

**The jungle: Hidden treasure
Ibera Marshes & Puerto Iguazu- Argentina**

Stretching over 13,000 km², Esteros del Iberá comprise the largest freshwater reservoir of Argentina. The wetlands are home to over 4 thousand plant and animal species, representing 30% of the total biodiversity of Argentina. Richly diverse, the Iberá region is a haven for national and international endangered species, such as the Azara caiman (*Liolaemus azarai*), the broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), the yacare caiman (*Caiman yacaré*), the saffron-cowled blackbird (*Xanthopsar flavus*), the marshland deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), the maned wolf or Aguará Guazú (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) and, in their habitat, the pampas deer (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*), to name a few.

Continuous study over the years has led to the identification of some 85 mammal species, 35 reptile species, and approximately 45 amphibian species. There are some 360 bird species, 90% of which are native species. It goes without saying that almost all these species have aquatic habits to a larger or lesser extent. Aquatic vegetation is plentiful and covers extensive areas. The water hyacinth (*Eichhornia* spp) is the most widespread and generally forms the basis for floating soil formations called embalsados, jointly with the water poppy (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*), the fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), totora (*Scirpus californicus*) and Achiras or Pehuajos (*Thalia* spp).

In the swamplands and lowlands, there are grasslands of Jesuit grass (*Axonopus jesuiticus*) and Pastito de Agua grass varieties (*Luziola* and *Leersia*). Dirt and seeds carried by the wind settle on the floating soil formations, which develop thick bases on which some land species of shrubs and trees may grow, most notably, the ceibo, curupí, river laurel, sarandí and sangre de drago, to name a few.

The ñangapirí or pitanga, lapacho, laurel, ombú, willow, timbó and urunday are the most significant species in the peripheral forests, as well as the caranday, pindó, yatay and yatay ponhí palm groves. Hydrophytic forests are the realm of the arary (*Calophyllum brasiliense*), twisted fig tree (*Ficus luschnathiana*), yerba caona (*Citronella gongonha*), laurel (*Ocotea lancifolia*) and ambay (*Cecropia pachystachya*). In the south, vegetation is represented by tall grass patches and savanna stretches, with thick clusters of carob trees (*Prosopis nigra*), ñandubay (*Prosopis affinis*) and espinillo (*Acacia caven*).

The climate and what to pack in the suitcase

The humidity of the area retains the heat and produces a tropical climate. During the winter, minimum temperatures can be about 5° C. The summer is humid and warm; its temperature can exceed 45° C. There are strong precipitations during the springtime and autumn; therefore we recommend you carrying waterproof clothing and rubber boots.

For the summer months you should bring light clothing, repellent, sunscreen and also long trousers to avoid insects' bites.

Required Flights.

Air tickets not included

BUE – PSS AR1750 07:20 / 08:55

Day 1 **Transfer Airport – Puerto Valle Hotel**
15 Sep Service provided by the hotel

Puerto Valle Hotel
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
Full activities
(2 Nights)



Enjoy the Puerto Valle activities

The wetlands

Discovering Esteros del Iberá.

The estate on which the Estancia stands reaches inside the Reserve, up to the wetlands border, serving as exceptional gateway to an amazing protected natural environment.

Only ten kilometers from the hotel, leaving behind fields, plantations and marshlands, one gets to the wharf, the starting point to engage in a true adventure along a waterway leading to Laguna Valle. Caimans, capybaras, pampa deer, marshland deer and neotropical otters (lobitos de río) are some of the species that can be observed at a close distance along the way.

As the solitary boat proceeds along the lake shores, making its way through the exuberant vegetation, travelers will try to identify the sound of some of the countless bird species travelling with them along the way.

As the sun sets, the guide will serve some tasty delicatessen from Corrientes, paired with the most traditional local beverage: mate.



The river

The privilege of discovering the charm of the Paraná river.

The Paraná River outlines the Argentine Mesopotamia, traversing more than 1500 km of the national territory. Across from the hotel, the river bed has been modified to form a lake in a dream landscape, extending as far as the eye can see and blending into the horizon.

Navigating the Paraná river

Departing from the pier, it is possible to navigate the Paraná River on an engine boat and tour the waterways that reach into the Paranaense forest. The forest is home to more than fifty tree species per hectare, resulting in an ecosystem that is ideal for watching birds and howler monkeys.

While the boat proceeds on the calm waters in search of the animals, the guide will treat guests to a tasting of local goodies.

Kayaking

A voyage of the quiet river waters on the comfortable 'sit-on-top' kayaks is a silent adventure for sports and nature lovers. The Parana River coast is the ideal setting for excursions and expeditions fit for all guests, with different adventure levels depending on physical demand. Kayaking is great to discover waterways and sections of the forest that remain otherwise hidden.



The estancia

History, tradition and sustainable production
 Estancia Puerto Valle was established in 1868, when Italian sailor Bernadino Valle bought the land from the provincial government to develop his cattle-raising and merchandise transportation business. Today, the estate of the old Estancia engages in sustainable production, more precisely, forestry and cattle-raising activities.

Tree nursery

The nursery produces more than 4 million seedlings of eucalyptus, Grevillea, kiri and yerba mate per year. These specimens are used for forestry plantation under FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) standards, which require adherence to the highest social and environmental practices.

Monkey trail

The Monkey Trail excursion is an invitation to enter the lavish vegetation in search of the traces of howler monkeys. These monkeys live atop the trees, while the lower strata are populated by birds, capybaras and other mammals. These secluded areas of the Paranaense Forest are vital for the preservation of biodiversity. They have been recognized with IBA (Important Bird Area) status certified by Aves Argentinas and Bird Life International.

Horseback riding

Starting from the stalls, our experienced guide leads the way along the exclusive trails of the estate. Horseback riding is part of the history and tradition of the place—visitors will enjoy a historical and unforgettable ride, with the chance to get lost in the colorful sunsets of Corrientes while traversing pine and eucalyptus woods.



Day 3
 17 Sep

**Transfer Puerto Valle Hotel – Puerto Iguazu
 Visit Jesuit Ruins of San Ignacio on the way**

Service with English Speaking Guide
 Lunch included

Loi Suites Hotel

Buffet Breakfast Included
 (2 Nights)

In due time departure from Puerto Valle toward the city of Puerto Iguazu. On the way, you can visit the Jesuit Ruins of San Ignacio Mini, located 240 kilometers from the city of Iguazu. It is a historical and archaeological complex, showing highlights of the Jesuit and was declared

a World Heritage Site by Unesco. The visit to the ruins begins with a tour of a museum: a tour that transports the visitor to the time in the seventeenth century, when the priests of the Society of Jesus organized their with the intention of evangelizing the Guarani Indians. The degree of organization of these communities established in the middle of the jungle is truly amazing. The tour allows appreciation of the ruins that are scattered around the outside the Plaza de Armas: rooms of the indigenous people, the church, the cloister, the cemetery and the workshops. After the visit, the journey continues toward Puerto Iguazu. On the way visit mines of Wanda, dedicated to the mining of semiprecious stones, such as the crystal, amethyst, and quartz.



Dinner Argentine Experience

Transfer and dinner with English service

A gourmet three-course meal with a twist, The Argentine Experience serves up the best of Argentine cuisine and culture with a slice of international perspective. Choose from our gourmet fillings and create your own empanada learning the traditional 'repulgue' technique. Alongside your creations, enjoy an Argentine 'picada' and choose from grilled provolone cheese, sliced chorizo sausage and our homemade chimichurri. Enjoy what many are claiming to be the very best steak in Argentina, cooked to order and accompanied with velvety mash potatoes and oven roasted vegetables. Our top of the line thick cut fillet steaks

have a unique 24-hour preparation method that sets us apart from the rest. Vegetarian, pescetarian and celiac options are available on request. Over the course of the whole evening, enjoy unlimited pours of delicious Argentine wines. From the deceptive Torrentes of Salta to the ruby red Malbec of Mendoza, our specially chosen wines showcase. Argentine food the way it is meant to be enjoyed. Next it's time to treat your tastebuds to the national sweet of Argentina – alfajores. Get messy covering sweet vanilla biscuits with delectable dulce de leche, roll it in coconut shavings before dipping in melted chocolate fondue to create a delightful treat for all the senses. To finish, no Argentine experience would be complete without sampling the nation's favourite pastime – mate. Learn more about the history and etiquette of mate and learn to prepare it from scratch yourself.



Day 4
18 Sep

FD Iguazu Falls Argentine Side with Guide with Lunch

Visit to the Argentinean Falls

Departure from the Hotel and visit to the *Cataratas de Iguazú* (Iguazú Waterfalls) on the Argentine side. The waterfalls are located in the Iguazú National Park and are one of the first protected areas in America and have been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1984. The waterfalls have 275 jumps of water that fall from an average height of 70 meters. In this part of the sub-tropical forest, it is possible to see a wide variety of ferns, orchids, begonias, birds and butterflies and different native species. We will go to the *Estación Central* (Central Station), where we will get the train that goes to *Estación Cataratas* (Waterfalls Station) and/or to *Estación Garganta del Diablo* (Devil's Throat Station). From this point we can take:



Upper Circuit: It is a 800 meters loop along a protected catwalk. The trail is an elevated footbridge above the ground to avoid bothering the fauna that inhabits the forest. From this

circuit it is possible to see the waterfalls of the upper parts of Dos Hermanas, Bosetti, Barnabé Méndez, M'Bigua jumps. Excursion length: one (1) hour. Difficulty: low, without stairs.

Lower Circuit: It is a 1600 meters loop along a protected catwalk. The trail is an elevated footbridge above the ground from where it is possible to see the jumps of *Dos Hermanas, Alvar Nuñez, San Martín, Bosetti, el Peñón de la Bella Vista* (from where we will have a panoramic view of the Devil's Throat and of the Inferior Iguazú River Canyon). It is an unique experience, you will feel yourself immersed in the beauty of the nature and you will be able to feel the strength and the energy of the waterfalls.

Excursion length: two (2) hours Difficulty: moderate, with stairs.

It is possible to take an optional excursion to visit San Martín Island and board or disembark to live the Great Adventure.

Devil's Throat (*Garganta del Diablo*) Leaving from the *Estación Cataratas* (Waterfalls Station) the train will take us to the Garganta Station, in approximately 18 minutes. A 1200 meters walk along runways will take us to the great balcony of the most important jump of the waterfalls, the Devil's Throat (*Garganta del Diablo*).

Excursion length: Two (2) hours. Difficulty: low, without stairs.

own the main road along the lake there are a handful of breweries offer beer tasting with a gorgeous view. Bariloche is to beer what Mendoza is to wine in Argentina.

The craft beer scene exploded in Bariloche about 10 years ago, and yet few of these local delights have made it into bottles or to export.

Great Adventure navigation

This trip offers an exciting adventure inside the Argentine National Park, in the Falls area.

It combines forest and falls in an unique ride. We enter the forest by Yacaratia path in units specially designed for the environment, accompanied by expert guides that tell us about the history and particular details of the place.

Ride ends after 8 kms at the forested base of Macuco Port. After 100 meters of descending and descending another 100 meters of natural stairs, we arrive at the floating dock to board second part of the trip: navigation.



For this part we use semi rigid boats for a 30 minutes ride. We navigate low Iguazu River with our front and view to the Falls. We navigate over the rapids till arriving to the cascades. We see the falls at the distance, from San Martín Island and then we go to the base of Tres Mosqueteros Fall, admiring from there Brazilian Falls and Devil's Throat.

From there we surround the Island and navigate till we get closer to San Martín Fall, the biggest one we can get closer.

After all the approximations, we disembark in the Low Circuit, on the dock located in front of San Martín Island. From there, we return to the paths.

Note: with same characteristics as described, the excursion can be done on the contrary direction. This means beginning at the low path. First part, navigation to end at the Visitor's center.

Length: 01 hour and 20 minutes

General information:

People should know that they get wet when getting closer to Falls. We recommend to take Indian sandals and some light clothes to wear and then some other to change.

We recommend to bring sunglasses and protection for the Sun as well as hat.

The supplier provides plastic closed bags to keep the belongings dry and be taken by each one while navigating.

They will not be permitted for passengers: under 12 years, pregnant women, who have been treated surgically in the column, who suffer from osteoporosis, injury or pathologies in the



neck or back, people with heart or lung diseases, or who have suffered during the last few months any surgery or neurological disorders such as cerebrovascular accident (CVA), any person not physically prepared to face a possible nautical emergency in the Iguazu River whitewaters.

Lunch at Melia Iguazu - No drinks included

Day 5
19 Sep

Transfer Hotel – Airport

Visit to the Awasi Hotel (exclusive for Buyers)
Service with Bilingual Guide
Transfer from the hotel to Puerto Iguazu Airport. The guide will accompany you to the check-in counter.

Required Flights.

Air tickets not included

IGR – BUE AR1734 15:10 / 17:00

IGR – BUE LA7509 14:25 / 16:20

BUYERS Special offer SGL/DBL USD 350*

Prices include:

Accommodation with taxes.
Breakfast at hotel included daily (if early breakfast were required due to flight schedule it may be served at an extra cost).
Other meals included only when detailed in the itinerary (Set Menu for the whole group: starter, main course, dessert).
Entrance Fee to National Park
Transportation according to what is detailed in the itinerary.
Local English speaking guide.
Luggage allowance for transfers: one medium size suitcase per person plus one piece of hand luggage.
All necessary entrance fees for the tours detailed in the itinerary.

Prices do not include:

Early check in / late check out – unless specifically detailed in the itinerary (*).
Airfare
Airport taxes
Extras at hotel like laundry, telephone calls, etc.
Tips.

*Net rates. For reservations done before July 31st 2018.
Buyers can be accommodation in double / single basis
Ask us about domestic flights.
Spaces are limited.
Place your booking: sales@eurotur.tur.ar