



**Pandaw Cruises**

**EXPEDITION No 2**

# **RIO, IGUACU FALLS AND THE AMAZON**

**14 NIGHTS**

We are very pleased to present new departures on our partner ship, the Amazon Dream, exploring the lesser visited and more scenically varied region of the Amazon River between Santarem and Belem. Here, the blue waters of the Tapajos River and the mighty Amazon meet for several kilometers, creating a delightful ever-changing spectacle. Lined by the forests, beaches of fine white sand and the crystal-clear waters of the Tapajos are an idyllic paradise to explore. Not only will you discover the natural wonders of the great rain forest with its varied wildlife, flora and fauna, but also like Pandaw's expeditions in Asia we visit friendly, local villages and discover their unique way of life of the people living on the Amazon.

Just imagine the scene: you have spent the day discovering the fascinating sights and sounds of the rain forest and have returned to ship now safely moored for the night. The temperature has cooled and you are enjoying a cocktail on the sundeck with your like-minded travellers watching the beautiful sunset against the backdrop of the vibrant colours of the forest.

Our partner ship, the Amazon Dream, offers a comfortable base from where we explore; all cabins are air-conditioned and well appointed and you will be impressed by the quality of the cuisine. Each evening, after dinner, knowledgeable English, French and German speaking guides will bring their wonderful region to life as you plan tomorrow's adventures.

Our 9-night cruise is combined with iconic land arrangements. We stay three nights at the elegant 5\* Sofitel Hotel, Rio de Janeiro (or similar), enviably located on Copacabana beach including excursions to Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountain and then fly to Iguacu for a 2-night stay at the luxurious Hotel das Cataratas uniquely located next to the jaw-dropping Iguacu Falls.

**Please note** that this programme is not suitable for those with walking difficulties. Also note the cruise itinerary is indicative and subject to change, depending on local river conditions.

**Cruise Price Includes:** Transfers to/from Santarem airport to the Amazon Dream, port taxes, portage, mineral waters, 9-night cruise on full board basis, all shore excursions including entrance fees, services of the resident Amazon Dream cruise director and expert guides.

**Land Section Includes:** All airport and other transfers, 3-night stay at the 5\* Sofitel Hotel in a superior room on a bed and breakfast basis, full day excursion to Corcovado and Sugar Loaf Mountain, domestic flights from Rio to Iguacu and Iguacu to Santarem, 2-night stay at the 5\* Hotel Das Cataratas, Iguacu on a bed and breakfast basis, half day guided visits to the Brazilian and Argentinean sides of the Iguacu Falls including entrance fees.

Amazon Dream will provide rubber boots (please mention shoe size at time of booking) and ponchos if necessary. Please bring your own binoculars, small back pack and mosquito repellent.

**Price Excludes:** International flights, travel insurance, all drinks, all tips, and items of a personal nature.

**Please Note:** Canadian citizens who are tourists must pay the Argentine "Reciprocity Fee" estimated at US\$92 on-line prior to travel.

**Please Note:** Australian citizens who are tourists must pay the Argentine "Reciprocity Fee" estimated at US\$100 on-line prior to travel.

Please visit the following website for more information:

<https://reciprocidad.provincianet.com.ar>.

**Please Note:** Just before the cruise in Santarem and towards the end of the cruise in Alter do Chao, there are ATMs but they usually don't work. Bring enough cash (USD, EUR or Real) to pay for your on-board-bills.

**Please Note:** Drinks and crew gratuities are NOT included on our partner cruises.

# UPSTREAM ITINERARY

# POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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## DAY 1

### SANTAREM TO SALVADOR

Transfer from the ship to the airport and fly to Salvador (via Brasilia or Recife) arriving in the evening. On arrival in Salvador, you will be met by an English-speaking guide and transferred to the Convento do Carmo, located close to Salvador's historic old city, for a 4-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis.

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## DAY 2

### SALVADOR

Today we explore historic and delightful Salvador (including lunch in the old city). We visit the city's nautical museum, Santa Maria and Sao Diogo forts and the historic centre, Pelourinho – now a UNESCO World Heritage site – with its exquisite 17th and 18th century architecture. After lunch, we observe panoramic views of the city and visit the famous Bonfim Church and the Mercado Modelo.

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### **DAY 3**

## **ISLANDS CRUISE**

A full day discovering the nearby islands by schooner (including lunch). We first visit Frades Island, with its sad history where slaves from Africa were quarantined and prepared for sale on the mainland. Relax on one of the island's beautiful beaches. We continue to Itaparica, the largest island in the bay and an important historical site where we have lunch - the delicacies of Bahian cuisine. In the afternoon, explore this beautiful tropical island before rejoining the schooner for the trip back to Salvador.

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### **DAY 4**

## **INCLUDED EVENING DINNER & SHOW**

Day at leisure – perhaps relax at your hotel or explore the old city in your own time. In the evening, enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant and a spectacular folklore show. The show features some of the major Afro-Bahian cultural traditions, such as samba de roda, maculelê, hauling of the fishnets, Candomblé and Capoeira.

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### **DAY 5**

## **SALVADOR**

Transfer to Salvador airport for your onward flight home.

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DISCOVER

## Historic Salvador

**Extend your trip with a four-night stay in historic Salvador, Brazil's cultural treasure located on the Atlantic coast. Staying close to the delightful old city, we explore the city on a guided excursion, take a full day cruise to nearby islands and enjoy a spectacular folklore show. Including two lunches and one dinner.**

**Rates include:**

Domestic flights from Santarem to Salvador, airport transfers, 4-night stay on bed and breakfast basis in the Convento do Carmo Hotel Salvador, excursions and meals as described.

**Rates exclude:**

Travel insurance, visas, drinks and tips.

CONVENTO DO CARMO, SALVADOR

Pelourinho

Salvador

State of Bahia 40301-330

Brazil

Tel: +55 7133 278 400

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

# River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

## Useful Links

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[General Information & Life on Board](#)

[Visa Information](#)