

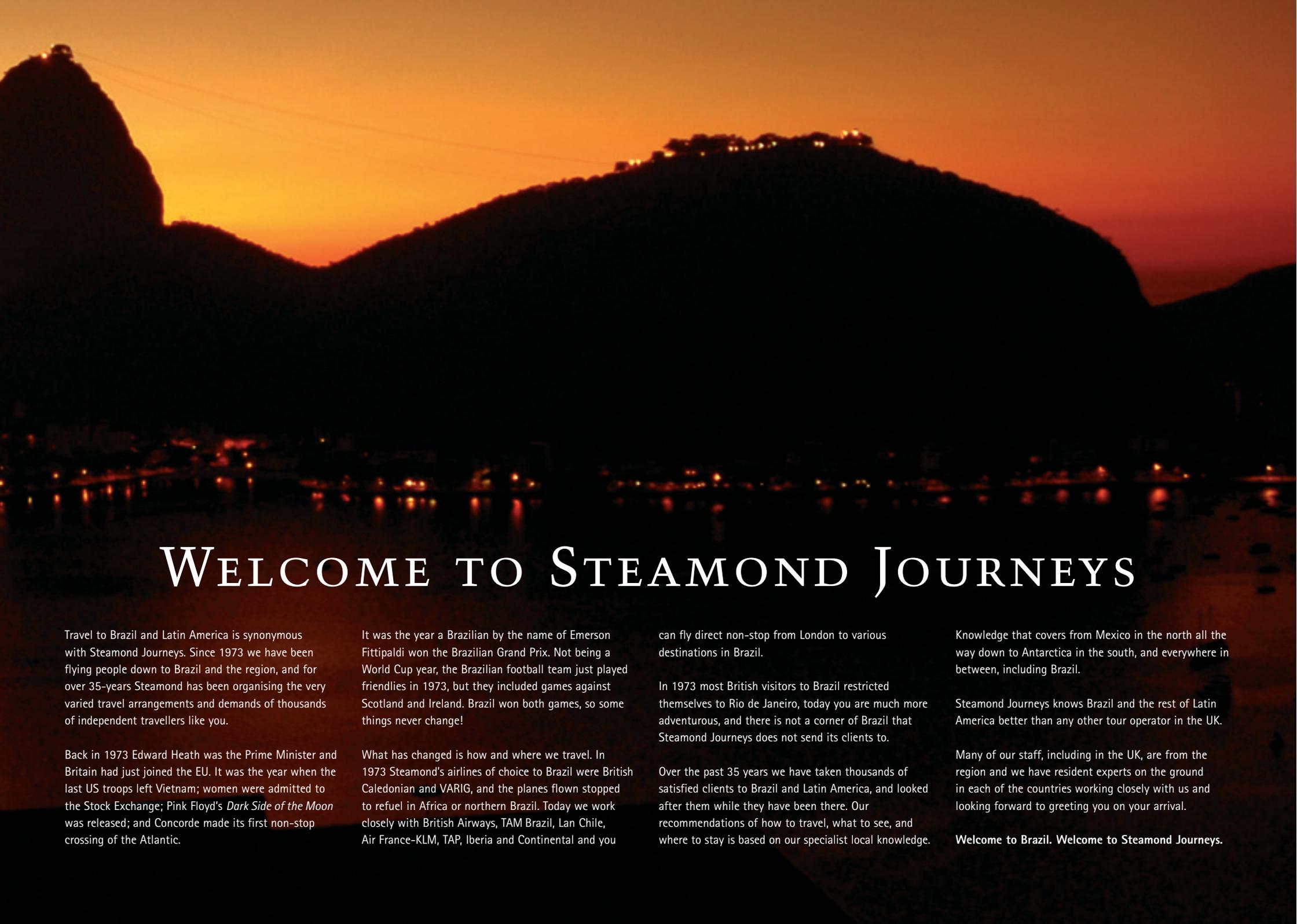


BRAZIL





Sugar Loaf at dusk



WELCOME TO STEAMOND JOURNEYS

Travel to Brazil and Latin America is synonymous with Steamond Journeys. Since 1973 we have been flying people down to Brazil and the region, and for over 35-years Steamond has been organising the very varied travel arrangements and demands of thousands of independent travellers like you.

Back in 1973 Edward Heath was the Prime Minister and Britain had just joined the EU. It was the year when the last US troops left Vietnam; women were admitted to the Stock Exchange; Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* was released; and Concorde made its first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic.

It was the year a Brazilian by the name of Emerson Fittipaldi won the Brazilian Grand Prix. Not being a World Cup year, the Brazilian football team just played friendlies in 1973, but they included games against Scotland and Ireland. Brazil won both games, so some things never change!

What has changed is how and where we travel. In 1973 Steamond's airlines of choice to Brazil were British Caledonian and VARIG, and the planes flown stopped to refuel in Africa or northern Brazil. Today we work closely with British Airways, TAM Brazil, Lan Chile, Air France-KLM, TAP, Iberia and Continental and you

can fly direct non-stop from London to various destinations in Brazil.

In 1973 most British visitors to Brazil restricted themselves to Rio de Janeiro, today you are much more adventurous, and there is not a corner of Brazil that Steamond Journeys does not send its clients to.

Over the past 35 years we have taken thousands of satisfied clients to Brazil and Latin America, and looked after them while they have been there. Our recommendations of how to travel, what to see, and where to stay is based on our specialist local knowledge.

Knowledge that covers from Mexico in the north all the way down to Antarctica in the south, and everywhere in between, including Brazil.

Steamond Journeys knows Brazil and the rest of Latin America better than any other tour operator in the UK.

Many of our staff, including in the UK, are from the region and we have resident experts on the ground in each of the countries working closely with us and looking forward to greeting you on your arrival.

Welcome to Brazil. Welcome to Steamond Journeys.

CONTENTS

- 6 BRAZIL AN INTRODUCTION
- 8 RIO DE JANEIRO
- 10 SALVADOR ~ BAHIA
- 11 NORTHEAST
- 12 AMAZON
- 13 PANTANAL
- 14 FOZ DO IGUAÇU & SOUTHERN BRAZIL
- 16 SÃO PAULO & BRASÍLIA
- 17 MINAS GERAIS
- 18 CARNIVAL, FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS
- 20 HOTEL PARTNERS
- 22 SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS
- 25 AIRLINE PARTNERS
- 28 SOUTH AMERICA
- 30 BRAZIL GUIDE
- 31 BOOKING DETAILS
- 32 CONTACT DETAILS

All information in Steamond Journeys' "Brazil" is subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Steamond Journeys, Steamond Travel and the publisher cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior permission of Steamond Journeys or the publishers. Photos are used with permission from the respective owners and/or copyright holders or are copyright free. Due to the large number of photographs used, and the equally large number of photographers and sources, it is impossible to credit each photo individually.

@cumen Text, Design Et Production by Acumen Marketing Management Ltd.



NORTH



CENTRAL WEST



SOUTH



Sensational!



NORTHEAST



SOUTHEAST



Typical jangada on a beach in Ceará in the Northeast

BRAZIL ~ AN INTRODUCTION

Brazil is the giant of the Latin American region. It is the world's fifth largest nation in terms of area and population. Its landmass is far larger than Europe combined and at 35-times larger in area than the United Kingdom, Brazil is not a country to be explored in just a couple of days.

Yet whatever time you do have to spare for Brazil, we at Steamond Journeys will be happy to plan your travel to-and-from the UK, as well as your itinerary around this diverse and fascinating country.

We can just book your flight or accommodation at the market's most competitive rates. We can arrange to have you met at the airport, and transferred safely to your hotel. Or if you prefer, we can organise a full itinerary for your visit, either in just your own company or as part of an organised group. Tell us your tastes, your budget and what you want and expect from Brazil, and we will do our very best to deliver an unforgettable travel experience.

For Europeans the Brazilian story began over 500 years ago when on 22 April 1500 the Portuguese explorer, Pedro Álvares Cabral, landed close to Porto Seguro in Bahia. Cabral and his crew may have been the first European visitors to Brazil, but many have followed in their footsteps.

When Steamond Journeys first started sending visitors to Brazil in 1973 the main and often only port of call was Rio de Janeiro. Easily the most recognisable and iconic of all the Brazilian cities, the world's most beautiful and spectacular city is still the number one destination for British travellers.



New Year on Copacabana Beach

But Brazil, as many visitors now know, is much, much more than just Rio de Janeiro. It is a country of many hidden treasures and experiences waiting to be discovered.

Brazil starts in the north with the undiscovered wonders of the Amazon, with its man made oases of Manaus and Belem acting as gateways to comfortable lodges in the heart of the rainforest.

The Northeast, with its mix of tropical beaches and culture, is Brazil's very own holiday playground. It spreads from Maranhão in the north to Bahia in the south by way of such popular coastal destinations as São Luiz, Jericoacoara, Fortaleza, Natal, João Pessoa, Olinda, Recife,

Porto de Galinhas, Maceió, Praia do Forte, Salvador, Morro de São Paulo, Trancoso and Itacaré.

In total Brazil has more than 4,500 miles (7,250km) of warm, white beaches that go to make up part of the longest continuous coastline of any country in the world.

Away from the coast there is the central west and the striking contrast between Brazil's futuristic capital, Brasília, and the Pantanal, Brazil's own wild west that holds one of the largest and richest reserves of wildlife known to man.

As well as being home to Rio de Janeiro, the southeast of Brazil is where São Paulo and nearly half of Brazil's

population of 190 million are located. Latin America's largest industrial and commercial centre, São Paulo is the economic engine that pulls the Brazilian economy. Most flights from Europe go straight to São Paulo, and if you are doing business in Brazil you will need to spend some time in the city and that will allow you to discover why it is one of the world's great cosmopolitan centres.

The southeast is also the location of the historic towns of Minas Gerais that make up one of the great colonial legacies of a country full of artistic and architectural masterpieces.

Last, but by no means least, there is the prosperous south, a sub-tropical region that has been influenced by countless European immigrants who have flourished over the centuries. It is the region that is responsible for Brazil's fine wines and outstanding beef, as well as one of the world's great natural wonders and most popular tourist sights in Latin America – the waterfalls at Foz do Iguaçu.

There is much to see and discover in Brazil, so come and talk to the experts at Steamond Journeys so that we can unlock the doors to this fascinating country that, in our opinion, is one of the most exciting destinations for any holiday.



A country full of colourful surprises



Christ the Redeemer on Corcovado Mountain overlooking Guanabara Bay and Sugar Loaf

RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro is arguably the most beautiful city in the world, both in terms of its natural setting and the people. The mountains and the water that surround Rio de Janeiro have given the world's largest tropical city its unique beauty, and it is these same topographical features that have dictated how the city has spread and grown along the coast and inland since first being discovered by Europeans in the early 16th century.

If you are about to make your first trip to Brazil you will certainly want to visit Rio de Janeiro, and if you have already had the pleasure of visiting the "Cidade Maravilhosa" (the Marvellous City), we at Steamond Journeys are sure you will be looking forward to returning to this very special destination.

Rio de Janeiro does not disappoint. As a major cosmopolitan city Rio has all you might expect and more. Excellent restaurants, sophisticated night clubs, charming bars, musical extravaganzas, theatres, cinemas, museums, art galleries, fashionable stores and world class sport.



Rio's Southern Zone

teams, areas such as Flamengo and Botafogo. The big soccer games are still played at the Maracanã Stadium, which when it opened for the 1950 World Cup could handle crowds in excess of 200,000. 60 years on, the stadium is still one of the largest in the world and will host games during the 2014 World Cup, including the final.

Rio is one of the most musical cities in the world. It is the birthplace of both Samba and Bossa Nova, and its musicians are at the forefront of Brazilian musical trends. The city's carnival is the world's biggest, and the most famous, while the celebrations on Copacabana Beach to see in the New Year are one of the most spectacular, and should not be missed.

There is also a diversity of travel experiences to enjoy beyond the city limits, including the coastal playgrounds of Angra dos Reis and the Green Coast to the south, and Búzios and the Sun Coast to the east. There are also the colonial charms of Parati on the Green Coast and the delights of the mountain resorts of Petrópolis (the historic summer residence of the Emperor), Itaipava and Teresópolis. These options are all within a two or three hours drive of the centre of Rio and allow you to get a real Brazilian mix without having to board another plane.



Copacabana sidewalk

As a tropical Brazilian resort, Rio offers miles of golden beaches, near perfect weather year round, typical foods and music, folklore, sightseeing, and accommodation to appeal to every taste and budget. Among our favourite places to stay are the historic Copacabana Palace, an attraction in its own right, and also on Copacabana Beach the Pestana Rio Atlantica and Porto Bay Rio International.

Many of Rio's attractions are household names, even in the UK. Start with Corcovado and the iconic Statue of

Christ the Redeemer, from where you will be able to look down on Sugar Loaf, another global landmark, and the bay of Rio de Janeiro, an expanse of water so large that the first explorers assumed it had to be the mouth of a great river and called the area River of January, or Rio de Janeiro.

From Copacabana to Ipanema the city's beaches are equally recognisable, while in between are areas whose names are synonymous with the city's leading football



Cable Car to Sugar Loaf

SALVADOR ~ BAHIA

The state of Bahia has long been a popular holiday destination for Brazilians and an ever-growing number of international visitors who are now discovering its many charms and secrets. Bahia, which is the size of France, is both the European birthplace of Brazil and the region where Brazil's links to Africa are most prominent.

Bahia's coastline stretches over 685 miles (1,100 km), most of which consists of untouched beaches lined by swaying palm trees. Popular destinations along the southern coast of Bahia include Porto Seguro, where Europeans first landed in Brazil on 23 April 1500, Arraial d'Ajuda, Trancoso and Itacaré. To the north of the state capital Salvador is Praia do Forte and Costa do Sauípe, to name just a few. Like Rio, there are a number of smaller and more rustic coastal resorts within easy reach of Salvador. Among the most popular are Itaparica Island and Morro de São Paulo.

No less spectacular are the national parks in the interior of the state, most notably the Chapada Diamantina that offers numerous trails through dramatic unspoiled scenery.



Chapada Diamantina

The village of Lençóis, 250 miles (400 km) inland from Salvador, is considered the best base for trekkers interested in exploring the natural beauty of the Chapada Diamantina.

Steamond Journeys offers a mix of accommodation throughout Bahia in picturesque pousadas and inns, such as Vila Naia in Corumbau, charming resort properties, as in the Praia do Forte Eco-resort, Itacaré's Txai, and historic masterpieces such as the Convento do Carmo in Salvador.

No trip to Bahia would be complete without visiting the state capital. Salvador, is a major tourist attraction in its own right, as well as being an important centre for business. It is the fifth largest metropolitan area in Brazil, with a population of 3.6 million, and the ninth largest city in Latin America.

The Portuguese established Salvador in 1549 around a triangular peninsula that separates the Baía de Todos os Santos (Bay of All Saints) from the Atlantic. It became the first colonial capital of Brazil, and is one of the oldest cities in Brazil and the New World. It was the capital until 1763 when the title transferred to Rio de Janeiro.

The historical centre of Salvador contains many buildings and churches that date from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. At its heart is the Pelourinho where colonial mansions and churches have been fully restored to their former glory. The entire area is considered to be a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Historic centre of Salvador

For many years Salvador was considered the most significant seaport in the southern hemisphere and a major centre for the sugar industry and the slave trade. It is the slave trade that gave Salvador and Bahia its African flavours. Estimates suggest that as many as 80% of the current population of the city has some trace of Black African ancestry.

African influences can be found in Bahia's cuisine, music, dance, literature, dress, arts and crafts, and even religion and mystical celebrations. From Candomblé to the typical dress of the Baianas, from Capoeira to the musical group,

Olodum, the African touch is there to be explored and appreciated. Two famous visitors to embrace the African touch are Paul Simon and Michael Jackson. The samba reggae of the bloco afro Olodum features on the tracks and videos for Simon's *The Obvious Child* and Jackson's *They Don't Care About Us*.

For an introduction to the spirit of Bahia you can do no better than read any of the novels written by Bahia's own Jorge Amado. They include *"Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands"*, *"Captains of the Sand"*, *"Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon"*, and *"Tieta"*.

NORTHEAST

Brazil's Northeast, all of which is located in the Tropics, is an all year paradise if you are in search of near perfect beaches, equally good weather and dramatic landscapes. The area encompasses nine Brazilian states that cover an area larger than the UK, Germany, France and Italy combined.

There is much to see and experience in the Northeast. Beautiful tropical beaches are a given, and they spread from the south of Bahia to the north of Ceará by way of Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba and Rio Grande do Norte. All along the coast there are historic and beautifully preserved colonial towns and cities to be discovered and explored, many of them World Heritage Sites. Towns such as Porto Seguro, Salvador, Marechal Deodoro, Olinda, Recife, João Pessoa (close to the easternmost point of the Americas), Natal, Fortaleza, and São Luís.

The region has some of Brazil's most dramatic scenery that includes the Chapada Diamantina; São Francisco River; Jericoacoara in Ceará; Piauí's Serra da Capivara, the oldest archaeological site in the Americas; the Valley



Fernando de Noronha



Lagoinha, Paraíba, Ceará

of the Dinosaurs in Paraíba; and the breathtakingly beautiful Lençóis Maranhenses in Maranhão, a desert that spreads like an immense bed sheet which rolls back from the Atlantic coast for nearly 30 miles (50 km) and is dotted with thousands of clear freshwater lakes.

Another attraction is Fernando de Noronha, an unspoilt archipelago located 220 miles (354 km) off the coast in the Atlantic. The main island is just six miles long and two miles wide (10 km by 3.5) and has the best diving in Brazil and a diversity of sea life that has seen the islands declared a World Heritage Site.

RECIFE

Recife and neighbouring Olinda boast a fine collection of colonial buildings and churches dating from the 16th and 17th century. The cities grew and were influenced by a

mix of Portuguese settlers, Amerindians and Black African slaves. The city also reflects the influence of the Dutch who controlled the region from 1630 to 1654. During this period the city housed Brazil's first Jewish community and the first synagogue in the Americas was built and can still be visited.

Close to Recife is the popular beach resort of Porto de Galinhas where you can visit the reef and swim in natural tidal pools teeming with exotic tropical fish. Other popular areas along the coast include Tamaracá and Maracaípe. Inland the main attractions include Caruaru and Novo Jerusalem.

NATAL

The centre of Natal's tourist trade is Ponta Negra beach. If you are looking for something less built up we

recommend the close by fishing villages of Tibau do Sul and Praia da Pipa.

No visit to Natal is complete without driving across the sand dunes located to the north at Genipabu. During a trip through the dunes you can stop and take a camel ride or learn to sand board down the dunes.

FORTALEZA

Fortaleza is the closest of the major Brazilian cities to Europe and boasts the nightlife and infrastructure you might expect from a major holiday destination.

Two of the most popular destinations close by in Ceará are Canoa Quebrada, known for its bohemian lifestyle and laidback bar and restaurant scene, and Jericoacoara.

Surrounded by untouched beaches, sand dunes, the sea and freshwater lagoons, a trip to Jericoacoara is an adventure in its own right as the village is not accessible by normal vehicles. Accommodation is either truly rustic or sophisticated charm, the same is true of its bars and restaurants. As one of the windiest spots on the coast, Jericoacoara is a Mecca for windsurfers.



Lençóis Maranhenses, Maranhão

AMAZON

The mighty Amazon River flows for over 4,200 miles (6,760 km) through the heart of the tropical rainforest that we know as the Amazon. The river pours enough fresh water out into the Atlantic Ocean on a daily basis to supply the entire water needs of the United Kingdom for nearly two years.

The Amazon is one of Brazil's most iconic destinations, yet remains a relatively uncharted and untouched region where new discoveries are still being made on a regular basis. At Steamond Journeys we can help you unlock some of the mysteries and special delights of the region.

Over 60% of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil and it covers nearly half of the Brazilian territory. It is responsible for supplying over half of the planet's oxygen and for hosting a tenth of the world's 10 million living species and over 30 per cent of all known plant and animal species, including an estimated 1,800 species of birds, 250 different mammals and a similar diversity of animal and insect life. The river itself is home to an estimated 2,000 different types of fish.



The Amazon

The Amazon region is also home to Brazil's highest point, the 9,888 ft (3,014 m) Pico da Neblina in the state of Roraima.

The gateway to the Amazon for many of our clients is Manaus. A city famous for its opera house, it was once one of the richest cities in the world and during the rubber boom was responsible between 1890 and 1920 for nearly 90 per cent of all the rubber produced in the world. Many of the trappings from that period, including the Teatro Amazonas, can still be seen and admired

throughout the city that was once referred to as the "Paris of the jungle."

The Tropical Manaus, an eco-resort located on the banks of the Rio Negro, is an attraction in its own right, and its sister hotel, Tropical Manaus Business, offers panoramic views across the river from its rooms.

Such is the size of the Amazon River that although located over 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from the Atlantic, Manaus is still a regular port of call for the world's largest cruise



Teatro Amazonas, Manaus

ships that also stop along the way at Belém and Santarém. In smaller boats it is possible to cruise up to Tabatinga on the Brazilian border with Peru and Colombia and on to Iquitos in Peru, 2,310 miles (3,700 km) from the Atlantic.

The attractions of the Amazon are varied and many. You can explore by boat or from one of the lodges used by us that are dotted throughout the rainforest around Manaus.

Belém, the capital of the state of Pará, is another gateway to the Amazon and is located just (100 km) from the Atlantic Ocean. It is a good starting point from which to visit the island of Marajó, an island the size of Switzerland that is the largest island in the world to be surrounded by freshwater. As well as its lush vegetation and birdlife the island, which sits almost directly on the equator, is known for its herds of water buffalo.

The Amazon's main folkloric festivity, the Boi-Bumbá, the Amazon's answer to Rio's carnival, takes place every year on last weekend of June at Parintins, an island in the middle of the Amazon River, one day's cruise downstream from Manaus.



Typical rainforest lodge

PANTANAL

Until recently the Pantanal has been relatively unknown outside of Brazil, but thanks to improvements in access and accommodation the region is now being discovered by discerning travellers with an interest in nature in all its glory.

Located in the geographical heart of South America, the Pantanal stretches across the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul and west to both Bolivia and Paraguay, it covers an area of 75,000 square miles (195,000 sq km), making it the world's largest wetlands.

The Pantanal, an area nearly the size of the United Kingdom, is made up of an important collection of

ecosystems that house one of the planet's greatest variety of flora and fauna including an immense diversity of bird and wildlife. It is said to have the greatest concentration of animals in the Western Hemisphere and UNESCO has designated parts of it as a World Heritage Centre.

Thanks in part to the more open vegetation; it is often easier to view wildlife and birdlife in the Pantanal than in



Jaguar in the Pantanal

the more enclosed vegetation of the Amazon. During the rainy season, which runs from November through April, the abundance of animals and other wildlife take shelter on the higher ground as the waters rise and flood up to 80% of the plains. In May the waters start to recede and while the land-based wildlife has more space to spread, the abundance of fish find themselves corralled in lagoons. Large quantities of some 263 species of fish have been catalogued in the rivers of the Pantanal and are a major attraction for both sport and commercial fishermen.

The Guinness Book of Records considers the international fishing festival held each September in Cáceres, close to Cuiabá in the northern Pantanal, as the world's largest in freshwater with over 3,000 fishermen taking part.

Ramblers head to the west of Cuiabá, to the Chapada dos Guimarães, the canyon and national park that are the geographic centre of South America.

The area around Bonito in the southern Pantanal is an attraction in its own right, with an abundance of water-

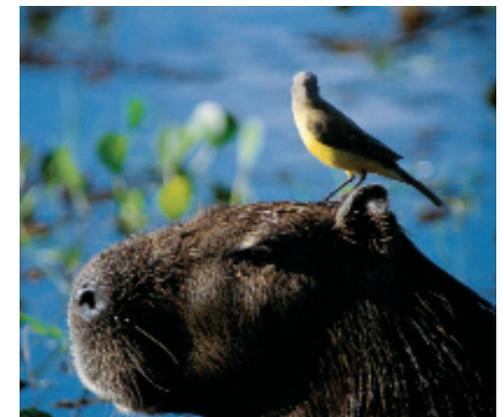
falls, caves and crystal clear waters that appeal to divers and snorkelers who can explore this natural aquarium.

Cuiabá in the north and Campo Grande and Corumbá in the south are the main gateways used by Steamond Journeys. We can recommend a variety of lodges and excursions in the Pantanal, such as those at the Pousada do Rio Mutum close to Cuiabá that can be tailor-made to fit with your interests. Are you an experienced birder looking to see some of the 650 varieties catalogued in the region, or do you want to go in search of the jaguar and other wildlife? Do you want luxury or simplicity?

Because of the changing landscape there is a lot of debate even in Brazil of when it is best to visit the Pantanal. The most popular period is from June to September, when bird watching is at its best, but there is also a strong argument for those looking for wildlife to go in the rainy season and visit the Pantanal between November and April when it is only possible to reach many of the lodges by boat or small plane.



Pantanal, the world's largest wetlands



Wildlife & Birdlife in harmony



The falls at Foz do Iguacu (Brazil is to the right)

FOZ DO IGUAÇU & SOUTHERN BRAZIL

One of the world's great natural wonders and one of the most sought after places to visit in South America are the waterfalls at Foz do Iguaçu that border Brazil and Argentina.

Five times larger than Niagara, Foz do Iguaçu consists of 275 individual falls that stretch 1.8 miles (2.9 km) across the Iguaçu River between Brazil and Argentina. The most impressive, the Devil's Throat, is the largest waterfall in the world in terms of volume of water per second.

The falls can be visited at any time of the year and be viewed from both the Brazilian and Argentine banks of the river. It is also possible to take boat trips up to the mouth of the falls or overfly them in a helicopter.

The Brazilian viewing area is located in a national park that covers an area of more than 656 square miles (1700 square kilometres) of sub-tropical rainforest that houses an immense diversity of flora and fauna. The falls and park, an attraction in its own right, were designated a World Heritage Site in 1986.



Viewing platforms at Foz do Iguaçu

The only hotel located in the park and at the falls, and a favourite of ours, is the Hotel das Cataratas that is now part of the Orient-Express group, the same group that operates the Copacabana Palace in Rio and the Sanctuary Lodge at Machu Picchu in Peru. Another excellent choice at Foz is Mabu Thermas Et Resort.

If the falls is one of nature's masterpieces, Foz do Iguaçu also offers the spectacle of one of man's greatest engineering feats, the Itaipu Dam. To make room for the dam, which houses one of the most powerful hydroelectric plants in the world, enough earth and rock was removed from the Paraná River to fill 25 silos the size of the

Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The dam, which runs five miles across the river from Brazil to Paraguay, can be visited as part of a guided tour. There is also a special light show played out on the surface of the dam every Friday and Saturday night.

While Foz do Iguaçu is the main attraction in the south of Brazil, the southern states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná are full of other contrasts and surprises. It is the region responsible for Brazil's fine wines and most of the country's outstanding beef. It is also the region where European influences mix with those of the 'gaúchos'. It is where in the 17th century the

Jesuits built their missions alongside the settlements of the Guarani indians.

Attractions in the south are varied and range from the breathtaking Itaimbezinho Canyon, the largest in Latin America, to the picturesque railway journey that can be taken between Curitiba and Paranaguá on the coast; from whale watching off the coast of Santa Catarina, to the mystical rock formations at Vila Velha.

The south is home to Blumenau, with its distinct Bavarian architecture and Germanic influences, including its own Oktoberfest; to Curitiba, a town considered by urban planners to be near perfect in its concept; to Florianópolis and its outstanding beaches; to Porto Alegre, the largest and best developed city of the southern states and the gateway to the mountain resorts of Gramado and Canela.

Worth noting is that the south has four distinct seasons including a winter when, between July and August, the temperatures dip noticeably and warm clothing is in demand.



Curitiba



Lagoinha do Leste, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina

SÃO PAULO & BRASÍLIA



The Brazilian capital, Brasília

Brazil is not all play and no work and testimony to that is São Paulo, Brazil's business capital, and Brasília, the country's actual capital and the centre of political activity. Most visitors to Brasília go there for meetings with the Brazilian Government, the rest are there to admire the city's architecture.

It was President Kubitschek that made Brasília a reality. If John Kennedy wanted to put a man on the moon, Kubitschek was determined to build a new capital in the heart of Brazil. He gave the go ahead to start the construction of Brasília as soon as he took office in 1956 and by April 1960 he was able to inaugurate the new Brazilian capital.

Brasília is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and famous for its original architecture and innovative urban planning. The city's layout is often compared to an airplane. The principal government and public buildings are to be found in the 'fuselage', while the 'wings' contain the residential areas along with many of the city's bars, restaurants and hotels.

Outstanding architectural features include the Congress (one of Oscar Niemeyer's most famous creations) that consists of two high towers flanked by the futuristic dome of the Senate and the 'saucer' of the Chamber of Deputies. Another Niemeyer masterpiece is the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Due to Brasília's strategic location, it is relatively easy to visit, if only for a 24-hour stop over. Brasília has excellent flight connections to Rio and São Paulo as well as the key cities in the Northeast and Manaus. There are also frequent flights to Cuiaba, one of the gateways to the Pantanal.

SÃO PAULO

São Paulo is the largest city in South America and the Southern Hemisphere, and the fourth largest in the world. The metropolitan area's population of close to 20 million puts it on a par with New York and not far from the population of Australia.

More British visitors to Brazil go to São Paulo than any other destination. That is partly due to the majority of flights from Europe landing in São Paulo, and partly because it is the business and financial heart of Brazil and South America. The economy of the state of São Paulo alone is larger than the economy of any South American country.

São Paulo is a world class, cosmopolitan city. A city that prides itself on its gastronomic excellence, offering you not only the best of Brazilian cuisine, but also an eclectic mix of restaurants serving dishes from the four corners of the globe. The city boasts world-class museums, art galleries and sport, including the Formula 1 Brazilian Grand Prix.

Nightlife caters for every taste and budget. Bars and clubs abound. The city is a haven for clubbers, yet also offers world-class opera and ballet and on almost any given night it is possible to catch a leading Brazilian or international act.

If the nightlife of São Paulo is unrivalled in Latin America, the same is true for shopping. You can choose between modern shopping centres or exclusive boutiques, the most famous of which are found in and around Rua Oscar Freire, the city's Rodeo Drive.



Looking over São Paulo

MINAS GERAIS

The landlocked state of Minas Gerais is one of Brazil's best-kept secrets that is waiting to be discovered.

"General Mines", to give the state its English name, is home to Brazil's best preserved collection of colonial towns that sprung up in the 17th century after the discovery of gold and precious stones in the region. From 1700 to 1820 Minas Gerais was responsible for an estimated 80 per cent of all the gold produced globally. Later, gold gave way to diamonds and today the state is still the main source of many of Brazil's precious stones.

Minas Gerais' living jewels are the colonial towns that have changed little architecturally since first being built. It is no surprise that a number of them are considered to be World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Towns such as Ouro Preto, Tiradentes, Sabará, Diamantina, São João del Rei, Mariana, and Congonhas do Campo. The latter being the site of two of the greatest masterpieces from the sculptor known as Aleijadinho, the Little Cripple. His work, along



Congonhas do Campo, Minas Gerais

with that of other great baroque and colonial artisans, can be seen and admired in buildings, churches and museums throughout the region.

If you have an interest in history or architecture, the historic towns of Minas Gerais should be a must stop when visiting Brazil. Accommodation in the colonial towns, as you might expect, is in picturesque pousadas, inns and lodges, such as the Pousada do Mondego in Ouro Preto.

It is possible to visit the historic towns by road from Rio de Janeiro or by flying in over the state capital, Belo Horizonte.

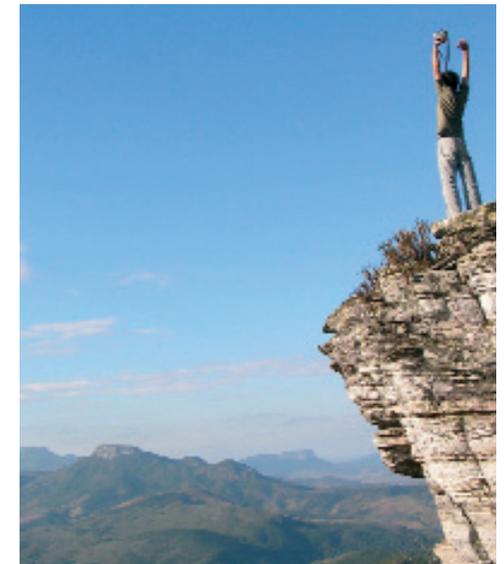
Belo Horizonte is an attraction in its own right and in 1897 was Brazil's first planned city. It is laid out in a grid system, making the centre easy to get around on foot or by public transport. Belo Horizonte is a vibrant and modern city with a lively night scene of bars and restaurants. It is the third largest city in Brazil.

If you think that by being "planned" Belo Horizonte might have something in common with Brasília, you would be right. The area known as Pampulha is often regarded as the early blueprint for the Brazilian capital and many of its architects and landscapers would go on to work on Brasília, most notable Oscar Niemeyer and Burle Marx.

Pampulha and Belo Horizonte have many outstanding examples of Niemeyer's architectural genius.

Pampulha is also home to the Mineirão, one of Brazil's largest football stadiums, which will be totally refurbished, if not rebuilt, to host games during the 2014 World Cup. Belo Horizonte hosted games during the 1950 World Cup, most famously England's 1-0 defeat by the US that effectively knocked them out of the cup.

Other attractions to consider in Minas Gerais include the spa towns of Caxambu, Lambari, São Lourenço and Poços de Caldas, as well as the beauty of a landscape dominated by mountains, valleys and caves. Minas Gerais produces nearly half of all the coffee grown in Brazil today, making it one of the country's richest and most influential states.



Breathtaking Minas scenery



Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais



MANGUEIRA
MINHA VIDA E MEUS AMIGOS

JAMELÃO
UNIAO DE FORÇAS
A FAVOR DO Samba
GRUPO: "MÁ RETRIBUICAO"

TERMINAL EMBARQUE / DISEMBAQUE
A-044V

Velha Guarda

Parade of samba schools in Rio de Janeiro

CARNIVAL, FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Nobody celebrates quite like the Brazilians and they don't normally need much of an excuse for a party. If they should need an excuse they always have carnival, the annual celebration that takes over Brazil, even a business centre like São Paulo.

Carnival is a moveable feast, the date of which is tied to the religious calendar. Carnival activities take place from the Friday prior to Ash Wednesday and continue up to and including Ash Wednesday itself. In some cities, including Rio, the celebrations take over the entire week and often the following weekend. Most offices and businesses will close for the week of Carnival. Up coming dates for Carnival (Friday-Wednesday) are: 12-17 February 2010; 4-8 March 2011; 17-22 February 2012; and 8-13 February 2013.

Rio hosts the most famous and the largest of the world's carnival celebrations, but there are equally striking yet different carnival activities in Salvador and Recife &



Carnival in Rio

Olinda. In Rio the focus is on samba and the parade of the samba schools on the Sunday and Monday evenings of carnival. In Salvador the centre of attention is on the Trio Elétricos and the Axé and samba reggae bands that parade through the city, while in Recife and Olinda the back beat to carnival comes from frevo, maracatu and other traditional rhythms. Wherever you go in Brazil during the carnival period you won't be far from a party. At Steamond Journeys we can help make sure that you are very much part of the celebrations, be it that you want to watch or actively participate.

Another spectacular celebration is to see in the New Year on Copacabana Beach in Rio where you will be one of over 3 million people on the beach, the vast majority dressed in white. An unforgettable way to start any year.



Traditional festivities

The Brazilian calendar is packed with many, many diverse festivals and celebrations. In the Amazon, for example, the main event is the Boi-Bumbá, the largest of which takes place on the last weekend of June at Parintins, an island in the middle of the river. Recife, Fortaleza, and Natal all hold "out of season" carnivals, while traditional Festas Juninas take place across Brazil during June.

There is even a major Oktoberfest held in Blumenau, and a number of major rodeos, most notably in Barretos in the state of São Paulo, where 800,000 visitors gather each August to watch the world's most skilful cowboys. For lovers of literature, Brazil's Hay-on-Wye is the Festa Literária Internacional de Paraty (FLIP) that takes place in July close to Rio, while August is the month to visit Belém for the Amazon Opera Festival.

WORLD CUP 2014

Brazil is the world's most successful football playing nation having won the FIFA World Cup on five occasions, the last time in 2002 when the finals were held in Korea and Japan. Brazil's other moments of glory came in Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962, Mexico in 1970 and the US in 1994. Brazil is the only country to have played in every World Cup tournament.

Between June and July 2014 the 20th World Cup will be held in Brazil. It will be the first time that consecutive World Cups have been staged in the Southern Hemisphere (following the 2010 World Cup in



Maracanã

South Africa), and the first World Cup to be held in South America since Argentina in 1978. Brazil will become the fifth country to have hosted the cup twice.

Given the size of Brazil a total of 12 cities, rather than ten, have been selected to host the games in 2014. The cities that will now become household names include Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Cuiabá, Curitiba, Fortaleza, Manaus, Natal, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo. As in 1950, the final of the 2014 World Cup will be played at the Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

HOTEL PARTNERS

INTRODUCTION

As the photos illustrate, the type of accommodation available throughout Brazil is as diverse as the country itself. Through its hotel partners, Steamond Journeys prides itself on being able to offer accommodation to suit every taste and budget. Regardless of the level of accommodation you chose, we offer the most competitive rates in the market.

In Brazil you can stay at privately owned boutique properties, the pousadas, that may only have two or three rooms or 50 or more. They can be either very simple and rustic or super sophisticated. The choice is yours. You may prefer deluxe international brand properties or stylish all-inclusive resorts. There is also the option of budget chains and even youth hostels.

And there are hotels that are considered to be attractions in their own right. Hotels such as the Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro, the Pestana Convento do Carmo in Salvador and the Hotel das Cataratas in Foz do Iguaçu.

If brands are important to you, the international brands operating in Brazil include Golden Tulip, Grand Hyatt, Hilton, Holiday Inn, Iberostar, Ibis, Inter-Continental, Marriott, Mercure, Novotel, Orient-Express, Pestana, Porto Bay Radisson, Renaissance, Sheraton, Sofitel, Sol Meliá, Sonesta, Superclubs and Tryp, to name just a few. Leading Brazilian brands include Atlântica, Blue Tree, Fasano, Othon, Transamérica, Tropical and Windsor.



COPACABANA PALACE

Rio de Janeiro



PESTANA RIO ATLANTICA

Rio de Janeiro



PORTO BAY RIO INTERNATIONAL

Rio de Janeiro



POUSADA CASAS BRANCAS

Búzios



POUSADA DO OURO

Parati



PESTANA CONVENTO DO CARMO

Salvador



PESTANA BAHIA LODGE

Salvador



TIVOLI ECO RESORT

Praia do Forte



TXAI

Itacaré

HOTEL PARTNERS



VILA NAIA
Corumbau



HOTEL MARINAS
Praia da Pipa



ARMACAO DO PORTO
Porto de Galinhas



ECOPARK JUNGLE LODGE
Amazonas



PORTO PREGUICAS RESORT
Lençóis Maranhenses



POUSADA DO RIO MUTUM
Pantanal



HOTEL DAS CATARATAS
Foz do Iguaçu



MABU THERMAS
Foz do Iguaçu



COSTAO DO SANTINHO
Florianópolis



NAOUM PLAZA
Brasília



L'HOTEL
São Paulo



POUSADA MONDEGO
Ouro Preto

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

As well as organising the travel plans and needs of independent travellers to Brazil and Latin America, Steamond Journeys offers a selection of specially escorted interest tours. These are tours for small groups that are based around a certain theme or topic. They count on the participation of special guides as well as specialists and experts who will meet the group and help bring the subject matter to life. To follow are three short examples of Steamond Journeys' special interest tours and their diversity. There are many others, so if you have a particular interest, please let us know as we may have the perfect tour for you.



Carnival costumes from the Northeast

THE SOUL OF BRAZIL

The Soul of Brazil tour offers an introduction to Brazil, its people and its culture. The aim of this Brazilian highlights tour is to help you discover the "soul" of Brazil through its exotic and diverse fusion of ethnic backgrounds and of musical and cultural life. The tour lasts 15 days, 14 nights and covers Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Manaus, a cruise on the Amazon River, Brasília, and a visit to the falls at Foz de Iguaçu.

Throughout your stay in Brazil you will be accompanied by guides or meet with experts that will help you to discover and understand the real soul of Brazil. You will hear about the history of Brazil and its people, and see

part of that living history in the streets and sights of Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Manaus and Brasília.

In Salvador there will be an explanation of the African influences on Salvador, Bahia and the rest of Brazil that resulted from the slave trade. This includes the impact it has had on the ethnical diversity of the country, as well as the music, cuisine, and even the country's religion.

The visit to Manaus, including its iconic Opera House, and a three night Amazon cruise on the Iberostar Grand Amazon, will give an insight in to the growth of the "Paris of the Jungle", built on the back of the rubber boom between 1890 and 1920, and the immense biodiversity, still much of it undiscovered, of the Amazon.

The visit to Brasília will reveal the thought process that went into building a new capital in the heart of the country for a "new nation". You will get an overview of the political panorama of Brazil and visit the Senate and the Itamaraty Palace, the home of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations. Both buildings are important examples of the work by the great Brazilian architect, Oscar Niemeyer. Niemeyer, along with Lucio Costa and Burle Marx, was responsible for the giving Brasília its overall look and character.

The Soul of Brazil tour ends with a visit to the waterfalls of Foz de Iguaçu in the south of Brazil. Here the focus will be wildlife, sustainability of the national park and other related ecological issues. You will be getting closer to discovering and understanding the soul of Brazil.

SOUL OF BRAZIL *OUTLINE ITINERARY*

- | | |
|------------|---|
| DAY 1 | Depart UK - overnight flight to Rio de Janeiro. |
| DAYS 2-5 | Rio de Janeiro. 4* Accommodation. Guided sightseeing, historical talks, jeep safari, excursions to iconic landmarks. Traditional evening of Brazilian music, dancing with locals. Transfer to Salvador. |
| DAYS 5-8 | Salvador, Bahia. Talks on African heritage, art, culture. Guided visits to heritage areas including Baroque landmarks. |
| DAYS 8-11 | Flight to Manaus. Board "Iberostar Gran Amazon" for 3 night Amazon cruise. Explore wildlife with photo safari. Birdwatching and Alligator spotting. Escorted visit to Manaus Opera House. Flight to Brasília. |
| DAYS 12-13 | Brasília. Guided Tour of 'futuristic' city highlights, Itamaraty Palace, Senate Building etc. Flight to Iguaçu Falls. |
| DAYS 13-14 | Iguaçu Falls. Guided walks along the gorge to main falls. Explore wildlife of Iguaçu National Park. International overnight flight to London via Sao Paulo. |
| DAY 15 | Return flight arrives UK. |

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

ALTA FLORESTA

BIRDWATCHING IN THE AMAZON

This is a trip for birders of every level, but the setting, the award winning Cristalino Lodge in Alta Floresta, is considered by many ornithologists to be one of the most diverse destinations for birding in the Amazon region. Leading ornithologists and birders to visit Cristalino in the past include Ted Parker III, Mort and Phyllis Isler, Dr. Jürgen Haffer, Dr. Robert Ridgely, Guy Tudor, Dr. Kevin J. Zimmer and Bret Whitney.

Sitting to the south of the world's largest tropical rainforest, the area around the Cristalino Lodge, including its own private natural heritage reserve, presents a unique biological sanctuary that is one of the richest places in the Amazon for observing birds, mammals, butterflies and orchids in a primary forest environment.

The Alta Floresta region is considered to be one of the main centres for bird watching in the whole of the Amazon. First discovered in 1989, there is a bird list of over 570 species and new ones are found each year, perhaps even during your visit. Aracaris, toucans, parrots, macaws, and the Bare Throated Fruitcrow visit the



cecropia trees at the Cristalino Lodge on a daily basis. Close by a great variety of birds, including the Crimson-bellied Parakeet and the Black-girdled Barbet can be found.

Other species you can see on a visit to Cristalino include the Scarlet Macaw, Red-bellied Macaw, Golden-winged Parakeet, Painted Parakeet, Kaway's Parrot, Orange-cheeked Parrot, Chestnut-tailed Antbird, Point-tailed Palmcreeper, Solitary Sandpiper, Brazilian Teal, Streaked Xenop, White-fringed Antwren, Bare-eyed Antbird, Manu Antbird, Black-spotted Bare-eye, Rufous-capped Nunlet,



Birdlife, Alta Floresta

Rufous Casiornis, Cryptic Forest-Falcon, Large-headed Flatbill, Curve-billed Scythebill, Purple-throated Cotinga, White-browed Purpletuft, Brown-banded Puffbird, Gould's Toucanet, Tooth-billed Wre, Tataupa Tinamou, Spotted Puffbird, Ash-throated Crake, Amazonian Scrub-Flycatcher, Spotted Tody-Flycatcher, and Rusty-backed Spinetail, to name just a few.

The pristine Cristalino River lies just in front of the comfortable and well-equipped Cristalino Lodge. The lodge has a restaurant with bar serving regional dishes and for



special nights there is a thatch-roofed patio where candlelit dinners are served. A common living room is used for presentations and meetings and the lodge has a library and resident experts to help you identify and learn more about what you have seen during the day. Accommodation is in private bungalows, superior and standard rooms.

The Cristalino Lodge has its own 165 feet high (50 metres) Observation Tower from which to view the birds and other wildlife. The sight from the various levels of the tower is remarkable, especially at sunset and sunrise as the birds leave or return to their roosts. Many birds and mammals inhabit the canopy such as falcons, macaws, toucans, cotingas and monkeys. The lodge also keeps a rustic screened tree house that is used for spotting tapirs, peccaries and deer, and has 22-miles of its own trails that wind through the rainforest. The level of difficulty for the trails varies from easy to moderate and the average amount of time to walk each trail varies from one to four hours.

Guided lectures and field trips will take you along many of the lodge's trails and to excursions on the Cristalino River. There will also be a visit to the Cristalino Ecological Foundation on the Teles Pires River, a foundation supported in part by Kew Gardens.

Daily activities begin just before sunrise to increase the opportunity of spotting the many different species of birds as they take off from their roosts and fly out across the rainforest.

The tour is focused on the needs of each group, as while some may wish to have a broad and generic experience, others might want to focus on a specific bird group.

ALTA FLORESTA OUTLINE ITINERARY

DAY 1	Depart UK - overnight flight to Sao Paulo.
DAY 2	Connecting flight to Cuiaba - Alta Floresta. Accommodation "Floresta Amazonica".
DAYS 3-4	Private talk about preservation work and research. Explore 22 miles of woodland trails. Transfer to "Cristalino Lodge".
DAYS 4-8	Accommodation "Cristalino Lodge". Daily hike's and boat trips to explore and observe the great mix of species. Hike's before daybreak to watch sunrise from the 50 metre Canopy Tower. Afternoon and sunset walks to Teles Pires Island.
DAYS 8-9	Flight to Brasilia. 4* Accommodation. Guided Tour of 'futuristic' city highlights. International overnight flight to London via Sao Paulo.
DAY 10	Return flight arrives UK

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

BRAZILIAN COFFEE FARMS

Take a journey back through time to the 19th century and experience one of the most important cultural and economic cycles of Brazilian history, when the farmers, known as the "Barões" (Coffee Barons), ruled both politically and economically. In the process they became some of the wealthiest men in Brazil.

The destination of this tour is the Paraíba Valley – the Coffee Valley – located between Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. During the 19th century the region was the heart of Brazil's coffee production. Today the valley hosts, among other things, 18 magnificent historic Coffee Farms, the fazendas, some of which will be visited and stayed in during this ten day, nine night tour.



Coffee Beans

Some of the old fazendas, and you will visit a wide and varied selection, have been converted into charming pousadas, while others are maintained as residences or working coffee farms.

You will enjoy a stroll through the coffee fields, a guided tour of a slave museum, and have time to marvel at the architectural beauty of the coffee mansions that offer

a glimpse of this glorious and elegant period in Brazilian history. The current owners of the farms and plantations will meet with you to explain the history of the region and of the importance of coffee to the Brazilian economy.



Brazilian coffee plantation

A visit to the historic coffee farms located in the Paraíba Valley can easily be combined with a visit to Rio de Janeiro and the existing tour already includes two or three nights in the city.



Coffee plant

COFFEE FARMS *OUTLINE ITINERARY*

- DAY 1 Depart UK - daytime flight to Rio de Janeiro
- DAYS 1-4 Rio de Janeiro. 4* Accommodation. Guided sightseeing, historical talks, optional excursions to iconic landmarks.
- DAYS 5-8 Rio Paraíba Valley Region. Accommodation in Barra do Pirai. Daily guided visits to different local coffee farms, traditional 19th century landmarks and cultural centres. Specialist talks and narratives by experts and farm owners. Traditional meals at farms and in local speciality restaurants. Daily visits to various locations such as: Fazenda Santa Maria, Fazenda Taquara, Fazenda Cachoeira Grande, Conservatoria etc.
- DAY 9 Day at leisure. International overnight flight to London.
- DAY 10 Return flight arrives UK

AIRLINE PARTNERS

Steamond Journeys has been sending passengers to Brazil by air since 1973, so it is not surprising that we are a preferred partner with the main carriers that fly not only to-and-from Latin America, but also within the region. We offer a wide selection of the leading international airlines to Brazil and Latin America, and at the most competitive price on offer across all classes of travel.



BRITISH AIRWAYS

FIRST delivers the most important things in a seamless, exemplary and quintessentially British manner. Exceptional comfort and refined surroundings combined with an individual yet discrete style and finest quality of service to create a flying experience that is unmistakably First. Enjoy the fine dining experience in the First lounge giving you maximum sleep time on-board. Your suite on-board is your sanctuary in the sky, a discreetly serviced and smartly equipped haven of calm where your wellbeing is catered for. Personal crew will show you to your suite and are instantly available to attend to your every comfort and provide you with a restful retreat throughout your journey. Choose from a renowned à la carte menu and your meal will be prepared to order. In-flight entertainment features the best "new release" movies available and an impressive movie library.

Choosing CLUB WORLD means travelling in comfort and freedom. Dedicated Departure Lounges and Elemis Travel Spa are designed to give you choice before your flight, whether you wish to relax, dine or be pampered. The new Club World seats give you your own space and time to do what you want, when you want. Bigger, wider and more comfortable than ever, you can guarantee complete comfort in any position. The very best in local and international cuisine is served, along with a dedicated wine cellar.

But if you are still peckish you are free to help yourself to healthy snacks and tasty treats from the new Club World kitchen.

For an affordable premium, WORLD TRAVELLER PLUS offers the luxury of 20% more personal space than World Traveller with an additional seven inches legroom and a wider seat. Make yourself comfortable in your armchair style seat that comes with adjustable head, foot and legrest and therefore arrive in good shape at your destination. Relax and take advantage of the quieter, stress-free surroundings of the smaller and more private cabin with a maximum of six rows. Enjoy an upgraded dining experience and other additional amenities that are designed with your comfort and wellbeing in mind.

When you fly WORLD TRAVELLER, you can relax in the knowledge that everything will be taken care of, allowing you to simply sit back and enjoy what's on offer. Everything has been designed with your comfort in mind. Your ergonomically designed seat comes with lumbar support, headrest and recline. The friendly and professional crew are always on hand, providing a complimentary bar service throughout your flight as well as tasty meals.



LAN

LAN Airlines is one of the leading passenger and cargo airlines in Latin America. The company and its affiliates serve over 65 destinations around the world through an extensive network that offers full connectivity within Latin America, while also linking the region with North America, Europe and the South Pacific, as well as 63 additional international destinations through its various alliances. LAN Airlines and its affiliates have a leading position in their respective domestic markets of Chile and Peru, an important presence in the Argentinean domestic market and domestic operations in Ecuador. Currently, LAN Airlines and its affiliates operate one of the most modern fleets in the world, with 84 passenger aircraft.

LAN's Premium Business is equipped with full-flat sleeper-style seats that recline 180°, for comfortable sleeping in a fully horizontal position. Seat panels provide increased privacy and comfort that allow passengers to enjoy a sense of personal space.

Additionally, completely refurbished Economy class provides increased reclining seats and larger individual high resolution and wide-screen video monitors with on-demand entertainment featuring 44 movies, 95 TV programs, 550 music CDs and 14 video games – all on demand.

AIRLINE PARTNERS



AIR FRANCE-KLM

Founded in 2004 by the merger of Air France and KLM, Air France-KLM flies from 15 airports in the United Kingdom to over 240 destinations in 102 countries. The airline offers you a wide choice of timings and class of travel on many of these worldwide routes. Air France offers three classes of cabins on its long-haul services, Tempo (Economy), L'Espace Affaires (Business) and La Premiere (First), while KLM offers two classes of cabin on its long-haul services, Economy and World Business.

Air France-KLM's main international hubs are Charles de Gaulle near Paris and Schiphol, close to Amsterdam. From Charles de Gaulle Air France offers 14 flights a week to São Paulo and another 14 flights a week to Rio de Janeiro. From Schiphol, KLM offers a daily service to São Paulo. With a daily choice of take off times, Air France-KLM services offer the most convenient connections in Brazil with domestic Brazilian services to all parts of the country.

In South America, Air France also flies to Buenos Aires (Argentina), Santiago (Chile), Bogota (Colombia), and Caracas (Venezuela). KLM has services to Quito and Guayaquil (Ecuador), and Lima (Peru). The partnership, which is part of the Sky Team alliance, is the largest international airline in the world in terms of international passenger-kilometres flown.

Air France-KLM customers in the UK, can check in online (with or without baggage,) allowing you to choose your seat and print your boarding pass prior to arriving at the airport.

IBERIA

Since its foundation in 1927, more than 750 million passengers have flown with Iberia, situating this company among the five largest European airlines. Iberia today is the Latin American market leader, with the largest number of destinations and non-stop flights. Every week Iberia has 250 flights to 17 destinations, most of them are non-stop. The airline flies to another 37 Latin American cities under code – sharing with other airlines.

The longhaul Economy cabin boasts complimentary catering with a choice of meal, complimentary full bar with meal service and throughout the flight a free bar and snack service is also available. You will be entertained with the best Spanish and international cinema and using the controls on their seat, and music lovers can choose what to listen to from hundreds of tracks and a wide variety of genres. Free personal headphones, newspapers, in-flight socks, pillows and blankets are also provided.

Iberia BUSINESS PLUS means the best in service and quality, where passengers will discover a new way of travelling based on greater well-being, comfort and privacy; with exclusive check-in, VIP lounges, priority boarding and disembarkation, delicious food and wine and the highest level of comfort and onboard entertainment. The Business Class cabin has a cosy atmosphere, greater personal room for each passenger and in order to rest on the flight, we provide comfort accessories, blankets, large pillows and wash bags. Our on-board menus boast quality and innovation based on our Mediterranean diet, a combination of tradition and the latest trends.



CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

With non-stop flights from seven UK airports to New York and onto over 200 destinations across North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, award-winning Continental Airlines offers a great scheduled start to your holiday with a safe, friendly and reliable service. Continental Airlines offers non-stop flights to New York / Newark Liberty International Airport from London Heathrow, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester.

Continental believes that every customer deserves a comfortable and relaxing trip. Our award-winning service provides you a pleasant flight whether travelling for business or pleasure. ECONOMY CLASS includes an average 32 inch seat pitch, complimentary meals and soft drinks and Audio-Video on Demand multi-channel personal entertainment system.

BUSINESSFIRST® includes a fully electronic, extra-wide sleeper seat with a 170° recline and an electronic lumbar support, providing each passenger with a spacious 2 meters of sleeping space, laptop computer outlets and satellite telephones at every seat. A five-course dining service offers a gourmet menu selection accompanied by fine wines and champagne. An Executive Meal Option is available for those wishing to dine at a time of their choice. It also includes exclusive check-in, lounge access, the services of Continental's concierge at both ends of the journey, and a chauffeur-drive service* to and from the airport. Continental Airlines' 777 and 757-200 aircraft now feature a new Audio/Video on Demand (AVOD) entertainment system in both BusinessFirst® and Economy cabins. *Eligible fares only. Terms and conditions apply.

AIRLINE PARTNERS



TAP PORTUGAL

TAP Portugal celebrated its 60th anniversary on 14 March 2005: the date on which it also became a full member of the Star Alliance. As a leading European airline TAP's hub is at Lisbon, a key European gateway serving over 35 destinations throughout Europe and crossroads for Africa, North & South America. Furthermore, TAP facilities at Lisbon Airport have recently been enhanced with a brand new Premium Lounge in Terminal 1, offering the very latest business centre and relaxation facilities. TAP currently operates over 1,850 weekly flights utilising a modern fleet of 52 Airbus aircraft, in addition to 16 more aircraft operating as PGA, the European regional carrier acquired by TAP in 2007.

TAP Portugal first flew between Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro in 1955. Today they fly more people between Europe and Brazil than any other European carrier. TAP also fly from Europe to more cities in Brazil than any other international carrier.

TAP offers 67 weekly flights to eight destinations in Brazil - Rio and Sao Paulo in the Southeast, Salvador, Recife, Fortaleza and Natal in the Northeast, plus Brasilia and Belo Horizonte. Each transatlantic flight is served with wide bodied Airbus A330/A340 aircraft offering TAP Executive and TAP Economy class air travel. TAP offers a large variety of cultural, musical and light entertainment channels - including games and cartoons for youngsters to compliment the respected in-flight meal service and hospitality offered by the airlines flight attendants.

TAM AIRLINES

TAM Airlines was established back in 1976 with a commitment to offer a high-quality service at a competitive price. Thirty years on from its launch, TAM has become one of the world's most successful airlines, the largest in Brazil and the Southern Hemisphere.

TAM Airlines flies daily from Terminal 4 at London Heathrow Airport to São Paulo's international airport from where the airline offers connections to another 79 locations in Brazil and onward services in South America to Buenos Aires and Bariloche (Argentina), Cochabamba and Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), Santiago (Chile), Asunción and Ciudad del Este (Paraguay), Montevideo (Uruguay), Lima (Peru) and Caracas (Venezuela). No airline knows Brazil and South America better than TAM. TAM also has a codeshare agreement with bmi for passengers flying to Heathrow to connect with the flight from other locations in the UK and Ireland, including Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester.

On the London-São Paulo route TAM uses the very latest Boeing 777 300ER that seats 362 passengers in three classes. The Boeing 777 offers not only more space for the comfort of the passengers, but it is also more environmentally friendly, with excellent energy efficiency and reduced air and sound pollution. With TAM Airlines your visit to Brazil will begin just as soon as you step on the TAM red carpet at Heathrow Airport, and only end when TAM returns you safely and comfortably back to Heathrow after a memorable trip to Brazil or South America.



TRAVELLING WITHIN BRAZIL

Taking into account that the flight from Foz do Iguaçu in the south to Manaus in the north is the equivalent of flying from London to New York, the only suitable method of travelling around Brazil is by plane.

Brazil has an excellent domestic airline network that links all parts of the country through modern, functional airports. Once we know where you want to visit in Brazil or South America, we can offer you a number of flight options and the best routing around the country.

TAM Airlines is our main domestic partner in Brazil and it offers nearly 80 separate destinations within Brazil. It is possible to purchase flights individually or, if you are doing a lot of travelling, buy a specially priced TAM Brazil Airpass that can consist of up to nine coupons, each coupon being valid for one domestic flight in Brazil in economy class. The airline also offers the TAM South American Airpass that enables you to fly within South America and covers cities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. This Airpass enables you to purchase up to eight coupons for travel between five countries.



If you have the time, and are on a tight budget, you can travel around Brazil by bus. Brazil has an excellent long distance bus service and over one million miles of roads, so journeys are often in days rather than in hours. The railways, on the other hand, have just 17,500 miles of track and are not a viable travel option. There are, however, a number of excellent scenic and tourist rail routes and a number in development.



SOUTH AMERICA

Given the size of Brazil our advice at Steamond Journeys would always be to concentrate fully on Brazil if you are making your first visit to this diverse destination. We would give the same advice if you were visiting Argentina, Chile, Peru or any other country in Latin America. However we do appreciate that you may want to make a two or three-centre holiday if you are visiting the region.

Since Steamond Journeys started taking clients to South America back in 1973, a popular circuit has been Buenos Aires, Foz do Iguazu and Rio de Janeiro. It continues to be a very popular South American route to this very day.

From our experience the countries most popular to link with a visit to Brazil are Argentina, Chile or Peru.

Argentina and Chile are not only responsible for some of the world's best wines, but they share one of the most exciting destinations on the continent, a mix of glaciers, Andean peaks, lakes, stunning scenery, sheep-strewn



Torres del Paine, Patagonia, Chile

plains and windswept fishing villages that go to make up Patagonia. Your journey to Patagonia can take you all the way to the southern tip of the continent and the Strait of Magellan and Tierra del Fuego, Cape Horn, Ushuaia and Punta Arenas. Ports from where you can go on to visit Antarctica.

CHILE

Squeezed between the Pacific and the Andes, Chile is a geographically diverse land where a visit to chilling Patagonia and the Torres del Paine National Park, can be balanced with a journey to the blistering heat and remarkable lunar landscape of the Atacama Desert, the world's driest.

One of the most developed nations in South America, the Chilean capital Santiago is a popular destination. From Santiago it is possible to go sunbathing at the beach and ski in the mountains on the very same day. Close by are some of Chile's famous vineyards.

Another option from Santiago is to fly 2,500 miles (4,000 km) to the west, to the middle of the Pacific and a small remnant of volcanic rock. Better known as Easter Island, the island was once considered the most isolated place to live on earth, but now receives an increasing number of visitors.

ARGENTINA

Argentina is the second-largest country in South America. Famous for its meats, wines and tango, Argentina has seen a steep rise in visitors from the UK in recent years. They come to enjoy the elegant and cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires, and to visit the Pampas and spend time on



Machu Picchu, Peru

the Estancias (country homes). They come to learn and dance the tango or to play and watch polo. They come to visit Patagonia and the world's southernmost town, Ushuaia, where the End of the World museum is located. And they come to see the Iguazú Falls on the border with Brazil.

PERU

Despite no direct flight from the UK, Peru is also seeing an increase in the number of visitors from Britain. They come to explore a country that is packed with an astonishing number of archaeological wonders. They come to marvel at the mountain top citadel, Machu Picchu, and to walk the Inca Trail.

Lima, once considered the capital of the New World by the Spanish, and Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire, are also popular places to visit and use as a base from which to explore Peru.

The Peruvian Amazon, which covers three-fifths of the country, is also growing in popularity with travellers looking for an Amazon experience. Peru also shares Lake Titicaca with Bolivia. The world's highest navigable lake, it is considered to have been the birthplace of the Incas.

As you can see there is a wealth of opportunities for visitors to South America to consider. Come and speak to us at Steamond Journeys and we will be happy to talk you through the many varied options.

BRAZIL GUIDE

AREA

With an area of 3.3 million square miles (8.5 million square km) and a coastline of 4,500 miles (7,250 km), Brazil is the world's fifth largest country. It is larger than Europe or the continental USA.

BUSES

Despite the distances involved, it is possible to travel from Brazil to another country by bus. The journey to Buenos Aires from Rio de Janeiro, for example, takes 44 hours and covers 1,800 miles (2,900 km). Domestically there is an extensive internal bus service linking all the main Brazilian cities. While this is an inexpensive way to view the country, distances can be considerable.

CAR RENTAL

Most of the big international car rental companies operate in the major cities alongside local companies. All that is required for you to drive in Brazil is a full valid British or European driving licence.



CLIMATE

90% of Brazil is within the tropics. Rio, Recife, Natal, Fortaleza and Salvador on the coast have the warmest climate that is balanced by the Trade Winds. Rio, for example, has an average temperature of around 26°C (80°F) that climbs into the high 30s-low 40s (over 100°F) during the summer months. Plateau cities such as São Paulo, Brasília and Belo Horizonte have milder climates averaging 19°C (66°F).

In southern Brazil the climate is similar to parts of Europe, with frosts occurring in the winter months (July-August). Summers are hot. In Brazil the seasons are the reverse of those in the UK so summer runs from 22 December to 21 March.

CRUISE SHIPS

Brazil is one of the main areas of the world for cruising and Rio is a prime port of call. Other popular ports include Manaus, Belém, Fortaleza, Recife, Salvador and Vitória.

CUSTOMS & IMMIGRATION

At the airport visitors will have their passport and visa (if required) checked. Brazilian airports have separate lines on arrival for Brazilian passport holders and foreign visitors.

DIVING

The Brazilian coast has many exceptional dive sites. Locations rated among the best include the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha; the coast of Pernambuco; and the marine park of Abrolhos off the southern coast of Bahia.

DRESS

Brazilians dress casually outside of the office. None of the top restaurants insist on collar and tie, although the occasional private business club may. Collar and tie still predominate in formal office and business surroundings in São Paulo, Rio and Brasília.

DRINK

The legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages in Brazil is 18. Brazil produces or imports most of the major international brands. Beer is a light lager that is served in draught form or bottled. The national drink is cachaça, made from crushed sugar cane, which is the basis of a caipirinha. Brazil is the world's largest coffee producer.

DUTY FREE

Brazil's international airports offer duty free goods on arrival and visitors are allowed to purchase up to US\$500 worth of duty free products, including drink and tobacco.

EATING OUT

Brazil offers a huge diversity of culinary styles and influences including a wide regional variety, most notably those of Bahia and Minas Gerais. There is a clear influence in the cuisine of Brazil of its earliest discoverers, the Portuguese along with the French, Spanish and Dutch.

West African influences are also prevalent, especially in the cuisine of the Northeast. More recent immigrants have also had a say on how Brazil eats, especially those from Italy, Germany and Japan.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

In Rio and São Paulo, the current is 127 volts (60 cycles) but many of the larger hotels offer 220 volts. If there is any doubt, check



with the hotel. Not all of Brazil is 127 volts, for example Recife and Brasília are 220 volts.

GUIDE BOOKS

Most of the major guidebook series publish titles that cover Brazil. Many also produce a separate guide for Rio.

HEALTH & INSURANCE

Brazil has a very good network of private hospitals in the major metropolitan areas. Private medical care is expensive so we advise you to take out medical and travel insurance.

LANGUAGE

Portuguese is the language of Brazil. Spanish and English are the most widely understood foreign languages.

MEDIA

There are no locally published English language newspapers in Brazil, but foreign

BRAZIL GUIDE

newspapers and magazines are not difficult to find in Rio and São Paulo. Hotels have satellite or cable television offering original language programming from the US and Europe, including the main news channels.

MONEY BANKS & CREDIT CARDS

The Brazilian monetary unit is the real, (plural, reais). There are 100 centavos (C) to the real (R\$). The official exchange rate is published daily in the newspapers.

The US dollar and Euro are the most widely accepted foreign currencies but in the main cities there is little problem in changing pounds. There is an extensive network of ATMs at which you can use your cash or credit cards to withdraw reais. Most major international credit cards are accepted in Brazil, especially MasterCard and Visa.

POPULATION

Brazil has a population of approximately 190 million, making it the world's fifth most populous nation. There are 15 cities in Brazil with a population of over one million, of which São Paulo is the largest and Rio is second.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

As well as the public holidays listed, individual states and cities also have their own separate holidays. National Holidays include: 1 January



(New Year's Day); February/March (Carnival); Good Friday; 21 April (Tiradentes); 1 May (Labour Day); Corpus Christi; 7 September (Independence Day); 12 October (Our Lady of Aparecida); 2 November (All Souls Day); 15 November (Proclamation of the Republic); 25 December (Christmas Day).

RAILWAYS

Brazil has only 17,500 miles of railways compared to over one million miles of roads. The passenger rail network in Brazil is very limited and not a viable option for travelling around the country. There are, however, a number of special scenic routes.

TAXIS

Taxis in Brazil are cheap compared to the UK and easy to find in all the major cities.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

Brazil has a well-developed telephone network and it is possible to direct dial to

anywhere in Brazil or internationally. The country has one of the largest mobile phone networks and your British mobile phone should work if it is tri or quad band. Check with your mobile company prior to travelling.

TIME

The time in the areas of Brazil most popular with visitors is generally three hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. This is true of Rio, São Paulo, Brasília, Bahia, Minas Gerais, etc. Brazilian "summer time" runs from October until mid-February. During this period, clocks in Brazil go forward one hour in most of the southeast.

VACCINATIONS

An international certificate of vaccination against polio is compulsory for children aged between three months and six years. An international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is compulsory for travellers who, within the three months prior to their arrival in Brazil, have visited or been in transit through certain infected countries.



Additionally, vaccination against yellow fever is recommended for travellers when visiting the states of Acre, Amazonas, Amapá, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins. If there is any doubt about your need for a vaccination we will contact the Brazilian Consulate to check for the latest recommendations.

VISAS

UK and EU passport holders do not require a visa to enter Brazil. Passports must be valid for at least six months and a return ticket and proof of sufficient funds may be requested on arrival. You will be admitted in to Brazil for a stay of up to 90 days that can be extended, at the discretion of the Federal Police, for a further 90 days. If you are not travelling on a European passport, please check with us if you will need a visa. For example, Australian, Canadian and US passport holders do. You can check the very latest visa information on the Brazilian consulate website (www.consbraslondres.com).

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

For a copy of our full booking terms and conditions, please contact Steamond Journeys by phone, letter, email or in person. Please read the terms and conditions that apply to all bookings.

ATOL, to which Steamond Journeys is fully subscribed, is a protection scheme for air holidays and flights managed by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority). If an ATOL tour operator fails, the scheme ensures customers contracted with the ATOL holder do not lose the money paid over or are not stranded abroad.

If you've booked and contracted with Steamond Journeys for a complete air holiday package or just a flight, ATOL protects you. Our ATOL licence number is 74159.

Steamond Journeys is also a member of ABTA, our licence number is C0378. ABTA members are obliged to maintain the highest standard of service and conform to ABTA's Code of Conduct.

Membership to LATA (Latin American Travel Association) brings further peace of mind to clients booking with Steamond Journeys.





23 Eccleston Street, London, SW1W 9LX, United Kingdom
T: 020 7730 9639 E: info@steamondjourneys.com W: www.steamondjourneys.com



BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE



Accredited Agent

