guide as in the costs above.

A visit to the Hummingbird garden in Puerto Iguazú in Argentina.

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.

Hotel La Cantera accepts US dollars and cards. Argentine peso are generally not needed as US dollars are widely accepted but Hotel La Cantera are happy to exchange \$US for Argentine peso if this is particularly wanted.

Accommodation

Sao Paulo Airport – Hotel Panamby

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

Iguazú Falls – Hotel La Cantera

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 Hotel La Cantera

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 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.

The cost of an upgrade to Melia Hotel is on a room basis as follows:

£245 per night for a jungle view room.

£395 per night for a room with a view of the Falls.



Melia Hotel Iguazú

Guiding

As standard we assign a generalist guide rather than a specific naturalist guide and they will have an all-round knowledge of the falls and ecosystem without knowing about or identifying every bird. They will guide you around the trails and be on hand to answer questions and point things out of course. If you would like a specific naturalist/birding guide this can be arranged and equally if you would rather just be dropped off and picked up and explore the parks yourself then this is perfectly fine and will reduce the cost without guiding.

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.