

Nuts for Brazil!

Exploring the Amazon & Vibrant Rio

June 24- July 2, 2026

 Check Availability



Craving adventure, nature, and unforgettable experiences? Look no further than our new Grand Amazon Cruise into a lush paradise brimming with biodiversity, tropical, rainforests, amazing wildlife, and breathtaking landscapes. Our past 7 groups loved our Amazon trips. It's been 9 years and time to go again! We've made it better than ever, combining the dense verdant forests of the river basin with vibrant, colorful Rio de Janeiro.

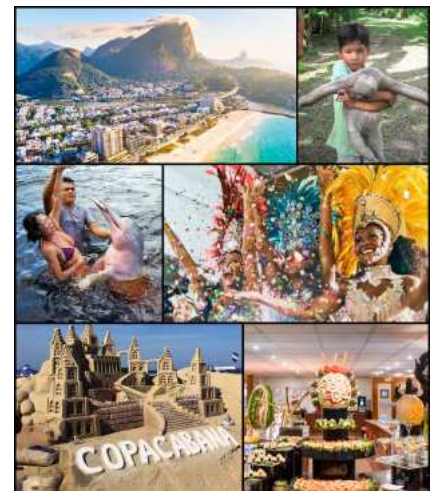
Brazil is a vast tropical country and the largest of all Latin American countries, filled with endless scenic wonders. We begin our Amazon expedition by embarking on a one-of-a-kind cruise aboard the new luxury **Iberostar Grand River vessel**. **This immersive and all-inclusive voyage** takes us through the immense jungles and waterways of the world's largest river.

The best way to slow the heart of the Amazon basin is by freezing. Each day and night, we will explore the wonders of indigenous cultures, encounter the most unique wildlife, from capybaras to Jaguars to river dolphins, while enjoying exquisite cuisine. By day, the best naturalist guides lead us on thrilling excursions by boats, canoes, and on foot. Mix and mingle with the friendly natives to learn of their traditions. Photograph the phenomenon of the Meeting of Waters, where rivers come together. Witness spectacular bird life of over 600 species. Enjoy world-class dining created by top chefs and more.

The Amazon is full of surprises after sunsets, particularly on our night safaris when we go in search of nocturnal creatures. This ship is luxurious, featuring a pool, two restaurants, two bars, and room service, shore tours and tips, – all included. Each cabin has its own balcony where you can simply soak up nature in privacy. This five-star experience is offered by high-end tour operators, but we've been able to negotiate an unheard-of rate for the same incredible experience.

Then it's **Showtime in Rio de Janeiro!** Sensual Rio is the center of dramatic urban culture that flourishes alongside old-world traditions. The city's charm is found in its Samba houses, museums, trendy bars, and legendary beaches from Copacabana to Ipanema. Home to Carnival, parties are always its heartbeat. We visit the iconic Sugarloaf Peak and the towering Corcovado, cruise Guanabara Bay, and experience the endless food at a traditional Churrascaria. So much to do here! We provide free time for some fabulous hang gliding off the mountains (past groups loved it), high tea at the Copacabana Palace, or shopping for gems. You can even take to the sea for whale watching or deep-sea fishing.

Such a unique adventure. This trip is limited to 23 lucky participants who will seize the opportunity to experience the unique combination of the Amazon's wonders and Rio's vitality. With reverse seasons, summer is winter in Brazil, making it the perfect time to visit with moderate temperatures averaging 60-75 degrees. Brazil is a land of vibrant colors and diverse landscapes, beckoning you to experience its unparalleled natural beauty in one of our planet's wildest places!





Our Glorious AFS Itinerary

 [Check Availability](#)

Tap for printable PDF

 Web content is continuously updated, whereas PDF versions may contain outdated details due to their static nature.

June 24 or earlier - Leave the United States (flights to Brazil from the U.S. are overnights). We fly into Manaus and out of Rio. More ideas coming in trip tips.



JUNE 25 - ARRIVE IN MANAUS, BRAZIL

Bem-vindo! Welcome to Brazil! We begin our adventure in the northern Brazilian city of Manaus and the capital of the Amazonas region. You'll make your way to the Blue Tree Premium Hotel, which is just 20 minutes from the airport in the sought-after neighborhood of Adrianópolis. (note that the Hotel Check-in time is at 3:00 pm. One common group airport transfer will be arranged a month before departure.)

Situated at the confluence of the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões, Manaus is the largest city in the Amazon Rainforest region and a key gateway to the Amazon Basin. Known as the "Heart of the Amazon," Manaus is a dynamic and vibrant city that offers a fascinating mix of natural beauty, culture, and history.

Its location at the intersection of two rivers offers one of the most striking natural sights in the world—the Meeting of Waters—where the dark waters of the Rio Negro flow alongside the lighter, muddy waters of the Solimões, without immediately mixing.

You'll have the rest of the day to relax and explore the city or take advantage of the hotel's spa. The Blue Tree Premium is in the entertainment district of the city and close to the retail paradise of the Shopping Manauara mall.

Overnight: [Blue Tree Premium Hotel](#)- (1 Night)

The Blue Tree Premium Manaus offers a captivating experience that combines luxury with the rich culture of the Amazon. The hotel features elegantly designed rooms with contemporary decor and large windows that provide breathtaking views of the lush surrounding landscape, creating a tranquil



comfort and local charm.

sanctuary. The inviting swimming pool beckons for a refreshing dip, while the well-equipped fitness center allows for invigorating workouts amidst the tropical ambiance. Dining at the hotel is a delight, with a gourmet restaurant that serves a diverse menu featuring exquisite local dishes and international flavors, perfect for indulging the palate. Located in a vibrant area, the hotel ensures easy access to Manaus' iconic landmarks, including the renowned Amazon Theatre and bustling markets, making it an ideal base for exploration. Moreover, the attentive and friendly staff go above and beyond to provide personalized service, ensuring you'll feel welcomed and pampered. The Blue Tree Premium Manaus guarantees an unforgettable stay infused with



JUNE 26 - MORNING AT LEISURE/ EMBARK ON OUR LUXURY RIVER CRUISE B, D

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning before we are picked up in the early afternoon for our private transfer to the Port of Manaus, where we board our Iberostar River cruise.



Iberostar offers the only immersive, all-inclusive cruise through the Brazilian Amazon. Throughout our expedition, we'll be able to explore the wonders of the river and immerse ourselves in the indigenous culture thanks to an incredible group of guides who will help us explore the region's wildest side. We'll embark on daytime and nighttime expeditions, all of which are included, along with scheduled activities on board that'll provide an unforgettable experience.

At 6:00 pm, the ship will set sail from the Port of Manaus and make its way up the Solimões River. We'll enjoy the sunset from the terrace with a welcome drink at 7:00 pm. Raise a glass to the start of our adventure with the ship's unique cocktail made with jambu, pitaya, and murupi pepper as we set sail. This will also afford us the opportunity to sign up for the excursions which will be offered the following day.

Dinner at VITÓRIA-RÉGIA Restaurant will follow our welcome, and you may choose to enjoy nightly entertainment or sit on the deck and listen to the night sounds of the jungle as we glide up the river and into the Amazon.

Overnight: [Amazon Expedition Cruise](#) - (3 Nights).



The Iberostar Amazon Grand Cruise offers an unparalleled experience for those seeking to explore the majestic Amazon River in luxury. This cruise combines the beauty of the lush rainforest with top-notch amenities, featuring spacious cabins with private balconies that provide stunning views of the passing landscapes and wildlife. Guests can engage in guided excursions that delve into the rich biodiversity of the Amazon, including visits to local communities and guided nature walks, ensuring an immersive experience. Onboard, travelers can indulge

in gourmet dining, refreshing pools, and wellness facilities, all while enjoying panoramic views of this magnificent ecosystem. With expert guides and a focus on sustainability, the Iberostar Amazon Grand Cruise is the perfect way to discover the wonders of the Amazon River in comfort and style.



JUNE 27 – EXPERIENCING THE AMAZON BASIN

B, L, D



Each day begins with a hearty breakfast offering, followed by an excursion. Schedules are subject to change but today's offering includes a boat trip and visit to the house of Caboclo (local village) in the region around Lake Janauacá. Here, you'll be able to learn about the way of life, customs and local crops. We'll return to the ship before lunch. There are two dining opportunities each day, a light lunch between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Tucano or the buffet from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at VITÓRIA-RÊGIA Restaurant. There is a late morning talk in the Luna room on the fruits of the Amazon in the Luna Room followed by entertainment on the terrace.

Each day, the ship's control room is open for a visit between 12 pm - 12:30 pm so if you miss it today, you can always visit later in the trip. Our afternoon excursion is scheduled for 4 pm

and includes Piranha fishing or boat trip in the Manaquiri region.

There will be entertainment at 7:30 pm, followed by dinner at the VITÓRIA-RÊGIA Restaurant. This evening, prepare to enter the Amazon at night with an evening excursion into the Manaquiri Region.

Overnight: Amazon Expedition Cruise - (3 Nights)



JUNE 28 - CRUISING AMAZON IN MANA REGION & MOTOR BOATS

B, L, D

Today offers an early morning opportunity for sunrise birdwatching in the stunning Manacapurú region. You'll be able to grab a quick bite before heading out at 5:45 am for an hour trip to witness the Amazonia at dawn. There's nothing like this experience as we enjoy the beautiful landscape illuminated by the rising sun and listen to the jungle wake up.

Breakfast will still be available when we return, but prepare to head out again at 8 am for a boat ride through the Manacapurú region or a hiking trail through the jungle in the Manacapurú region.

A discussion about Amazonia will take place in the Luna Room when we return and again, you'll have the opportunity to visit the control room.

Our afternoon excursion involves a motor boat ride to visit a Floating House of indigenous people, explore local craftsmanship, and enjoy a short stroll through the Janauari lake region.



Tonight is special. We'll enjoy the Captain's dinner, followed by a Folk show in the Luna Room.

Overnight: Amazon Expedition Cruise - (3 Nights)



JUNE 29 - FLY TO SIZZLING RIO DE JANEIRO
soon.)

B (Note flights aren't out yet but will be out

This morning, we'll be making our way again through where the waters of the Negro and Solimões rivers meet and return to the port in Manaus by 8:30 am. After saying goodbye to our Iberostar ship, we'll transfer to the Manaus airport for our fl go down to this hotelight to Rio de Janeiro's GIG airport (approximately 4 hours).

We'll be taken to the Windsor Leme Hotel, located on Rio's famous Copacabana Beach. The Windsor's location right on the Atlantic is spectacular, and you can see the outstretched arms of Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado in the distance. The rest of the day is at your leisure.



Overnight: [Windsor Leme Hotel](#) (3 Nights)



Windsor Leme Hotel in Rio de Janeiro is an ideal choice for leisure travelers seeking a relaxing beachside retreat with stunning coastal views. Located just a five-minute walk from the tranquil Praia do Leme beach and close to lively Copacabana, it offers the perfect balance of peaceful atmosphere and vibrant city life. Guests can unwind in the rooftop outdoor swimming pool, enjoy spa facilities including a sauna and steam room, and stay active in the fitness center. The hotel's modern, soundproofed rooms feature balconies with sea views, air conditioning, and free Wi-Fi, providing comfort and convenience. With on-site dining offering a variety of international and local cuisine, as well as easy access to cultural landmarks like the Duke of Caxias Fort, Windsor Leme ensures a refreshing and immersive Rio getaway. Its attentive service and prime location make it a great base for exploring the best of the city while enjoying restful leisure time.

JUNE 30 - FULL DAY TOUR OF RIO DE JANEIRO

B, L

Today, we'll visit the city's most famous landmarks and see the natural beauty of Rio de Janeiro from above. After a scenic drive along Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, we'll be dropped at the bottom of Corcovado Hill and take the train up the incline to 2,300 ft above sea level and the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. Known as the "wonder of Rio," it is lauded as one of the 7 "New Wonders of the World." Panoramic elevators or escalators will take us the rest of the way to the foot of the statute and a stunning panoramic view of Rio de Janeiro.

Lunch is a true Brazilian experience at Cruzeiro do Sul where we experience a famous churrascaria. This form of barbeque began 300 years ago in southern Brazil. Various meats



are grilled over open flames and then brought to our plates on swords and spits. There is more food and variety than you can even imagine so be prepared to bring an appetite.

Aerial view of Rio de Janeiro on a sunny day taken from a helicopter. In view are the landmarks Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf Mountain.

After lunch, we'll head to the world-famous 'Pão de Açúcar' mountain peak, better known as Sugar Loaf. Rising up from a small peninsula at the entrance of Guanabara Bay, its name refers to its resemblance to the traditional shape of a concentrated, refined sugar loaf. The journey up involves taking two separate trips via glass cable cars. The first cable car takes us to the top of Urca Hill. We then continue in a second cable car to the top of Sugar Loaf, which rises more than 430 feet above sea level and offers a 360-degree view of the entire city, including Botafogo and Copacabana Beaches, Corcovado Mountain, and downtown Rio de Janeiro.

We'll return to our hotel by late afternoon and our evening is free.

Overnight: Windsor Leme Hotel



JULY 01 - BAY CRUISE & FREE AT LAST IN RIO

B

After breakfast, our delightful morning tour begins at Marina de Gloria to board our catamaran. It's a beautiful boat trip full of stories, scenic landscapes and islands that surround the wonderful city. Discover the sites of Rio de Janeiro from a completely different angle on this fun program, which includes an open bar with beer, Capirinha, soft drinks.. You'll get your best photos of Sugarloaf!

With so much to see and experience in Rio, we're giving you a free day to knock yourself out by doing whatever your heart desires. Explore this amazing city or simply park yourself on the beach. There are so many things to do that are completely unique to Rio.

Here are a few available options - All our past AFSers absolutely loved hang gliding off Corcovado mountain. You can book on arrival. Another fun option is the half-day Carnival Experience which teaches a bit about Samba and the carnival parade's history. Get photos with authentic carnival costumes and put your steps into practice. Or the Rio by Night bar hopping tour that takes you to 3 traditional famous bars with live music.

Overnight: Windsor Leme Hotel (3 Nights)

JULY 2 - RIO DE JANEIRO DEPARTURE

B

It's time to bid Brazil adeus! Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll head back to the Airport for our return flights home.



 **Check Availability**

We take another step towards helping you relax while protecting our surroundings



Single-use plastic free hotel



Responsible fish and seafood
consumption



Purified water fountain

Services and facilities



Luxury Cruise (8+)



Pool



Room Service 11:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.



Shopping area



All-inclusive



Free Wi-Fi



Professional animation shows



Trips included



Top Shelf Beverages



Onboard medical service



Fitness room

An entire world of experiences on board Grand Amazon Expedition



Activities



Shows



Keep active or relax

Deposit: \$500

LAND PRICE: \$2795 per person twin share plus domestic internal air to Rio (Domestic flight from announced to Rio June 29, flights are not out yet and will advise. We anticipate around \$150.)

Note - 2 cabin categories assigned to our group as ROH (run of house) in the same size cabins of Tambaqui or Mandi cabins on a first-come, first-served basis.

Price based on 20 participants. Limited single supplements are allotted at \$1395 extra.

Includes: 7 nights first-class accommodation, private tours and transfers in an air-conditioned coach with licensed guides and entrance fees, AFS GTL Janice. The cruise includes all meals, drinks, \$40 in taxes and gratuities.

Not Included: \$70 Pre paid tips for Manuas and Rio.

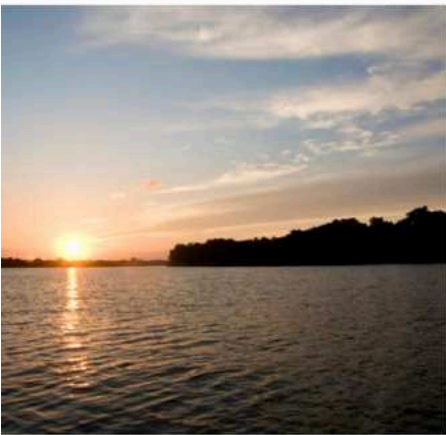
Have you read the Trip Tips yet? Scroll to the top of the page and click the link.



Sunrises in the Amazon region

During your stay on the Grand Amazon Expedition, you'll be able to hike in the jungles of the Jaraqui and Manacapuru regions while learning about the survival, ecology, history, and culture of the Amazon region. You'll also be able to go on a morning expedition to visit the Três Unidos community near the mouth of the Cuieiras River. The Kambeba people tell their story, struggles, and achievements in recovering their culture and traditions.

Sunrises in the Amazon region are a spectacle unlike any other, and you'll be able to take in the first rays of sunshine in the morning and the first chirps of the birds. On the Aritau River, you'll visit a family who lives in a floating house and they will show you pink Amazon river dolphins with whom they've established a trusting and friendly relationship over the years.



Go deep into the jungle until sunset

You'll have the chance to go deep into the Amazon jungle and take a ride on a speedboat between the four hundred islands that make up the Anavilhanas Archipelago, all while surrounded by stunning flora and fauna and a breathtaking sunset. We also offer you the opportunity to fish for piranhas in Acajatuba Lake and in the Manaquiri region, as well as to explore the narrowest canals at the end of a creek so you can try and catch these feared fish from the boats. The mixed riverside families who inhabit the area, known as caboclos, open their doors to us to share information with us about the diet, family agriculture, customs, and traditions of their community. A visit to the Vila Paraíso Rubber Plantation Museum won't disappoint, since you'll be able to get to know how life was on a rubber plantation.



Discover the Amazon region's nocturnal wildlife

Experience the feeling of being in the middle of the jungle at night. We'll be surrounded by the sounds of nighttime in the Amazon region, as well as its nocturnal wildlife. During your stay on board, you'll visit the Aritau River region, the Manaquiri canal, and the Paranã do Barroso region at night. Our expert explorers will guide you on a nighttime adventure through the Amazon region so you can see crocodiles and other wild animals that are hidden during the day. You'll share our passion for nature and learn about the wild flora and fauna that live in the jungle.

[/vc_column_text][[/vc_column]][/vc_row]