

The Best of South America & The Amazon

Visit Amazon Region, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, and Buenos Aires

January 21-February 2, 2015 \$5999.00 per person from Peoria, IL For reservations call: Norma Joseph: (309) 677-4747



EXCLUSIVE TOUR FEATURES:

- Motor coach transportation from Peoria to O'Hare International Airport
- Air transportation from Chicago to Manaus and return from Buenos Aires on American Airlines regularly scheduled flights.
- 12 nights of First Class hotel accommodations as follows:
 - o 1 night Manaus, Brazil
 - o 3 nights Amazon Region, Brazil
 - o 3 nights Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
 - o 2 nights Iguassu Falls, Brazil
 - o 2 nights Buenos Aires Argentina
- Internal flights within Brazil and Argentina.
- Full breakfast daily.
- Six dinners
- Three lunches
- 3 days of activities at the Amazon Eco Park Lodge
- Half day city tour of Sugar Loaf in Rio De Janeiro
- Half day tour of Corcovado in Rio De Janeiro
- Tour of the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls and Itaipu Dam
- Tour of the Argentinean Falls
- Half day city tour of Buenos Aires
- Full day Gaucho Fiesta with Lunch and show in Argentina
- All round trip transfers and luggage handling of one suitcase per person
- Current airlines fuel surcharges and taxes subject to change.

Not included: Visa fee and service fee for Brazil of \$250.00 per person and Argentina entrance fee of \$140.00 per person.

JANUARY 21 - PEORIA/ CHICAGO/MIAMI/MANAUS

Depart Chicago to Miami on American Airlines where you continue by a connecting flight to Manaus, Brazil. Upon arrival in Manaus, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for overnight. Manaus is the capital of Amazonas State and the hub of the whole Amazon Region. *Manaus* lies on the Negro River, 4 miles from the point where the Negro meets the Solimoes River to form the Brazilian Amazon River.

January 22 - Manaus

Enjoy the morning at leisure. Mid-day you are transferred to the pier to board your boat to the **Amazon Ecopark Lodge**. Continue to the lodge where you will be welcomed with local juices. **(D)**

The Amazon Ecopark Lodge is located in Rio Tarumã - a tributary of Rio Negro , 30 minutes by boat from the Tropical Hotel pier, in the middle of the Amazon Forest. Over 6 miles of jungle trails enable the client to explore the jungle, orchids and giant trees. Amazon Ecopark Lodge offers 60 apartments in 20 bungalows (3 each), made of wood. The apartments entrances, porches and bathrooms are completely independent. All are air conditioned, with hot shower and screened windows. After dinner, tour by canoe for some caiman spotting.

January 23 - Manaus

Learn about the Amazon's diverse flora and fauna on a nature trek before arriving at the Botanical Garden, housing 1,000 plants of 87 different species. Experience lunch at a traditional restaurant and visit the home of the local Amazonian residents (caboclos). Spend some free time exploring the jungle nature trails or swim at your private beach. **(B,L,D)**

JANUARY 24 - MANAUS

Today enjoy a full day excursion to the **"meeting of the waters"**, where the yellow-grey Rio Solimoes meets the chocolate colored Rio Negro, forming the mighty Amazon. Feast on traditional local dishes and luscious exotic fresh fruits on your final evening in the jungle. **(B,L,D)**

JANUARY 25 - MANAUS/RIO DE JANEIRO

After breakfast and a visit to the monkey jungle, transfer back to Manaus to take a flight to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival, transfer from the airport to the hotel with English speaking driver guide.

Rio de Janeiro is a city of extraordinary natural beauty, set between the mountains and the sea. Here, is the birthplace of the samba and the bossa nova, you'll find life and the arts responding to a slower, more romantic rhythm than the one to which you're accustomed. **(B)**

JANUARY 26 - RIO DE JANEIRO (Tour of Sugar Loaf Mountain)

Today, you do a Panoramic tour of downtown Rio, stopping at the Metropolitan Cathedral which was built in a pyramidal form with an internal diameter of 300 feet and a height of 250 feet. Familiarize yourself with traditional Cinelândia Square with its historical buildings, the Municipal Theater, the National Library, and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Via the Aterro do Flamengo, you will be taken to the neighborhood of Urca where one of the largest symbols of the city is located: Sugar Loaf. Travel all the way to the top in two steps by cable car. The first cable car takes you to Urca Hill, a vantage point 650 feet high where you already see beautiful views of Guanabara Bay and its islands, the Rio-Niterói Bridge and Corcovado Mountain. From this stage, a second cable car takes you up to the top. At 1200 feet you'll enjoy splendid views of Copacabana beach, the Santa Cruz fortress and several beaches of Niterói.

Tonight, enjoy a Barbecue Dinner at a Churrascaria and visit to the Samba Show. You will start with a wonderful dinner in a barbecue restaurant and then proceeding to a nightclub for a Carnival Show. (B&D)

JANUARY 27 - RIO DE JANEIRO (Tour of Corcovado)

This morning you'll pass the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas on your way to reach the Cosme Velho Train cog station, which sits at the bottom of Corcovado Mountain. Here, you take the ride up to the top, through the dense Tijuca rain forest to the 125ft tall Christ Redeemer Statue. From a panoramic view at the top, the guide will show you the spectacular sights of Rio and the surrounding countryside. **(B)**

JANUARY 28 - RIO DE JANEIRO/IGUASSU FALLS

Leave Rio de Janeiro and take your flight to **Iguassu Falls**. Upon arrival in Iguassu Falls you are transferred towards the Brazilian Falls. **Iguassu** is one of the biggest wonders of nature in South America: located amidst a sub-tropical forest in the triangle of Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, a gigantic row of waterfalls goes down into the river Iguassu. This **afternoon**, tour the Brazilian Falls and Itaipu Dam. Go through the road that leads to the falls, crossing the National Park as far as the Brazilian Falls. Walk along the paths following cascades and then walk along the catwalk that leads very close to the bottom of the Devil's Throat. You will be impressed by the panoramic views of the falls, like the Two Sisters, Bozzeti, and San Martin Island, where the movie "The Mission" was filmed. You then visit Brazil's largest power plant. The impressive civil engineering work was built by Brazilian and Paraguayans across the Paraná. The tour starts at the Visitors' Center and continue to the most interesting parts of the spillway, dam and power house. **(B&D)**

JANUARY 29 - IGUASSÚ FALLS

Today visit the **Argentinean side of the falls.** Once in Argentina, the tour takes a scenic highway up the Argentinean Iguassu National Park. Stopping at the Visitors' Center and proceeding from there to the Superior Circuit, the up-river cascades, the Inferior Circuit, the down-river falls, and then take the Ecological Jungle Train that leads visitors to and from the most impressive observation point of the falls – The Devil's Throat . **(B&D)**

JANUARY 30 - IGUASSÚ FALLS/BUENOS AIRES

Transfer to Puerto Iguazu airport to board your flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, you are welcomed by your local guide. **Buenos Aires** is not only the capital of Argentina; it is also one of the 10 most important metropolises in the world and the center of the political, economic and intellectual life of the country. It is also the most elegant and busy city in South America. This cosmopolitan city, with a great European cultural influence, displays a refined taste in its cooking, in its "boutiques" and in the elegance of its inhabitants.

Get in touch with the birth city of the Tango on your city tour. Drive close to **Colon Theatre**, one of the world's best known opera houses and the cultural pride of the "porteños" (as the inhabitants of Buenos Aires are called). Visit the famous Avenida de Mayo that runs into the Plaza De Mayo, surrounded by the Casa Rosada (Government House), and the Cabildo (first City Hall, built during Spanish rule). Visit the **Metropolitan Cathedral**, this imposing Neo-classical building is Argentina's main Catholic Cathedral. The mausoleum of General San Martin (National Hero) is located inside the Cathedral, and Pope Francis used to celebrate religious services in this Cathedral when he was Cardinal of Buenos Aire. The next stop is La Boca, a most colorful area with the famous Caminito Street. Driving along 9 de Julio Avenue, the widest avenue of the world, you see the Colon Theatre, a famous opera house that stages the most important artists and musicians from all over the world. At the end of the tour you visit the **Recoleta** area, one of the city's most glamorous spots. At the cemetery of Recoleta you will find the grave of Eva Duarte, known in the whole world as Eva Perón (Evita). The cemetery is the center of this aristocratic neighbourhood, and the more relevant personalities of Argentina's history rest in this place. The cemetery is considered to be one of the most impressive monuments of Argentina. Enjoy a delicious dinner at a local BBQ traditional assado restaurant. After dinner return to the hotel. (B&D) **Optional : Tango show**.

JANUARY 31 - BUENOS AIRES (Full Day Estancia Santa Susana)

By the end of the last century, Mr. Francisco Kelly, of Irish ancestry, named these lands "Santa Susana", to pay homage to his wife, Susana Caffrey. The estancia is located in the district of Campana, close to "Los Cardales" town, in the province of Buenos Aires. It covers an area of 3000 acres; mostly dedicated to agriculture and for the last ten years it has been a tourist resort. Guests will be welcomed and enjoy typical "criollas" meals **(lunch with drinks included)** followed by a show of folk dances, as well as modern melodies. The most distinctive feature will be the guided visit to the Spanish-colonial style "casco", which holds an authentic museum of that period. Sulky and horse rides will show you the charm of Argentine countryside, its scenarios, its cultivated lands and the incomparable wild aroma. The day will end with some typical activities of an estancia: regional games as the "carrera de sortijas. **(B&L)**

February 1- Buenos Aires Departure

Morning at leisure in Buenos Aires. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Miami. **(B)**

Feburary 2- Miami/Chicago/Peoria

Morning arrival at Miami Airport where you clear Customs and continue by a connecting flight to Chicago arriving the same afternoon.

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TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Reservations are accepted by check only.

ARRANGEMENTS: The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 4/11/2014. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members in writing no later than 30 days prior to departure.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE: You will have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect not to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below.

CANCELLATION: WRITTEN NOTIFICATION is required for all cancellations. A \$100.00 per person administration fee will apply if notification is received prior to 120 days before departure date. A \$600.00 per person fee will be applied for cancellations received101-119 days before departure. Cancellations made within 100 days of departure will be at a 100% penalty.

AIRLINE MILEAGE PROGRAM: Eskin Tours' programs are based on negotiated group air fares with various airlines. Some of the airlines may not offer mileage credit when traveling on a group fare.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL: One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a total measurement of 45 inches. All special requests that we receive for particular seating arrangement (must be noted on your reservation form as you sign up for the tour) are forwarded to the airline involved. However, we regret in this time of mass travel and computerized seating reservations; we cannot guarantee or be responsible in the event that your request is not honored by the airline. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, there will be a service charge of \$100.00 per person, plus the additional cost of the change in air fare.

RESPONSIBILITY: Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, WTVP, and/or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours, WTVP nor any representative of Eskin Tours or WTVP shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours and WTVP control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Eskin Tours International, Inc. 425 Huehl Road, Unit 16A Northbrook, IL 60062-2323 (847) 291-1510 (800-315-9179) E-mail: <u>eskintours@gmail.com</u>

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\$600.00 per person deposit is required for reservation. Make checks payable to WTVP and mail to: WTVP 47, P.O. Box 1347, Peoria, IL 61654-1347

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ALL PASSENGERS MUST HAVE A PASSPORT VALID UNTIL JULY 22, 2015 WITH 4 BLANK VISA PAGES