



**World Affairs Council of Charlotte
From Samba to Tango
A South America Classic: Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires**



Winter 2012: January 12 – 20, 2012

(With option to visit Iguassu Falls and depart on January 21st – Additional Details Below)

**Extended Trip Registration and Deposit Deadline to October 31, 2011
If you would like to be upgraded to business/first class seats, limited discounted seats are available.**

**Day One – January 12, 2012
DEPART CHARLOTTE / RIO DE JANEIRO**

Start your new year by joining us in exploring the best Brazil and Argentina have to offer. Depart from Charlotte Airport headed towards beautiful Rio de Janeiro.

**Day Two – January 13, 2012 – RIO DE JANEIRO
Complimentary breakfast served**



intriguing city has a unique personality and charm that has something to offer everyone.

Once in Rio, a private transfer will be provided to take you to your hotel, the Leme Palace, which is located in the world famous Copacabana district and every room has a view of the Copacabana beach.

Arrive in Rio de Janeiro in the late morning and enjoy breakfast. Rio is known as the Marvelous City or *Cidade Maravilhosa*, the famous land of Samba and Carnival! Considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Rio is an enchanting combination of sophisticated metropolis and casual seaside resorts. The



Leme is a small area of Copacabana, near the fort and set apart from the larger Copacabana Beach. It has many nice restaurants, shops, and cafes in the surrounding area. Enjoy shopping for Brazilian flare as Copacabana has a long tradition of dictating beach chic to the rest of the world.

Time to relax and enjoy your new surroundings before a late afternoon excursion to Sugar Loaf Mountain.

To reach Sugar Loaf, we will take a cable car to the top of Urca Hill, an area alive with picturesque gardens and lookout points over Rio and Guanabara Bay – this Bay features scenic rocky peaks protruding from the water. Take a second cable car even higher to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, 1300 feet above sea level.

Descend from Sugar Loaf and enjoy a casual welcome dinner at a charming restaurant overlooking Guanabara Bay. Return to the hotel for overnight.



Day Three – January 14, 2012 – RIO DE JANEIRO



Rio: modern buildings as well as buildings remaining from the imperial days and beginnings of the republic in the 1900s. Lunch is included in the program

Later in the day, you will visit Corcovado by driving through residential areas to Cosme Velho, where travelers will board the funicular railway for a 30-minute ride up the hills. As the train climbs Corcovado (“hunchback”) Mountain, enjoy spectacular views of Rio, peeking through the dense vegetation. Crowning at Corcovado over 2400 feet

Complimentary Breakfast Served

Today will be a very special day as we have a full day of sightseeing.

Spend the day touring Rio, including the Catholic Cathedral, the Sambadrome, the Opera House and the Museum of Fine Arts. This tour shows the architectural contrasts of





above sea level is the majestic statue of Christ standing 120 feet high. The Redeemer's outstretched arms welcome you to a breathtaking panorama.

*Dinner and evening independent.

Day Four – January 15, 2012 – RIO DE JANEIRO

Complimentary Breakfast Served



Today is a full day of leisure to enjoy the rhythms of Rio on your own. Relax at the beaches, explore the sites and enjoy the shopping.

OPTIONAL: Half-day tour of the Botanical Gardens and Tijuca Forest in 4 X 4 vehicles

Price based on minimum of 10 paying passengers: \$75

Rio is home to 3300 hectares of rain forest within easy driving distance. This tour takes you through the mountains of Rio, into the dazzling green world of Tijuca National Park. Ride military jeeps recycled for tourist use, enjoy the superb views of the city and meet nature during a guided walk along the Park Trails. Return to hotel by noon.

OPTIONAL: A full day trip to the imperial town of Petropolis

Price based on minimum of 10 paying passengers: \$97

This is a trip to the Imperial City of Petropolis, home of the Brazilians kings. Enjoy a 40 miles drive north into the Organ Mountains as the roads winds through dramatic scenery with forested slopes and mountains shrouded in clouds. First stop is the impressive building of the Quitandinha Country Club, originally a posh casino for the rich and famous until the Brazilian government stopped gambling in 1946. Continue to Petropolis, a pretty resort town with its mansions and chalets and visit the neo-Gothic cathedral Sao Pedro de Alcantara. Inside are the tombs of Dom Pedro, the Princess Regent Dona Isabel and many other royals. After lunch, visit the Imperial Museum, housed in the former royal residence in beautifully maintained gardens. The museum houses many artifacts from the royal family including royal jewels.



Return to Rio in late afternoon. Lunch included.



OPTIONAL: Backstage Visit to the City of Samba – Behind the Screen

Price based on minimum of 10 paying passengers: \$110

The City of Samba is a complex of buildings that belong to the 12 most famous Samba Schools in the country who parade during the Carnival in Rio. This will be a very special backstage visit of one of the most spectacular outdoor shows in the world – the Rio de Janeiro Carnival. Groups that parade during carnival are known as Samba Schools and each is interesting and unique. The parades are in the *Sambadrome* and feature over 4000 participants in their exotic costumes and their incredible floats. Get up close and personal as you visit one of the dreams factories of one of these famous schools. Lunch and visit to the famous Botanical Gardens included.

*The evening will conclude with independent dinner in a local restaurant before returning to the hotel.

Day Five - January 16, 2012 – Buenos Aires

Complimentary Breakfast Served



Fly from Rio de Janeiro to the beautiful capital of Argentina - Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for the next four nights. Travelers will lodge at the Caesar Park Hotel, a luxury hotel located in the Recoleta District, one of the most elegant and sophisticated areas in Buenos Aires. It is surrounded by excellent entertainment and dining options.

*Dinner and evening independent.

Day Six – January 17, 2012 - Buenos Aires

Complimentary Breakfast Served

Mix together a beautiful European-like city with attractive residents (call them *porteños*), gourmet cuisine, awesome shopping, a frenzied nightlife and top-drawer activities, and you get Buenos Aires, a cosmopolitan metropolis with both slick neighborhoods and equally downtrodden areas – but that’s part of the appeal. It’s an elegant, seductive place with a ragged edge, laced with old-world languor and yet full of contemporary attitude. Buenos Aires is somehow strangely familiar, but unlike any other city in the world.



In between cutting-edge designer boutiques, ritzy neighborhoods and grand parks are unkempt streets full of spewing buses and bustling fervor (*Lonely Planet*).



A full day of touring awaits tour travelers today, highlighting many of the important landmarks and buildings in the city as well as its various neighborhoods, including La Boca, San Telmo and La Recoleta.

During the tour, you will visit 'Neustra Senora del Pilar' Church and Recoleta Cemetery. Known worldwide for its intricate architecture, Recoleta Cemetery is also the final resting place for many famous personalities from Argentine history and society. Explore the Colonial Center where you will be introduced to the history that shaped the city.

First stop is Plaza de Mayo, the historical and political heart of the city. The plaza is surrounded by a host of historical buildings including the town hall, national government buildings and the Metropolitan Cathedral. The plaza's main attraction is the Casa Rosado (Presidential Palace), home to Evita Peron's famous balcony.

Lunch is included today at the classic Café Tortoni, one of the true icons of the Argentine capital. Founded in 1858, Café Tortoni is the oldest coffee shop in the whole country. With a very rich history, it is visited at all times by intellectuals, politicians and artists.



After lunch, visit the colonial San Telmo neighborhood, La Boca, the tough port barrio and colorful working class heart of Buenos Aires. In addition, you will enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the Colon Theater, one of the world's great opera houses. The tour will take you to the underground network of dressing rooms, workshops, scenery storage rooms and rehearsal halls with a replica of the stage under the Avenida 9 de Julio.

*Dinner and evening at leisure independently.

Day Seven - January 18, 2012 – BUENOS AIRES

Complimentary Breakfast Served

Full day at leisure to enjoy Buenos Aires or participate in any of the optional tours of your choosing (included below).

OPTIONAL: Full Day Excursion to Estancia La Alameda (Gaucho Country)

Price: \$130

Estancia La Alameda is located in the city of Chascomus 120 kms from BA. In 1789 Don Juan Gregorio Girado built his house and farm and today offers a view of life in the Argentinian country.

Here you will enjoy an asado (typical Gaucho meal), a folklore show and country activities including carriage rides, optional horseback riding and demonstrations of the amazing skills of the Gauchos (Argentinian cowboys) on horseback. Lunch included. Return to Buenos Aires in the late afternoon.



OPTIONAL: Full Day trip to Colonia, Uruguay

Price: \$388

Morning hydrofoil transfer on the River Plate to Colonia de Sacramento, Uruguay. Founded in 1680 and now a UNESCO World Heritage site, this charming city was founded by the Portuguese. Visit this well preserved Colonial City with the famous Calle de los Suspiros (Street of Sights), the Puerta del Campo, the Plaza Mayor 25 de Mayo, the beautiful beaches and a visit to the Real de San Carlos, the great bullring of the time of Charles III of Spain. Lunch is included before the return trip to Buenos Aires.



OPTIONAL: Dinner and Blind Wine Tasting

Price based on minimum of 10 paying passengers: \$178

Learn about the span of Argentine wine at Casa Coupage, the private home of a couple of professional sommeliers. Dinner will be served in the dining room of a private wine club in the Palermo District. Seasonal first and main courses are prepared by a private chef, each accompanied with a specially selected wine, allowing for both a comparative wine tasting and an optimal food pairing.

*Return to Buenos Aires for independent evening.

Day Eight - January 19, 2012 – Buenos Aires

Complimentary Breakfast Served

Full day at leisure to enjoy Buenos Aires or participate in any of the optional tango programs of your choosing (included below).

Tango is the heart and soul of Buenos Aires and we are able to offer a few different options to experience the tango

Argentinian Tango Options



OPTIONAL: Private Tango Lesson at Mayoral Price based on minimum of 10 paying participants: **\$130**

An elegant way to learn Tango is to join Mayoral and Elsa Maria, the world famous dancers at their incredible early 1900s French style mansion. Every lesson is personally attended by these Tony Award winning teachers. Among the former clients of this famous couples are Bill and Hillary Clinton, Liza Minnelli and Whoopi Goldberg.

OPTIONAL: Dinner and Tango Show at Esquina Carlos Gardel Price based on minimum of 10 paying participants: **\$185**

This evening discover the excellent Esquina Carlos Gardel tango venue. Here you will enjoy the finest tango in BA and have the best seats in the house. Elegance splendors share every corner of this

dazzling place. An a la carte dinner is served with wine prior to the incomparable show, a revival of the tango sophistication, luxury and style of the Golden Decade of Buenos Aires.

OPTIONAL: Dance Tango with the locals at a Milonga Price based on minimum of 10 participants: **\$55**

A visit to a Milonga or tango dance club is a wonderful way to spend an evening. You have an opportunity to learn or brush up on skills before watching the Portenos (the locals in Buenos Aires) dance the tango. Milongas are not luxurious venues – there are no professional shows and no fancy dinners. This is an authentic slice of Argentinian culture.

*The evening will conclude with independent dinner in a local restaurant before returning to the hotel



Day Nine – January 20, 2012 – BUENOS AIRES / CHARLOTTE Complimentary Breakfast Served

You will depart from Buenos Aires for Charlotte.

Welcome Home!

Additional Information

- There is no time change in Rio and Buenos Aires so jet lag will not be an issue
- Breakfast is included throughout the trip
- Registration and deposit deadline has been extended to **Monday, October 31, 2011. Amount due for reservation confirmation: \$ 500**
- If you are interested upgrading to business/first class seats, please note that limited discounted seats are available. Please contact LJ Stambuk at lstambuk@uncc.edu or call 704-604-3317 for additional information.

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

\$4,315

NOTE: Group has to have a minimum of 10 travelers

As with any flight fuel surcharges and US/Brazil/Argentina taxes will be added to the final invoice at current levels. The current total for these charges is \$453

Finally, a tourist visa is required to visit Brazil. The cost of the visa is approximately \$175. To reserve your space for this trip of the lifetime you need to confirm **by October 31st, 2011**. A \$500 deposit is required. The deposit is refundable if the trip does not have the required 10 travelers.

For more info: Please e-mail Ljubomir (LJ) Stambuk, lstambuk@uncc.edu or call 704-604-3317

CONTINUE BELOW:



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL SOUTH AMERICA TRIP IGUASSU FALLS EXTENSION OPTION



Day Nine - January 20, 2012 - BUENOS AIRES/IGUASSU FALLS Complimentary Breakfast Served

Transfer to airport for two hour flight to Iguassu Falls, which are more spectacular than Niagara Falls, more thunderous than Victoria Falls and larger than both. Proceed to your deluxe hotel for one night, the historic Das Cataratas, the only hotel within the Iguassu National Park and a short stroll from the waterfalls. Residents enjoy access to the falls in the evening and at dawn when the park is closed to other visitors. This hotel is a member of the Orient-Express Group.

Foz de Iguacu means "large water" in tupi-guarani. The falls are unequally divided between Brazil and Argentina with most of the falls in Argentina but they mostly face Brazil so the views of the entire falls are best from the Brazilian side. There is a dazzling view of the main waterfall (Devil's Throat) with an overlook, a panoramic elevator and a small walkway that gets near the falls. A guided walking tour is included this afternoon.

Return to hotel for independent dinner and overnight.

Day Ten - January 21, 2012 – IGUASSU FALLS/ BUENOS AIRES/ CHARLOTTE Complimentary Breakfast Served

Sunrise at the falls can be spectacular. There will be an opportunity to take an optional helicopter ride over the falls (only allowed by the Brazilians). After morning at leisure at the falls and time for independent lunch, depart the hotel to cross over into Argentina to see the falls up close. Argentina provides a more intimate look at the falls and allows us to complete the visit and we can see San Martin Island and a close view of Devil's Throat.

Continue to the airport for our flight from the Argentinian Airport back to Buenos Aires to connect to your flight to Charlotte.

ADDITIONAL PRICE PER PERSON FOR EXTENSION TO IGUASSU FALLS BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

\$951

NOTE: group has to have a minimum of 10 travelers