

## BRAZIL'S HISTORIC GOLD ROUTE RAIL TOUR

Route of Gold Special Train Tour

### 14 DAYS / 13 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

**\$ 4130**

per person

#### THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

- 13 Nights Accommodations in 4\* & 5\* Hotels
- All Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners, 1 Lunch
- All Transfers
- Professional 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

### IGUASSU FALLS TO CURITIBA

Today, head to the airport and transfer from Iguassu Falls to Curitiba. Fly over rolling landscapes, occasionally interrupted by mountain chains, fertile farmland and patches of pristine subtropical forest where the endemic Araucária trees grow. Arrive in Curitiba and be transferred from the airport to the hotel by a local guide. Curitiba is named the best-organized city in South America and is now a model for many Western industrialized nations. Curitiba has grown tenfold in the past 20 years, using innovative ideas to manage its substantial growth.



## Day 4

### TRAIN RIDE TO MORRETES

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 & TRANSFER TO CAMPOS DO JORDÃO

Discover the main attractions of the "Paulista" city on a train tour. Afterward, transfer by bus to Campos do Jordão, a city in Brazil's Mantiqueira Mountains in the state of Sao Paulo. Upon arrival, explore the city on own. Admire the Swiss-style architecture in the town center of Capivari and stop inside one of the excellent restaurants, pastry shops or shopping centers. If an activity outside is preferred, explore the beautiful Amantikir Park, which hosts 22 colorful gardens and a maze of bushes. Then, return to the hotel for the night.



## Day 7

### TRANSFER FROM CAMPOS DO JORDÃO TO RIO DE JANEIRO

It is time to visit the cosmopolitan hub of Rio de Janeiro. Transfer by bus from Campos do Jordão to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival in Rio, check into the hotel and settle your belongings. Then 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

### TRANSFER FROM RIO TO TIRADENTES

This morning, board a steam train from Rio de Janeiro to the historic town of Tiradentes (subject to train schedule). Upon arrival at the São João del Rei train station, take a short drive to Tiradentes and check into the hotel. The name Tiradentes literally means "tooth puller", taken after the martyr of the Inconfidência and famous for his dental skills. Despite the curious legend, Tiradentes is also known for its charm and colonial history.

Spend the evening wandering around the quaint town, stopping by famous churches, antique shops, art galleries, artisan chocolate shops and more. Have dinner at a local restaurant and then relax for the rest of the evening.

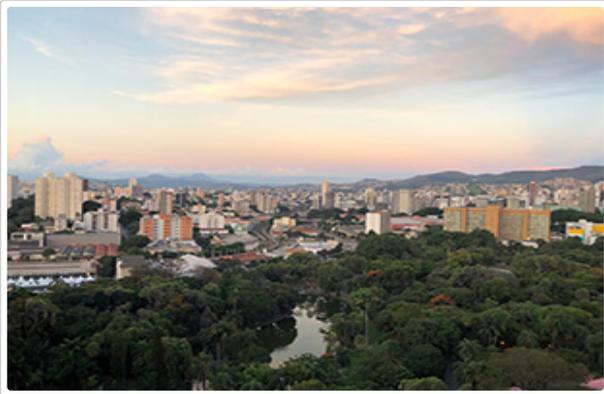


## Day 11

### CONGONHAS & OURO PRETO

Today transfer from Tiradentes to Ouro Preto with a stop in Congonhas. While here, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sanctuary of Bom Jesus de Congonhas and the chapels outside of the church, full of rich carvings by Aleijadinho depicting the Passion of the Christ.

From Congonhas, continue to Ouro Preto and check into the hotel. Explore the steep, winding cobblestone streets of Ouro Preto. Visit the historic Tiradentes Square, St. Francis of Assisi Church, the Opera House, the local *Fiera* (market), and more. In the evening, return to the hotel.



## Day 12

### OURO PRETO, MARIANA & BELO HORIZONTE

Today, ride a train from Ouro Preto to the neighboring city of Mariana. Mariana is the oldest city in the state of Minas Gerais and is known for its baroque colonial architecture. While here, explore the historic district in the center of the town and embark on a tour of the gold mines.

After visiting the mining town of Mariana, return to Ouro Preto for the afternoon. Then gather your belongings and transfer from Ouro Preto to Belo Horizonte.



## Day 13

### BELO HORIZONTE TO VITÓRIA BY TRAIN

Today, transfer from the hotel in Belo Horizonte to the train station. At the train station, travel from Belo Horizonte to Vitória, the last city visited on this tour! In Vitória, walk along its sandy beaches and explore the city center. Visit the 20th-century Metropolitan Cathedral, built with beautiful stained-glass windows.

After a tour of Vitória, return to the hotel for the evening.



Day 14

## DEPARTURE FROM VITÓRIA

Spend the day sunbathing on the spectacular beaches of Vitória. 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.