



Rail Wonders of Brazil

PTG is pleased to offer our second tour to Brazil following the pattern of our most successful 2014 tour. We have a 17 day holiday using luxury coach travel and one internal flight to visit a number of tourist railways predominantly worked by preserved American steam locomotives.



In many cases, the railways operate from picturesque historic townships, and provide a scenic journey in period coaches. There is also an optional extension in the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro.

The tour includes visits to railway installations where we expect to see, photograph and ride with about 20 operating steam locomotives. There are some non-steam heritage traction rail journeys also included, together with visits to colonial towns graced with magnificent Portuguese architecture, all in the south of this up and coming country. On the railway front, almost all of the Nation's heritage railway operations are visited together with three museums. We should also be able to see some modern-day heavy freight trains on our travels. We conclude our tour at the stupendously sited Rio de Janeiro where the stunning beaches are backed by the dramatic statue of Christ the Redeemer and the nearby Sugar Loaf. The first is first accessed by a rack railway, whilst the second is by two cable cars. We would commend a brief unguided extension in Rio to allow visits to these two lofty heights together with the Santa Teresa Tram and the Niteroi Ferry.

Dinners are included on most days, plus some lunches, but there is an opportunity to enjoy local restaurants on others. Transport will be by luxury coach provided with complementary drinking water and Wi-Fi.

ITINERARY

Saturday 8 October (B,D) With a 4 hour time difference, daytime flights will be taken via a European hub and Sao Paulo to Curitiba in Parna State. We should be able to arrange connecting flights from most main UK airports. On arrival, we overnight in a city hotel. Meals will be in-flight.

Sunday 9 October (B,D) A leisurely day after our flight, but we do need to be up early to board the 8:15 scenic Serra Verde Express to Morretes, before a late morning return to Curitiba by road for lunch (not included). In the afternoon we visit the small railway museum at the old station and then the Associação Brasileira de Preservação Ferroviária (ABPF) depot before a late afternoon transfer to our hotel in Sao Bento do Sol where we take dinner.

Monday 10 October (B,L,D) This morning our coach takes us to Rio Negrinho station, where we visit the Trem da Serra do Mar, an ABPF Chapter that operates big steam engines over a scenic section of a regular railway. We have requested their large Mallet to be available, together with another steam loco for photo scenarios and rides. We have also requested line clearance to go some way with a charter train. A packed lunch keeps us moving to the Ferrovia das Bromelias, a short but very scenic line, which has both a tunnel and a viaduct. We have another steam journey here with possibly a 4-6-0 locomotive before a short transfer to our hotel for a well-earned rest and dinner.

Tuesday 11 October (B,L,D) Immediately after breakfast we transfer to our next hotel at Piratuba for a check-in and gourmet lunch. This is a 'holiday' type hotel where guests are pampered. In the early afternoon we transfer the short distance to the station for a chartered steam locomotive on the Trem das Termas Piratuba. This railway passes through pastoral scenery, and right

at its end passes over a long road and rail river bridge. Here, the train will wait for those who wish to take photos, to walk over the bridge, in advance of the train, before we are returned tender-first to our hotel for dinner.

Wednesday 12 October (B,D) On this day we must have a lengthy transfer to Tuberao near the coast in our comfortable coach. We are now in Santa Catarina State where we expect to be able to break our journey around halfway at a small military railway near Lages to have a charter train with their 'Wren' class locomotive around a circle of track. We expect to arrive at Tuberao in time to visit the railway museum, where are preserved, a number of the former locomotives which worked locally and in the docks at Imbituba. Dinner will be at a local restaurant.

Thursday 13 October (B,D) Today should be one of the highlights of the tour for the fan of large steam locomotives, as we visit the nearby Trem Rubi, the heritage organisation which operates over the tracks of the former coal-carrying Donna Teresa Christina Railway. We take a charter mixed coal train from the railway museum to Imbituba using hopefully, their 2-10-2. Photo runpasts will be arranged. We halt for a lunch break during the journey and after train travel our coach will meet us at Imbituba for the onward journey to our hotel at Florianopolis.

Friday 14 October (B,D) We take a short transfer to Florianopolis Airport for a morning flight to Sao Paulo. From here we plan to have an afternoon steam charter train on a new heritage railway at Guararema with a Wood-burning Pacific locomotive. After we transfer to our hotel at Anhumas on the outskirts of Campinas, where we stay for two nights.

Saturday 15 October (B,D) We visit the nearby Viacao Ferrea Campinas-Jaguariuna a heritage railway operation which runs from Anhumas on the outskirts of Campinas into Jaguariuna. We expect three steam locomotives to be operating. We will ride the scheduled service from Anhumas to Jaguariuna with photo facilities, then back to Carlos Gomes for the depot and large collection of steam locomotives. Before we return to Anhumas, we will try to arrange a freight charter.



Sunday 16 October (B) We have a brisk start today to hopefully visit no less than three railway preservation operations. First, our coach will take us to Estrada de Ferro Perus Pirapora, a preserved portion of a former 600mm gauge industrial railway to the north of Sao Paulo. Here a number of steam locomotives are preserved, and we will expect one to be in steam for us. After, our coach takes us to the immigration museum in central Sao Paulo, where the Trem dos Imigrantes operates regular Sunday steam trains over a short stretch of line. Again more locomotives are present. In the early afternoon, we leave for Paranapiacaba, south-east of Sao Paulo, to visit Trem dos Ingleses, the museum of the former Santos-Jundiai Railway. The railway here, with its continuous cable inclines, was once regarded as one of the engineering wonders of the world. Several of the unique British Brake- Locomotives are here and we hope for a short ride behind an 1867 Sharp Stewart 0-6-0ST. The modern replacement electrified railway with its double rack system can also be viewed. We may be able to return to Sao Paulo by train to avoid the heavy Sunday evening traffic and therefore dinner arrangements are flexible.

Monday 17 October (B,D) We have a relaxed free morning in Sao Paulo. Here, for rail interest, there are the British built Luz railway station, three interesting preserved locomotives in the Parque Dom Pedro II, and a suburban rail network to look at. After lunch, we transfer to Campos do Jordao, the highest city in Brazil, where we plan a cable car ride prior our hotel arrival.

Tuesday 18 October (B,D) Today we have a short steam charter on the Estrada de Ferro Campos do Jordão, before continuing on this electrified inter-urban tramroad downhill to Pindamonhangaba, where we join our coach. We expect to visit some preserved steam locomotives en route to Cruzeiro, where we stay for the night.

Wednesday 19 October (B,D) During a relaxed morning, we visit the ABBF repair depot where, if there is an operational locomotive, they will steam it for us for cab riding in the yard. There will also be the possibility to see heavy broad gauge freight trains on the adjacent freight only Rio to Sao Paulo main line. Late morning, we transfer to the nearby vintage town of Passa Quatro in colonial Minas Gerais state for our lunch break. Then, in the afternoon, we have a steam-hauled charter train

on the spectacular Trem da Serra da Mantiqueira up to the mountain pass. The day concludes with our transfer to the elegant spa town of Sao Lourenco for an overnight stay.

Thursday 20 October (B,D) We commence Thursday with a one-way steam charter train on the Trem dos Aguas from Sao Lourenco to the cobbled streets of Solidade de Minas, where our coach meets and transfers us north to the colonial town of Sao Joao del Rei for three nights. We will have dinner in a traditional restaurant near the preserved railway station.

Friday 21 October (B) Today our programme centres on the Estrada de Ferro Oeste de Minas, which will operate two scheduled steam hauled trains between Sao Joao and Tiradentes. We have a plan to ride, photograph and visit the rail facilities and museum. Time will also be found to visit the quaint colonial town of Tiradentes. Dinner can be taken at one of the many busy local restaurants.

Saturday 22 October (B,D) There is an option on this day to remain in Sao Joao del Rei for more steam photography (assistance given) or for further colonial exploration. For those who do not mind an early start, our coach transports us to Ouro Preto, where we take the scheduled scenic heritage diesel train to Mariana on the Trem da Vale. We will have time to look at colonial Ouro Preto and Mariana, both jewels of colonial towns before our return. We will have an early evening arrival for dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday 23 October (B) We have a more relaxed start, with time to visit anything missed and photograph the morning steam train from Sao Joao. We then take our coach on the journey into Rio de Janeiro. We may stop at one of the many roadside eateries and may visit the old summer capital Petropolis where, at the palace, there is a preserved rack locomotive. Our hotel is in the famous Copacabana beach area and dinner will be free-choice in one of the local restaurants or bars.

Monday 24 October (B,L) We commence the day by heading along the coast to Fazenda Mato Alto, a coastal farm which has a number of steam locomotives and we will have one or more to take us on a lengthy rail circuit before enjoying fresh cane juice and other locally cooked food. We must then head towards the international airport for early evening flights to Europe but, not before

a visit to the Rio Railway Museum en route. It is though, hoped that most can stay on for a couple of days or so in Rio, and those taking an extension can ride a suburban train and metro back to Copacabana from the museum.

HOLIDAY PRICES (PER PERSON)

- Full inclusive 18 day tour from London: £4,350
- Full land only tour (no flights): £3,450

Options

- Single room supplement: £395

Deposit

- £1,500 with flight option or £500 if own flights

Price includes

- Travel and activities as outlined in the itinerary
- Good En-suite accommodation - with breakfast. Also most dinners (D) and some lunches (L)
- Services of our Tour Manager (fully escorted from London)

Flights

- Options from most UK airports.

Operator

Tour operated by PTG Tours under their ATOL No. 10060

Payment

Deposit payment as above - by Credit/ Debit card; or by cheque payable to Enthusiast Holidays, 146, Forest Hill Road, LONDON SE23 3QR