

BRAZIL'S HISTORIC GOLD ROUTE RAIL TOUR

Route of Gold Special Train Tour

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

The trip is a mixture of natural and cultural beauties of the fifth largest country in the world, combined with train rides, which will stir the blood of every railway friend. The trip takes you from the port city of Vitoria into the region of the gold rush to Ouro Preto, to the metropolis of Rio de Janeiro.

Discover where the gold originated to build Europe's great palaces and churches. And discover a few treasures along the way. The Route of Gold rambles along rugged mountains from the beautifully preserved colonial gold mining towns of Ouro Preto and São João del Rei to the ancient seaport of Paraty. This bounty of gold provided the wealth to build the royal colonial seat of Rio de Janeiro as well as the Old World capital, Lisbon.

FROM
**GET CUSTOM
PRICING**
per person

THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

- 12 Nights Accommodations in 4* & 5* category hotels
- All Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners, 1 Lunch
- All Transfers
- English-speaking Tour Guides

HIGHLIGHTS

- Iguassu Falls
- Curitiba and the Atlantic Rainforest
- São Paulo & Rio de Janeiro
- São João Del Rey & Ouro Preto
- Belo Horizonte

ITINERARY



Day 1

IGUASSU FALLS - BRAZILIAN SIDE

Transfer from the airport to your hotel in Foz Do Iguassu. Journey through the Brazilian countryside and enter the Iguassu National Park, the largest in southern Brazil. Enter the park's visitor center and view its exhibit of the local ecosystem. Continue down the Cataratas Highway through the rainforest and arrive at the famous falls. Iguassu Falls are on the border of Brazil and Argentina where the Iguassu River drops into a gigantic horseshoe canyon. Descend the walkway to bask in the panoramic views of the incredible waterfalls on both the Brazilian and Argentine sides. Top off the tour by making an ascent to a lookout and enjoy a bird's eye view of the falls.



Day 2

IGUASSU FALLS - ARGENTINE SIDE

After a short drive, cross the Tancredo Neves Bridge over the Iguassu River which forms the border between Argentina and Brazil. Once in Argentina, follow a scenic highway up to the Argentine Iguazú Park. Visit the upper Argentine falls including the San Martin Falls and the Devil's Throat and be awestruck by the powerful and incredible series of cascading torrents of water.



Day 3

CURITIBA

Embark on a journey through rolling landscapes today, occasionally interrupted by mountain chains, fertile farmland and patches of pristine subtropical forest where endemic Araucária trees grow. Arrive in Curitiba, named the best-organized city in South America and now a model for many Western industrialized nations. The city has grown tenfold in the past 20 years, using innovative ideas to manage its substantial growth. Check into your hotel.



Day 4

TRAIN RIDE FROM MORRETES TO CURITIBA

Transfer to Porto de Paranaguá this morning. Next, transfer to Antonina and Morretes to taste the typical dish of *barreado*. After lunch, board the scenic historic railway as it winds its way over the Serra do Mar and up to 1200m above sea level on the return journey to Curitiba.



Day 5

TRANSFER TO SÃO PAULO

Today it's time to head to São Paulo. This modern city is full of surprises and the most populated in South America. Considered the commercial center of Brazil, discover skyscrapers, contemporary shopping centers and residential neighborhoods. Seek out green parks amongst the concrete and steel buildings, and note the contrast between this urban hub and other South American cities. Later, check in to your hotel and take a rest.



Day 6

SÃO PAULO CITY TOUR BY TRAIN

Discover the main attractions of the “Paulista” city on a train tour. Afterward, transfer by bus to Taubaté and upon arrival, check into your hotel.



Day 7

TAUBATÉ TO RIO DE JANEIRO

Today it's time to visit the cosmopolitan hub of Rio de Janeiro. From Taubaté, transfer to Pindamonhangaba and board a train to Campos do Jordão. Finally, take a coach to Rio de Janeiro and check-in at your hotel upon arrival. Enjoy a Brazilian barbecue dinner at the famous Marius Restaurant. Dine on a buffet of vegetables, fish and sushi, and feast on the 15 different types of meat served by the eager-to-please waiting staff.



Day 8

RIO DE JANEIRO CITY TOUR

Immerse yourself in the panoramic view from the top of the Sugarloaf Mountain at 395m above sea-level. Take a smooth ride on the first set of cable cars and change at Urca Mountain. Continue to the summit with its 360-degree view of golden beaches, green forests and the thriving metropolis of Rio de Janeiro. From here, it's easy to see why it claims the title of the “world's most beautiful city.” Sightseeing continues with a tour of Rio's historical past. Learn how Portugal's prince broke all family ties and declared himself Emperor of Brazil.



Day 9

RIO DE JANEIRO & CHRIST THE REDEEMER

See the Christ the Redeemer statue which keeps an eye on Rio from an elevation of 710m. Board the *trenzinho* (cogwheel railway) up to the top of Corcovado Mountain for a bird's eye view of the center of the city. The 38m-high statue is the image of the faith and friendliness. The monument was inaugurated on the day of Our Lady of Aparecida, 12 October, 1931 by then President Getúlio Vargas and Cardinal Dom Sebastião Leme.



Day 10

SÃO JOÃO DEL REY - TIRADENTES - OURO PRETO

It's all aboard to São João Del Rey this morning. Board a steam train and ride to the historic town of Tiradentes (subject to train schedule). Upon arrival at the station, take a short drive to Tiradentes which literally means "tooth puller" and is named after the martyr of the Inconfidência, famous for his dental skills. Despite the curious legend, Tiradentes is also known for its charm and colonial history.

Check into the hotel and afterward, travel to Ouro Preto with a short stop in Congonhas. Upon arrival in this historical city, transfer to your hotel in Ouro Preto.



Day 11

OURO PRETO - MARIANA - BELO HORIZONTE

Ride a train from Ouro Preto to Mariana. After visiting this mining town, spend the afternoon in Ouro Preto and then transfer to Belo Horizonte.



Day 12

TRANSFER BELO HORIZONTE - VITORIA BY TRAIN

Transfer from your hotel in Belo Horizonte to the train station.
Take the train from Belo Horizonte to Vitoria, the last city of the trip!



Day 13

DEPARTURE FROM VITORIA

Spend the day sunbathing on the spectacular beaches of Vitoria.
Take a few moments to reflect on the sights seen during the train journey through Brazil and take a flight back home or onward to your next destination in South America.