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infotrendy@argentinatrendytravel.com.

IGUAZU HIGHLIGHTS

IGUAZU FALLS

This is a magical place where the jungle and the wild tropics meet giving way to an immense display of color and light, from the thousands of plant species and animal life, with the thundering roar of the waterfalls in the background. Stretching for over a mile and a quarter, you can appreciate more than 275 falls reaching over 262 feet high. These falls fill the jungle with magnificent rainbows, overwhelming the onlooker with a sensation of fascination and respect for the perfection of nature. No matter how many times you've been here, you always marvel at the sight...

The Iguazu region, including the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, has been home to the Guaranies Indians for centuries. Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca found the majestic falls in the XVI century in an exploration crossing from the Brazil border to Paraguay. He named them Santa María although the Guaranies called them Iguazú. In 1901, Mrs. Victoria Aguirre donated the funds to make the first terrestrial way from Puerto Aguirre to the falls. From then on, the area began to be developed with new settlements and institutions. In 1934, the Iguazu National Park was created and its administration has been in charge of Puerto Aguirre since then. It was later called Puerto Iguazú County.

Over time and as a natural consequence of its beauty, Puerto Iguazu and the Iguazu Falls as its main attraction have become one of the world's most outstanding tourist destinations. The lavish vegetation that surrounds the Iguazu Falls is an imposing picture for any visitor. Thousands of animal and plant species display their beauty throughout the natural reservation under the captivating, warm and humid, subtropical sky. Two hundred and seventy five waterfalls appear and spread out majestically in more than two and a half miles of the Iguazu River, filling the jungle with an extended rainbow that impact every tourist that comes to visit us.

- Iguazu Falls is one of the most dynamic areas of South America famous for the falls, of course, but also for the rainforest in which they reside.
- The falls straddle two countries: Argentina and Brazil.
- Just like Niagara, the Brazilian and Argentinean sides of the falls offer different views. Unlike Niagara - Iguazu Falls are not lit at night; consequently most experienced travelers choose a hotel that has a variety of night-time activities and entertainment.
- A visit to the falls is a mesmerizing experience and will never be forgotten.



MOCONA FALLS

The Uruguay River divides itself lengthwise and the water on the Argentine side flows sideways for almost 2 miles and a 394 feet deep forming the “Mocona Falls” which in the Guarani language means “that which swallows everything”. These falls are about 66 feet high. The wild environment of the Province Park that surrounds it is ideal for adventure and eco-tourism activities. There are tourism agencies in Posadas and Puerto Iguazú that arrange visits with special vehicles.

WANDA MINES

Located 25 miles from Iguazu Falls, on the National Highway N° 12, you will find the Wanda colony, known for its semi-precious mines (amethyst and crystal among others). According to our guides when the Brazilian Mountains were formed, the volcanic gases mixed with different salts giving each stone a different color depending on the mineral they were mixed with, forming the Wanda Mines.

JESUITIC RUINS

History is alive in the Jesuit Ruins. Only 167 miles away from Iguazu you can find San Ignacio de Miní Ruins, that along with Santa Ana, Loreto and Santa María were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 1984. These missions from the XVII century are a combination of European Culture and the more mystic Indian culture of the Argentine jungle. These ruins remain as an example of an outstanding civilization. With archeological wealth, sculptures, the layout of the cities, all unified at the Jesuit Missions International Circuit.

The Jesuit Ruins, located on the top of the Iguazú River, had a short-lived existence. The constant spying and prying of thieves finally forced 12,000 guaranies and a few Jesuit priests to move below the Paraná River. This is why while searching for more security, they reached in 1632 what is today Misiones province, founding the settlements that flourished until 1767, when the Jesuits were expelled. Do not miss this magnificent example of the Jesuit history.

PARANÁ RIVER

This immense river, whose name means “Mother of Seas”, rises in Brazil and has a total length of more than 3728 miles. The Parana River forms the border between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, and flows into the Plata River.

ITAIPU DAM, BRAZIL

This is the most powerful hydroelectric plant in the world, five times the size of the Aswan High Dam. It is located 12 miles north of Foz do Iguazu, Brazil.



THREE FRONTIER LANDMARK

It is not very often that one has the opportunity to observe three countries from a corner separated by two rivers. The combination of nature's colors and vegetation that surrounds this tripartite point in Puerto Iguazú is absolutely unique. But this place has more to it than its historical symbolism. Having the chance to watch the sun setting is an exceptional experience. The main route runs parallel to the Iguazú River, surrounded by the amazing natural environment. This is the avenue that unites the Three Frontiers landmark with the port--the historical site of the city due to the fact that it was from here that the first tourists came from Argentina and Brazil.

ECOTOURISM

For those who love adventure, there are endless opportunities. From soft boat trips on the Parana River, bird watching and horse riding to full-of-adrenaline jungle excursions, canyoning, tree climbing, jungle biking, 4x4 crossing and wet rappelling every adventurers appetite will be satisfied.

BIRD WATCHING

Iguazu National Park is ideal for watching and studying the jungle's exotic species in their natural habitat, guided by local ornithologists, using uncovered vehicles specially designed for this purpose. There is a 49-acre bird rehabilitation center where threatened species are raised and trained to perform educative functions for the visitors. Wounded and sick birds are cured and relocated to their natural environment.

PHOTOGRAFIC SAFARI

Yacaratiá Path, located in the Reservation area of Iguazu National Park, where no private vehicles are allowed, is an approximate two-hour tour where you will appreciate the indigenous jungle species of Misiones and learn about their medical properties.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE (nautical excursion)

Within the Iguazu National Park is a ninety-minute excursion that begins with an 5-mile jeep ride through the jungle, a mini-eco tour with your guide pointing out flora and with luck, even some fauna. Then you will hop into a rubber zodiac and travel around for almost 4 miles in the lower Iguazu River. You will be going through rapids and experience being right beneath the falls. Appreciate the dazzling spectacle of the thundering Iguazu Falls. For those who prefer a calmer ride, you may choose to row a boat on the Greater Iguazu River and observe the Delta's flora and fauna.



BICYCLE THROUGH THE JUNGLE

A different way to visit the jungle trails to observe the diverse medicinal plants, orchids, birds and butterflies. Visitors will experience a true living museum.

RAPPELLING & WET RAPPELLING

Practice both activities safely, experiencing the unique sense of communion with nature. You will be able to observe the top of the jungle and, while going down, feel an indescribable sensation. You can also descend through the cascades for the ultimate adrenaline rush.

TREKKING

In the heart of the jungle, where you breathe the purest air, listen to the sounds of nature, discover and identify the flora and fauna species.

CANOPY

The experience of moving through the jungle as a bird, a unique sensation!

SHOPPING

If you wish to share your excitement with those who stayed at home, there is nothing better than shopping around the city. Regional handcrafts, semi-precious stone art works and Duty Free Shop products will make your souvenirs a special gift to share.

Iguazu Grand has three gift shops for our guests. Additionally, only a tenth of a mile away is the Puerto Iguazu Duty Free Shop. The Hotel provides free transfer.

NEARBY CITIES

CIUDAD DEL ESTE, PARAGUAY. More than a city, we call it an oversized shopping mall. This duty free port has grown rapidly and is ideal for a shopping spree.

PUERTO DE IGUAZÚ, ARGENTINA. Puerto Iguazu City is located 194 miles from Posadas (Highway 12) and 816 miles away from Buenos Aires (Highways 9, 14 y 12) to the northeast. This calm small town has several banks, money exchange, travel agencies and various interesting shops.

CIUDAD DE FOZ DE IGUAZU, BRASIL. Across the Tancredo Neves Bridge, travelers can reach this city of 230.000 inhabitants, where besides the typical joyfulness of Brazilian people, you will find interesting recreational and shopping options. Immigration procedures are simple, but it is recommended to verify if you need an entry visa beforehand. This visa can be obtained locally, in about an hour. Presentation of passport, picture and payment of Consular taxes are compulsory.



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ARGENTINE SIDE

IGUAZU NATIONAL PARK

For more information on the National Park: www.iguazuargentina.com

The Iguazu falls can be admired both from the Lower, Middle and Upper circuits. The circuits can be accessed from the Visitor's Centre following the green trail or taking the train.

The Lower circuit is 1600 mtrs (5250 feet) long and the Upper one 1200 mtrs (3937 feet).

THE DEVIL'S THROAT

The most important waterfall in the park is a must to visit.

The train leaves from the Cataratas Station and ends up at the Garganta Station. The 1200 metres (3937 feet) walkway (over the river) leads to the Devil's Throat viewpoint, a strategic panoramic spot with a unique view of the falls.

ECOLOGICAL TRAIN (included in the National Park Entrance Fee)

The train runs along 3,6 km (2 ¼ miles) of tropical forest and stops at the Central Station (at the Visitor's Centre), Cataratas Station (a few feet away from the beginning of the Lower and Upper circuits) and Garganta Station (end).

Train schedule: The first train starts circulating half an hour after the Park opens.

BOATS TO SAN MARTÍN ISLAND (included in the National Park Entrance Fee)

The boat leaves from the quay at the Lower Circuit. The first one leaves at 9 am and the last one at 4 pm. However, this service is interrupted whenever the level of the Iguazu River is too high to allow docking.

FULL MOON WALKS

Every month the Iguazu National Park offers the opportunity to enjoy a nocturnal walk in the forest, visiting the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat). The excursion consists of a trip in the Ecological Train of the Jungle from the Central station to the Garganta del Diablo station, with a long walk by the new footbridges to the balcony of the Garganta Falls. Back in Central Station, the group goes to the Food Court, where a cocktail is offered to all the passengers. This excursion is available five nights per month with a bilingual guide. There are three strolls per night with an option to have a dinner in the restaurant La Selva, located in the Iguazu National Park, either before or after the walk.



EXCURSIONS AT THE PARK

At the Iguazu National Park you have the opportunity to enjoy a boat ride and experience the “baptism of the falls”.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

This excursion starts with an 8 km (5 mile) drive through the forest in 4x4 jeeps, where English-speaking guides will point out and talk about the flora and fauna of the area. At Puerto Macuco, guests will be transferred to a semi-rigid boat with a 6 km (3.7-mile) ride through Iguazu River rapids, up to the foot of the waterfalls. The Great Adventure takes about one hour and available daily.

Another scenic ride can be done on the Upper stretch of the Iguazu River, where visitors are able to enjoy the fauna and bird watching.

Visitors can purchase the Green Passport should they want to do all the excursions.

EXCURSIONS IN IGUAZU OUTSIDE THE PARK

IGUAZU FOREST - Adventure Tours

Enjoy adventure activities such as rappelling, canyoning and climbing in the middle of the forest. They pick you up at the hotel with a special vehicle.

ARIPUCA

A unique place where trunks of trees are shaped in very creative ways. Aripuca offers a special view into a culture of time stories, handcrafts and regional products. Open every day from 8 am to 4.30 pm.

MBORÉ MBORÉ FORTÍN

Guests will be picked up at the hotel in specially equipped vehicles for the beginning of this amazing journey to the "Fortín M'Bororé" village. The vehicles cross the M'Boca-í creek, where guests can walk through thick jungle and learn about traps, hunting techniques, medicinal plants. Hear songs and be able to appreciate the community's culture through its handcrafts.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Horse back rides (walking only) are available on a path through the jungle; visit a Guaraní (indigenous) village, bird watch and view native animals and vegetation.

GÜIRA OGA - "HOME OF THE BIRDS"

Research and conservation center striving to protect local wildlife (specially birds). Please have a look at their website: <http://guiraoga.fundacionazara.org.ar/>



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BRAZILIAN SIDE

For more information: www.cataratasdoiguacu.com.br

EXCURSIONS IN THE FALLS

BANANA TREE PATH

This excursion begins with a 1.6 km (one-mile) trail that can be covered on foot or by bicycle (conventional or electric). Nature lovers can walk by small ponds where aquatic habitat birds and lush vegetation can be seen, and see species of flora and fauna native to the Iguazu National Park. The excursion combines navigation of the upper Iguazu River in bi-motor boats to the Poço Preto (Black Well) docks with a visit to a 10-meter-high observation tower from which Lagoa do Jacare do Poço Preto (Black Well Alligator Pond), rich in aquatic and land fauna, can be observed. You can also see the Arquipelago Ilha das Taquaras (Bamboo Island Archipelago), with the option of taking a duck (inflatable kayaks) to appreciate the scenery. Return is made through Porto Bananeiras (Banana Tree Port) or Porto Canoas (Canoe Port), always accompanied by skilled guides.

CHALLENGE CAMP

Located near the Park, the Challenge Camp offers a series of activities that place the visitor in direct contact with nature: rappelling, rafting, canyoning, cross-country and climbing with different levels of difficulty are some of the options available for people all ages.

EXCURSIONS IN FOZ DE IGUAZU

HELICOPTER RIDE There are two types of rides:

- 1) 10 minutes over the National Park and falls and
- 2) 35 minutes flying over the National Park, Iguazu Falls, Itaipu Dam and Three Frontier landmark.

DAS AVES PARK

This nature park features more than 500 birds from Brazil and other continents.

Visitors should check whether they need a VISA to enter Brazil by visiting this website: <http://www.conbrasil.org.ar>